Notice is given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date:	**Tuesday, 25 February 2020**
Time:	**3pm**
Location:	**Council Chambers, Serpentine**

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

25 February 2020

Order Of Business

1   OPENING PRAYER

"Almighty God, we humbly ask you to bless this Council, direct and prosper its deliberations towards the true welfare of your people of the Shire of Loddon."

2   ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"The Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered and pays its respects to their Elders both past and present."

3   APOLOGIES

4   DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

5   PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1   CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

File Number: **02/01/001**
Author: **Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services**
Authoriser: **Allan Bawden, Acting Chief Executive Officer**
Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm:

1.   The minutes of the Council Briefing of 28 January 2020

2.   The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 28 January 2020

3.   The minutes of the Council Forum of 11 February 2020

REPORT

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meetings.

6   REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

6.1   REVIEW OF ACTIONS

File Number: 02/01/002

Author: Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer

Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1.   Action sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

REPORT

Refer attachment.

Outstanding	Division:			Date From:
	Committee:	Council		Date To:
	Officer:			
Action Sheets Report				Printed: Monday, 17 February 2020 10:16:37 AM

Outstanding action from previous meetings

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 28/01/2020	Phillips, Steven Pinyon, Phil	New Item	Skinners Flat reservoir

Cr Holt requested that Council staff continue to liaise with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water regarding changes to the originally proposed arrangements for the supply of permanent recreation water to Skinners Flat, and provide a report to the next Council meeting about progress with finalising the heads of agreement between Council and GWM Water.

14/02/2020 5:26:20 PM - Steven Phillips
Council Staff have been in discussions with GWMWater staff about the terms contained within the Heads of Agreement for several months, with a major sticking point being the allocation of Recreational Water for Skinners Flat Reservoir. GWMWater is seeking that Council acquire a water entitlement up to the maximum volume as listed at Item 5 of Schedule A of the Heads Of Agreement (currently stated as 200 Ml) from Northern Victoria trading zone 1A (Goulburn regulated). Council Officers have been able to secure agreement from GWMWater for the allocation of up to 200 Ml of Recreational Water once off as an initial allowance. Arrangements are being made to secure a meeting between senior members of Council and GWMWater to continue negotiations over this matter.

Actions completed since last meeting

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 10/12/2019	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	ADDITION TO FACILITIES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A HALLS AND RECREATION RESERVE ALLOCATION

RESOLUTION 2019/299

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council

1. Add Kingower Church to the list of eligible facilities to receive an allocation through Council's Hall and Recreation Reserve Allocation program (commencing with a 2019/20 allocation)

2. allocate a criteria rating of 2C: Hall (Main facility in a low populated area OR secondary facility)

3. provide this allocation to the community Committee of Management for the facility

4. provide this allocation only while:

    a) there is a functioning Incorporated Committee of Management in place

    b) the facility remains available for wider community use.

InfoCouncil   Page 1 of 5

Outstanding	Division:		Date From:
	Committee:	Council	Date To:
	Officer:		
Action Sheets Report			Printed: Monday, 17 February 2020 10:16:37 AM

	CARRIED

8/01/2020 11:22:10 PM - Wendy Gladman
Due to staff availability and office closure, this Action has not progressed at this time.
12/02/2020 8:41:31 PM - Wendy Gladman
Action completed by: Gladman, Wendy
        Provision has been made for an additional allocation to the Kingower Church through the Hall and Recreation Reserve Allocation program. Notification to the
        community group will follow.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 28/01/2020	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	November 2019 Audit Committee Meeting Overview

RESOLUTION 2020/5

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council:

1.   receives and notes this report on the December 2019 Audit Committee Meeting

2.   receives and notes the confirmed signed minutes of the August 2019 Audit Committee meeting (**attached**)

3.   endorses the performance improvement recommendations documented in the:

    (a)   "Review of Outstanding Audit Actions" (**attached**)

    (b)   "Review of Councillor Expenses" (**attached**)

4.   endorses the Audit Committee Proposed Calendar for 2020 (**attached**)

5.   endorses the recommended actions in the Final Management Letter for Year Ended 30 June 2019 (**attached**)

	CARRIED

12/02/2020 9:58:00 AM - Sharon Morrison
Action completed by: Morrison, Sharon
        Reports added to audit management software.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 28/01/2020	Caserta, Deanne Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Finance Report for the period ending 30 November 2019

InfoCouncil   Page 2 of 5

Outstanding	Division: Committee: Council Officer:	Date From: Date To:
Action Sheets Report		Printed: Monday, 17 February 2020 10:16:37 AM

RESOLUTION 2020/6

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council:

1.   receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 30 November 2019'

2.   approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only

3.   approves the supplementary valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2019/20 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non Rateable Properties and Rate Book for 2019/20.

CARRIED

10/02/2020 11:22:19 AM - Deanne Caserta
Action completed by: Caserta, Deanne
       For information, no further action

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 28/01/2020	Caserta, Deanne Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Finance Report for the period ending 31 December 2019

RESOLUTION 2020/7

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council:

1.   receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 31 December 2019'

2.   approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.

CARRIED

10/02/2020 11:22:31 AM - Deanne Caserta
Action completed by: Caserta, Deanne
       For information, no further action

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject

InfoCouncil   Page 3 of 5

Outstanding	Division: Committee: Council Officer:		Date From: Date To:
Action Sheets Report			**Printed:** Monday, 17 February 2020 10:16:37 AM

Council 28/01/2020	Caserta, Deanne Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Amended Fees and charges for the year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

RESOLUTION 2020/8

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council:

1.   approves the amended Fees and Charges Schedule v3 for the year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

2.   subject to the approval of the Director Corporate Services or Chief Executive Officer, make effective immediately any changes where the fees and charges are altered by legislation, and make amendment to the relevant Fees and Charges Schedule for the year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

CARRIED

10/02/2020 11:22:49 AM - Deanne Caserta
Action completed by: Caserta, Deanne
          Revised document finalised and published to the website.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 28/01/2020	Southcombe, David Phillips, Steven	Decision Reports	Wedderburn Township Entrance Signs

RESOLUTION 2020/9

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt
Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That Council resolve to:

1.   Approve the design and proposed locations for the Wedderburn Township Entrance Signs.

CARRIED

17/02/2020 9:17:25 AM - David Southcombe
Action completed by: Southcombe, David
          Following approval of design and location. VicRoads approval is now being sought.

Outstanding	Division:		Date From:
	Committee:	Council	Date To:
	Officer:		
Action Sheets Report			**Printed:** Monday, 17 February 2020 10:16:37 AM

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 28/01/2020	Stephenson, Carolyn Phillips, Steven	Decision Reports	Planning permit application 5475 – use and development of the land for a renewable energy facility (55 MW Solar energy facility) and the removal of native vegetation.

RESOLUTION 2020/10

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council issue a notice of decision to grant a planning permit for the use and development of 217 Burkes Lane Bridgewater for a renewable energy facility (55 MW solar energy facility) and the removal of native vegetation subject to the conditions set out in the attached decision report.

CARRIED

12/02/2020 9:58:02 AM - Carolyn Stephenson
Action completed by: Stephenson, Carolyn
                     Notice of decision issued

7 MAYORAL REPORT

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number:	**02/01/001**
Author:	**Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services**
Authoriser:	**Allan Bawden, Acting Chief Executive Officer**
Attachments:	**Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report

REPORT

The Mayor will present a report at the meeting.

8   COUNCILLORS' REPORT

8.1   COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

File Number: **02/01/001**

Author: **Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services**

Authoriser: **Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer**

Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports

REPORT

Each Councillor will present a report at the meeting.

9   DECISION REPORTS

9.1   NORTHERN VICTORIAN INTEGRATED INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PLAN

File Number: **11/01/009**

Author: **Belinda McKnight, Emergency Management Coordinator**

Authoriser: **Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**

Attachments: **1.   Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan as a sub plan of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, as recommended by the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan was provided to Councillors at the February 2020 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council is one of five Council's included in the Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster (NVEMC), consisting of City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields Shire, Shire of Campaspe, Mount Alexander Shire and Loddon Shire. Under the cluster arrangement a single Northern Victorian Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee has been formed, supported through the endorsement of an Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan (IMEMP) by each Council.

The development of sub-plans, which sit under the IMEMP is progressing with the Integrated Emergency Animal Welfare Plan being presented at council late last year for endorsement and the Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan now being presented to council for endorsement.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The NVEMC developed the Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan;

- To assist in reducing the impacts of an influenza pandemic on the community.

- To provide support and recovery assistance throughout the durations of the influenza pandemic.

- To ensure response activities are consistent across the whole of government.

COST/BENEFITS

It is intended that the bulk of the actions contained within this Plan will be undertaken within the current operational budget parameters. Where activities require additional resources, external funding will be sought to support these (where available).

RISK ANALYSIS

The Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan provides a framework and guidance to Loddon Shire Council to plan for and effectively respond to influenza pandemic conditions.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan has been developed by the IMEMP Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (IMEMPC) with input from all agencies included on the committee. The sub-plan for Influenza Pandemic has been recommended to Loddon Shire Council for endorsement from the IMEMPC.

Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan

Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster

Issue 1 0 November 2019

Issue Number	Date of Issue	Brief Description of Change	Date considered by Council	Author
0.1	Initial draft	Draft for discussion		Meryl Brown, Campaspe Shire
0.2	Second draft	Draft for discussion at Workshop on 14/9/18		Meryl Brown, Campaspe Shire
0.3	Third draft	Draft from Workshop session 14/9/2018		Meryl Brown, Campaspe Shire
0.4	Fourth draft	Updates with comments from Agencies		Meryl Brown, Campaspe Shire
0.5	Fifth draft	Updates from Loddon		Meryl Brown, Campaspe Shire
0.6	Sixth draft	Updates from Campaspe		Meryl Brown, Campaspe Shire
0.7	Seventh draft	Updates from Central Goldfields Shire		Wendy Gladman, Central Goldfields Shire Council
1.0		Adopted by IMEMPC		Cluster Executive Working Group

This Plan is administered by the Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster, Cluster Coordinating Council, on behalf of the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.
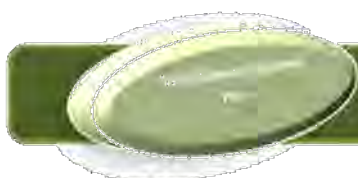
Table of Contents

1 Abbreviations

DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
EMMV	Emergency Management Manual Victoria
IMEMP	Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan
IMEMPC	Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
IPP	Influenza Pandemic Plan
MOC	Municipal Operations Centre
MRM	Municipal Recovery Manager
NVEMC	Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster - consisting of the municipalities of Central Goldfields, Loddon, Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander and Campaspe)
NVIMEMPC	Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
PC	Pandemic Coordinator
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
VIFM	Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine
VHMPPI	Victorian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza

2   Introduction

This document provides a framework and guidance for the NVEMC Councils and other influenza pandemic stakeholders in the municipalities to appropriately plan for and effectively respond to influenza pandemic conditions. The plan is supported by a set of operational documents, including Influenza Pandemic Response Procedures and Business Continuity Plans.

All facts and figures cited in this plan have been taken from the Victorian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (VHMPPI) unless otherwise stated. Direction for pandemic will come largely from the Commonwealth and or State and local level of government will implement controls.

Pandemic is defined as an epidemic that is geographically widespread; occurring throughout a region or even throughout the world. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges and spreads around the world, and most people do not have immunity.

Seasonal influenza occurs annually, primarily causes complications and or death in people aged over 65 years and those with chronic medical conditions. The vast majority of people exposed will recover and develop immunity to that strain of virus.

Pandemics have been experienced in the past and are expected to occur again in the future and the impact on the organisation and community in such an event could be devastating.
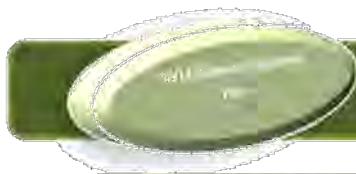
3 Aims and Objectives

3.1 Aims

- To assist in reducing the impacts of an influenza pandemic on the community.
- To provide support and recovery assistance throughout the durations of the influenza pandemic.
- To ensure response activities are consistent across the whole of government.

3.2 Objectives

- Preparedness - have arrangements in place to reduce the impact on the community during a pandemic.
- Containment – prevent transmission, implement infection control measures, and provide support services to people who are isolated or quarantined within the municipality.
- Maintain essential municipal services – provision for business continuity in the face of staff absenteeism and rising demand on local government services.
- Mass Vaccination – assist in providing vaccination services to the community, if pandemic vaccine becomes available.
- Communication – develop media and communication messages, in line with whole of government messages, to inform the community and staff of any changes to normal municipal service delivery.
- Community support and recovery – ensure a comprehensive approach to emergency recovery planning in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, with specific focus on influenza pandemic.

This Plan has been written for Influenza Pandemic, however it could be adapted to all types of communicable disease pandemics.

This Plan is to be used in conjunction with, and as a supplement to, existing emergency management plans in place within state, regional, municipal councils and the wider community.
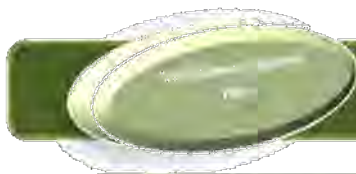
4 Framework and Background

4.1 Framework

4.1.1 Commonwealth Plans

- National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic – Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet - September 2011
- Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza – Australian Government Department of Health - April 2014.

4.1.2 State Plans

- Victorian Emergency Management Manual
- Victorian Action Plan for Influenza Pandemic – August 2015
- Victorian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza – Victorian Department of Health – October 2014 - http://health.vic.gov.au/pandemicinfluenza/
- The Whole of Government Communication Strategy
- Action plans for all government departments
- The Victorian Human Influenza Pandemic Plan – Community Support and Recovery Sub Plan.

4.1.3 Other Plans

- Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Business Continuity Plans
- Mass Vaccination Standard Operating Procedures

4.1.4 Disease Description

Influenza is an acute respiratory disease caused by influenza type A or B viruses. Symptoms usually include: fever, cough, lethargy, headache, muscle pain and sore throat. Infections in children, particularly type B and A (H1N1), may also be associated with gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

The incubation period for influenza is usually one to three days. Adults shed the influenza virus from one day before developing symptoms and up to seven days after the onset of illness. Young children can shed the influenza virus for longer than seven days. Generally, shedding peaks early in the illness, typically within a day of symptom onset. The influenza virus remains infectious in aerosols for hours and potentially remains infectious on hard surfaces for one to two days.

4.1.5 Transmission

Human influenza virus is primarily transmitted via droplets. This occurs when droplets from the cough or sneeze of an infected person are propelled through the air (generally up to one metre) and land on the mouth, nose or eye of a nearby person. Influenza can also be spread by contact transmission. This occurs when a person touches respiratory droplets that are either on another person or an object – and then touches their own mouth, nose or eyes (or someone else's mouth, nose or eyes) before washing their hands.

In some situations, airborne transmission may result from medical procedures that produce very fine droplets (called fine droplet nuclei) that are released into the air and breathed in.

These procedures include:

- Intubation
- Taking respiratory samples
- Performing suctioning
- Use of a nebuliser.

4.2   History of Pandemics

Previous pandemics have started abruptly without warning, swept through populations with rapid escalation, and left considerable damage in their wake.

The twentieth century had three recognised influenza pandemics (Spanish influenza 1918-19; Asian influenza 1957-58; and Hong Kong influenza 1968). All three pandemics were associated with increased mortality rates in Australia. The influenza pandemic of 1918-19 was unprecedented in terms of loss of human life – between 20 and 40 million people died worldwide, with the highest numbers of deaths among those aged between 20 and 40 years.

The Asian influenza of 1957-58 had infection rates reported to range between 20% to 70%, but case fatality rates were low, ranging from one in 2000 to one in 10,000 infections. Age-specific mortality rates showed that those aged over 65 years were most affected. The Hong Kong influenza was similar, with the highest mortality rates appearing in those over the age of 65 and infection rates of 25% to 30%.

Since then the world has experienced one other pandemic; H1N1 influenza virus. A new H1N1 influenza virus derived from human, swine and avian strains was initially reported in April 2009 in Mexico and subsequently spread around the world. In Australia during 2009, there were 37,636 cases of pandemic (H1N1) influenza 2009, including 191 associated deaths. The median age of those dying was 53 years, compared to 83 years for seasonal influenza.

The differences in past pandemics show the need for flexible contingency plans, capable of responding efficiently to any pandemic threat.

Further information about influenza pandemics can be found on the DHHS website at:
http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pandemicinfluenza.

4.3   Predicted impact of an influenza pandemic

Modelling the potential impacts of influenza pandemics involves a high degree of uncertainty. Factors such as the virulence and infection rate of the next pandemic strain limit our abilities to characterise the next pandemic with any accuracy. It is, however, possible to model various pandemic scenarios given a series of pre-determined assumptions and limitations.

The Victorian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (VHMPPI), October 2014, shows the following:

Pandemic Impact, unprepared vs prepared

	Pandemic as severe as the one that occurred in 1918 and we were not prepared and unable to respond	Pandemic as severe as that in 1918, but we were prepared and were able to respond effectively
Estimated population showing clinical signs of infection	40 per cent (2.2 million people)	10 per cent (540,000 people)
Estimated deaths	2.4 per cent of those affected would die (around 53,000 people)	1.2 per cent of those clinically affected would die (around 6,500 people)
Work absenteeism	50 per cent	30 – 50 per cent
Duration of the pandemic	Several waves each, lasting up to 12 weeks	7 – 10 months, in a single wave
Disruption of services	As long as two years	7 – 10 months

The table below shows the infection rates in the municipalities for a _severe_ pandemic:

Municipality	Population	Infection rate (40% of the population) - Severe	Estimated fatality rate over the duration of the pandemic (2.4% of those infected)
Campaspe	37,000	14,800	355
Greater Bendigo	110,447	44,178	1,060
Central Goldfields	13,000	5,520	132
Loddon	7,500	3,000	72
Mount Alexander	18,761	7,504	180

Figures based on the 2016 Census of population and housing

The table below shows the infection rates in the municipalities for a _mild_ pandemic:

Municipality	Population	Infection rate (10% of population) - mild	Estimated fatality rate over the duration of the pandemic (1.2% of those infected)
Campaspe	37,000	3,700	45
Greater Bendigo	110,447	11,044	133
Central Goldfields	13,000	1,300	16
Loddon	7,500	750	9
Mount Alexander	18,761	1,876	23

Figures based on the 2016 Census of population and housing

The VHMPPI states "While each pandemic is unique, the VHMPPI will consider the severity of illness caused by the virus and categorise it as low, moderate or high, based on the available evidence and emerging epidemiology.

Scenario 1: If clinical severity is low

The level of impact on the community may be similar to severe seasonal influenza or the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

Scenario 2: If clinical severity is moderate

The number of people presenting for medical care is likely to be higher than for severe seasonal influenza. Pressure on health services will be more intense. The level of impact may be similar to the 1957 Asian influenza.

Scenario 3: If clinical severity is high

Widespread severe illness will cause concern and challenge the capacity of the health sector. The level of impact may be similar to the 1918 Spanish influenza.

Responses will be proportionate to the observed impact and may fall between these scenarios.

4.4   Mental health

Chaos, confusion, distress and trauma triggered by public health threats and emergencies can place enormous stress on the coping abilities of even the healthiest people. In the case of an influenza pandemic, effects on mental health can occur regardless of whether an individual is directly affected with pandemic influenza, whether their family or close friends are affected or whether they are indirectly affected.

Individuals may develop mental health concerns following experiences with sick and dying loved ones, with prolonged isolation or with other significant changes to their daily lives. Existing mental health conditions such as depression may worsen. These mental health effects may be long lasting.

4.5   Family violence

Disaster is no excuse for family violence

The Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee recognises that the risk and incidence of family violence increases significantly during and after an emergency. The Committee can play a vital role in preventing and reducing the impact of family violence during emergencies.

Family violence can affect anyone in our community, regardless of gender, age, socio-economic status, sexuality, culture, ethnicity or religion. During an emergency, many factors can increase the risk of family violence, including homelessness, financial stress, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, and trauma. None of these factors cause family violence, nor are they an excuse.

Family violence is driven by gender inequity, gender stereotypes and a culture of excusing violence. During emergencies, it is common for people to lapse into traditional gender roles of men as the protectors and women as protected. This is damaging to both genders, and the

Committee is committed to promoting the involvement of both men and women in all aspects of the response and recovery phase.

Family violence can include physical assaults and a range of tactics including:

- Intimidation or coercion;
- Direct or indirect threats;
- Sexual assault;
- Emotional or psychological abuse;
- Financial control;
- Social abuse/isolation;
- Racial or spiritual abuse, and;
- Any behaviour that causes a person to fear for their safety and wellbeing.

In planning for and responding to emergencies, the Committee will endeavor to:

- Openly and candidly acknowledge the heightened risk of family violence during and post emergencies;
- Dispel the notion that family violence is an acceptable response to stress and trauma, and that other issues should take priority during an emergency;
- Ensure incidences of family violence, or suspected family violence, are recorded and referred to support services and Victoria Police as appropriate;
- Provide mental health information to both men and women;
- Provide family violence information to both men and women;
- Provide women-friendly and men-friendly activities and outreach services;
- Target and tailor risk and recovery information for men and women when needed;
- Make use of existing social networks and gathering places, such as local venues and clubs, to distribute information across the community.

5   Pandemic Phases

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has a set of pandemic phases that it uses to describe the global situation (phases 1–6). Australia uses the same numbering system as the WHO to describe each phase; however, the Australian pandemic phases are designed to describe the situation in Australia and to guide Australia's response. Thus, the Australian and the WHO phase may not always be the same and do not neatly align. Similarly, Victoria also defines pandemic status using a set of phases. These definitions align with the Australian definitions, but once again depending on the state of spread of a pandemic the Victorian phase may differ from the Australian and World phases.

World Health Organisation Pandemic Phases
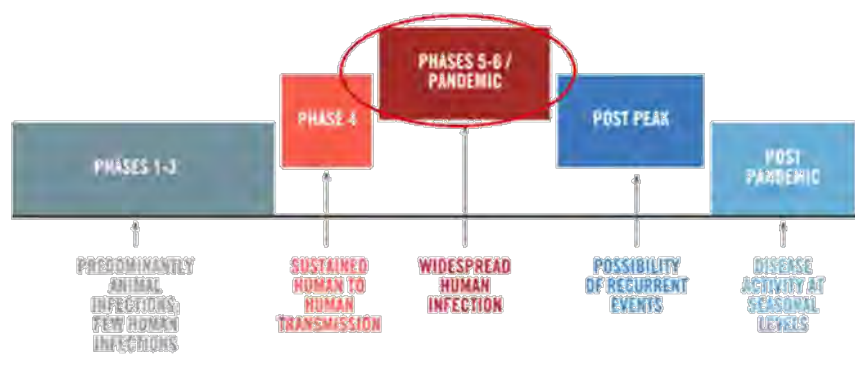
Reference: World Health Organisation-
https://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/phase/en/

Australian Pandemic Phases
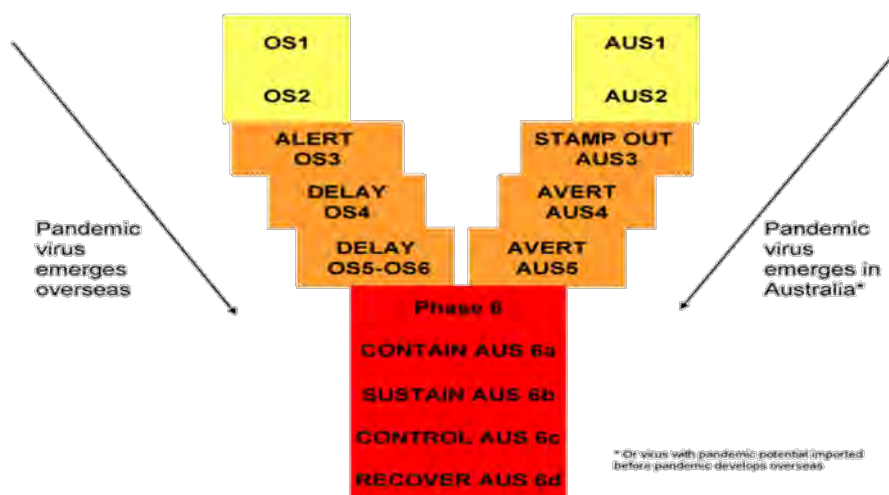
Reference: Australian Department for Health and Aging -Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza. http://www.flupandemic.gov.au

Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan – Issue 1.0 November 2019   Page 14

Australian Phases of the health response	
The ALERT phase	Being alert to the risk of a pandemic and preparing for a pandemic
The DELAY phase	Once the pandemic virus emerges overseas, keeping the virus out of Australia
The CONTAIN phase	Once the pandemic virus does arrive in Australia, limiting the early spread
The PROTECT Phase	Protecting vulnerable people and those who care for them from the virus.
The SUSTAIN phase	Sustaining the response, while we wait for a pandemic vaccine
The CONTROL phase	Controlling the pandemic spread with a vaccine
The RECOVER phase	Once the pandemic is under control, returning to normal, while remaining vigilant

It is vital, however, that Council is proactive to assess the impact of the pandemic on its own community and staff to determine which elements of this plan to activate. The impact of a pandemic on the local community may be very different to the experiences elsewhere in Australia.

Council should act on advice from and in support of the Victorian Department of Health & Human Services.

6 Roles

In the event of an emergency such as a pandemic it is the role of Local Government, as the closest level of government to the community, to ensure the provision of essential services to the community. Actions will be in accordance with individual municipalities Business Continuity Plans. The following items are a high priority during a pandemic:

- Continuation of the essential components of services provided to the community by Council eg. aged care services, children's services, immunisation services (as relevant) where they can be provided within the confines outlined in this plan.
- Provision of services as outlined in the Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan, including recovery assistance.
- Provision of public health information and education to the community.
- As an existing immunisation provider, in conjunction with other providers, deliver a pandemic vaccination program (if / when vaccine is available).

Additional services will be provided on an as needs basis. The State Government will advise Council of any further assistance they may be required at a local level.

An Influenza Pandemic Committee consisting of Environmental and Emergency Management staff will be necessary in the event of a pandemic, or if a pandemic is considered imminent. The Influenza Pandemic Committee will be appointed by the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.

The requirements of the Pandemic Coordinator and Influenza Pandemic Committee are shown below.

6.1 Pandemic Coordinator

Planning for an influenza pandemic is a complex task, requiring input from a range of work areas and specialists to ensure a cohesive and effective response to and recovery from such an emergency. To address this, each Council will assign responsibility for coordinating influenza pandemic planning to a Pandemic Coordinator (MRM, MERO, EHO to be determined by the Influenza Pandemic Committee).

The role could include:

- administering the Influenza Pandemic Committee;
- increasing awareness among municipal health care providers about pandemic; influenza and involving them in the development of planned municipal arrangements
- researching vulnerable groups within the community;
- liaising with municipal business continuity planners to ensure the Municipal Business Continuity Plan has addressed the specific considerations likely to arise in an influenza pandemic;
- liaising with the Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM) in relation to specific community support and recovery considerations in an influenza pandemic;
- arranging exercises or workshops.

6.2   Influenza Pandemic Committee

The role of this Committee is to assist the Pandemic Coordinator to plan for a pandemic when it is imminent, respond to a pandemic and plan for recovery. The Committee will need to ensure arrangements dovetail with existing emergency management and public health arrangements in the municipality and across Victoria. With this in mind, it is vital to ensure all issues are addressed and that there is a link to the important work being undertaken in other parts of the Council business, and other agencies.

Representation on the Influenza Pandemic Committee should include:

- a senior manager of Council as the champion of the project;
- the Influenza Pandemic Coordinator;
- an Environmental Health Officer;
- representation and/or advice from the following areas of the municipal business:
  - human resources (especially with skill in work planning, industrial relations and financial management)
  - IT management
  - Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
  - infrastructure management
  - children, Health and community care services and aged care services
  - risk management and occupational health and safety services immunisation coordinator
  - communication/public relations.
- representation from other community related health services;
- medical practices, hospitals;
- support services such as meals on wheels, home care, community nursing;
- DHHS region;
- community and business representatives, especially from special needs groups.

7   Health Services Planning

Individual Health Service providers will have their own pandemic arrangements. Refer to the State Pandemic Plan.

A list of Hospitals, General Practices and Health Services are contained in the Cluster Contacts stored within Crisisworks (refer IMEMP for details).

8   Community Profile

This information is contained in Appendix 2 of the IMEMP – Municipal Statistics and Demographics.

9   Communication and Education

9.1   Community Education

The Cluster Councils will not initiate any community education or public health control measures without guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services will provide information to all forms of media regarding good personal hygiene practices and precautions the public should be taking to protect themselves.

Refer to IMEMP and SHERP v.4 section 4.2 - www2.health.vic.gov.au/emergencies/shera

9.2   Education Materials

The DHHS website provides information sheets on influenza pandemics, as well as posters in relation to coughing and sneezing and washing hands.
www.health.vic.gov.au/pandemicinfluenza .

The Better Health Channel Flu Site contains all the information about influenza:
https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/ConditionsAndTreatments/flu-influenza

Local provider websites may also contain information.

10   Plan Review

Plan Review Cycle / Maintenance of the Plan

The plan will be reviewed every two years by the Northern Victorian Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (IMEMPC). This review may be undertaken by a Working Group of Local Government emergency management staff.

The Cluster Coordinating Council holds the master copy of the document and it is expected that agencies have internal processes in place to ensure distribution of the Plan within their organisation.

11 Activation

11.1 Activation Protocol

The Influenza Pandemic Plan will be activated if any of the following occurs:

- a request is made by the State,
- a request is made by the Control Agency (Department of Health and Human Services),
- a request is made by the Police Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC) or Regional Emergency Management Inspector (REMI);
- a request is made by Council's Chief Executive Officer or Executive Management Group,
- a request is made by the Municipal Emergency Resource Officer (MERO) or Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM).
- Council's Municipal Operations Centre is established in response to the pandemic.

Individual departments within Council may activate their Business Continuity Plans as necessary. It may be necessary that only some aspects of the plan are activated during a pandemic depending on the severity of the disease and the impact it has on the community and the needs of the community.

The Pandemic Committee will meet throughout the pandemic. This will most likely be via teleconference to avoid close contact and reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

Possible outcomes during/ after a pandemic for the committee to consider are shown in Appendix 1.

Council will implement the following strategies in the initial response to a pandemic:

- call a meeting of the Influenza Pandemic Committee to oversee activity and provide advice. This will most likely be via teleconference to avoid close contact and reduce the risk of the virus spreading;
- strengthen infectious disease control measures to minimise or prevent the spread of influenza in the workplace;
- provide clear, timely and pro-active communication to staff including how Council is responding to the situation;
- provide clear, timely and pro-active communication to residents;
- provide personal protective equipment to staff (surgical masks, disposable gloves);
- review and strengthen infectious disease control measures and exclusion policies in all Councils' child care centres/kindergartens (as relevant), maternal and child health centres, immunisation services and other funded community services (eg home support – aged care);
- enact Business Continuity Plan.

ACTIVATION PROTOCOL

State Department of Health and Human Services

Regional DHHS Office notified

[MRM/MERO notified]

Activate Influenza
Pandemic Plan

Influenza Pandemic Committee notified and consulted

Council executive to endorse established/notified
recommended response activities based on advice by
PC and MRM

MERO activate MOC as required
with appropriate Incident
Management Team (IMT)

Business Continuity plan
activated

Deactivation will commence when advised by State DHHS

Northern Victorian Integrated Influenza Pandemic Plan – Issue 1.0 November 2019   Page 20

11.2 Control Strategies

This plan identifies a number of strategies that may need to be undertaken in the event of a pandemic.

Depending on the transmission mode of the agent, varied control measures will be implemented to prevent/limit transmission. During a Pandemic, agencies within the Cluster Councils may be required to assist with control strategies appropriate to the nature of the contagion. This will be handled within existing Emergency Management arrangements.

11.2.1   Social distancing

Social distancing refers to various personal and physical infection control measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission between people. Measures need to be implemented appropriately and progressively at different phases of a pandemic, in order to maximise their benefits and limit any unnecessary impact on communities and business.

Moderate measures may include advising people to minimise physical contact and avoid large gatherings and public places.

Extreme measures might include closing schools, childcare centres, universities, workplaces and recreational facilities, cancelling public events, home isolation or strict travel restrictions.

How to minimise contact

- Avoid meeting people face to face – use the telephone, video conferencing and the internet to conduct business as much as possible, even when participants are in the same building.
- Avoid any unnecessary travel and cancel or defer non-essential meetings, gatherings, workshops and training sessions.
- If possible, arrange for employees to work from home or work variable hours to avoid crowding at the workplace.
- Practice shift changes where one shift leaves the workplace before the new shift arrives. If possible, leave an interval before re-occupation of the workplace. If possible, thoroughly ventilate the workplace between shifts by opening doors and windows or turning up the air-conditioning.
- Avoid public transport. Walk, cycle, drive a car or go early or late to avoid rush hour crowding on public transport.
- Bring lunch and eat it at your desk or away from others (avoid the cafeteria and crowded restaurants). Introduce staggered lunchtimes so the numbers of people in the lunchroom are reduced.
- Do not congregate in tearooms or other areas where people socialise. Do what needs to be done and then leave the area.
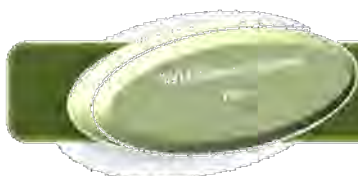
- If a face-to-face meeting with people is unavoidable, minimise the meeting time, choose a large meeting room and sit at least one metre away from each other if possible; avoid shaking hands or hugging. Consider holding meetings in the open air.
- Set up systems where clients and customers can pre-order or request information via phone/email/fax and have the order or information ready for fast pick-up or delivery.
- Encourage staff to avoid large gatherings where they might come into contact with infectious people.

11.2.2　Limiting mass gatherings

Mass gatherings have the capacity to spread viruses among participants. Events that may be considered as mass gatherings include schools/education facilities, concerts, large sporting events, citizenship ceremonies, festivals, shopping centres, cinemas, nightclubs and places of worship.

In the event of a pandemic, mass gatherings organised within or by the Council will be reviewed in line with DHHS advice. DHHS will determine the approach based on the particular nature of the contagion and advise private business and event organisers of their obligation to close and cancel events.

11.2.3　Procedure for Supporting People Isolated in their home

During influenza pandemic community members may be quarantined in their homes. Additional support may be required for members of the community who are quarantined in their homes who don't have any form of assistance (family or friends). Identification of these 'affected' people could be made by DHHS via their Help Line, requests for assistance through the Council Reception or referrals from members of the community.　Initial consideration should be given as to the person's reasonable ability to remain quarantined in their home with limited support, with other options to be considered (e.g: hospital admission).

Assistance provided by Councils will be dependent on each municipality's capacity and funding streams and they may not all be the same.　Any assistance provided must take into consideration the control strategies identified in this plan, see section 11.2.1 and 11.2.2.

The following points will be considered by the municipalities when determining what assistance can be provided:

- council may have limited capacity to respond
- the least human contact is the underlying principle
- initial information provided should indicate:
  - health status
  - access to food and support
  - access to medication.
- the need to maintain regular phone contact and whether this is possible due to resourcing issues
- any deliveries of supplies (e.g: food or medications) to be delivered to a pre-arranged collection point that minimises contact with the quarantined person/s.
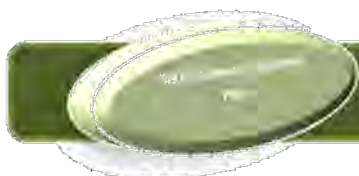
11.2.4   Work from Home / Restricting work place entry

As a minimum, on declaration of the Australian 'Contain Phase', agencies will, via their Business Continuity Plan, determine the need to advise staff and visitors not to attend if they have symptoms of the pandemic or have been in contact with someone who has/d symptoms of the infection.

Employees shall be advised not to come to work when they are feeling unwell, particularly if they are exhibiting symptoms associated with the pandemic. Unwell employees will be advised to see a doctor and to stay at home until symptom free for at least eight days, and medical clearance has been provided.

Staff who have recovered from the pandemic related illness are unlikely to be re-infected (most will have natural immunity) and will be encouraged to return to work as soon as medical clearance is provided. In extreme cases it may be desirable that staff are not gathering in the same place. In this instance work from home (remote) practices may need to be authorised and then supported by the IT department.

11.2.5   Council visitors

In order to prevent and limit the likelihood of influenza transmission between Council staff and visitors the following actions should be undertaken:

- Stringent cleaning procedures and the use of disinfectant cleaning products.
- Enhanced cleaning and servicing of air conditioners.
- Sanitary waste management, including the installation of foot pedal operated lidded bins.
- A dedicated budget allowance for essential supplies.

In response to pandemic, extra precautions would be taken to prevent infection. These include:

- Reducing staff travel and using other non-contact methods of communication.
- Restrict entry by the public and contractors into Council Offices.
- Implement enhanced cleaning services.
- Provide PPE as required.
- Enhanced cleaning and servicing of air conditioners. Or switching off/ isolating air conditioning in favour of providing natural ventilation, where applicable.

Some of these actions will only be implemented if the pandemic is particularly infectious or severe.

11.2.6   Virtual MOC operations

The IMEMP details arrangements for the normal operation of the Municipal Operations Centre (MOC). Should social isolation be considered as the most appropriate control strategy by the control agency, the MOC can still be managed by staff logging onto Crisisworks remotely. Communication via telephone rather than gathering in the predetermined MOC facility should also be considered. As a pandemic is likely to be long running, consideration should be given to
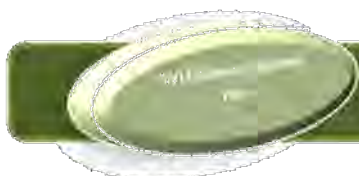
incorporating the MOC role into a person's normal role. The long-running nature of pandemic also means the MOC may not need permanent full staffing.

11.2.7   Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Cleaning Supplies

Councils will maintain a limited stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for use by staff that have direct contact with the community during the pandemic. This includes: disposable gloves, safety glasses and alcohol based hand sanitiser. Appropriate face masks will be purchased as required.

These will be available to staff that have close contact with members of the community and with people who may be unwell. This includes personal carers in the aged and disability area, early years staff and maternal child health nurses. These will be supplied to staff on an as needs basis at the discretion of the Pandemic Coordinator with the assistance of internal staff, in particular the managers of these areas, Council's Occupational Health and Safety Officer and Environmental Health Officers.

The reliability of suppliers to provide these services during a pandemic has been investigated and deliveries are usually available within 3-4 days, providing the items are available.

11.2.8   Food Delivery

AUSFOODPLAN-Pandemic addresses National food supply during a pandemic. The plan includes arrangements for grocery stores to implement social distancing, and continue to supply groceries, hygiene and sanitary products. The plan does not cover vulnerable communities that are sick or not able to get to stores. The role of food supply at the state level is shared between Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and DHHS. If local food deliveries are required, this will be managed within the existing Emergency Management arrangements.

Cluster Councils utilise different contractors and approved suppliers for the catering of the delivered meals program and Council functions. Each Council keeps details of contractors and suppliers.

Councils maintain a list of approved suppliers for the purchasing of products. Local food businesses located throughout the Shire are able to provide catering for large numbers of people. If necessary these businesses will be contacted to assist in the provision of additional meals for isolated persons.

11.3 Council internal arrangements

Staff will be encouraged to regularly clean their own work areas, especially those that are shared with other members of staff. Focus will be on high contact areas such as computers, telephones, door handles, light switches and high traffic areas such as tea rooms and meeting rooms.

The collection of sharps has been considered and arrangements are in place for routine collections and deliveries of containers. An adequate supply of containers is on hand if
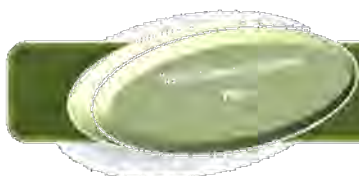
deliveries cannot be made and secure storage is available for full containers to be stored until collection can be arranged.

Personal Support for staff is available through the Employee Assistance Program. This is a counselling service that staff can access for a range of issues at any time.

11.3.1   Mass Vaccination

Advice on the process of mass vaccination is provided in the Mass Vaccination Guide, which forms Appendix 8 of the Victorian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (VHMPPI). Refer to individual Council's standard operating procedure for Mass Vaccination.

11.3.2   Mass fatality

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) is responsible for all deceased persons where there is no Doctor's certification of death. The VIFM has a capacity for normal operations and surge capacity arrangements for a significant number of deceased persons. The VIFM will use the Disaster Victim Identification INTERPOL Guidelines to identify multiple bodies after a mass fatality (likely in a pandemic). Cultural sensitivities are taken into account and teams are briefed on local religious beliefs, cultural attitudes and practices and political systems.

11.3.3   Deactivation

When response activities are nearing completion, the Influenza Pandemic Committee in conjunction with the control agency will call together relevant relief and recovery agencies including the MERO and the MRM to consult and agree on the timing and process of the response stand down.

Stand- down activities for agencies include:

- Liaise with agencies for up-to-date information.
- Implement agency plan for resumption of full business capacity.
- Restock inventory and resupply.
- Document financial expenditure and seek advice from your regional department in relation to any financial support packages available.
- Conduct staff debriefs.
- Review the Influenza Pandemic Plan and prepare for the next influenza pandemic using lessons learnt.
- Continue recovery processes to assist the community.

(Refer to 13 - Action Plan Implementation – Section 5. Deactivation)
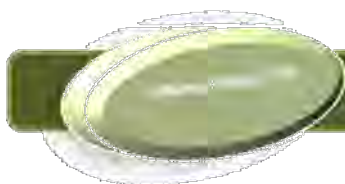
12 Community Support and Recovery

12.1 Responsibilities in recovery

Under the current emergency recovery arrangements, Emergency Management Victoria is the lead agency for recovery in Victoria. Regionally, DHHS leads recovery and Local Government plays a key role in assisting DHHS in the provision of services at a local level due to the close relationship Council has with the community. The IMEMP outlines arrangements in place in relation to the provision of aide and support in the event of an emergency.

Possible outcomes during/ after a pandemic for the Influenza Pandemic Committee to consider are shown in Appendix 1.

12.2 The role of Local Government

Local government has a pivotal role in assisting individuals and communities in the recovery phase of an emergency. The Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV) outlines the key activities carried out by local government in close conjunction with, or with direct support by, government departments.

Coordination with Regional DHHS and Regional MRMs will be ongoing to discuss and assess the sharing and coordination of recovery resources. Refer to Part 7 of the EMMV – Emergency Management Agency Roles for full details on the planned arrangements for the management of community support and recovery and the community organisations and agencies that can assist.

12.3 Impact Assessments

Following an emergency it is important to conduct impact assessments as soon as possible to prioritise recovery activities for the community. An assessment of public health risks will ensure key messages are provided to the community in a timely manner which will be very important in trying to contain the pandemic. Section 8 of the IMEMP explains the assessment process.

12.4 Finance during recovery

Recording of accurate and comprehensive expenditure is referred to in the IMEMP. If required a dedicated cost centre number will be used by the Influenza Pandemic Committee and later referred to the MERO/MRM.

13 Action Plan Implementation

Appendix 2 contains checklists to assist Council staff to undertake required tasks during the following stages:

1. Preparedness
2. Standby
3. Initial Action
4. Activation
5. Stand-down.
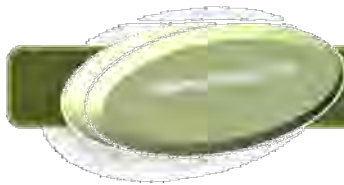
14   Helpful resources and fact sheets

Refer to the Better Health Channel for information:
https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/ConditionsAndTreatments/flu-influenza
The Victorian Health website will provide information and fact sheets:
http://www.health.gov.au
The World Health Organisation: Fact Sheet: http://www.who.int/influenza/en/

Resources and fact sheets listed below can be found from the above websites:

RESOURCES
Pandemic Tool Kit
Pandemic Influenza
Victorian Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza

FACT SHEETS
How to fit and remove protective gloves
How to fit and remove a protective gown
How to fit and remove a surgical mask
How to fit and remove a P2 -N95 respirator
Protective eyewear
How to fit and remove personal protective equipment
Clean hands
Travel health – Have you recently returned from overseas?
Avian Influenza
Seasonal and pandemic influenza
Transmission of respiratory disease and managing the risk

15   Distribution List

Title	Organisation	Plan No.
Electronic database	Cluster Coordinating Council	1
Manager, Health Protection	Department of Health and Human Services Loddon Mallee Region	2
Manager, Emergency Management North Division	Department of Health and Human Services	3
Emergency Management Coordinator	Mount Alexander Shire Council	4
Emergency Management Coordinator	City of Greater Bendigo	5
Emergency Management Coordinator	Central Goldfields Shire Council	6
Emergency Management Coordinator	Loddon Shire Council	7
Emergency Management Coordinators	Campaspe Shire Council	8

A copy of this Plan can be found on each Cluster Council's website.
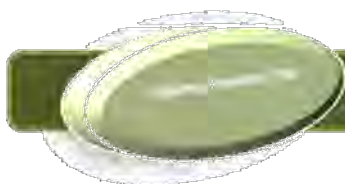
16   Appendices

Appendix 1 - Community Support and Recovery – Possible outcomes for consideration

Impact as a result of an influenza pandemic	Consequence to the community
Staff absenteeism	Reduced ability to deliver basic services e.g. home support (aged care and early years services). Loss of income. Extra stress on already struggling families
Death of employees	Loss of local knowledge, will take longer to train new person and restore the service, time for organisation to find new person
Decreased socialisation/ breakdown of community support mechanisms	Depression, loneliness
Increased pressure on services	Greater demand on resources, decrease in means of distribution. Current receivers of care may receive insufficient care
School closure	Parents of dependent children can't go to work. Teachers and school staff can't work. Economic loss
Increased need for information	Conflicting messages and misinformed social media groups can cause anxiousness and fear
Overloaded hospitals and medical centres	Reduced capacity to treat all patients, patients with minor problems less likely to be admitted
Animal abandonment	Abandonment of the animal originally responsible for carrying the flu. Fear of animals. Animal cruelty
Increased numbers of vulnerable people and emergence of new groups	More pressure on already struggling services. Increased care requirements of vulnerable people. Less numbers of carers available
Closure of public places	Reduced ability to buy supplies, loss of entertainment
Widespread economic disruption	Increase in crime. Stress on families. Businesses will struggle. Reduced ability to buy essential supplies. Reduced employment
Psychological health	Trauma, depression
Mental health	Survivor guilt

Appendix 2 – Action Plan Implementation Checklists

1. Preparedness – Planning Stage

STATUS – No novel strain of the virus has been detected.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE - Plan and prepare for pandemic influenza as part of normal risk management business.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS: Council Environmental Health Coordinators and Emergency Management staff.

	Influenza Pandemic Coordination – Actions required	Actioned Y/N
1.	Review the Influenza Pandemic Plan and update any contact details or operating procedures	
2.	Promote influenza prevention activities such as: ▪ offering workplace seasonal influenza immunisation to staff ▪ promote good personal hygiene – hand hygiene and respiratory/cough etiquette ▪ staying away from work or public gatherings if symptomatic	
3.	Ensure all business continuity plans are current at all times	
4.	Promote seasonal influenza vaccination to vulnerable community members through the Community Care / Community Services and Early Years teams	
5.	Promote seasonal influenza vaccination to the broader community via the community newsletter, local newspaper and the council website	
6.	Check Influenza PPE stockpiles: ▪ What current levels of PPE gear do you have? ▪ Are masks, gloves and hand sanitisers within adequate use by date? ▪ Is current storage ok? If not what location will you store items?	
7.	Review of current Influenza/Mass Vaccination clinics	
8.	Meet with Pandemic Planning Committee to discuss organisational preparedness (if activated)	

2. Standby - Response Stage

STATUS - Sustained human-human transmission of a novel influenza virus has been detected overseas in one or more countries

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE – Commence arrangements to reduce the impact of a pandemic on the municipalities and increase vigilance for case detection.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS: Council Environmental Health Coordinators and Emergency Management staff. Note: A Pandemic Committee may be appointed at this point.

	Pandemic Coordination – Actions required	Actioned Y/N
1.	Convene the Influenza Pandemic Planning Committee of the IMEMPC to ensure the following occurs: ■ maintain access to the Chief Health Officer's alerts to monitor the situation ■ liaise with Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies.	
2.	Messages to staff should: ■ explain the local status ■ explain infection prevention arrangements and promote ongoing education regarding the minimizing of infection spread ■ demonstrate the need for increased vigilance for case detection ■ incorporate advice from Department of Health & Human Services. ■ promote messages for employees to convey to fellow staff members, friends, family, clients and customers. ■ provide the link to the Department of Health & Human Services website and other pandemic influenza information resources. *Refer to Part 14 - Helpful Resources and Fact Sheets*	
3.	Confirm that the procedures to support people in home isolation are current and operable.	
4.	Meet with Risk and Safety Officer, or other responsible officer, to ensure Council's business continuity plan considers the impacts of a Pandemic.	
5.	Review stocks of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and make arrangements to increase capacity.	

3.   Initial Action – Response Stage

STATUS - Novel influenza virus or pandemic virus detected in Australia with limited information available.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE – Minimise transmission by implementing maximum infection control procedures and monitoring staff wellness.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS: Council Environmental Health Officers / Coordinators and Emergency Management staff. Note: a Pandemic Coordinator may be instigated at this time.

Pandemic Coordination – Actions required		Actioned Y/M
1.	Alert Council staff of the situation and reinforce the infection control measures implemented in the previous stage. Additional advice to staff to also: ▪ stay away from work or public gatherings if symptomatic to minimise the risk of infecting others ▪ to seek medical advice if symptoms continue or get worse.	
2.	Maintain the communication activities initiated in the Standby Response stage.	
3.	Consider further arrangements for minimising the risk of infection in the workplace: ▪ implement remote work arrangements if applicable ▪ use alternate non face-to-face work arrangements ▪ introduce additional cleaning and disinfecting (handrails, door handles, lift controls, telephones, rubbish bins) ▪ use clear screens or PPE for staff in customer interactive roles ▪ encourage home quarantine for suspected cases.	

4. Activation – Response Stage

STATUS – The pandemic virus has entered the country and is spreading throughout the community. Enough is known about the disease to tailor measures to specific needs.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE – Provide targeted support and quality care while maintaining business continuity.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS: Pandemic Coordinator, MERO, Community Care / Community Services Coordinator, MRM.

Pandemic Coordination – Actions required Pandemic Virus infections are being reported in the local municipalities	Actioned Y/N
1. Maintain current infection control measures implemented in the Initial Action stage. If the severity of the influenza virus is deemed high the following is recommended: ▪ public access to the Council offices be restricted ▪ promote social distancing ▪ PPE usage – the State controller will provide advice about the appropriate use of PPE.	
2. Establish a Municipal Operations Centre and implement the following: ▪ conduct regular tele-conferences with DHHS, support agencies and neighbouring municipalities ▪ identify which parts of the relevant plan need to be implemented on advice from DHHS	
3. Implement procedures to continue delivery of the essential components of support for clients receiving funded services delivered by Council as per business continuity plans and determine capacity to provide support for people who are isolated in their homes.	
4. Implement the procedure to establish and deliver community support services. The nature of these will vary, depending on the degree of impact. Similarly, how they are delivered (single gathering point for the community or on an individual basis) will also vary.	
5. Liaise with the Business Continuity Team regarding measures to maintain critical Council service delivery.	
6. Maintain communication with Council staff and the community.	
7. Provide vaccination services to the priority community groups when requested by the DHHS. ***See Mass Vaccination Standard Operating Procedure***	
8. The Influenza Pandemic Committee prepare for the recovery arrangements for the affected community (s) as the need arises. Liaise with the local health and other service providers to ensure these actions complement each other.	

5. **Deactivation – Response Stage**

STATUS – Pandemic subsiding and/or Vaccinations result in a protected population.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE – The public health threat is managed within normal arrangements and monitoring for change is in place.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS: Pandemic Coordinator, MERO or MRM, Emergency Management Team.

Pandemic Coordination – Actions required Infection rate has dropped significantly		Actioned Y/N
1.	Stand-down: Initiate stand down procedures which include: • reducing community support activities while maintaining quality care of funded clients • cease activities that are no longer needed (eg the MOC) • communicate these changes to staff and external agencies • maintain basic infection control procedures • monitor for a second wave of the outbreak and also for development of anti-viral resistance.	
2.	Liaise with the Municipal Recovery Manager regarding a hand-over from response to recovery operations. *Refer to Council IMEMP – Emergency Recovery Plan for more detail on the recovery services likely to be required.*	
3.	Continue to coordinate vaccination sessions when requested by DHHS	
4.	Participate in the Influenza Pandemic Committee to determine the services and resources required to address the identified needs.	
5.	Conduct staff debriefs to determine: • status of their psycho-social well-being • effectiveness of the Pandemic Plan procedures.	
6.	Participate in regional operations debrief/s.	
7.	Recommend any changes to the IMEMPC in relation to the IMEMP, Influenza Pandemic Plan or Mass Vaccination Procedures. This may include improvements that have come from debriefs.	

9.2   LODDON SHIRE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME 2019 - 2020

File Number: **16/02/01**

Author: **Sarah Perry, Project Liaison Officer**

Authoriser: **Anne Donovan, Manager Community Support**

Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council allocate the following amount from the 2019/2020 Community Grants unspent funds:

1. $6,800 to the Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Committee of Management in support of the purchase of an automatic pool cleaner

---

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Information on the community grant application in this report was provided to Councillors at the February 2020 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

This application, seeking access to the 2019/20 community grants unspent funds is being presented to Council today. Council, at its August 2019 Ordinary meeting resolved to hold the surplus funds from the 2019/20 community grant funding round in reserve for suitable community projects that arose throughout the year.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Committee of Management – Automatic Pool Cleaner

The Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Committee of Management is seeking an allocation of $6,800 to put towards the purchase of a suitably sized automatic pool cleaner. The total cost of the robot is $10,200 with the Committee of Management contributing $3,400 towards the purchase.

The Committee of Management are currently undertaking the cleaning of the swimming pools with their existing manual cleaner through volunteer labour. The purchase of the automatic cleaner will significantly decrease the labour involved in cleaning the pools and represents a reduction in risk to volunteers. The pool cleaner will be housed and used exclusively for the cleaning of the Pyramid Hill swimming pools including the main pool and toddler's pool.

When we consider the criteria for access to community grant funding:

- the group meets the eligibility criteria required to apply for a community grant.

- the project meets the grant eligibility; develop or improve upon existing facilities

- there are no sections of the 'what will not be funded' components that exclude this project from accessing Community grant funding.

COST/BENEFITS

The Community Grant Program 2019/2020 has allocated $179,246 to date, resulting in an underspend of $20,754 for the 2019/2020 grant round.

One request is being brought forward to Council for funding from Council's community grants scheme 2019/20 unspent funds. The amount applied for in this late application is within the total funds remaining for Community Grants.

RISK ANALYSIS

Primary risks associated with the Community Grants Scheme are believed to be as follows:

Adherence to Program Guidelines: Detailed program guidelines identify which projects and programs are considered eligible for Community Grants. All applications are assessed against these guidelines for eligibility so as to ensure that funding made available through this program is distributed equitably and provides greatest benefit to the overall Loddon community.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines could comprise the integrity of the grant program and the ability for Council to adequately fund appropriate community projects.

Failure to deliver projects: All successful applicants are required to adhere to a formal funding agreement which clearly identifies the purpose of the grant, delivery timeframes and reporting requirements. This is to ensure that expenditure of public money is conducted in a transparent and efficient manner.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation has been undertaken with the individual club identified in this report.

9.3	SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

File Number: **13/01/002**

Author: **Carolyn Stephenson, Statutory / Strategic Planner**

Authoriser: **Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance**

Attachments: **1.   Settlement Strategy 2019-2034**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to adopt the Settlement Strategy 2019-2034.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council considered the draft Settlement Strategy in September 2019, where it resolved to release it for public comment.

BACKGROUND

A strategic objective of the Council Plan (2017-2021) is to grow and invigorate Loddon's population. A key action nominated to support this objective is the preparation of a settlement strategy to provide a suitable supply of residential land in and around towns. This strategy has been developed over a number of years following research into population trends and land supply.

Development of the Settlement Strategy has involved:
- a workshop with community leaders to determine their vision for their communities and the Loddon Shire as a whole
- an audit of housing, vacant land and the public realm to assess the supply of housing, development options and opportunities to enhance connection and amenity
- a review of population and development data to determine trends and predict future opportunities
- community consultation via community drop in sessions and written submissions.

The purpose of this strategy is to identify Council's plans for population and housing growth and to ensure that this is recognised in the Loddon Planning Scheme.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The research conducted to inform the development of this strategy identified that:
- Loddon Shire has experienced population decline of approximately 1,000 people since 1996, however between 2011 and 2016 population stabilised with a slight increase from 7,296 in 2011
- population decline is not even across the Shire, with Inglewood showing a small increase in population
- a significant proportion of the Shire population is aged over 50 years
- new housing is being constructed in the Shire with an average of two new homes being constructed within the five larger towns (Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn) each year

---

- there is a mismatch between the dominant housing form of detached family homes and the population profile that is aging with an average household size 2.2 people

- there is significant vacant urban land supply zoned for residential development within the Shire, in particular in our five larger towns

    - existing vacant lots are estimated to offer opportunities for urban infill of at least 500 new single dwellings across the five larger towns and considerably more multi-unit developments should the land be further subdivided to provide for additional stand-alone dwellings

- although this land is zoned for development much is not currently available on the market.

The Settlement Strategy recognises that there is an existing substantial supply of vacant residential land and that demand must accompany provision of land in the pursuit of growth. Demand can be encouraged through economic development and enhanced physical and social amenity. This strategy links a range of Council responsibilities and priorities including land supply, infrastructure provision and economic development to support sustainable settlement planning.

This strategy seeks to facilitate population growth and build on existing communities to support their viability and maximise infrastructure investment. This strategy provides for a range of residential forms across the Shire while also protecting the opportunity for the agricultural sector to readily operate and expand. It also seeks to manage Council's infrastructure liability and preserve the unique landscape and amenity of the Shire.

The strategy recommends that growth should be promoted in the well serviced towns of Inglewood, Wedderburn, Boort, Pyramid Hill and Bridgewater. These towns currently have a sufficient land supply, including the opportunity for increased density through the further subdivision of existing large residential lots. Rezoning and extending townships into the Farming Zone is not required at this time. Growth can also be accommodated in many of the smaller towns, subject to infrastructure considerations. The strategy does recognise the opportunity for growth at Newbridge should reticulated water and sewerage be provided. This is largely due to Newbridge's unique positioning on the Loddon River and proximity to Bendigo.

The key strategic directions of the Settlement Strategy are to:

- promote growth in Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn and take advantage of all available development opportunities to fully develop the existing urban footprint

- accommodate new development in smaller settlements where effluent can be managed

- support a range of residential forms including rural living and medium density.

COST/BENEFITS

The Settlement Strategy supports growth and housing development by ensuring that there is appropriate and sufficient land made available within the Planning Scheme. The strategy recommends a program of work, much of which will be accommodated within existing resources.

The strategy recommends a number of initiatives to support growth including:

- undertake an Industrial Strategy to support job creation (estimated cost $30,000)

- undertake detailed investigation of identified residential growth opportunities in the priority towns to determine yield and estimated development cost ($50,000)

- undertake research and develop policy to define the value of Council participating in residential land development ($75,000)

- review the zoning of flood prone land at Laanecoorie, Newbridge and Serpentine to ensure that the zoning promotes appropriate development

- continue to seek funding opportunities to improve the amenity of towns

- promote infill opportunities, including further subdivision allowed under planning controls

- investigate opportunities to develop key sites

- support release of suitable Crown and Council land

- investigate options to upgrade Wet Lane / Walker Lane, Inglewood to support development in this area.

RISK ANALYSIS

This strategy is an important component of Council's pursuit of population growth as it ensures we have a supportive land use planning framework. Relevant, current and responsive settlement planning enables the provision of suitable land to accommodate growth. The strategy also ensures existing infrastructure is used and economic resources such as agricultural land are not undermined. The strategy provides a foundation and path forward for it to investigate options to proactively participate in residential land supply through the provision of a settlement framework.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Direct consultation with the community as part of the development of this settlement strategy has involved the following:

- a workshop with community leaders to determine their vision for their communities and the Shire as a whole

- seven community drop in sessions across the Shire and written submissions.

The Council was provided opportunity to have input into the development of the Settlement Strategy at its February 2018 Forum. Following further development, Council was presented with a draft Settlement Strategy at the September 2019 Forum for review.

The draft strategy was released for public comment during October/November 2019, with one submission received. This submission was from the Wedderburn Development Association (WDA) and sought to ensure that the strategy did not compromise opportunities for growth in Wedderburn. Some modifications to the strategy were made to clarify the intent of the strategy with regard to growth and address the concerns of the WDA.

SETTLEMENT STRATEGY
2019-2034

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Strategic document
DOCUMENT STATUS:	Draft
POLICY OWNER POSITION:	Manager Development and Compliance
INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT:	Not applicable
APPROVED BY:	Council
DATE ADOPTED:	Click here to enter date of approval
VERSION NUMBER:	1
REVIEW DATE:	1/07/2024
DATE RESCINDED:	Click here to enter a date.
RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES:	Council Plan Loddon Planning Scheme
RELATED LEGISLATION:	Click here to enter text.
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	

_____

Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION:	K:\PLANNING\Strategic Planning\Settlement Strategy

Strategic documents are amended from time to time, therefore you should not rely on a printed copy being the current version. Please consult the Loddon Shire website to ensure that the version you are using is up to date.

This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Loddon Shire Council's vision is to be a prosperous, vibrant and engaged community[1]. A strategic objective of the Council Plan (2017-2021) is to grow and invigorate Loddon's population. A key action nominated to support this objective is the preparation of a settlement strategy to provide a suitable supply of residential land in and around towns.

The Loddon Shire Settlement Strategy focusses on the role that land use planning can play in population growth. The planning system supports growth through the provision of suitable land for housing, as well as ensuring land is provided for jobs and industry. Beyond the planning system, Council is also able to encourage growth through support for economic development and ensuring towns and communities are attractive places to live.

The key strategic directions of this strategy are for Council to:

- promote growth in Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn, taking advantage of all available development opportunities to fully develop the existing urban footprint
- accommodate new development in smaller settlements where effluent can be managed
- support a range of residential forms including rural living and medium density.

This strategy builds on and links to existing programs that seek to encourage population growth through enhancing the amenity of the Loddon Shire townships and encouraging economic development. Many activities already committed to by Council support population growth and this is recognised by this strategy. The table in Section 9, Costing and Funding of Actions, identifies a number of targeted projects specific to this project to support growth in appropriate locations.

A review and analysis of population characteristics and change based on the results of the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census has been conducted and the full report is included in Appendix 1. The trends indicated within this report show a declining population although recent data suggests the population has stabilised.

Despite trends of population decline, there has been new housing development in the Loddon Shire. Overall, the data suggests strong clustering in and around Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn, with a particular trend towards the towns in the southern part of Loddon Shire. This clustering has become more apparent in the later years – since about 2011. This is borne out by the data collected in the field study, where data collectors noted a number of new dwellings in each town, including relatively new multi-unit developments. Clustering of more recent developments in rural living areas of the south of the Loddon Shire is also evident.

Demand for residential development has also been demonstrated in the approval of a number of urban subdivisions within the towns of Boort, Bridgewater and Inglewood. Over the last two years, 17 new urban lots have been created.

The following table demonstrates the trend in the demand for residential developments across Loddon Shire.

---

[1] Council Plan 2017-2021, Loddon Shire Council

Loddon Shire new housing development by zone[2]

Locality	2006-2008	2009-2011	2012-2014	2015-2017	Total
Boort TZ	2	9	5	3	19
Bridgewater TZ	1	6	3	4	14
Bridgewater LDRZ				1	1
Inglewood TZ	4	2	10	11	27
Inglewood LDRZ			2	1	3
Inglewood RLZ		2		1	3
Pyramid Hill TZ	2	3		3	8
Wedderburn TZ	3	7	10	5	25
Wedderburn LDRZ					0
Wedderburn RLZ	2	5	7	7	21
Other TZ	4	2	5	5	16
Other RLZ	1		2		3
Rural Balance	20	37	60	44	161
Total	**39**	**73**	**104**	**85**	**301**

This strategy seeks to facilitate population growth and build on existing communities to support their viability and maximise infrastructure investment. This strategy provides for a range of residential forms across the Loddon Shire while also protecting the opportunity for the agricultural sector to readily operate and expand, managing Council's infrastructure liability and preserving the unique landscape and amenity of Loddon Shire.

The aim of this strategy is to support *vibrant communities in a productive agricultural landscape.*

This strategy is framed by the following objectives:
- Provide for and encourage residential *growth* in the existing well serviced towns.
- Support a *diversity* of residential opportunities across the Loddon Shire including conventional residential, medium density and rural living.
- Protect the opportunity for the *agricultural sector* to operate and expand relatively unhindered as it is the driver of economic growth.
- Maximise the use of *existing infrastructure*, including roads, community and sporting facilities.
- Attract and retain residents through enhancing the physical and social *amenity* and encouraging *connection* and *attachment*.
- Encourage *sustainable* urban forms, including walkable towns and urban consolidation.
- Protect the *environmental* assets of the Loddon Shire, including native vegetation and waterways for their contribution to amenity, tourism value and agriculture.

The Loddon Shire Settlement Structure Plan illustrates the locations where Council seeks to encourage residential development.

---

[2] New dwelling approvals and may include some additions and alterations due to classifications.

LODDON SHIRE SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE PLAN

⬤	**Priority growth towns** – support urban consolidation and provide for urban expansion when required.
⬤	**Potential new growth opportunity** – opportunity for new growth subject to the provision of sewer and water.
⬤	**Existing small townships** – support ongoing residential development on existing Township zoned land subject to satisfactory effluent disposal.
⬤	**Rural living communities** – support consolidation and ongoing supply in accordance with State planning policy.

1 PURPOSE

Loddon Shire Council's vision is to be a prosperous, vibrant and engaged community[3]. A strategic objective of the Council Plan (2017-2021) is to grow and invigorate Loddon's population. A key action nominated to support this objective is the preparation of a settlement strategy to provide a suitable supply of residential land in and around towns.

The Settlement Strategy aims to maximise the potential for population and housing growth in the Loddon Shire. Based on an understanding of capacity and suitability, it identifies the localities in the municipality where Council is planning for people to live and proposes actions to promote development and growth.

This strategy focusses on the role that land use planning can play in population growth. The planning system supports growth through the provision of suitable land for housing, as well as ensuring land is provided for jobs and industry. Beyond the planning system, Council is also able to encourage growth through support for economic development and ensuring towns and communities are attractive places to live.

2 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This strategy builds on and links to existing programs that seek to encourage population growth through enhancing the amenity of the Loddon Shire townships and encouraging economic development. Many activities already committed to by Council support population growth and this is recognised by this strategy. The table in Section 9, Costing and Funding of Actions, identifies a number of targeted projects specific to this project to support growth in appropriate locations.

3 RISK ANALYSIS

Settlement planning is critical to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of residential land in suitable locations to accommodate growth. Settlement planning will support the efficient use of infrastructure and can minimise impact on the agricultural economy.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Loddon Shire

Loddon Shire is located to the north west of the regional city of Bendigo. It has a total area of almost 6,700 square kilometres, and a population of approximately 7,500 people.

Loddon Shire is a community of communities, with the population dispersed across farming areas, rural living clusters, townships and villages. These towns and communities are proud, resilient and self-sufficient, each playing a vital role within their respective districts.

---

[3] Council Plan 2017-2021, Loddon Shire Council
Page 1 of 40

Figure 1 Loddon Shire location

4.2   Historical settlement

The Dja Dja Wurrung are recognised as the Traditional Owners of much of the Loddon Shire.

European settlement of the Loddon Shire area commenced with pastoral occupation during the 1840s following Major Mitchell's exploration in 1836. The discovery of gold in 1852 dramatically changed settlement, and resulted in the development of most of the towns in the south of the Loddon Shire, including Wedderburn, Inglewood and Tarnagulla.

Development of irrigation in the north of the Loddon Shire provided for greater investment in agriculture, and supported the associated growth of towns such as Boort and Pyramid Hill.

5   METHODOLOGY

Development of this settlement strategy has involved:
- a workshop with community leaders to determine their vision for their communities and the Loddon Shire as a whole
- an audit of housing, vacant land and the public realm to assess the supply of housing, development options and opportunities to enhance connection and amenity
- a review of population and development data to determine trends and predict future opportunities
- community consultation via community drop in sessions and written submissions.

6   STRATEGIC CONTEXT

6.1   Loddon Shire Council Plan 2017-2021

Loddon Shire Council's vision is to be a prosperous, vibrant and engaged community. The Council Plan identifies that Council has committed to strive to grow and invigorate Loddon's population, with the preparation of a Settlement Strategy to provide a suitable supply of residential land in and around towns being nominated as an action to support growth.

Page 2 of 40

6.2   Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy

Population growth is also at the heart of the Economic Development Strategy, along with agriculture and tourism. Affordable land, lifestyle properties and enhanced liveability are identified as key opportunities in the Economic Development Strategy.

6.3   State Planning Policy Framework

The State Planning Policy Framework requires that Council is to anticipate and respond to the housing needs of the existing and future communities. It is to facilitate sustainable development that takes full advantage of existing settlement patterns and investment in transport, utility, social, community and commercial infrastructure and services.

The State Settlement Strategy seeks to deliver choice through a network of settlements, linked through transport, digital telecommunications and service provision and retail relationships. Growth will be focused in Melbourne and regional cities, including Bendigo; however growth of smaller townships is supported where infrastructure is available or can be provided in a cost effective and sustainable manner. The ongoing liveability of towns that are struggling to retain population should be protected through maintaining service provision and dispersed settlement is to be avoided to protect agricultural land and environmental assets.

6.4   Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan (2015-2018)

The Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan identifies that the growth and diversification of agriculture and food production is a key direction for the ongoing viability of the region. Bendigo will maintain its role as a regional centre, but small towns in the region need to be supported to provide an appropriate standard of living.

Page 3 of 40
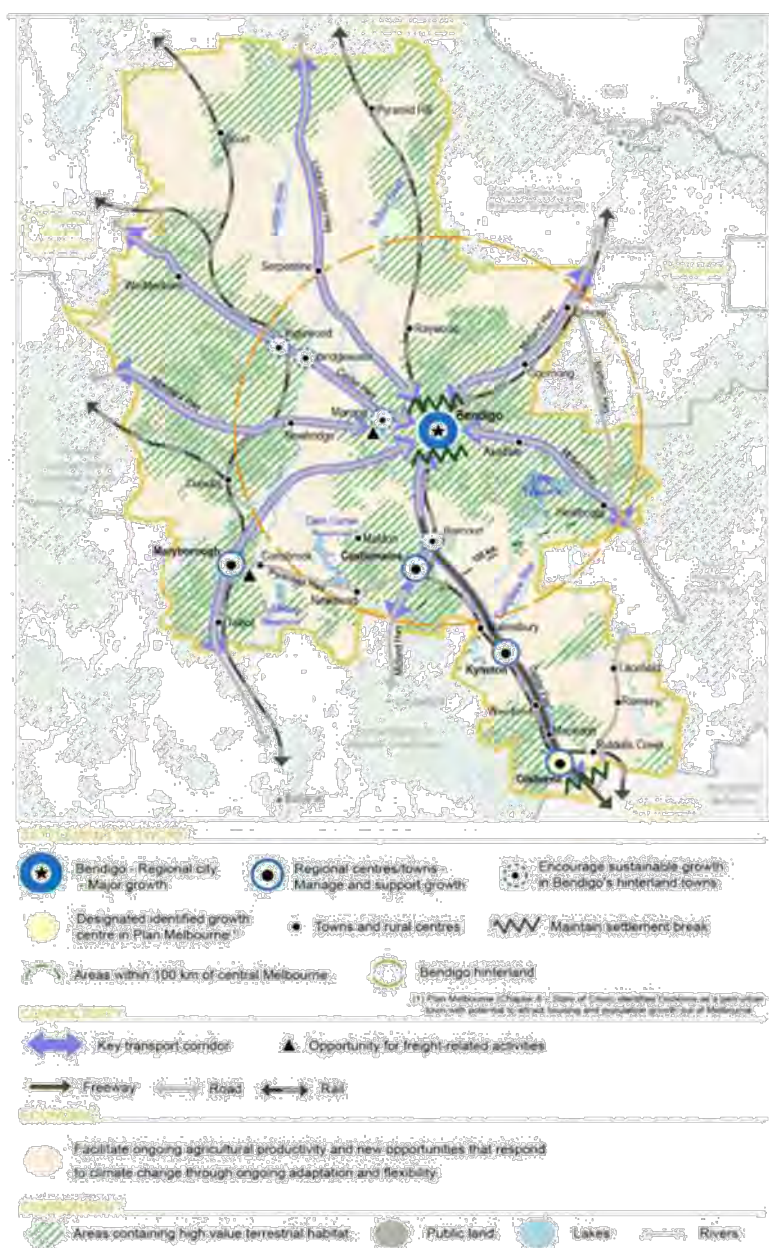
Figure 2 Loddon Mallee South Future Growth Plan

6.5   Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan (2014)

The Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan aims to focus growth on existing settlements with capacity to expand. It supports the role of small towns and settlements and particularly identifies support for growth of Inglewood and Bridgewater due to their proximity to Bendigo. It further identifies the role of the rural areas for agriculture, and the need to manage settlement to protect this activity.

Page 4 of 40

7   ISSUES AND TRENDS

This section of the report identifies key issues that will influence the direction of the Settlement Strategy. These issues include existing trends that can be extrapolated to provide an understanding of what might happen in the future, as well as constraints and opportunities that will determine the capacity and suitability of towns and settlements to attract and accommodate growth.

The Victorian Planning Authority has supported Council in the development of this strategy through the funding of research into population change, and housing and land supply through the Streamlining for Growth program. This research included an analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data, Council building approval data and an on ground assessment of housing condition in the five larger towns. These reports are included in Appendix 1 and 2, with the key findings included below.

7.1   Population change

A review and analysis of population characteristics and change based on the results of the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census has been conducted and the full report is included in Appendix 1.

This research revealed the following population trends and characteristics in Loddon Shire.

7.1.1   Population decline

Loddon Shire has experienced population decline of approximately 1,000 people since 1996. In 1996 there were 8,555 residents and this declined to 7,512 residents in 2016 (ABS Place of Usual Residence 2016). However, between 2011 and 2016, population stabilised, with a slight increase from 7,296 in 2011. The most recent Victorian Government population projections suggest a continued slow decline in population. Population decline in Loddon Shire is associated with aging, agricultural restructure, population centralisation into larger urban centres and global economic trends leading to employment loss. These factors are largely beyond the influence of local government. However, this decline and the effect of these influences are not consistent across the Loddon Shire. In the south east of Loddon Shire, population decline and aging is less evident indicating an influence associated with the proximity to the regional centre of Bendigo. Inglewood, in particular, has experienced an increase in population since 2006 following a period of decline, and a positive annual average change in children under 14 years. Other towns are showing a loss in this age group over the last ten years.
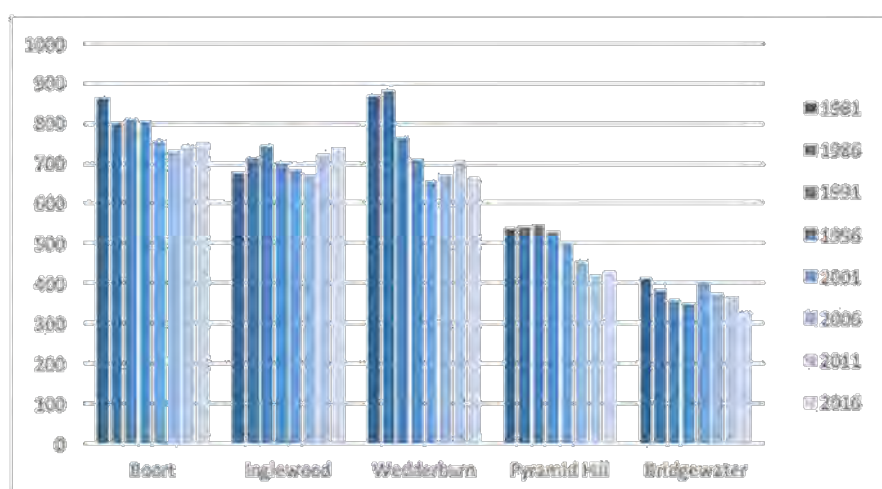
Figure 3 Population change (ABS - 1981-2016) Loddon Shire primary urban centres

7.1.2   Population aging

A significant proportion of the Loddon Shire population is aged over 50 years. This is consistent with age structures in many communities in North West Victoria. As Figure 4 indicates, the population retains school-aged children, but young adults remain a very small part of the population structure. This has ongoing implications in terms of growth as the young adult cohort drive population growth and housing development. Again, this trend is less evident in some towns.
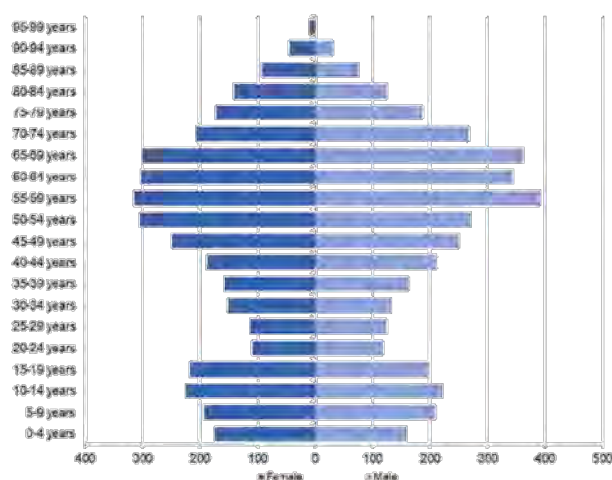
Figure 4 Age and gender structure Loddon Shire 2016

7.1.3   Migration

Loddon Shire experienced net outward migration of 108 people between 2011 and 2016, with 1,215 people leaving and 1,107 moving into Loddon Shire. Outward migration was most evident through migration to Bendigo, with some movement to Melbourne and to the surrounding regional local government areas including Campaspe, Swan Hill and Gannawarra. Inward migration was mostly from Bendigo and Melbourne. Overall, there was a net loss of people to Bendigo amongst younger age groups and net gain of people in older age groups from diverse locations, including metropolitan Melbourne and larger regional centres. Migration trends

Page 6 of 40

suggest school leavers leaving to seek further education and employment and inward migration based on those seeking affordable housing options.

In 2016, nearly 14% of the Pyramid Hill population was born in Philippines (ABS Census). Opportunities of employment in intensive agriculture have attracted these residents, who have become valued members of the community. It is believed that this community has continued to grow and they now comprise a greater proportion of the local population.

The motivations for migration vary with age and life stage, with education, work-lifecycle and household formation/dissolution the main drivers. Notwithstanding the dominance of just a few economic factors in driving migration, surveys of those who have actually moved from Melbourne to regional Victoria have found a complex mix of factors. According to the 2009 RDV Relocated Residents survey, the main personal drivers for relocation are family (48%), employment (44%) and lifestyle (27%).

7.1.4   Employment

Nearly all employment sectors are declining, with growth notable in mining (from a very small base), finance and health services. While most of the local workforce lives locally, almost 30% live elsewhere, mostly in Greater Bendigo. Similar numbers of Loddon residents commute out of the Shire for work.

Agriculture, manufacturing, education and health care have some of the highest levels of employees commuting into Loddon Shire from elsewhere. Some of the key employment options within the Loddon Shire include healthcare (Boort and Inglewood hospitals and aged care facilities), education (nine schools, including four with secondary years), Local Government (Loddon Shire) and agribusiness including Laucke, Southern Stockfeeds, Hazeldenes, Kia Ora, Loddon Valley Eggs and Scato Plus.

7.1.5   Households

Patterns of household formation are central to considering land use and settlement. At the 2016 census, Loddon Shire had 2,957 households, fewer than the 3,133 households recorded in 2006. The average household size in 2016 was 2.2 persons, a decline from 2.3 persons in 2006.

The ageing of the population is reflected in the decline in family households with children and an increasing share of lone person households. These are trends apparent generally in Australia, but they are more evident in rural areas.

Page 7 of 40
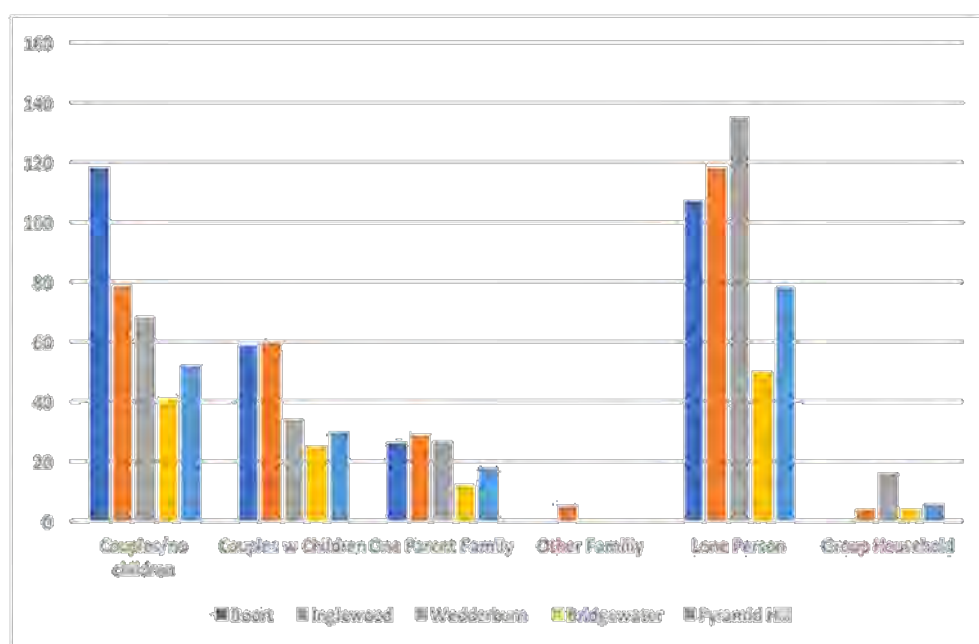
Figure 5 Household type Loddon Shire primary urban areas

7.2 Urban land and housing supply

7.2.1 Housing supply

The towns of Loddon Shire are dominated by single storey, stand-alone dwellings. While this pattern of dwelling structure is typical in small towns across Victoria, it is clear that the household structures and age cohorts increasingly dominant in Loddon Shire (and other communities) less typically comprise 'family' households. Consequently, scope for housing choice, particularly for older people appears limited and may affect decisions about remaining in Loddon Shire or moving to Loddon Shire.

Housing quality varies, and despite this being a relatively subjective measure, it is evident that there are large amounts of housing that have seen minimal investment over many years and, in some instances, have potential for renewal or removal. This has implications in terms of the suitability and sustainability of the existing supply, as well as the impacts on the amenity and presentation of the township areas. The opportunity for redevelopment of sites with low quality housing contributes to the land supply levels in the towns.

The ABS 2016 Census also suggests that there are high levels of vacant housing in Loddon Shire with 20% of all dwellings deemed unoccupied. While the figure is slightly lower in Boort and Inglewood, and slightly higher in Wedderburn, there appears to be a significant proportion of housing stock currently vacant.

7.2.2 Residential development opportunities

There are considerable residential development opportunities on existing vacant lots, both smaller and larger, within the urban and rural living areas of Loddon Shire as indicated in Table 1 below. The traditional low density of development in Loddon towns provides a significant opportunity for infill in the form of further subdivision of existing residential lots, as well as multi-unit developments on larger vacant parcels where sewerage has been provided. Although not all lots are available or suitable for residential development, existing vacant lots are estimated to offer opportunities for at least 500 new single dwellings in the five larger towns and considerably

Page 8 of 40

more multi-unit developments or should the land be further subdivided to provide for additional standalone dwellings. There is also some existing opportunity for the development of new small housing estates, however these do require the addition of new infrastructure. Smaller towns and rural living areas also offer opportunities for new housing.

Table 1 Vacant land parcels by zone[4]

Town	Zone	Lots	Area (ha)
Boort	Township	143	32.4
Bridgewater	Township	123	31.4
	Low Density Residential	4	25
Dingee	Township	13	3.5
Eddington	Township	70	40
Inglewood	Township	158	54.3
	Low Density Residential	41	95.7
	Rural Living	82	844.5
Laanecoorie	Township	11	6
Mitiamo	Township	11	7
Newbridge	Township	40	12
Pyramid Hill	Township	71	9.1
Serpentine	Township	22	150
Tarnagulla	Township	49	4.5
Wedderburn	Township	110	27.5
	Low Density Residential	25	20.5
	Rural Living	265	1110

Accompanying maps are included in Appendix 4.

7.2.3   Development trends

Despite trends of population decline, there has been new housing development in the Loddon Shire. Overall, the data suggests strong clustering in and around Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn, with a particular trend towards the towns in the southern part of Loddon Shire. This clustering has become more apparent in the later years – since about 2011. This is borne out by the data collected in the field study, where data collectors noted a number of new dwellings in each town, including relatively new multi-unit developments. Clustering of more recent developments in rural living areas of the south of the Loddon Shire is also evident.

Demand for residential development has also been demonstrated in the approval of a number of urban subdivisions within the towns of Boort, Bridgewater and Inglewood. Over the last two years, 17 new urban lots have been created.

---

[4] These figures are indicative only and don't represent a detailed assessment of the capacity of each lot.
Page 9 of 40

Figure 6 Loddon Shire residential building approvals 2006-2017[5]
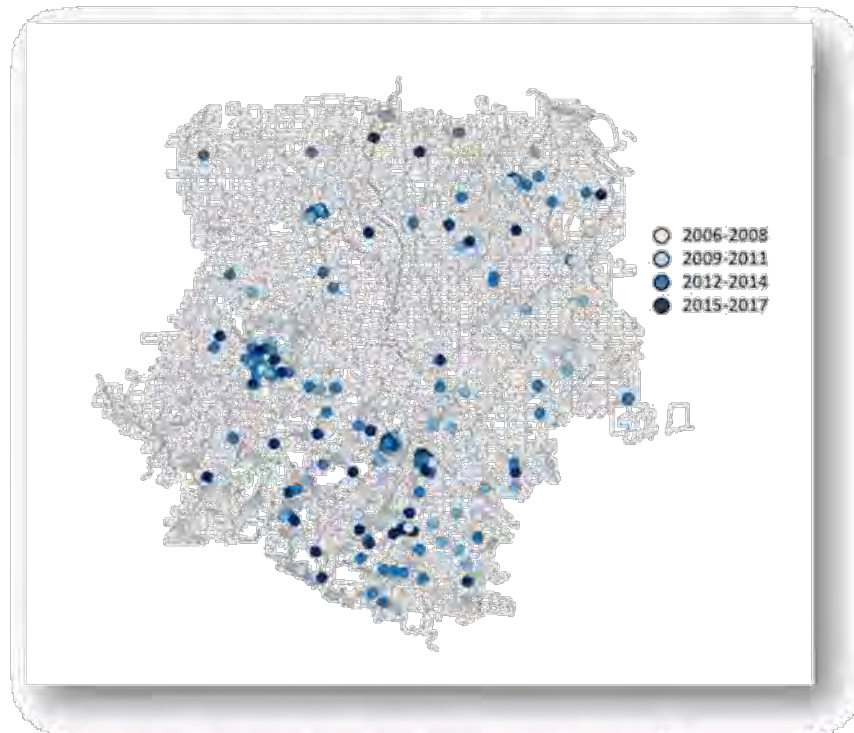
Table 2 Loddon Shire new housing development by zone[6]

Locality	2006-2008	2009-2011	2012-2014	2015-2017	Total
Boort TZ	2	9	5	3	19
Bridgewater TZ	1	6	3	4	14
Bridgewater LDRZ				1	1
Inglewood TZ	4	2	10	11	27
Inglewood LDRZ			2	1	3
Inglewood RLZ		2		1	3
Pyramid Hill TZ	2	3		3	8
Wedderburn TZ	3	7	10	5	25
Wedderburn LDRZ					0
Wedderburn RLZ	2	5	7	7	21
Other TZ	4	2	5	5	16
Other RLZ	1		2		3
Rural Balance	20	37	60	44	161
Total	39	73	104	85	301

7.3   Rural living

Loddon Shire has a strong tradition of rural living in the southern parts of the municipality. The opportunity to live on larger lots in a forested or agricultural landscape is an important part of the attraction and liveability of the area. However this form of land use comes at a cost in terms of

[5] New dwelling approvals and may include some additions and alterations due to classifications.
[6] New dwelling approvals and may include some additions and alterations due to classifications.
Page 10 of 40

servicing and the potential impact on agriculture and the environment. The location and extent of rural living needs to be carefully managed to ensure that while this form of land use is supported, it is done so in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

There is land zoned Rural Living around Inglewood, Wedderburn, Dunolly, Laanecoorie and Tarnagulla. There is also land at McIntyre that, although zoned Farming, was developed and functions as a rural living community. The supply of Rural Living zoned land in Loddon Shire was significantly enhanced in 2016 with the approval of amendment C36 to the Loddon Planning Scheme. This amendment recognised a number of the existing rural living developments in the municipality, and rezoned them from Farming Zone to Rural Living Zone.

Table 3 provides an estimate of the capacity for new development within existing rural living areas.

Table 3 Rural living estimated growth capacity

District	Approximate growth capacity	
	Dwellings[7]	Years supply[8]
Dunolly	50	20
Inglewood	90	20
Laanecoorie	10	5
McIntyre	50	20
Wedderburn	200+	30+

7.4   Agriculture

Agriculture is the economic foundation of the Loddon Shire. It provides over 1,000 jobs (almost half of local employment) and produces over $300m worth of productivity. The opportunity to operate and expand relatively unhindered is fundamental to the ongoing viability of agriculture. The ability to accommodate intensive animal businesses and the required buffers because there is minimal housing development in the rural areas is a competitive advantage of Loddon Shire. Over the last five years approval has been granted for a number of large intensive poultry, egg and pig production facilities.

The north of the Loddon Shire has access to irrigation, and considerable investment has been made in this infrastructure in recent years. The large properties in the south of the Loddon Shire are well suited to wool, prime lamb and cereal production. The South West Loddon Pipeline will enhance agricultural viability and opportunities in the south of the municipality.

Settlement needs to be planned to protect agricultural activity, and opportunities for new intensive agriculture development proposals.

7.5   Natural values

The Loddon Shire includes some significant natural values including remnant grasslands, forest areas and water bodies. These natural values make an important contribution to the amenity of the municipality and are a tourist attraction. Settlement should avoid areas of high natural value. Figure 7, below, indicates the relatively high contribution of natural values in Loddon Shire compared to adjoining municipalities to the northwest.

---

[7] Based on number of vacant lots
[8] Based on average building approvals (new dwellings) per year 2006-2017

Page 11 of 40
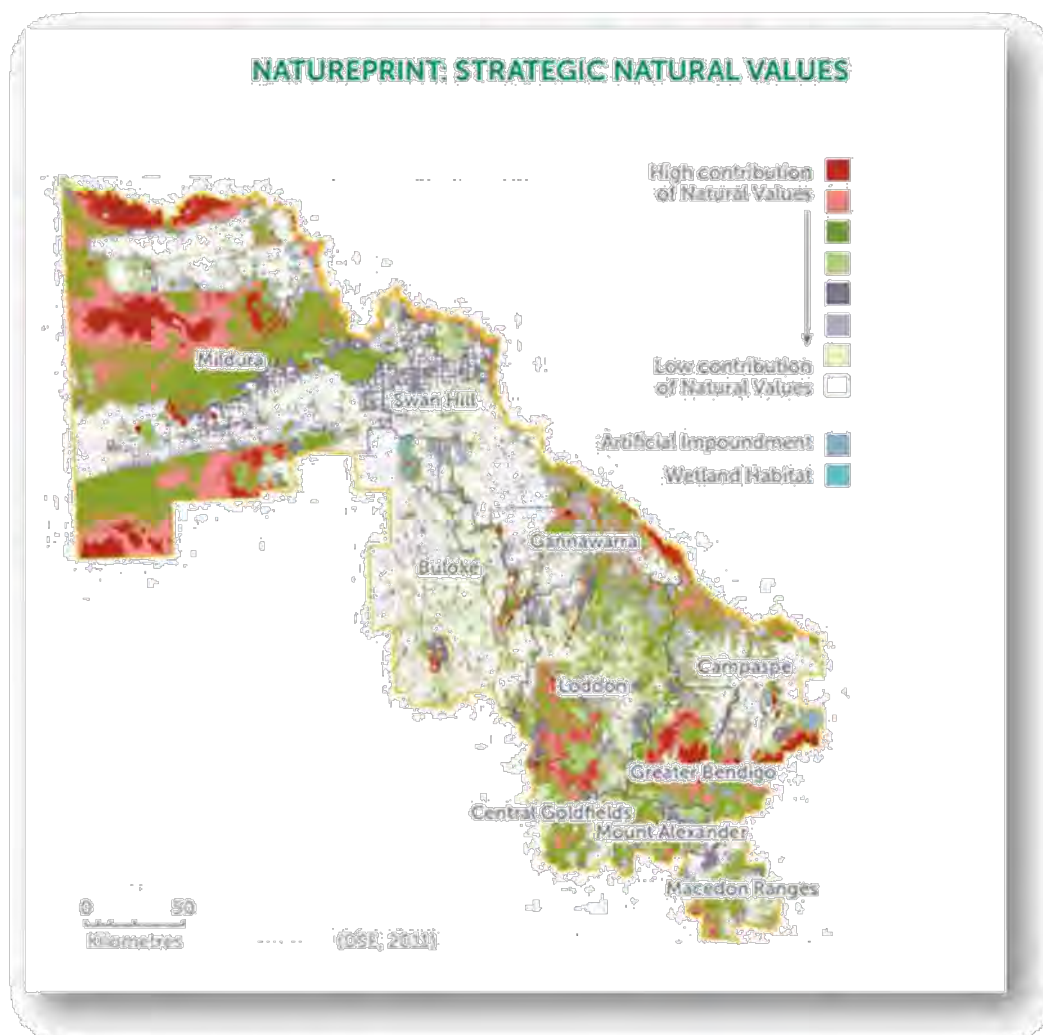
Figure 7 Regional natural values

7.6   Bendigo

The City of Greater Bendigo is the adjoining municipality to the southeast of Loddon Shire. This regional city is showing strong growth, with its residential strategy aiming to accommodate up to 200,000 people over the next 20 years. This is an almost doubling of its current population.

Loddon Shire could benefit from this strong growth through being able to offer more affordable housing, in smaller communities within reasonable proximity to Bendigo. This strong growth in the Bendigo region is expected to deliver residential, economic and employment growth within Loddon Shire for those areas within commuting distance of Bendigo.

Page 12 of 40

7.7   Infrastructure

7.7.1   Water and sewerage system

Within the Loddon Shire, urban reticulated water and the sewerage system are provided by Coliban Water.

Table 4 below sets out those towns with access to reticulated treated water and, in some cases, sewerage system in the Loddon Shire.

Table 4 Water and sewerage system provision, Loddon Shire urban areas

Town	Water	Sewerage System
Boort	✓	✓
Bridgewater	✓	✓
Inglewood	✓	✓
Korong Vale	✓	x
Laanecoorie	✓	x
Pyramid Hill	✓	✓
Serpentine	✓	x
Tarnagulla	✓	x
Wedderburn	✓	✓

A number of other smaller towns, such as Dingee and Mitiamo, have untreated reticulated water, and no sewerage system.

The lack of a sewerage system is a significant limitation in terms of urban growth as lots must be able to treat and contain wastewater within the boundary of the property. Generally lots will need to be greater than 0.4ha to be able to adequately treat and retain waste water for a normal family dwelling, subject to soil conditions and other environmental considerations.

7.7.2   Road network

Council maintains nearly 5,000km of roads at an annual cost of around $7 million, including capital renewal. Ongoing financial constraints on local government require that Council aim to minimise the extent of its road network to ensure financial sustainability.

Financial Costs of Settlement Patterns in Rural Victoria (Final Report June 2013) concluded that dispersed residential development (despite its more basic standard) generates considerable cost to local government and tends to be the most expensive form of development to councils in the long term. In contrast, infill development, that is development which takes place on vacant parcels of land within existing infrastructure networks, generates considerably less cost to local government. Greenfield development and its high level of infrastructure provisioning (typically paid for by developers) lumps councils with significant ongoing costs. The findings suggest that councils should consider financial implications in setting settlement policy as the effects of incremental dispersed development over time can be quite detrimental to council budgets, particularly in councils where there is limited growth otherwise.

Within Loddon Shire, not all rural roads are constructed to an all-weather standard, and as the planning scheme requires that the use and development of land for a dwelling is dependent on all-weather access, some proposals will require the applicant to upgrade their access at their cost. Although the developer pays to upgrade the road, it falls to Council to take on the maintenance. The cost of the provision of this infrastructure can discourage new development.

Page 13 of 40

New settlement should be focussed in and around existing towns and the existing all-weather road network and any proposals that require the construction of new roads, even at the cost of the developer, should be minimised.

7.7.3 Other

Other significant infrastructure within Loddon Shire includes the Inglewood and Boort hospitals, and their associated aged care facilities and a number of primary and P-12 schools. Access to these services supports population growth and provides local employment.

7.8 Flooding

Significant parts of the Loddon Shire are subject to flooding.

The Bridgewater Township was extensively affected in the 2010 - 2011 floods, with many dwellings damaged. The opportunities for growth and development of certain parts of this town will be constrained by flood risk, however there remains opportunity for growth outside of these areas.

In seeking to avoid future flood risk, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (as the floodplain manager), will work with Council to manage both subdivision and development of land that has been identified as flood prone. Land that is not flood prone but relies on access that is subject to significant flood risk may also be subject to restrictions on development due to the risk to life and safety of residents trying to leave the property during a flood event. Flood prone land may be managed by imposing a minimum floor level on a proposed dwelling, preventing the further subdivision of land or by preventing development of a site all together.

Boort, Serpentine, Wedderburn, Inglewood and Pyramid Hill have some limitations due to the risk of flooding, however they are not as extensive or limiting as is the case at Bridgewater.

7.9 Bushfire

Bushfire risk will limit the growth of some fringe areas of Inglewood and Wedderburn due to their proximity to State forest. State Planning Policy requires that population growth be directed to low risk areas. Any development of existing urban zoned land for residential development will require a risk based design that seeks to minimise this threat to human life. This may involve buffers and lower development density, as well as building design and materials, to address fire risk.

7.10 Climate change

The predicted temperature increase as a result of climate change will have an impact on the amenity and liveability of Loddon towns in summer, in particular in aging and poor quality housing stock. New residential development must be well designed and energy efficient, with trees preserved where possible to ensure shade, to respond to this risk.

7.11 Physical and social amenity

High physical amenity is recognised as an influencing factor in the decision to relocate to a rural area. While all towns in the Loddon Shire have characteristics that contribute to a level of amenity, primarily their rural setting, access to water in an otherwise dry landscape is a particularly attractive attribute of Bridgewater, Boort, Laanecoorie, Newbridge and Eddington. The unique heritage character of the main street in Inglewood makes a significant contribution to the amenity of that town.

However, it has also been recognised that physical amenity can prove insufficient if other needs are not met. The opportunity to meet and connect through community groups, events and even

Page 14 of 40

the opportunity to walk within a community, contribute significantly to the social amenity of a town and provide a reason for residents to remain or return.

7.12 Community consultation

Community consultation was conducted through drop in sessions advertised in local papers and electronic platforms. Written submissions were also invited.

The key messages from the community consultation were:
- growth is supported
- township character must be preserved
- need to enhance amenity and services
- housing suited to older residents is required
- new industry and employment, including growth and diversification of agriculture, is required to attract population.

Details of the community consultation are included in Appendix 3.

Page 15 of 40

7.13 Growth potential of Loddon Shire towns

Table 5 Loddon Shire Towns – opportunity for growth

	Land supply	Proximity to major regional centre	Infrastructure availability	Free from environmental constraints (e.g. Flooding, bushfire)	Amenity	Existing growth trends	Housing suitability (size, quality)
Inglewood	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Boort	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Bridgewater	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Wedderburn	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Pyramid Hill	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Eddington	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓
Dingee	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Newbridge	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓
Serpentine	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Laanecoorie	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓
Mitiamo	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Tarnagulla	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Korong Vale	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 5 provides a relative comparison of the Loddon Shire towns in terms of their suitability and potential for growth based on existing conditions. These drivers or requirements for growth have been discussed in this section of the report and provide an understanding of, firstly, the capacity of the township for growth (infrastructure, land supply) and secondly, the likelihood of the town attracting growth (access to employment, amenity).

Inglewood ranks strongly due to its proximity to Bendigo, level of infrastructure (water, sewerage, hospital and aged care facility) and amenity associated with its heritage character.

Boort also has high levels of infrastructure (including a hospital and P-12 school), high amenity associated with the lake, but distance to Bendigo does have some effect on its ability to attract growth. Limited infrastructure and flooding issues affects Bridgewater's suitability for growth, despite its strong amenity associated with the Loddon River.

The proximity to Bendigo can be counteracted to some extent through the support and encouragement of local employment options. This can include further development of the tourism and agricultural industry with this being considered in the new Tourism and Economic Development Strategy that is currently being prepared. However provision of local employment needs to be partnered with appropriate housing options, in particular quality housing, and township amenity in terms of presentation and social connection, to best position Loddon Shire to attract new residents.

Some of the requirements of growth can be changed through government investment (e.g. Infrastructure); however the cost of this is likely to be significant. For example the provision of reticulated water and sewerage at Newbridge, which is currently the subject of an economic assessment.

Page 16 of 40

5 STRATEGY

The Loddon Shire has considerable capacity for residential growth. The Loddon Shire Settlement Strategy recognises that there is an existing substantial supply of vacant residential land, and that generation of demand must accompany provision of land in the pursuit of growth. Demand can be encouraged through economic development and enhanced physical and social amenity. This strategy links a range of Council responsibilities and priorities, including land supply, infrastructure provision and economic development to support sustainable settlement planning.

This strategy seeks to facilitate population growth and build on existing communities to support their viability and maximise infrastructure investment. This strategy provides for a range of residential forms across the Loddon Shire while also protecting the opportunity for the agricultural sector to readily operate and expand, managing Council's infrastructure liability and preserving the unique landscape and amenity of Loddon Shire.

This strategy aims to support *vibrant communities in a productive agricultural landscape.*

This strategy is framed by the following objectives:
- Provide for and encourage residential *growth* in the existing well serviced towns.
- Support a *diversity* of residential opportunities across the Loddon Shire including conventional residential, medium density and rural living.
- Protect the opportunity for the *agricultural sector* to operate and expand relatively unhindered as it is the driver of economic growth.
- Maximise the use of *existing infrastructure*, including roads, community and sporting facilities.
- Attract and retain residents through enhancing the physical and social *amenity* and encouraging *connection* and *attachment*.
- Encourage *sustainable* urban forms, including walkable towns and urban consolidation.
- Protect the *environmental* assets of the Loddon Shire, including native vegetation and waterways for their contribution to amenity, tourism value and agriculture.

Page 17 of 40

LODDON SHIRE SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE PLAN

⬤	**Priority growth towns** – support urban consolidation and provide for urban expansion when required.
⬤	**Potential new growth opportunity** – opportunity for new growth subject to the provision of sewer and water.
⬤	**Existing small townships** – support ongoing residential development on existing Township zoned land subject to satisfactory effluent disposal.
⬤	**Rural living communities** – support consolidation and ongoing supply in accordance with State planning policy.

Page 18 of 40

8.1   Priority growth towns

New residential development, at a range of densities, will be encouraged within the towns of Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn. The relative low density of development in the towns, along with multiple vacant parcels, provides significant opportunities for consolidation of the existing urban footprint and increased densities in key locations and this opportunity will be promoted.

These towns have the greatest range of infrastructure and therefore provide the most sustainable and economically efficient option for growth. In particular, the availability of reticulated sewerage provides a significant advantage to these towns over others in the Loddon Shire.

Based on current development rates, these five towns currently offer significant capacity for new residential development through the use of existing vacant lots and redevelopment or restoration of older housing, with future opportunities for urban expansion should the rate of development increase. Infill development in the form of further subdivision of existing urban lots (creating lots smaller than 300m2 may be possible) delivers a significant opportunity to local residents and Council. Residents are able to subdivide and sell underutilised land within the Township zone for residential development and a higher density of development will provide for a more efficient urban form and infrastructure use. This strategy will deliver the following growth opportunities.

Town	Approximate growth capacity – dwellings[9]		
	Short term (currently zoned TZ)[10]	Years supply[11]	Long term (subject to rezoning)
Boort	70	30	500+
Bridgewater	TZ 200+ LDRZ[12] 70+	100+ 70+	500+
Inglewood	TZ 200+ LDRZ 200+	70 100+	400+
Pyramid Hill	80	80	300+
Wedderburn	TZ 300+ LDRZ 40	100 40+	200+

[9] At 15 lots / hectare and based on structure plan
[10] Township Zone
[11] Based on average building approvals (new dwellings) per year 2006-2017
[12] Low Density Residential Zone

Page 19 of 40

8.1.1   Boort settlement structure plan

⭐	Existing residential growth opportunity – approximate yield of 50-60 lots from these three sites.
➡	Future residential growth opportunity (subject to flood management, environmental and heritage considerations).

Page 20 of 40

The key strategic objectives for Boort are:
- Focus residential growth around the lake and town centre.
- Enhance visual and physical links to the lake.
- Support medium density housing.
- Support residential development of vacant land within the existing urban footprint – in particular opposite the caravan park and the former primary school site.
- Protect light industrial expansion opportunities.

To achieve these objectives, Council will:
- Investigate development opportunities and interest for former primary school site and McMillans Rd land, including discussions with land owners.
- Continue to investigate opportunities to upgrade the main street and lake environs.
- Construct a flood levee to protect residential areas and future growth area on the east side of town.
- Investigate alternative zoning opportunities for land to the west of the railway line.

8.1.2   Bridgewater settlement structure plan

☆	Existing residential growth opportunity – approximate yield of 200+ lots from these sites.
⇨	Future residential growth opportunity (subject to flood management, environmental and heritage considerations).

Page 22 of 40

The key strategic objectives for Bridgewater are:
- Enhance the visual and physical links to the Loddon River.
- Support residential development of key Township zoned sites.
- Maximise development opportunities on land south of Sugargum Drive.
- Protect existing industry.
- Minimise flood risk to residents and infrastructure.

To achieve these objectives Council will:
- Update flood controls based on recent mapping.
- Discuss the potential to increase development density of Sugargum Drive land with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).
- Continue to investigate opportunities to upgrade the main street and river environs.
- Complete the foreshore development project.
- Support community and tourism uses on the Loddon River.

Page 23 of 40

8.1.3   Inglewood settlement structure plan
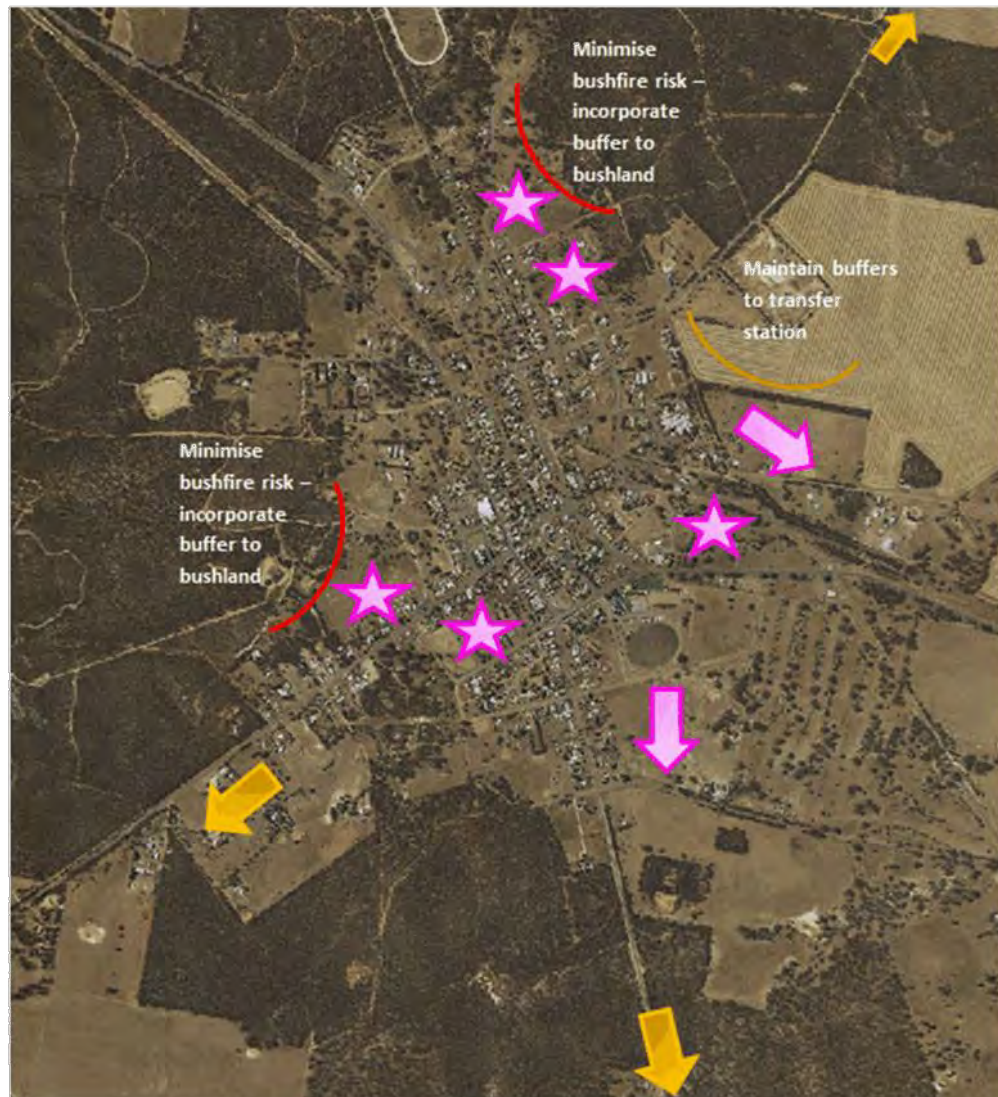
⭐	Existing residential growth opportunity – approximate yield of 200+ lots from these sites.
⇨	Future residential growth opportunity.
⬋	Rural living

Page 24 of 40

The key strategic objectives for Inglewood are:
- Focus residential growth around town centre.
- Support infill residential development, including medium density.
- Protect the heritage character.
- Support the development of rural living areas surrounding the town.

To achieve these objectives Council will:
- Continue to encourage DELWP to dispose of Crown land parcels that are suitable for development within the existing Township Zone.
- Continue to investigate opportunities to upgrade the main street.
- Develop and implement the Heritage Framework to provide interest free loans to assist with the restoration of heritage properties.
- Investigate options to upgrade Wet Lane / Walker Lane to all weather standard to open up this area of Rural Living Zone land.

Page 25 of 40

8.1.4   Pyramid Hill settlement structure plan

⭐	Existing residential growth opportunity – approximate yield of 80 lots from these sites and other infill.
➡	Future residential growth opportunity.

The key strategic objectives for Pyramid Hill are:
- Focus residential growth around town centre.
- Support urban consolidation, including medium density.
- Protect and enhance physical and visual links to the hill.

To achieve these objectives Council will:
- Investigate opportunities to subdivide and/or dispose of Council owned vacant land in Pyramid Hill.
- Continue to investigate opportunities to upgrade the main street.
- Investigate the future use vacant land to the north of Council's depot site.

Page 26 of 40

8.1.5　Wedderburn settlement structure plan

⭐	Existing residential growth opportunity – approximate yield of 200+ lots from these sites and additional urban consolidation.
⮕	Future residential growth opportunity.
⬋	Rural living

Page 27 of 40

The key strategic objectives for Wedderburn are:

- Support consolidation of the existing urban footprint with residential development at a range of densities.
- Upgrade pedestrian linkages throughout the town.
- Support quality development of rural living land.

To achieve these objectives Council will:

- Continue to investigate development of Stage 2 of Ridge Street residential development.
- Consider opportunities for residential development of other Council land, including the vacant land at the southern end of the depot site and land is Reef Street.
- Investigate opportunities to enhance the amenity and presentation of Ridge St in the vicinity of the Council residential development and the Council Depot.
- Continue to build on walking and bike tracks in and around town. Utilise information from the Public Realm Audit (refer Appendix 1).
- Develop and implement a Heritage Framework to provide interest free loans to assist with the restoration of heritage properties.
- Continue to investigate opportunities to further enhance High Street.

Page 28 of 40

8.2   Potential new growth opportunity

The town of Newbridge has been identified as having unique qualities that could stimulate new growth and development. The high amenity location of Newbridge on the Loddon River, along with proximity to Bendigo, is considered to be a growth opportunity. This opportunity cannot be realised without reticulated sewerage and water. The cost of this infrastructure is a significant constraint and a Water and Sewerage Economic Assessment is currently being prepared to explore the feasibility of installation.

Town	Approximate growth capacity - dwellings		
	Short term (currently zoned TZ)[13]	Years supply[14]	Long term (subject to sewer/water)[15]
Newbridge	20	10	80+ (existing TZ) 500+ (rezoning)

[13] At 2.5 lots / hectare (to meet effluent disposal requirements)
[14] Based on average building approvals (new dwellings) per year 2006-2017
[15] At 15 lots / hectare

Page 29 of 40

8.2.1   Newbridge settlement structure plan

⭐	Existing residential growth opportunity – subject to effluent disposal requirements and management of flood risk.
⇨	Future residential growth opportunity subject to the installation of reticulated sewer.
✚	Review zoning due to flood risk

The key strategic objectives for Newbridge are:
- Support the growth of the town subject to wastewater disposal requirements.
- Minimise flood risk to the community and infrastructure.
- Protect the river environs and enhance links between residential areas and the river;

To achieve these objectives Council will:
- Work with the community to lobby Coliban Water and government to provide reticulated sewer and water for Newbridge.
- Update flood mapping to accurately identify risk.

Page 30 of 40

8.3   Existing small townships

New residential development will be supported in the existing township area of the smaller towns where it can be demonstrated that effluent can be managed in accordance with relevant legislation. In the absence of reticulated sewer, expansion of the urban area cannot be supported. The extent of the urban area in some towns (Serpentine, Laanecoorie and Newbridge) should be reviewed due to flood risk.

Town	Approximate growth capacity	
	Dwellings[16]	Years supply[17]
Dingee	5	5+
Eddington	70	50
Korong Vale	15	15 +
Laanecoorie	13	10+
Mitiamo	15	15+
Serpentine	40 (outside LSIO[18])	40
Tarnagulla	6	5

Key for small townships structure plans

★	Existing residential growth opportunity – subject to effluent disposal requirements.
✚	Review zoning due to flood risk

---

[16] At 2.5 lots / hectare
[17] Based on average building approvals (new dwellings) per year 2006-2017
[18] Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

Page 31 of 40

8.3.1   Dingee settlement structure plan

8.3.2   Eddington settlement structure plan

8.3.3   Korong Vale settlement structure plan

8.3.4   Laanecoorie settlement structure plan

Page 33 of 40

8.3.5   Mitiamo settlement structure plan

8.3.6   Serpentine settlement structure plan
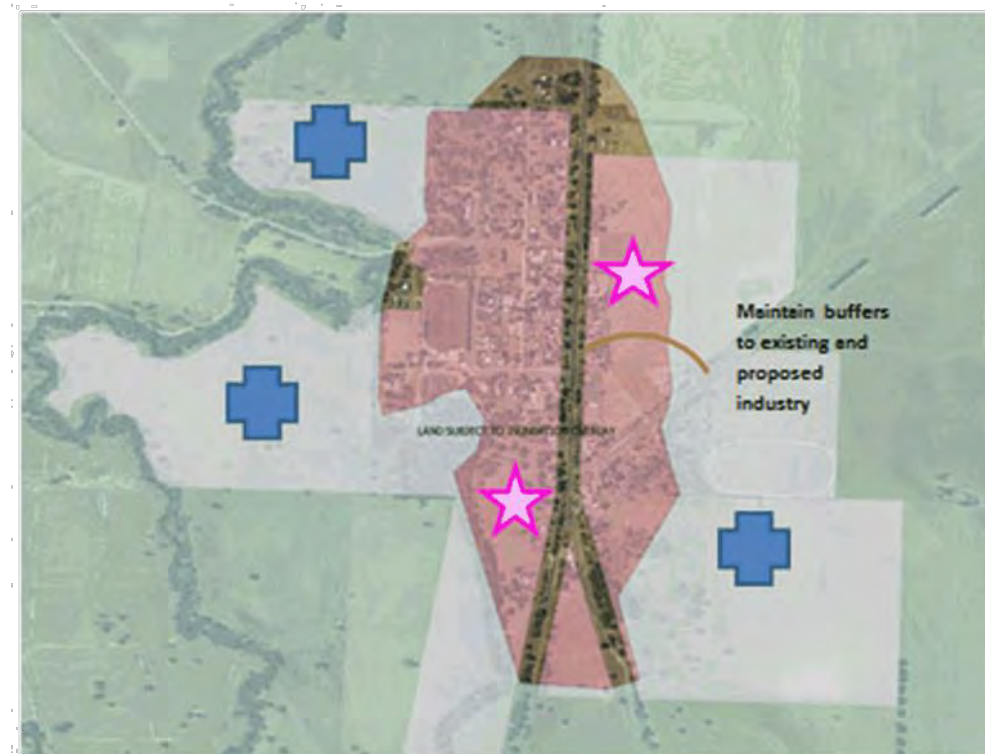
8.3.7   Tarnagulla settlement structure plan

8.4 Rural living

Rural living will continue to be supported as a valuable part of the residential opportunities in the Loddon Shire. The opportunity to live on a hobby farm or in a bush setting attracts many new residents to Loddon Shire. Building on existing rural living communities will ensure that the cost associated with this form of land use, including infrastructure provision and loss of agricultural land, will not outweigh the benefits.

District	Approximate growth capacity	
	Dwellings[19]	Years supply[20]
Dunolly	50	20
Inglewood	90	20
Laanecoorie	10	5
McIntyre	50	20
Wedderburn	200+	30+

The key strategic objectives for the rural living areas are:
- Support the ongoing development of the existing rural living areas.
- Minimise rural living housing elsewhere.

To achieve these objectives Council will:
- Investigate an amendment of the Schedule to the Rural Living Zone to reduce the permit trigger size for dwellings and minimum subdivision size to facilitate development and enhance supply without expansion of the rural living footprint.
- Develop a local planning policy that recognises the role and function of the McIntyre rural living area.
- Investigate options to upgrade Wet Lane / Walker Lane, Inglewood to all weather standard to open up this area of Rural Living Zone land.

---

[19] Based on number of vacant lots
[20] Based on average building approvals (new dwellings) per year 2006-2017

Page 36 of 40

9   COSTING AND FUNDING OF ACTIONS

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source	Completion timeframe
Overall					
Incorporate the settlement objectives into the planning scheme structure plans for the growth towns.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	June 2021
Promote the opportunity for further subdivision of Township zoned lots (including those already developed) within the key growth townships.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	March 2020
Undertake detailed investigation of identified residential growth opportunities in the priority towns to determine yield and estimated development cost.	$50,000	Nil	$50,000	Council	December 2020
Undertake research and develop policy to define the value of Council participating in residential land development.	$75,000	Nil	$75,000	Council	June 2021
Undertake an Industrial Land Strategy to support job creation in the municipality.	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	TBC	December 2020
Develop and implement a Heritage Framework to provide interest free loans to assist with the restoration of heritage properties to enhance the character, amenity and presentation of heritage towns.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	August 2020

Page 37 of 40

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source	Completion timeframe
Key Growth Towns					
Boort					
In conjunction with Executive and Commercial Services, investigate development opportunities and interest for former primary school site and McMillans Rd land, including discussions with land owners.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	Ongoing
Bridgewater					
Update flood controls based on recent NCCMA mapping.	$100,000	$80,000	$20,000	State Government	August 2020
Discuss the potential to increase development density of Sugargum Drive land with DELWP.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	Ongoing
Inglewood					
Encourage DELWP to dispose of Crown land parcels that are suitable for development within the existing Township Zone.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	Ongoing
Pyramid Hill					
Investigate opportunities to subdivide and/or dispose of Council owned, vacant land in Pyramid Hill	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	Ongoing
Investigate future use of the north of Council depot site.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	Ongoing
Wedderburn					
Investigate development of Stage 2 of Ridge Street residential development.	$15,000	Nil	$15,000	Council	July 2020
Investigate development	N/A	N/A	Within existing	N/A	Ongoing

Page 38 of 40

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source	Completion timeframe
opportunities to enhance the amenity of Ridge St in the vicinity of the new residential development.			resources		
New Growth Opportunities					
Newbridge					
Continue to work with Coliban Water and the community to investigate options, cost and funding sources for reticulated sewerage and water for Newbridge.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	Ongoing
Update flood mapping to accurately identify risk.	Currently in discussion with NCCMA. Likely to be predominantly funded by State Government.				2021-2025
Existing Small Townships					
Investigate restructure of small lots outside the Township Zone at Korong Vale.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	June 2021
Review zoning of flood prone land in Laanecoorie, Newbridge and Serpentine.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	December 2022
Rural Living					
Investigate an amendment to the Schedule to the Rural Living Zone to reduce the permit trigger for dwellings and the minimum lot size for subdivision to facilitate development and enhance the rural living land supply.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	June 2023
Develop a local planning policy that recognises the role and function of the McIntyre rural living area.	N/A	N/A	Within existing resources	N/A	June 2021
Investigate options to upgrade Wet	N/A	N/A	Within existing	Assets and	June 2020

Page 39 of 40

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source	Completion timeframe
Lane / Walker Lane to all weather standard to open up this area of Rural Living Zone land.			resources	Infrastructure Department	

N/A – Not applicable.

Page 40 of 40

APPENDIX 1: Streamlining for Growth
Loddon Shire Towns Housing and Population
Summary – 2016 Census

Streamlining for Growth

Loddon Shire Towns Housing and Population Summary – 2016 Census

Prepared by Loddon Shire and La Trobe University

Funded by the Victorian Planning Authority

Loddon Population Profile

This Population Profile is specifically intended to support the 'Streamlining for Growth' Project, funded by the VPA. This project is part of a strategic exercise exploring housing needs in Loddon Shire, particularly in the five largest urban centres; Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn.

Loddon Shire is an area dominated by agricultural land use and includes a number of small towns and rural districts. It sits within a large area of north-western Victoria that has experienced population stability, as well as population loss, over several decades. The patterns of change have been uneven, and these reflect issues of agricultural systems, proximity to larger regional centres and specific local conditions.

Characteristic demographic patterns include population ageing, rural population loss coupled with agricultural restructure and a reduction in farm numbers, and the centralisation of population into larger centres within the region - all outside of Loddon Shire. However there also evidence of growth, especially in the south of Loddon, where the expanding urban imprint of Bendigo is increasingly evident. Within these broader patterns some distinct features of change apply demographically and geographically, and these suggest implications for housing, land use and community planning. In conjunction with the town housing audit work accompanying this report, it is evident that housing diversity an housing need are mismatched in a number of locations, even within a context of slow or low population change. Consequently, the characteristics of change and of extant populations should be considered within the content of housing supply and its characteristics, especially where population mobility may be driven by local housing options and affordability.

This profile provides a review and analysis of population characteristics and change with a focus on the recently released results of the 2016 census. The profile is in two parts: firstly general population characteristics are profiled, secondly an analysis of these factors at a localised level are offered.

Population Change and Features

Population decline is the critical defining feature of the demography of Loddon Shire. Figure 1 shows a slow, population decline since 1996 which has slowed between 2011 and 2016 with only a slight recent population decrease. The most recent Victorian Government population projects suggest a continued slow decline in population, and while Loddon Shire has actively sought to address the impacts of this through community and economic planning, the structural basis for this trend is likely to remain. However, it is also apparent that in some localities within the Shire, these longer-term trends are less influential than exurban growth emanating from Bendigo.

Figure 1: Loddon Shire Population 1996-2016
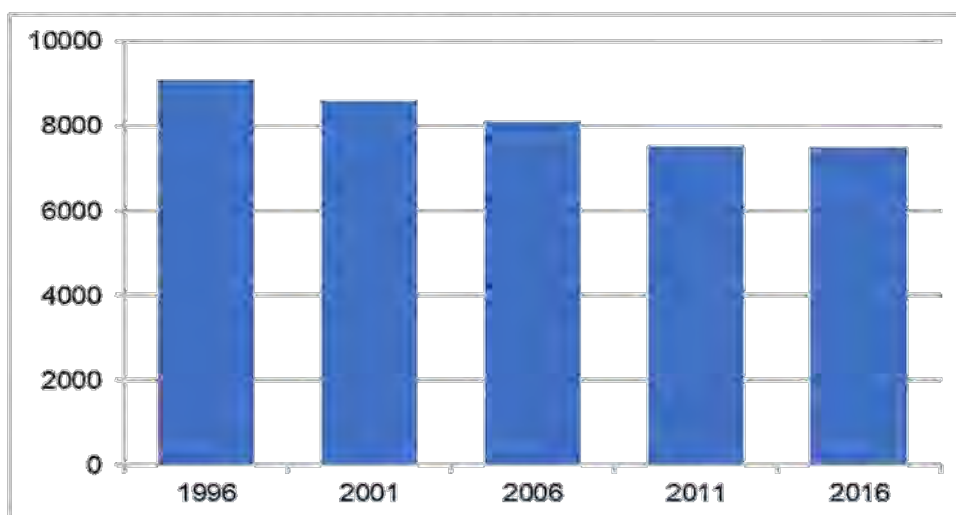
Source: ABS Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence

This is broadly consistent with regional trends. Figure 2 provides comparative population change data for a number of regional Local Government Areas. Those areas with larger urban centres (Bendigo, Castlemaine, Echuca and Maryborough) are experiencing growth, while those areas characterised by agricultural production and smaller towns are experiencing decline.

Within these examples, trends include the centralisation of population into urban Echuca and Swan Hill, and growth focussed on locations near large urban centres – and increasing focus on Melbourne commuting even as far north as Castlemaine. Some areas of Loddon Shire offer good levels of access to urban Bendigo, but as discussed below, commuting flows go both ways.

Figure 2: Average Annual Change (Regional LGAs) 2006-2016 -%
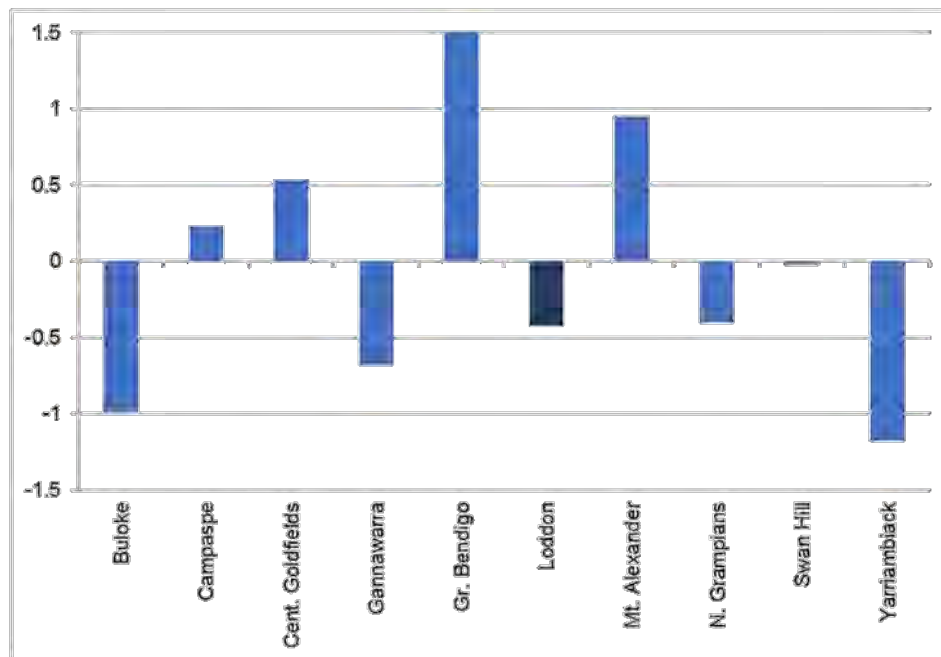
The age structure of Loddon is striking, and consistent with recent census results (over several decades). It is also consistent with age structures in many communities in NW Victoria. As Figure 3 indicates, the population retains school-aged children, but young adults remain a very small part of the population structure.

The bulge in over 55 year olds is interesting as, at least in the 55-70 year age groups, has a gender mis-match, skewed to men. In older age groups this is (as is typical in most communities) skewed to women.

The broader implications of this structure for housing are discussed below in the description of household structures.

Figure 3: Age and Sex Structure, Loddon LGA, 2016
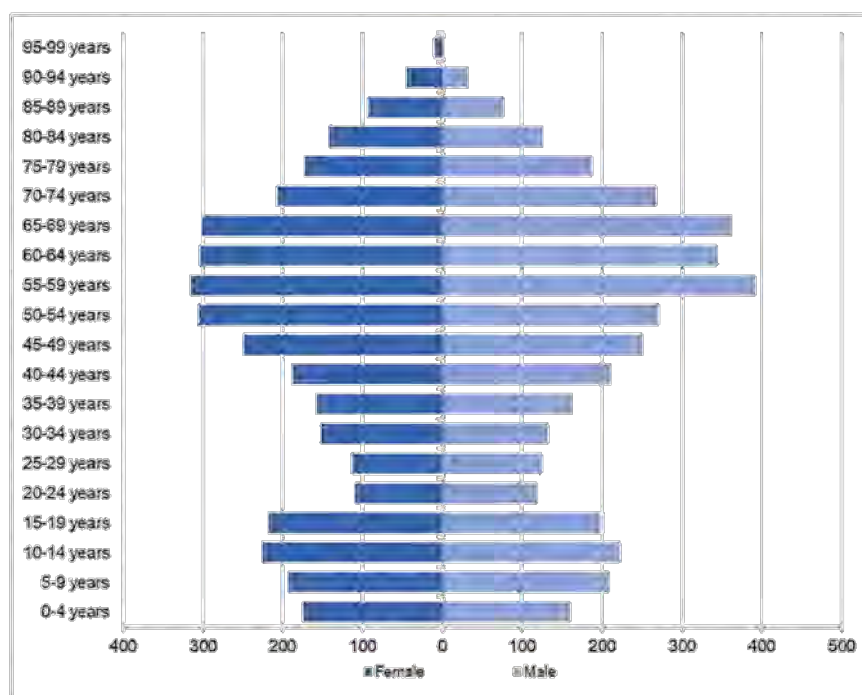
Figure 4 below indicates this pattern since 2001. There has been a decline in all age groups below 50 years and high rates of increase of the population aged 55-64 years, as well as amongst those aged on 80 years. Interestingly, the large decline in those aged 30-34 suggests a pattern beyond the traditional loss of those at school leaving age.

The growth in pre and post retirement age groups is significant. It is not simply an artefact of ageing, but also of active migration in these age groups.

The large proportional decline in those aged over 95 years should not be regarded as significant as the population numbers in this age group are small.

Streamlining for Growth – Population Profile November 2017   Page 4

Figure 4: Average Annual Change (Age Groups) 2006-2016 -%
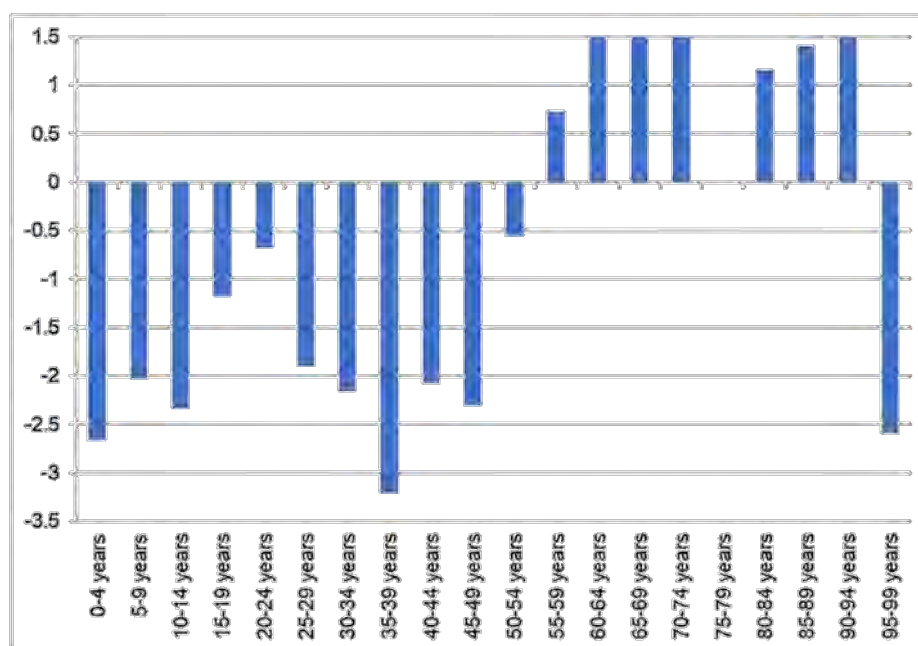
Loddon experienced net outward migration of 108 between the 2011 and 2016, with 1,215 people leaving and 1107 moving into Loddon. Outward migration was most evident through migration to Bendigo, with then some movement to Melbourne and to the surrounding regional LGAs including Campaspe, Swan Hill and Gannawarra.

Inward migration was mostly from Bendigo and Melbourne. Overall there was a net loss of people to Bendigo amongst younger age groups and net gain of people from in older age groups form diverse locations, including metropolitan Melbourne and larger regional centres.

The internal migration data reveals some specific characteristics. Most evident is the age profile of migration. Figure 5 shows migration by age groups. Net outward movement is most evident amongst young adults and those at and around school leaving age. Much lower rates of net inward migration is evident among those aged 35-65 years.

Figure 5: Net Migration 2006-2011 (to/from Loddon) – by Age Groups
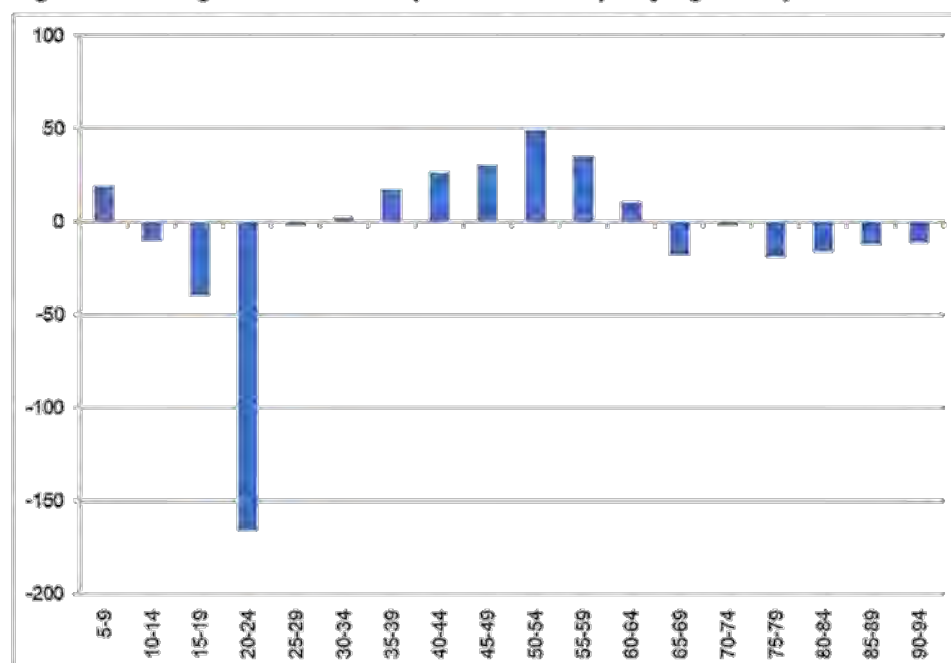
The trends in population ageing are also reflected in workforce data for residents in the Shire. Labour force participation rates of those over 15 years have declined since 2006. At the 2016 census 56% of the population over 15 years was in the full-time labour force, down from 60% in 2006. In this period the unemployment rate had declined, and part-time employment had increased as a share of total employment.

Nearly all employment sectors are declining as an employment feature, with growth notable in mining (from a very small base), finance and health services. This pattern is described in Figure 6. And should be considered alongside discussions below on where Loddon Residents are working, and where those employed in Loddon are living – recognise commuting and labour mobility.

Figure 6: Average Annual Change (Industry of Employment) Loddon Residents 2006-2016 (%)
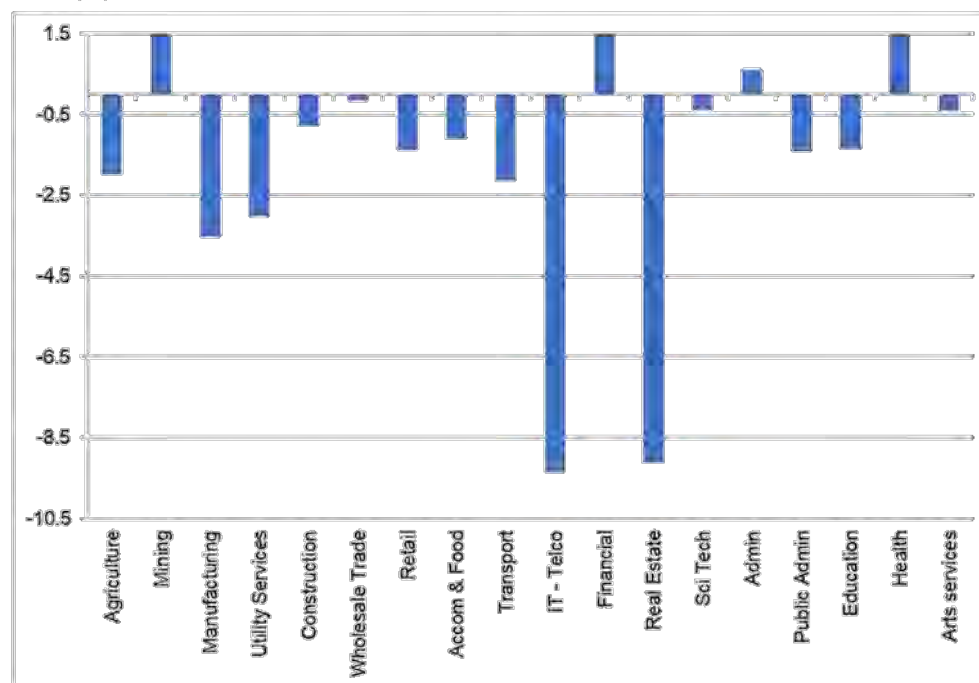
While most of the local workforce lives locally, almost 30% live elsewhere, mostly in Greater Bendigo – see Table 1 and Figure 7. It is unclear if, for example, those usually resident in metropolitan Melbourne commute daily or live part time in Loddon or surrounds.

Table 1: Top Residential Locations for Employees Working in Loddon

LGA of Usual Residence	Number	%
Loddon (S)	1918	72.9
Greater Bendigo (C)	437	16.6
Gannawarra (S)	59	2.2
Metro. Melbourne	56	2.1
Central Goldfields (S)	39	1.5
Buloke (S)	26	1.0
Campaspe (S)	22	0.8
Mount Alexander (S)	20	0.8
Other	23	0.9
Total	2632	100.0

Streamlining for Growth – Population Profile November 2017   Page 7

Figure 7: Industry of Employment for Non-Resident Employees Working in Loddon
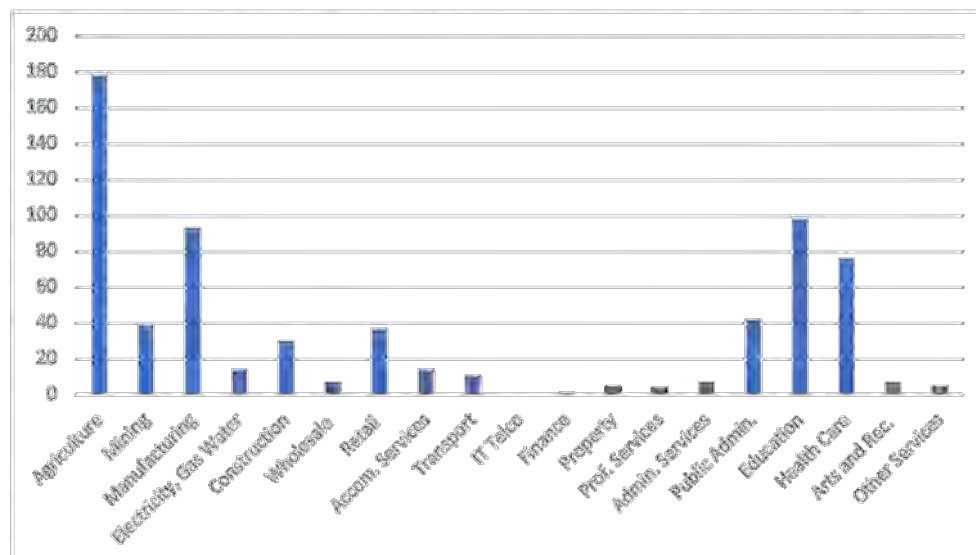
Figure 7 indicates that industries including agriculture, manufacturing, education and health care have some the highest levels of employees commuting into Loddon from elsewhere, most prominently Bendigo. These data should be considered directly in the context of local housing markets.

Figure 8 shows that many of these industries are also prominent for Loddon residents working outside of the Shire – especially healthcare and manufacturing.

Figure 8: Industry of Employment for Loddon Residents Working Elsewhere
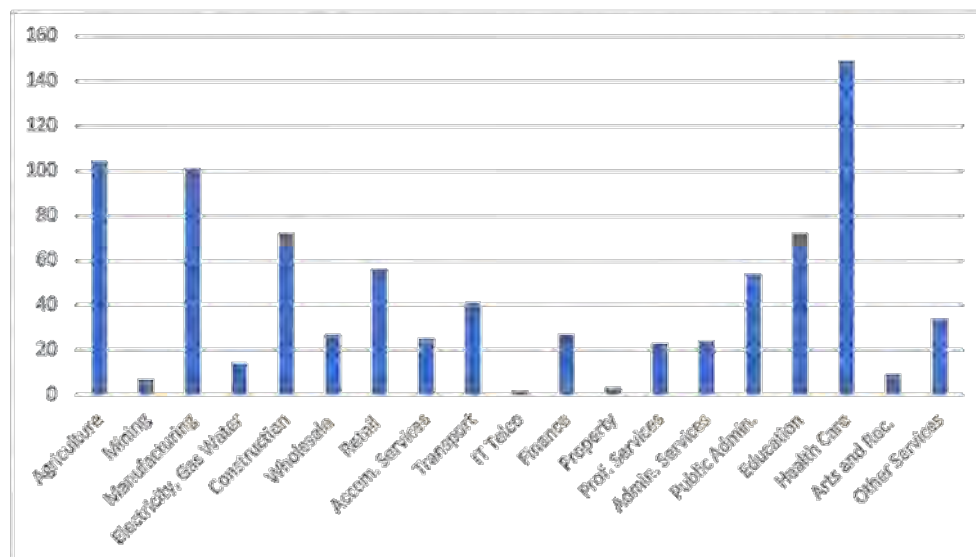
Household Patterns

While population trends offer a useful indication of change and need in the community, patterns of household formation and the features of housing are central to considering land use and settlement implications of population change. At the 2016 census, Loddon had 2957 households, fewer than the 3133 households recorded in 2006 The average household size in 2016 was 2.2 persons, a decline from 2.3 persons in 2006.

The ageing of the population is reflected in the decline in family households with children and an increasing share of lone person households. These are trends apparent generally in Australia, but they are more evident in rural areas. Figure 9 shows a considerable decline in family households with children, the share of single parent households has been stable in the decade to 2016, although they only represent about 7% of all households in Loddon. Lone person households (often comprising older single people) have decreased and are no longer the largest category of households.

Figure 9: Household Type 2006-2017 -% of total household
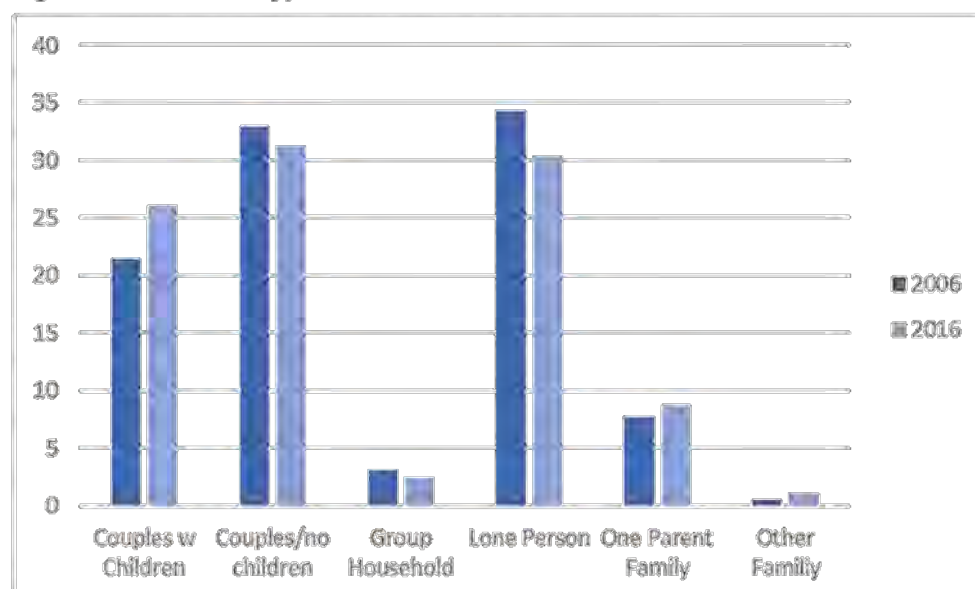
Despite the increasing numbers of smaller households, 94% of all dwellings in Loddon are still detached houses. The overall occupied housing stock has increased from 2006, and the share of units/flats and other dwellings has also increased slightly. This potentially suggests a preference for single houses, despite changing household sizes, and the likely consequence of availability of single dwellings.

Private ownership of housing remains dominant, with 78% of all occupied dwellings owned outright or mortgaged (although the share of mortgaged dwellings increased).

There are high levels of vacant housing in Loddon – at the 2016 census 20% of all dwellings were deemed unoccupied.

Local Population Summaries

The following summaries of population and household characteristics in the main urban centres offer reflection on the variegated nature of population change in Loddon. These are presented as a summary of key datasets

Boort Urban Area
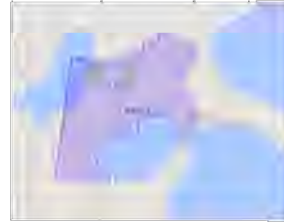
Figure 10: Population 1996-2016 Boort
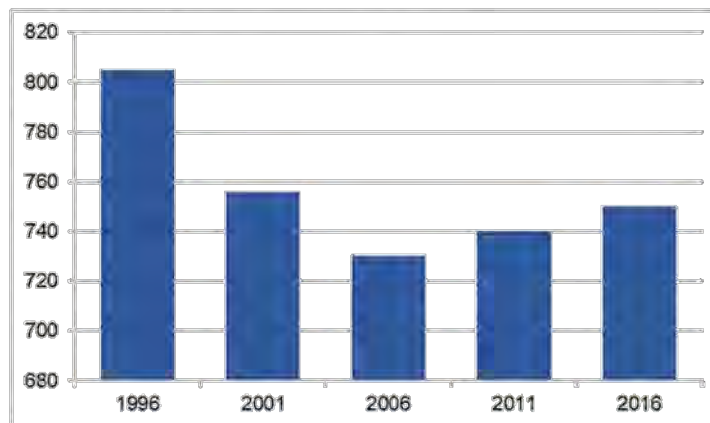
Figure 11: Average Annual Change (Age Groups) 2006-2016 -% Boort
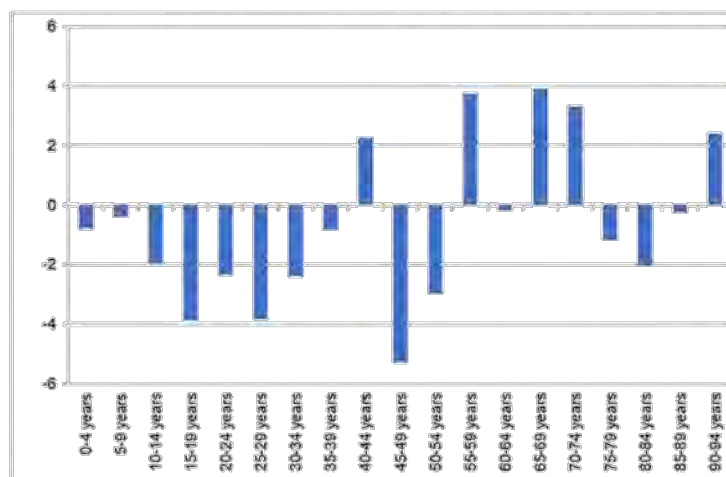
Figure 12: Household Type 2006-2017 -% of total household Boort
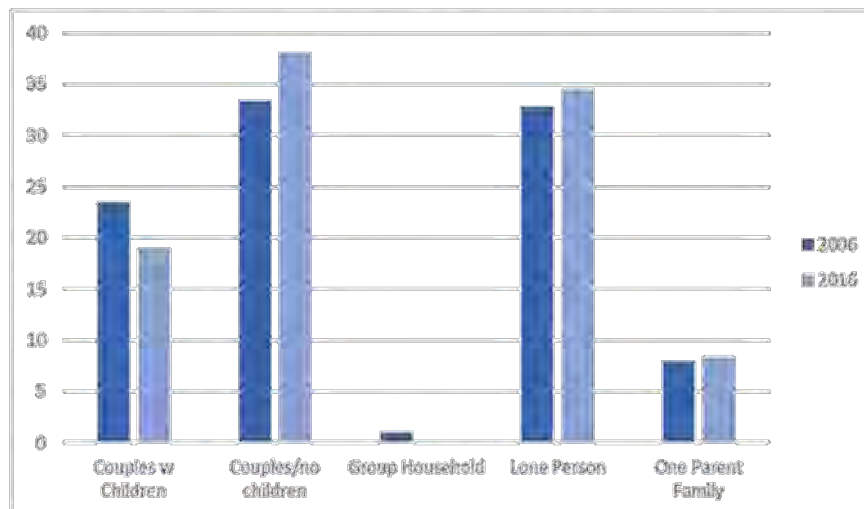
Figure 10: Average Annual Change (Industry of Employment) 2006-2016 -% Boort

Streamlining for Growth – Population Profile November 2017   Page 12
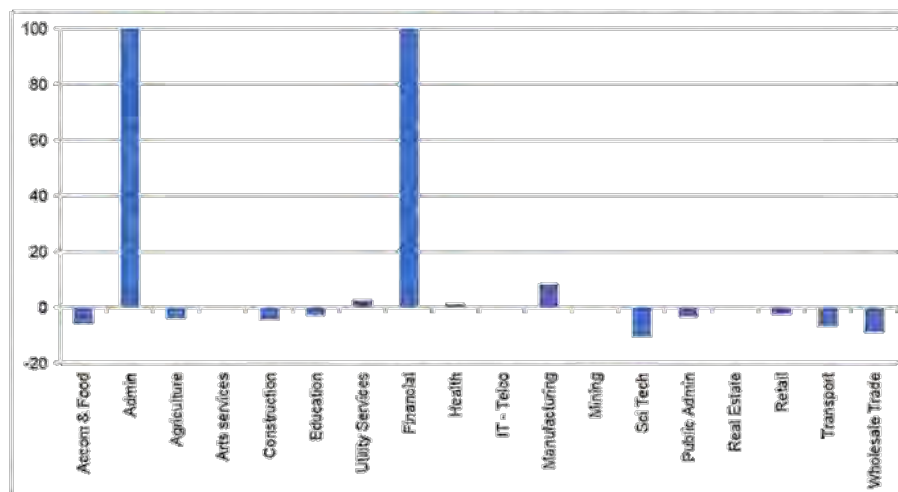
Bridgewater Urban Area

Figure 11: Population 1996-2016 Bridgewater
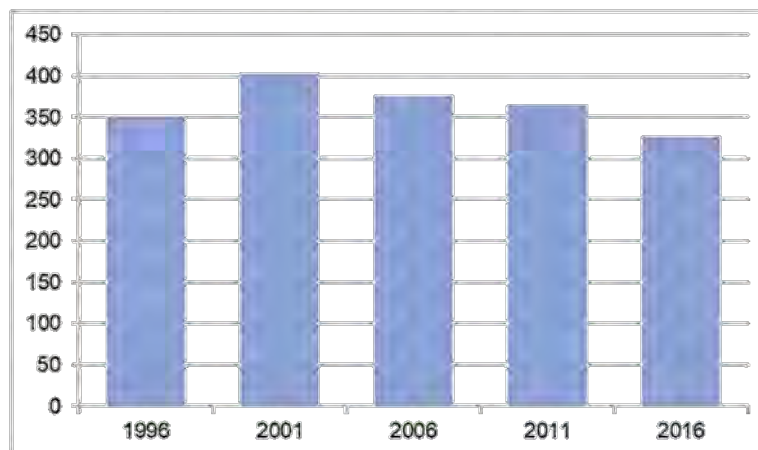
Figure 12: Average Annual Change (Age Groups) 2006-2016 -% 2016 Bridgewater

Streamlining for Growth – Population Profile November 2017   Page 13
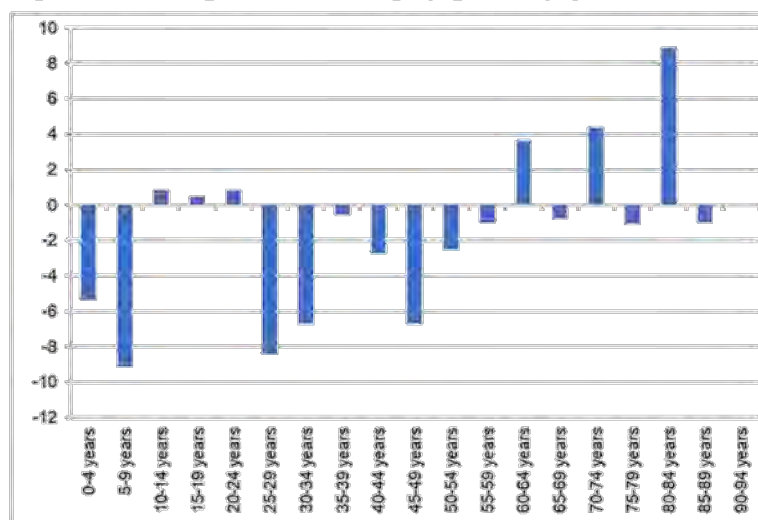
Figure 13: Household Type 2006-2017 -% of total household 2016 Bridgewater
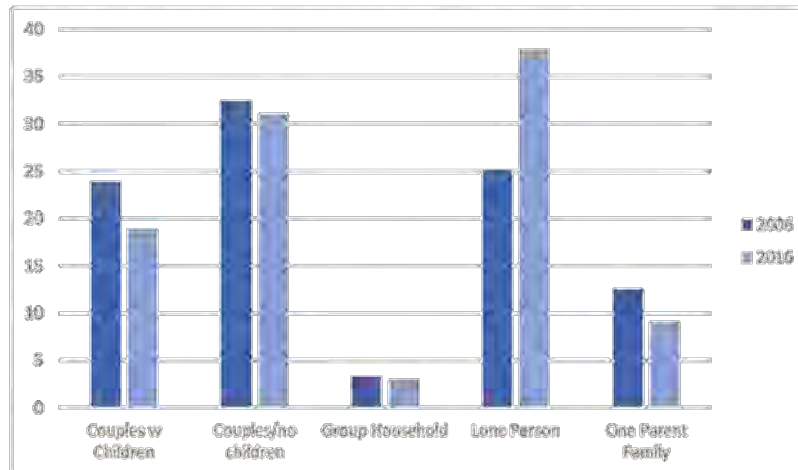
Figure 14: Average Annual Change (Industry of Employment) 2006-2016 (%) Bridgewater
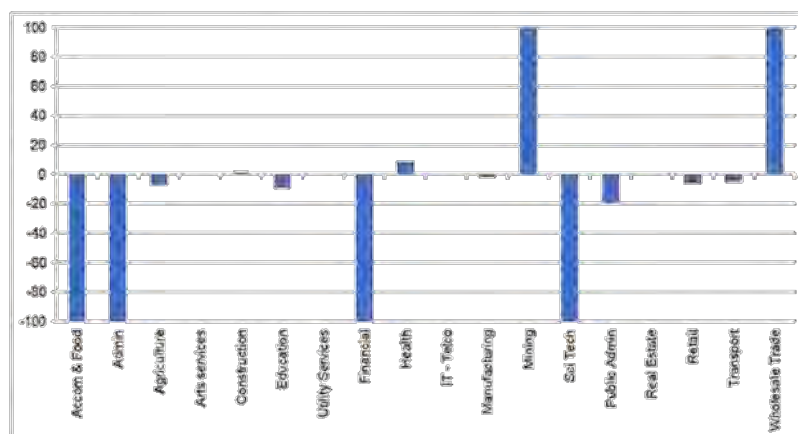
Inglewood Urban Area

Figure 15: Population 1996-2016 Inglewood
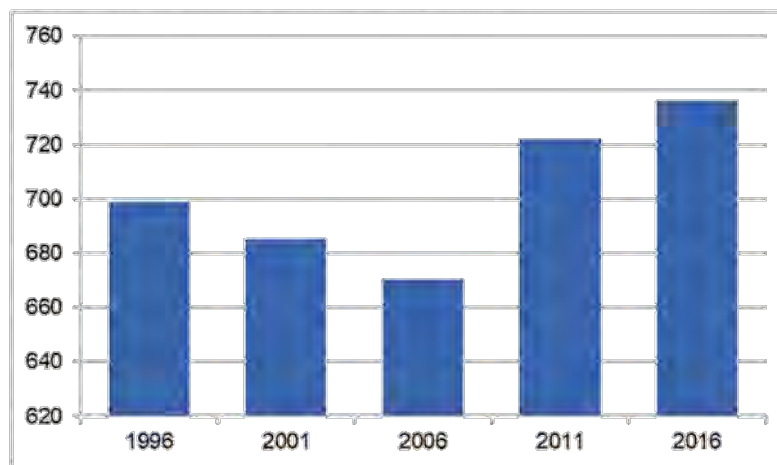
Figure 16: Average Annual Change (Age Groups) 2006-2016 -% 2016 Inglewood

Streamlining for Growth – Population Profile November 2017   Page 15
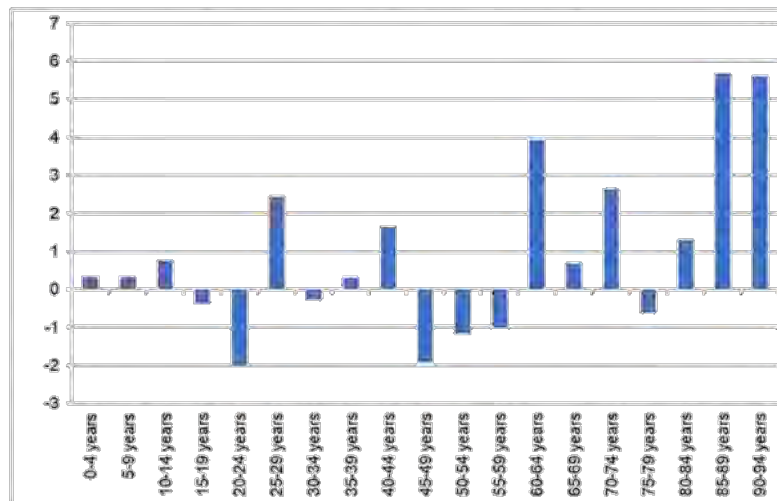
Figure 17: Household Type 2006-2017 -% of total household 2016 Inglewood
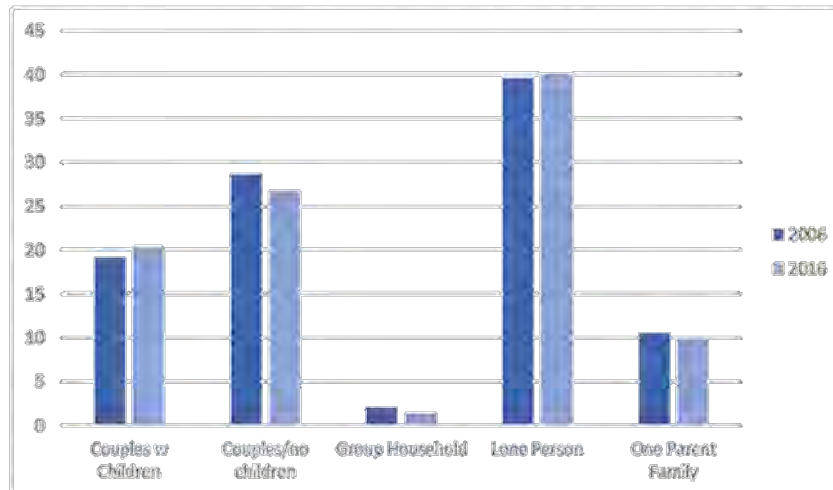
Figure 18: Average Annual Change (Industry of Employment) 2006-2016 (%) Inglewood
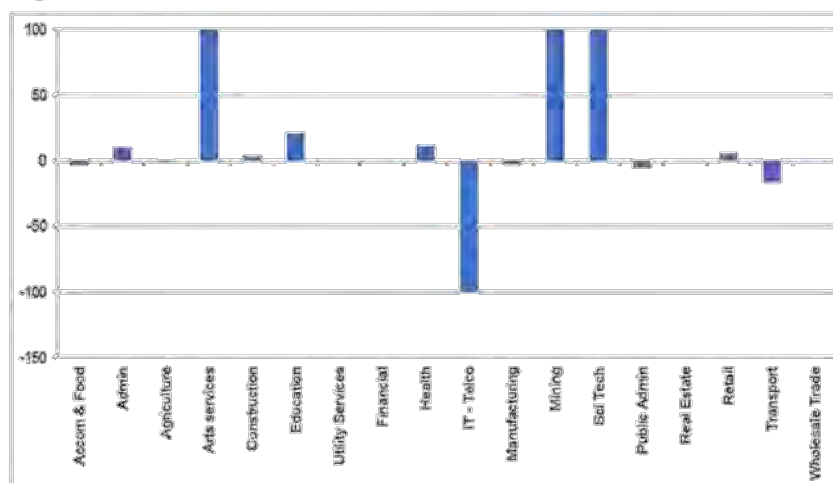
Pyramid Hill Urban Area

Figure 19: Population 1996-2016 Pyramid Hill
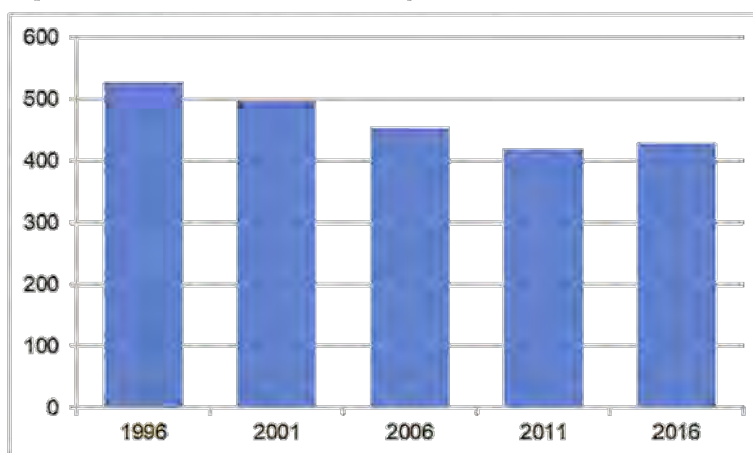
Figure 20: Average Annual Change (Age Groups) 2006-2016 -% 2016 Pyramid Hill
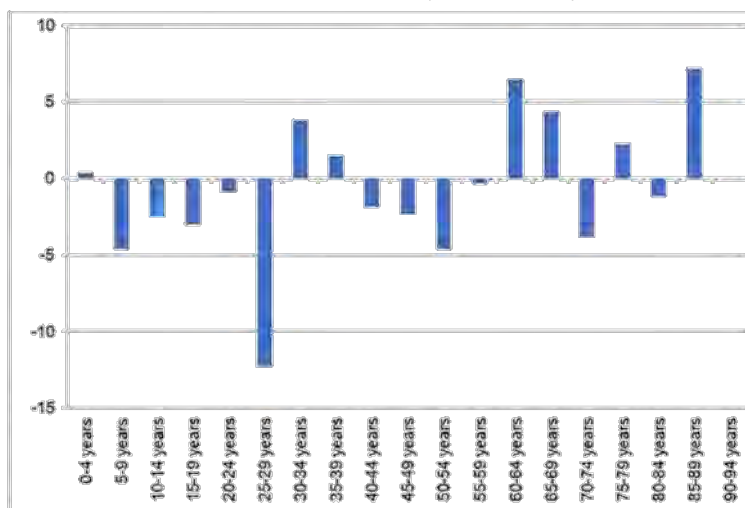
Figure 21: Household Type 2006-2017 -% of total household 2016 Pyramid Hill
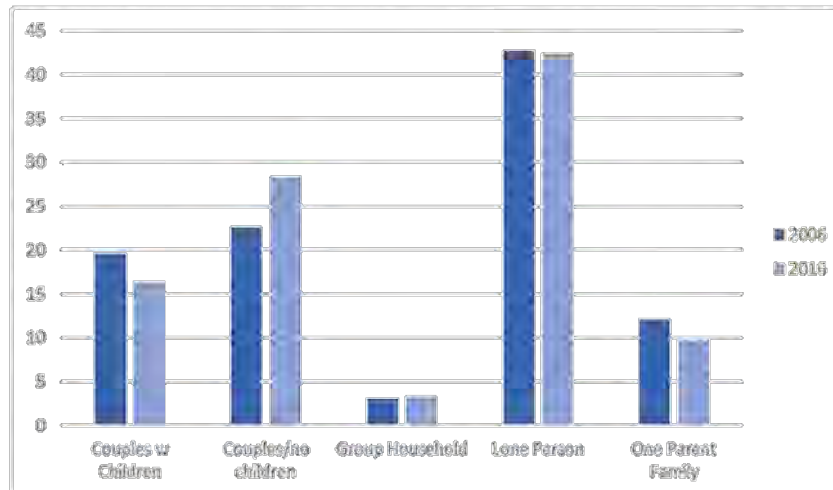
Figure 22: Average Annual Change (Industry of Employment) 2006-2016 (%) Pyramid Hill
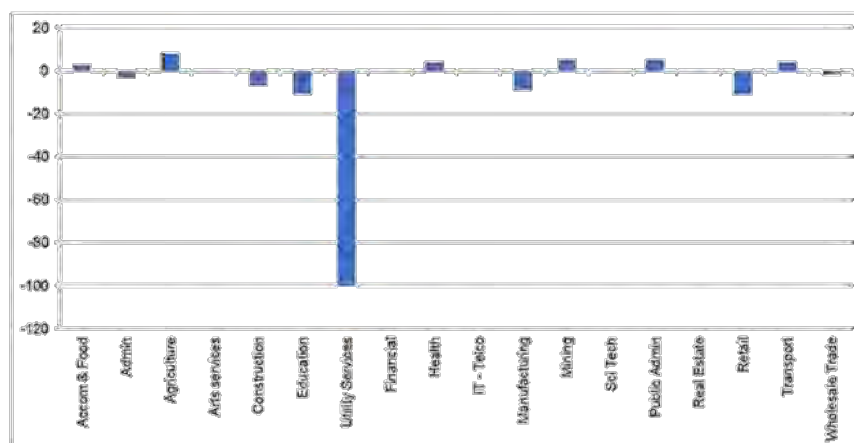
Wedderburn Urban Area

Figure 23: Population 1996-2016 Wedderburn
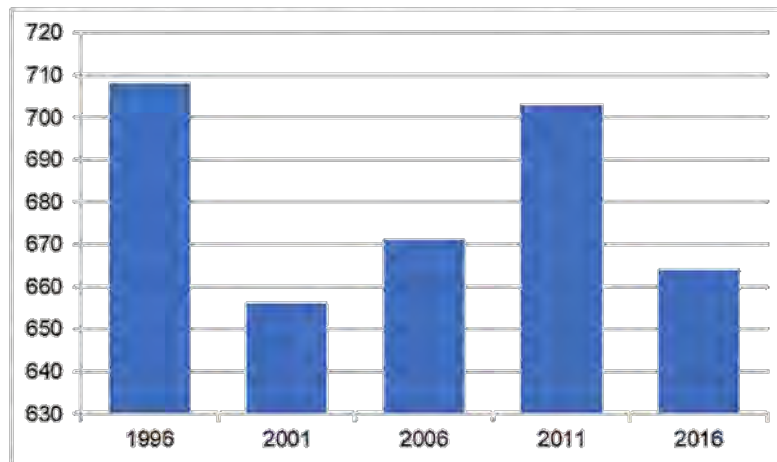
Figure 24: Average Annual Change (Age Groups) 2006-2016 -% 2016 Wedderburn
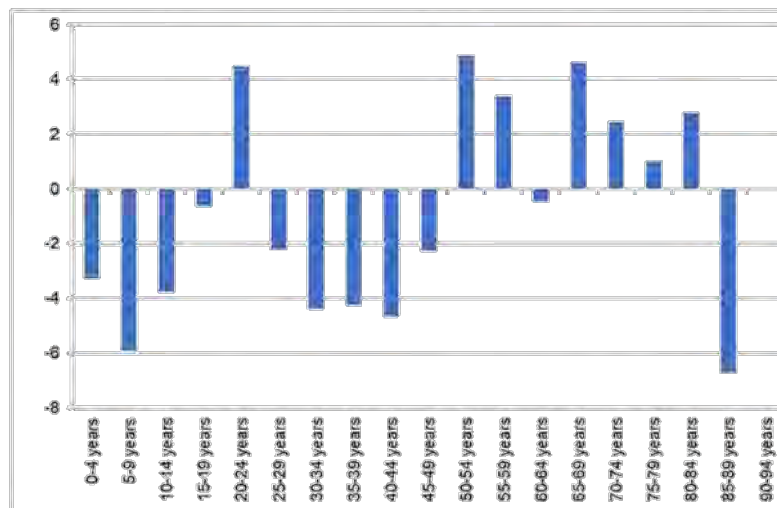
Figure 25: Household Type 2006-2017 -% of total household 2016 Wedderburn
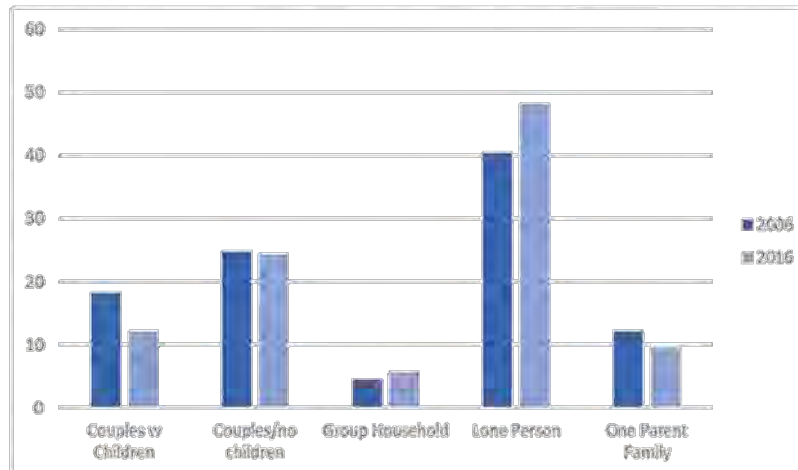
Figure 22: Average Annual Change (Industry of Employment) 2006-2016 (%) Wedderburn
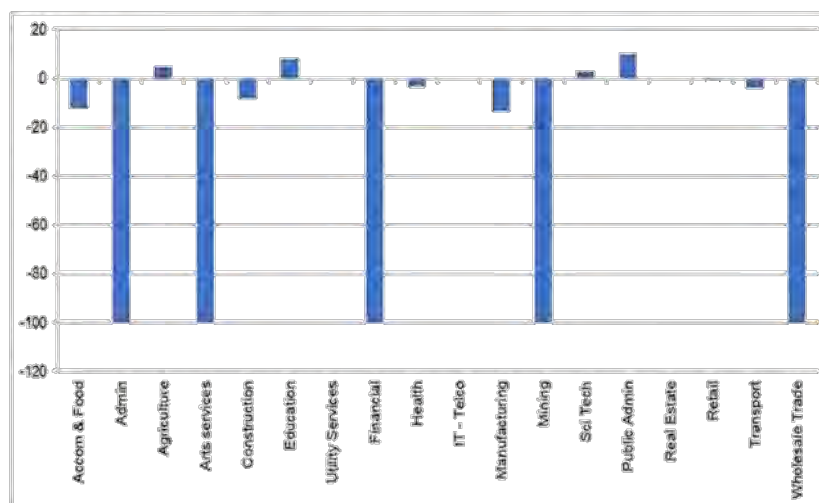
**APPENDIX 2: Streamlining for Growth
Loddon Shire Towns Housing and Public Realm Audit**

Streamlining for Growth

Loddon Shire Towns Housing and Public Realm Audit

Prepared by Loddon Shire and La Trobe University

Funded by the Victorian Planning Authority

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth Project

This report provides details of the results of a housing audit undertaken in Loddon Shire's 5 largest towns in 2017. It details the report objectives, the research approach and findings, including data tables and mapping.

Project Summary

The Loddon Streamlining for growth project was funded by the Victorian Planning Authority and involved an audit of housing and public realm in the five large urban centres in Loddon Shire. The project has been co-ordinated by Loddon Shire and undertaken by planning program staff and students at La Trobe University, Bendigo.

The project objectives were to provide an understanding of the housing mix, indicators of housing quality and scope for housing development and renewal in these towns, as well as mapping elements of the broader public realm to complement existing databases held by Loddon Shire on footpaths and similar public realm infrastructure. These objectives have arisen in response to a range of demographic and socio-economic trends apparent in Loddon's towns and the surrounding region, including:

- Long-term trends in population decline in most rural areas and urban centres in the Shire, although recent trends indicate a reversal in some areas
- Trends in household formation (typically the number of people in each residence) that result in continued, but often limited, demand for new housing
- Long-term trends in population ageing, driven both by a loss of younger populations, and inward migration of pre/post retiree cohorts
- Evidence of a limited breadth in the housing market in terms of tenure and type, with limited access to rental housing in some market segments and limited access to smaller housing forms in many areas
- A recognition of the tensions between new housing options within the existing urban centres and that in rural and semi-rural areas.

Consequently, in addition to existing data on population (including the recent release of detailed Census 2016 data) and information contained within planning and building registers, this research provides a basis for understanding both qualitative and quantitative features of the urban housing market in Loddon Shire.

Research Approach

Preliminary discussion with Loddon Shire and VPA staff allowed a deeper understanding of the knowledge gaps and housing issues in Loddon's towns. The research then involved three stages:

1. The development of a quantitative and qualitative data collection system to be used in field collection utilising licenced GISCloud software on portable devices (http://www.giscloud.com)

2. Field work conducted on 18-21 April 2017 with the recording of housing and public realm information in each of Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn. The field work was conducted by small teams of La Trobe Planning students.

3. Desktop data consolidation, interrogation, mapping and analysis

Data was collected on-site for housing types and structure. Additional assessments of housing quality/maintenance materials and details of elements of the public realm, including footpaths were also undertaken. After mobile collection, these data were then collated and analysed using desktop GIS to provide summary data and a basis for analysis. Collectors were provided with a framework and existing categories for assessing vacant land (based on property and parcel mapping), housing type (specifically categorising free-standing single dwellings form others, the dominant external materials, and number of storeys) and issues of housing quality/maintenance. The field workers undertook a pilot collection in sample areas in Bendigo and Loddon prior to the final exercise to allow comparative assessment amongst the data collectors, and these were discussed with Council staff.

The final categorisation mentioned (quality) is clearly the most difficult to reconcile between collectors and the most value-based indicator collected. Overall, assessments related to issues of evident maintenance and investment (for example in renovations) as these offer some indication of housing

November 2017   *Page 1 of 17*

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

markets and preferences. It was not intended, nor particularly useful, that these data are to be used as an exploration of clusters of quality, or indeed to imply anything about the probity of householders, but rather to gauge, at a town level, levels of investment and reinvestment in housing, the age of housing stock age and the nature of housing markets. The data has not been presented in a detailed mapped form for these reasons.

Key Findings

- As anticipated, the vast majority of housing in Loddon Shire comprises single dwellings. Housing quality varies, and despite this being a relatively subjective measure, it is evident that there are large amounts of housing that have seen minimal investment over many years and, in some instances, have potential for renewal or removal.

- Vacant lots are evident in each town, but as in many smaller communities more distant form larger cities, development pressure is relatively low. Despite this each town showed some evidence of new housing investment in recent years. Exiting vacant lots are estimated to offer opportunities for urban infill in the range of 200 to 300 new single dwellings and considerably more multi-unit developments.

- There is considerable supply of existing urban development opportunities on existing vacant lots, both smaller and larger, many located very centrally in Loddon's main towns

- A key interest of this research was to consider (and pre-empt) the demographic information emerging from the 2016 census (which was released progressively from June 2017), and specifically whether this housing mix is well matched to the age and household structure of the communities in Loddon Shire. Scope for increased diversity of housing forms, and issues of housing quality are both factors that are important in ageing communities, as are issues of the quality of the public realm.

- As anticipated, and reported in the accompanying population profile, the population is ageing, although population stability, and pockets of growth, rather than a generalised story of population decline, is evident. Providing a mix of urban housing opportunities is consistent with these population data.

Housing Type

Overall the predominance of single storey, stand-alone dwellings is evident. While this pattern of dwelling structure is typical in small towns across Victoria, it is clear that the household structures and age cohorts increasing dominant in Loddon (and other communities) less typically comprise 'family' households. Consequently, scope for housing choice, particularly for older people appears limited.

Dwelling Structure (%) and Total Assessed Dwellings

	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Pyramid Hill	Wedderburn	Total
Single Storey Dwelling	88.4	88.5	89.3	88.8	89.2	88.9
Double Storey Dwelling	2.3	1.6	0.9	6.7	0.8	2.0
Multi Units	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.5
Units	0.8	0.5	1.2	3.4	0.5	1.1
Vacant Block	5.1	7.8	5.8	1.1	2.6	4.5
Vacant Block with OutBuilding	2.3	1.6	2.7	0.0	6.2	3.1
Total (Number)	389	192	328	178	388	1475

Source: Direct Field Data Collection April-May 2017

The limited number of multi-unit dwellings were generally higher quality and newer than the general housing stock.

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Vacant Urban Land

Vacant land was assessed in the field collection and reconciled with parcel and property data in VicMap (April 2017 release). **There are considerable areas of vacant land within each town.** Fully vacant land, and those with outbuildings only, comprise just under 10% in total. The distribution of vacant blocks is most evident (in scale and spatially) in Bridgewater and Wedderburn, although the scope for future urban development differs between these towns.

Vacant Parcels by Area (square metres)*

	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Pyramid Hill	Wedderburn	All Towns
<500 sq m	-	-	7	1	2	10
500-1000	10	3	5	4	13	35
1000-1500	7	7	3	10	4	31
1500-2000	2	2	3	6	2	15
2000+	3	5	12	9	19	48
Total (Number)	22	17	30	30	40	139

*note: these do fully match field-collected Vacant (Block and Outbuilding) figures as some sit on multiple parcels (lots) without clear evidence on-ground. This is particularly the case on very small urban blocks which are fenced and managed as a single property.

Potential urban infill development has been given a general desktop assessment based on field observations and matching cadastral data. While no attempt was undertaken to design future development sites, yields have been estimated based on 500 sq. metre increments (as displayed in the table). In all at least 45 sites have potential for single dwelling developments, or more as multi-unit sites, another 94 sites have potential for subdivision (at existing standards) with a yield of up to 300 urban development sites within the urban areas of these towns. The greatest potential yields are in Wedderburn, Pyramid Hill and Inglewood, with over 100 potential building lots in Wedderburn, and close to 75 in each of Pyramid Hill and Inglewood.

Housing Quality and Maintenance

As discussed, the evaluation of housing quality was undertaken with a specific view to recent investment and re-investment in housing stock. For example, new or recent builds, along with older housing newly and substantially renovated were highly classified. Overall assessed housing quality[1] differed between towns, with an overall assessment of 20% of the total housing described as 'Fair' or 'Poor'. Both of these classification suggest an under-investment in housing, in many cases over several years. In many cases they also indicated potential vacancy of an existing house, although the data collection method did not allow for verification of this.

Assessed Housing Quality (%) and Total Dwellings Assessed (Field Collection)

	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Pyramid Hill	Wedderburn	Total
Poor	4.1	8.3	9.8	1.1	10.1	7.1
Fair	11.6	18.1	12.8	14.6	12.4	13.0
Average	36.0	31.8	33.8	28.1	26.5	31.5
Good	33.4	26.6	28.0	39.3	31.7	31.6
Excellent	7.7	8.3	7.0	10.1	10.6	8.7
Vacant Block	7.2	8.9	8.5	6.7	8.8	8.1
Total (Number)	389	192	328	178	388	1475

---

[1] This is an evidently subjective assessment. The core aim was to consider the levels of required activity and maintenance to address issues of housing quality and management – specific regard was given to structural issues (albeit those observed from the street frontage) not simply those of a cosmetic nature. Over several decades, the nature of local property markets has actively mitigated against many of the re-investment drivers evident in larger, more buoyant, property markets and this assessment sought to collate this local feature.

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

There was variation in this indicator between the towns. Boort for example showed higher levels of 'average' to 'good' quality.
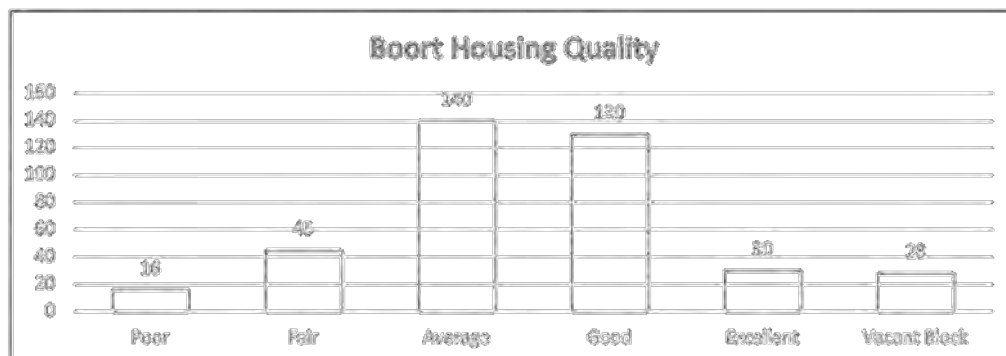
This differs somewhat to Wedderburn, shown below, where a similar mix of housing types (a predominance of single dwellings) revealed a larger proportion of housing assessed as lower quality including a larger number that appeared to be uninhabited (and uninhabitable?) dwellings.

Construction Material

While not a determining factor, the external construction materials were collated. The majority of housing was clad with timber weatherboards, followed by brick and a range of external materials on few dwellings.

Construction Materials (Observed External)

	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Pyramid Hill	Wedderburn	Total
Brick (Solid & Veneer)	147	45	95	56	131	474
Rendered	9	3	10	0	17	39
Weatherboard/Timber Clad	173	106	178	100	174	731
Weathertex/Fibre-Board	14	4	10	0	9	37
Metal Clad	19	10	4	0	7	40
Other	4	7	7	2	16	36

There was a limited relationship between weatherboard dwellings and poorer assessed dwelling quality, which may reflect issues of age and maintenance requirements of these houses.

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Recent Building Activity

Supporting this research, a spatial analysis of building permits was undertaken. This was based on the building register as at November 2017. Only dwellings were included, and all efforts made to ensure that additions and renovations were not included inadvertently, although some earlier descriptions of works were ambiguous.

Overall, the data suggests strong clustering in the urban area, and that this clustering has become more apparent in the later years – since about 2011. This is borne out by the data collected in the field study, where data collectors noted a number of new dwellings in each town, including relatively new multi-unit developments. Clustering of more recent developments in the south of the shire is also evident.

Building Approvals (2006-2017)*
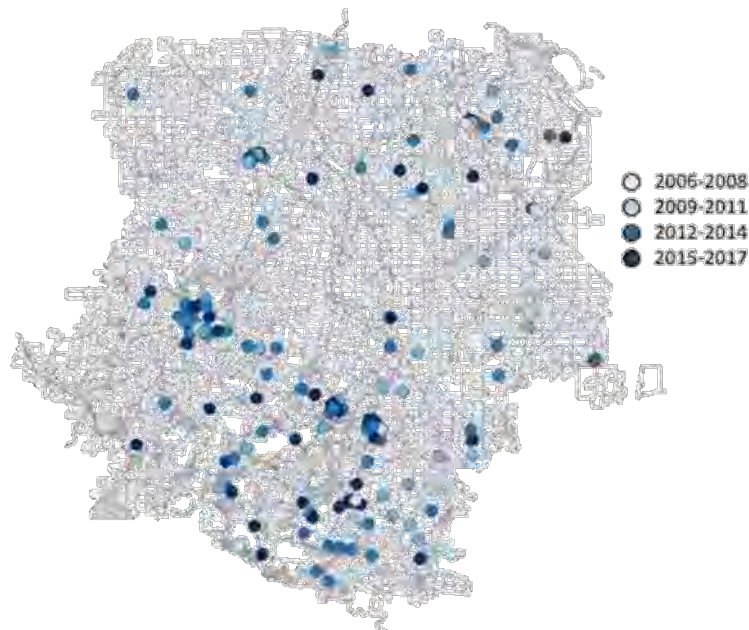
Building Approvals (Dwellings) 2006-2017*

	2006-2008	2009-2011	2012-2014	2015-2017	Total
Boort TZ	2	9	5	3	19
Bridgewater TZ	1	6	3	4	14
Bridgewater LDRZ				1	1
Inglewood TZ	4	2	10	11	27
Inglewood LDRZ			2	1	3
Inglewood RLZ		2		1	3
Pyramid Hill TZ	2	3		3	8
Wedderburn TZ	3	7	10	5	25
W'burn LDRZ					0
W'burn RLZ	2	5	7	7	21
Other TZ	4	2	5	5	16
Other RLZ	1		2		3
Rural Balance	20	37	60	44	57
Total	39	73	104	85	197

Note: these data are based on the Loddon Building Register. The reliability of the data should be understood with reference to issues of categorisation (for example occasional mis-categorisation of substantial renovations as 'new' builds, the use of property identification numbers that have changed due to re-subdivision). It is likely that the data presented represents a small over-count compared with actual new dwellings. Permits issued do not always result in completed dwellings.

November 2017   *Page 5 of 17*

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Identified Access Issues in the Public Realm

A final component of the in-field spatial data collection exercise was the identification of evident accessibility issues in the public realm. While the data collection recognised the limited provision of infrastructure, such as paved footpaths, in Loddon's towns the collectors sought to identify specific pressure points and gaps. These were considered as addressing significant issues that may include low investment solutions. These include:

- Completion of kerb-crossings on existing paved footpath intersections
- Management of wide turning areas to allow safe crossing points on unpaved or ill-defined urban streets
- Tight and conflicting crossing 'choke-points' near culverts and open swale drains.

Examples of these are indicated in the maps included in Appendix 3 attached. In conjunction with existing LSC GIS these data can identify gaps in accessibility, particularly for local residents with lower mobility.

Conclusions: Implications for Housing and Planning Policy

The outcomes of this research indicate three key issues:

- There is a **lack of housing diversity** in Loddon's towns. The housing mix is almost entirely focussed on single unit dwellings. This mix does not reflect the mix of household composition in these towns, and does not provide potential for housing diversity and transition, particularly for an ageing population
- Housing quality is varied. In some towns there are considerable numbers, and clusters, of poorer quality housing. This reflects age (a strong relationship, although age was not specifically estimated), investment and maintenance in these towns. Anecdotal evidence suggests a **lack of housing options** to meet the range of potential residents, with a focus on affordability, rather then a clear spectrum of options, particularly in the rental market. The observed mix suggests confirmation of this. The assessed 'poor' standard dwellings should be considered (with due heritage and design consideration) as sites with potential for reinvestment in housing, including higher density development in central locations. This in turn creates amenity issues in the towns more broadly.
- There is a **significant supply of vacant land within the urban areas** of Loddon's towns. This also has implications for local urban amenity, and opportunities to direct urban development to focus on vacant urban sites within existing urban residential zones. This fieldwork exercise confirms previous assessments that used rates/property databases to determine vacancy and development trends. In all of the towns, scope exists for infill housing and, in many instances, this infill is in proximity to urban services. Additionally, scope for increased urban density is offered by both existing vacant sites and further development of sites with dwellings.

Appendices: Data Maps

The following set of maps show examples of each the collection datasets. These have been replicated for each town and are being compiled for presentation. The following maps include Vacant Land and highlighted Public Realm Issues.

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Appendix I: Property Type (Including Vacant Sites)

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Appendix II: Vacant Parcels and Township Zone

Map A2.1: Boort (Township Zone - Red; Vacant Parcels - Green)

Note: *Audit Project Boundary (Orange) focussed on existing urbanised areas, these do not fully match zoning, and in some instances large areas of vacant Township Zoned land fall outside the boundary, offering considerable potential for additional ready supply of future residential development*

November 2017   *Page 8 of 17*

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Map A2.2: Bridgewater (Township Zone - Red; Vacant Parcels - Green)

Note: *Audit Project Boundary (Orange) focussed on existing urbanised areas, these do not fully match zoning, and in some instances large areas of vacant Township Zoned land fall outside the boundary, offering considerable potential for additional ready supply of future residential development*

November 2017   *Page 9 of 17*

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Map A2.3: Inglewood (Township Zone - Red; Vacant Parcels - Green)

Note: *Audit Project Boundary (Orange) focussed on existing urbanised areas, these do not fully match zoning, and in some instances large areas of vacant Township Zoned land fall outside the boundary, offering considerable potential for additional ready supply of future residential development*

Map A2.4: Pyramid Hill (Township Zone - Red; Vacant Parcels - Green)

November 2017

Page 10 of 17

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Note: *Audit Project Boundary (Orange) focussed on existing urbanised areas, these do not fully match zoning, and in some instances large areas of vacant Township Zoned land fall outside the boundary, offering considerable potential for additional ready supply of future residential development*

Map A2.5: Wedderburn (Township Zone - Red; Vacant Parcels - Green)

November 2017   *Page 11 of 17*

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Note: Audit Project Boundary (Orange) focussed on existing urbanised areas, these do not fully match zoning, and in some instances large areas of vacant Township Zoned land fall outside the boundary, offering considerable potential for additional ready supply of future residential development

Appendix III: Identified Public Realm Accessibility Issues

November 2017

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Map A3.1: Boort (Red Star – Point Issues, Yellow Star – General Precinct Issue)

Incomplete pedestrian crossing points

Map A3.2: Bridgewater (Red Star – Point Issues, Yellow Star – General Precinct Issue)

November 2017   *Page 13 of 17*

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017
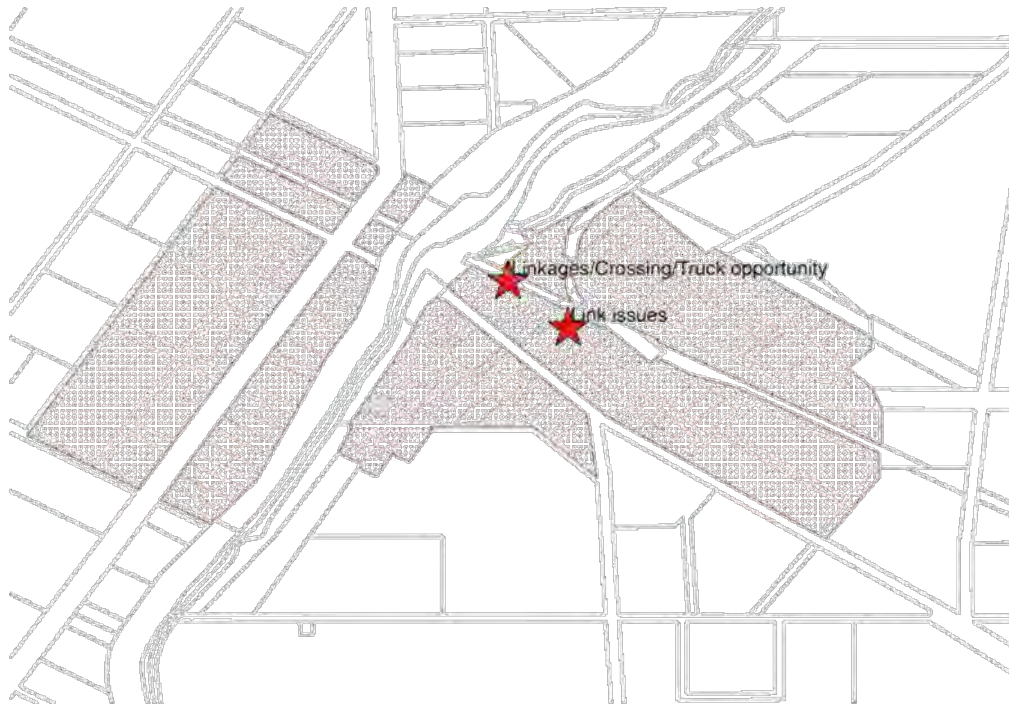
Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Map A3.3: Inglewood (Red Star – Point Issues, Yellow Star – General Precinct Issue)

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

Map A3.4: Pyramid Hill (Red Star – Point Issues, Yellow Star – General Precinct Issue)

Map A3.5: Wedderburn (Red Star – Point Issues, Yellow Star – General Precinct Issue)

November 2017   *Page 16 of 17*

Loddon Shire – Streamlining for Growth 2017

wide corner - high speed turning
trees blocking pedestrian routes
No footpath: Tree covering all off path tracks
path continuity issues northern end of High st
Access grade at culvert crossing
mixed amounts of concrete gravel and poor connections
Footpath ends halfway along Wilson road from reef street
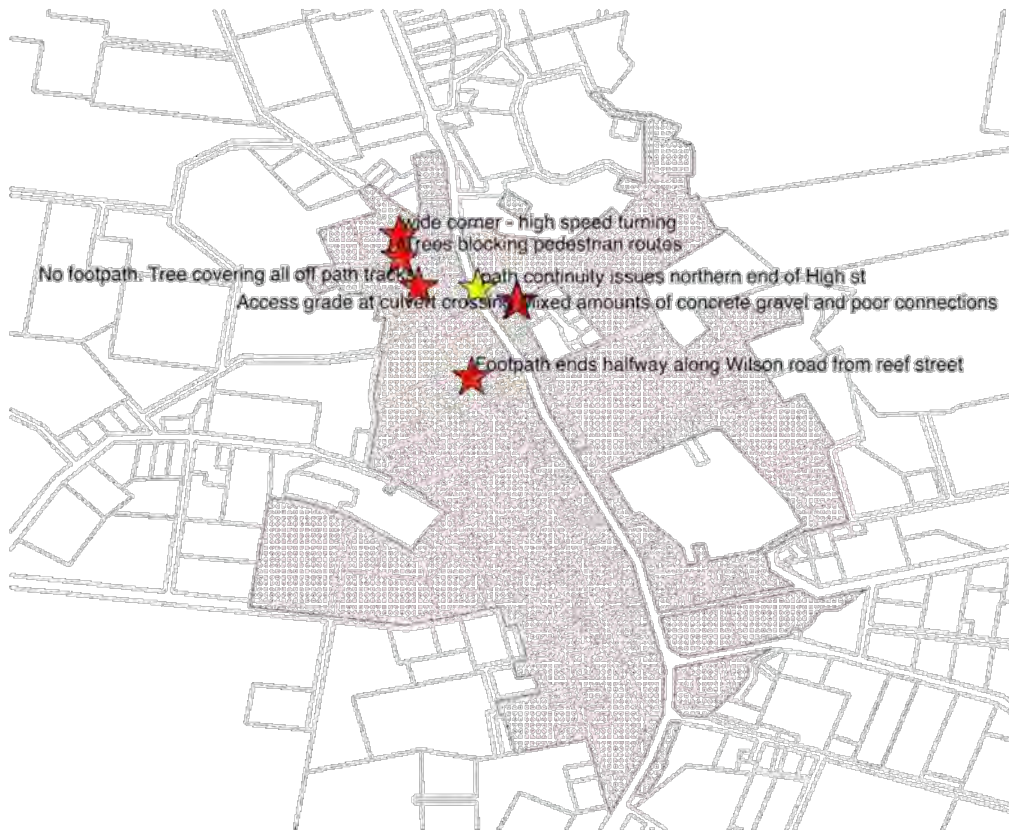
APPENDIX 3: Community Consultation Summary

Settlement Strategy Community Consultation

<u>Wedderburn (6)</u>

Yes want sustainable growth

Amenity and presentation of town

Need employment to attract growth – significant industry eg. Prison

Restrictive covenants on Council land in Ridge St is discouraging growth

Need diversity of housing – in particular suited to the elderly and rural living

Need quality housing

Lack of rental

Nine Mile Rd – rezone to LDRZ

Lack of services limiting growth

Need more vibrancy (open shops) on High Street

Dingee – opportunity for growth (tiny houses)

<u>Inglewood (3)</u>

Yes support growth but retain heritage character

Use vacant Crown land in the urban area

Support infill

Smaller lots in the centre of town

Retain heritage feel/character of Kingower

<u>Newbridge (6)</u>

Newbridge – support growth but growth is limited by lack of infrastructure (water, sewer, telecommunications) and flooding.

Need to provide for town expansion to the west.

Need to open unused road reserves

Eddington – some residents support growth, some don't support growth, need to open up river access, majority of TZ land is held in one ownership – could the way its rated encourage this land to be made available.

<u>Pyramid Hill (8)</u>

Council should do more to support economic development, including employ Economic Development Officer with agricultural expertise, to encourage population growth.

Provide a tool kit for new residents

Growth experienced at the caravan park, need to upgrade bathroom facilities

Review flood mapping north of town

Clean out drains to minimise flood risk

Subdivision proposed south of town – never progressed

Growth opportunity to the west of town

Provide for industrial development

Assess ability of sewer and water supply to expand (Coliban Water)

Preserve amenity and views from the hill

Mop Tops opposite school are dying and still water in drains around school are mosquito risk

<u>Boort (4)</u>

Need to support economic development for growth. Protect and promote agricultural opportunities

Former primary school site is ideal for medium density / units

Need to expand caravan park

Growth opportunities north of town (move tip), and south of lake

Number of infill opportunities in town (including Crown land) and land opposite caravan park

New housing lots at Boort Park

Don't compromise expansion of McMillans Rd industrial estate with residential development

<u>Serpentine (4)</u>

Presentation of Industrial Estate on town entrance

Review flood controls

Support for growth to east of highway

Dingee – growth opportunity between town and recreation reserve

<u>Bridgewater (3)-</u>

Support growth

Maintain character – not high density like Marong

APPENDIX 4: Township maps

Boort

Town	Boort
2016 Population (ABS Census)	749
Families	202
Dwellings	381
Average household size	2.1
Median age	56
Infrastructure	Water, sewer, power, supermarket, hall, hotel, sporting ground, pool, P12 School, kindergarten, hospital and aged care facility
Development activity	Building approval dwellings (2006-17) – 19
Vacant land supply	Township Zone 32.4ha 143lots
Potential dwelling yield (existing TZ zone)	200 + lots
Issues and constraints	Outward expansion limited by industrial uses on fringe of town, vacant land west of town unsuited to residential growth
Development opportunities	Former school site and "backpacker" site are growth opportunities, focus on Lake

Vacant lot

Bridgewater on Loddon

Town	Bridgewater
2016 Population (ABS Census)	326
Families	91
Dwellings	192
Average household size	2
Median age	53
Infrastructure	Water, sewer, power, hall, hotel, sporting ground, primary school
Development activity	Building approval dwellings (2006-17) - 14
Vacant land supply	Township Zone 31.4ha 123lots Low Density Residential Zone 25ha 4 lots
Potential dwelling yield (existing TZ zone)	200 + lots
Issues and constraints	Flooding, industrial activity

Vacant lot
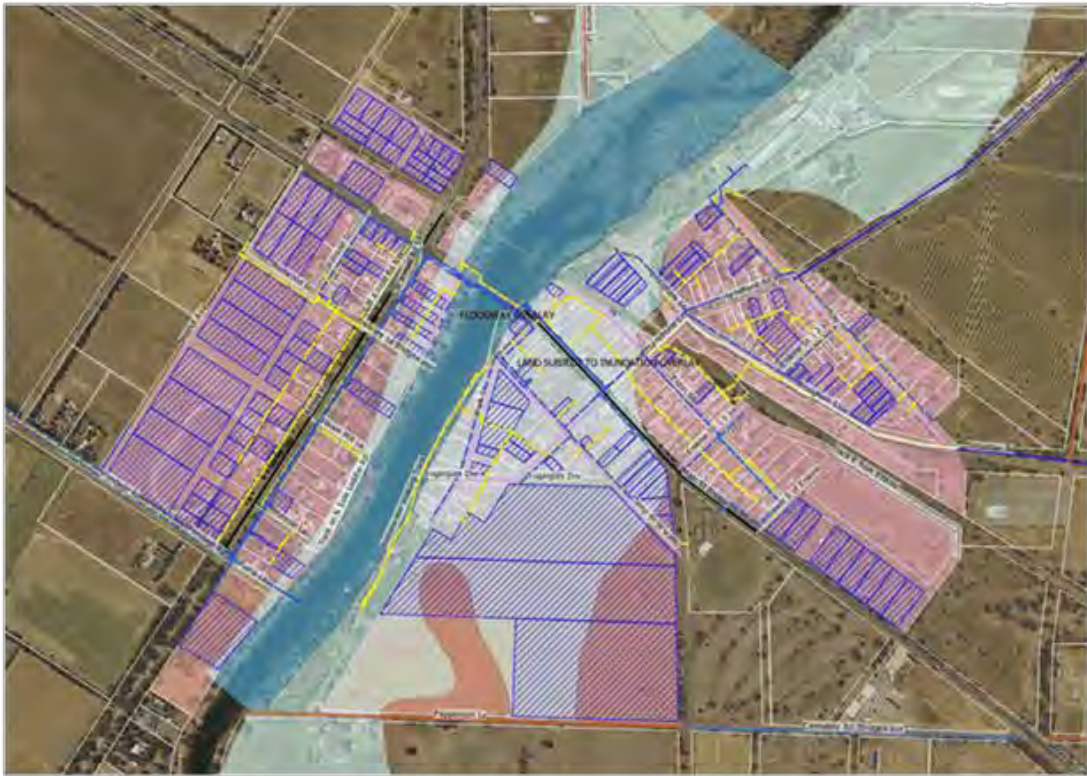
Dingee

Town	Dingee
2016 Population (ABS Census)	206 (includes surrounding district)
Families	57
Dwellings	105
Average household size	2.4
Median age	45
Infrastructure	Hall, power, water, railway station, library, hotel, sporting grounds
Development activity	Nil
Vacant land supply	3.5ha
Potential new dwelling yield (existing TZ)	5
Issues and constraints	No sewer, land ownership
Development opportunities	Growth opportunities east of existing urban area (between town and sporting facilities)

Vacant lot

Eddington

Town	Eddington
2016 Population (ABS Census)	96 (includes surrounding district)
Families	25
Dwellings	57
Average household size	2.4
Median age	48
Infrastructure	Hall, power
Development activity	Building approval dwelling (2011-17) - 1
Vacant land supply	40ha +
Potential new dwelling yield (existing TZ)	Existing lots – 20 + Further subdivision – 50 +
Issues and constraints	Lack of sewer, Laanecoorie catchment
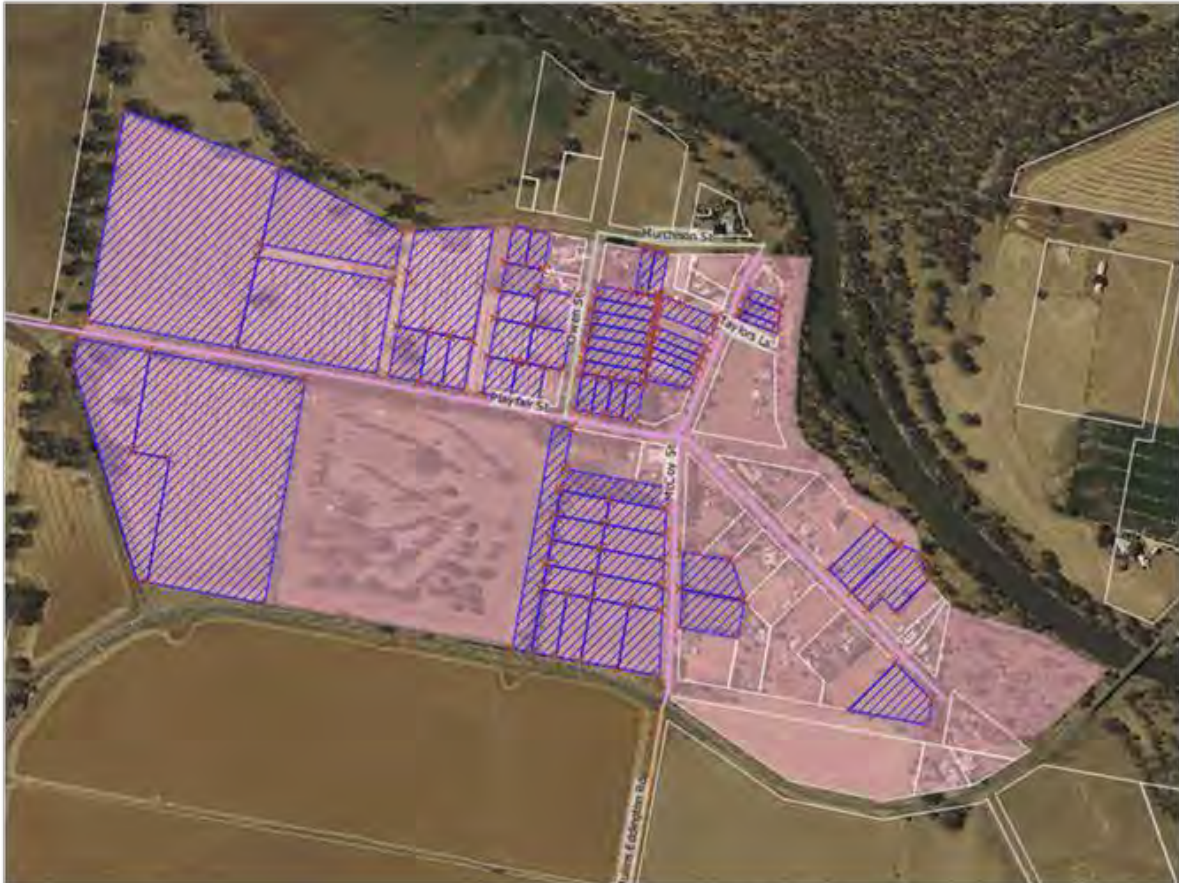
Vacant lot

Inglewood

Town	Inglewood
2016 Population (ABS Census)	730 (immediate township area) 855 (town and surrounding area)
Families	170 (immediate township area) 201 (town and surrounding area)
Dwellings	371 (immediate township area) 440 (town and surrounding area)
Average household size	2
Median age	53
Infrastructure	Water, sewer, power, supermarket, hall, hotel, sporting ground, pool, 2 primary schools, kindergarten, Neighbourhood House, Medical Centre, hospital and aged care facility
Development activity	Building approval dwellings (2006-17) - 27
Vacant land supply	Township Zone 54.3ha 158 lots Low Density Residential Zone 95.7ha 41lots Rural Living Zone 844.5ha 82lots
Potential dwelling yield (existing TZ zone)	200 + lots
Issues and constraints	Some lots too small to be developed, lack of all weather road in rural living area south of town, vacant crown land in towns,
Development opportunities	

Vacant lot

Korong Vale

Town	Korong Vale
2016 Population (ABS Census)	168 (includes surrounding district)
Families	32
Dwellings	102
Average household size	1.9
Median age	58
Infrastructure	Hall, power, water
Development activity	Building approval dwelling (2011-17) - 1
Vacant land supply	5ha
Potential new dwelling yield (existing TZ)	Using existing lots – 10
	Further subdivision – 15
Issues and constraints	No sewer

Laanecoorie

Town	Laanecoorie
2016 Population (ABS Census)	177 (includes surrounding district)
Families	41
Dwellings	102
Average household size	1.9
Median age	53
Infrastructure	Hall, power, water
Development activity	Building approval dwelling (2011-17) - 1
Vacant land supply	6ha
Potential new dwelling yield (existing TZ)	13
Issues and constraints	Flooding, no sewer
Development opportunities	Further subdivision of existing lots

Mitiamo

Town	Mitiamo
2016 Population (ABS Census)	117 (includes surrounding district)
Families	32
Dwellings	51
Average household size	2.1
Median age	48
Infrastructure	Hall, power, water, pool, sporting facilities
Development activity	Building approval dwelling (2011-17) - 1
Vacant land supply	7ha
Issues and constraints	No sewer
Potential dwelling yield (existing TZ)	Existing lots – 2 Further subdivision – 15
Development opportunities	Large parcel available for subdivision adjacent to recreation reserve

Newbridge

Town	Newbridge
2016 Population (ABS Census)	192 (includes surrounding district)
Families	48
Dwellings	106
Average household size	2.2
Median age	55
Infrastructure	Hall, power, hotel, sporting ground
Development activity	Building approval dwelling (2011-17) - 6
Vacant land supply	12ha (approx. 40 lots)
Potential dwelling yield (existing TZ zone)	20 (without sewer) 80 + (with sewer depending on further subdivision and proposed lot size)
Issues and constraints	No sewer or water, flooding
Development opportunities	Proximity to Bendigo, Loddon River Expansion of township to the west would provide for growth outside the flood zone if sewer/water could be provided

Vacant lot

Pyramid Hill

Town	Pyramid Hill
2016 Population (ABS Census)	430
Families	104
Dwellings	240
Average household size	2.1
Median age	48
Infrastructure	Water, sewer, power, hall, hotel, sporting ground, pool, P-10 school and Catholic primary school, kindergarten
Development activity	Building approval dwellings (2006-17) – 8
Vacant land supply	Township Zone 9.1ha 71lots
Potential dwelling yield (existing TZ zone)	80 (depending on lot size)
Issues and constraints	Maintain buffers to wastewater treatment plant, flooding

Vacant lot

Serpentine

Town	Serpentine
2016 Population (ABS Census)	192 (includes surrounding district)
Families	47
Dwellings	95
Average household size	2.1
Median age	42
Infrastructure	Hall, power, water, Shire office, hotel, sporting grounds
Development activity	Building approval dwelling (2011-17) - 1
Vacant land supply	150ha
Issues and constraints	No sewer, flooding
Potential dwelling yield (existing TZ)	Existing lots – 7 Further subdivision – 30 (outside LSIO)
Development opportunities	Large parcels available for further subdivision
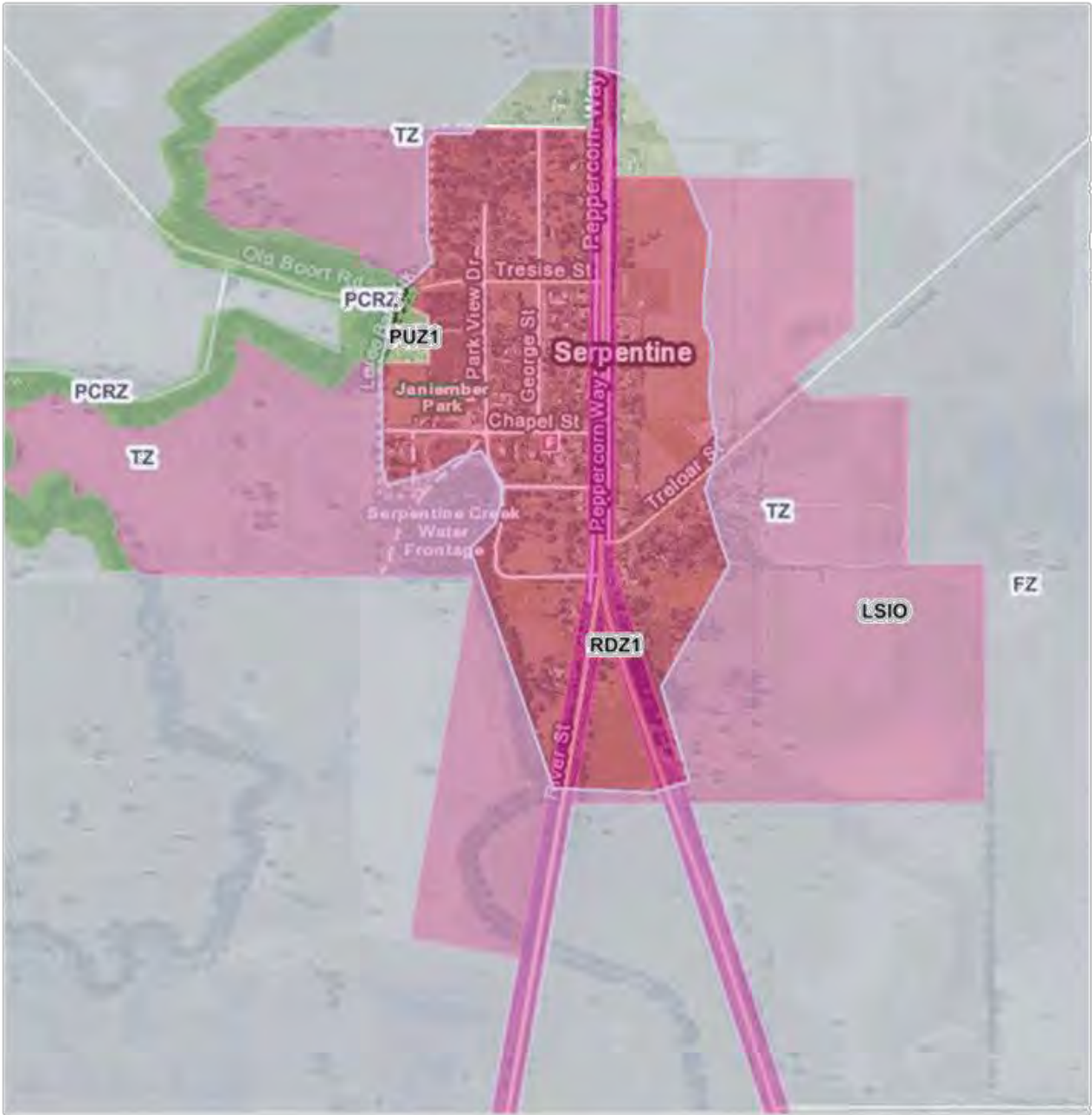
Tarnagulla

Town	Tarnagulla
2016 Population (ABS Census)	133 (includes surrounding district)
Families	37
Dwellings	112
Average household size	1.7
Median age	61
Infrastructure	Hall, power, water
Development activity	2 new dwellings approved 2011-17
Vacant land supply	4.5ha
Potential new dwelling yield (existing TZ)	6
Issues and constraints	No sewer, small lots, vegetation, Crown land, bushfire, heritage
Development opportunities	Limited to existing township lots where a number can be consolidated to achieve approximately .4 ha.
Growth capacity	Growth is severely limited by surrounding State Forest and lack of sewer; Town character is defined by village feel

Vacant lot
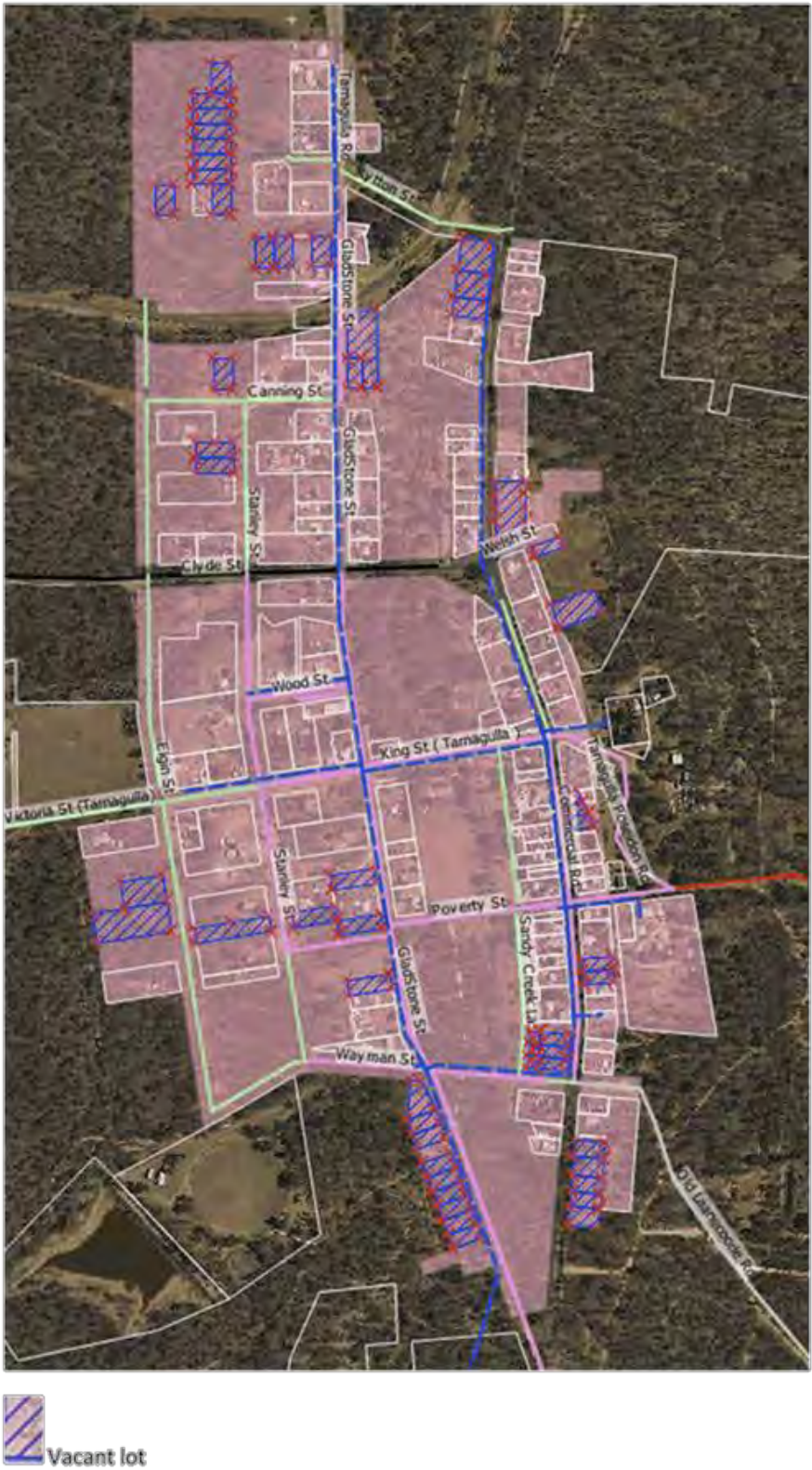
Wedderburn

Town	Wedderburn
2016 Population (ABS Census)	663 (immediate township area) 941 (town and surrounding area)
Families	139 (immediate township area) 215 (town and surrounding area)
Dwellings	434 (immediate township area) 634 (town and surrounding area)
Average household size	1.8
Median age	56
Infrastructure	Water, sewer, power, supermarket, hall, hotel, sporting ground, pool, P12 School, kindergarten, Neighbourhood House, Medical Centre
Development activity	Building approval dwellings (2006-17) - 25
Vacant land supply	27.5ha (110 lots) – Township Zone 20.5ha (25 lots) - Low Density Residential Zone 1110ha (265 lots) – Rural Living Zone
Potential dwelling yield (existing TZ zone)	200 + lots

Vacant lot
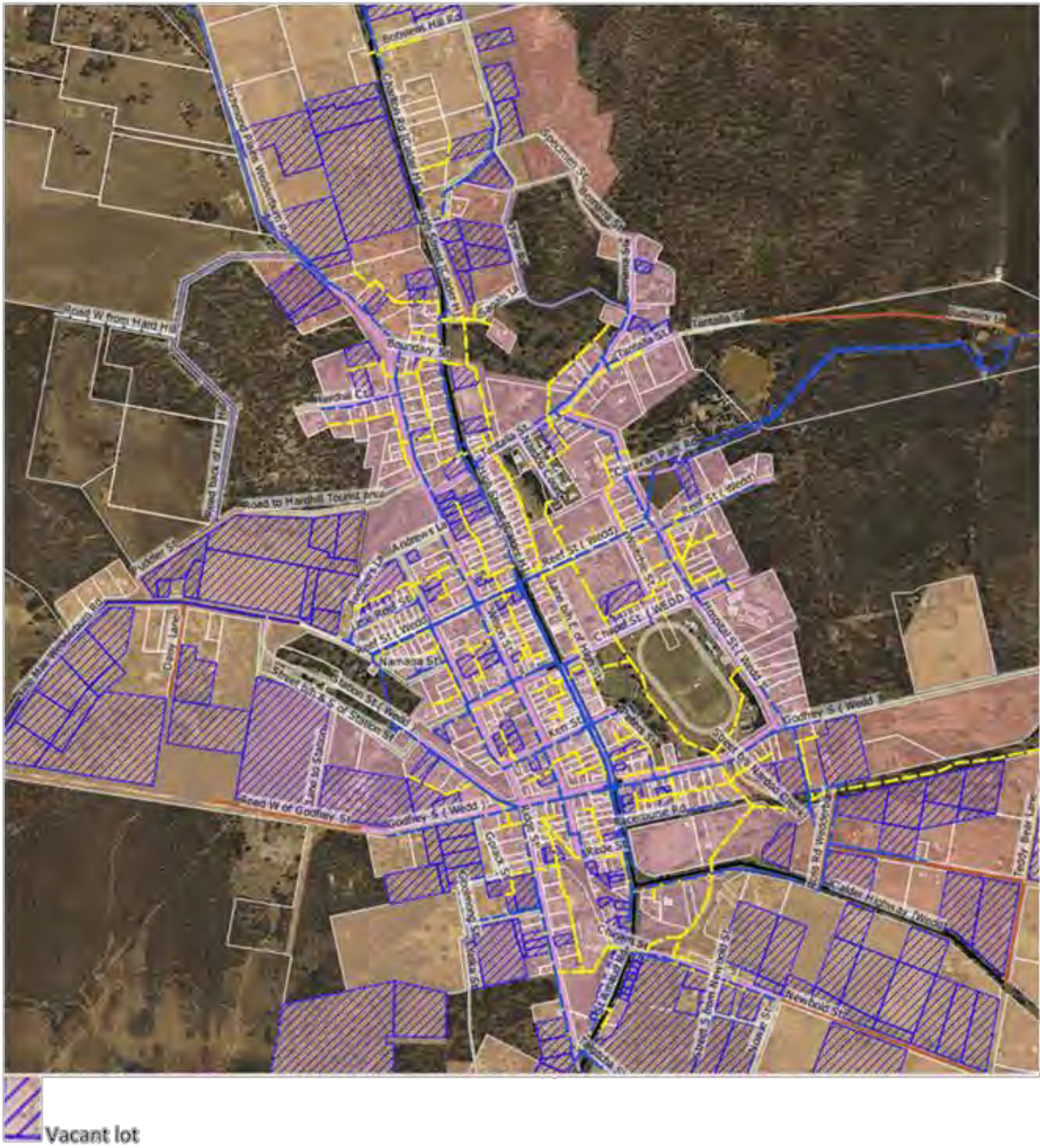
This page is intentionally blank.

9.4   REQUEST FOR AUTHORISATION - PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT FOR UPDATE OF FLOOD CONTROLS AT DUNOLLY

File Number: **13/01/003**
Author: **Carolyn Stephenson, Statutory / Strategic Planner**
Authoriser: **Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance**
Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1.   Request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the Loddon Planning Scheme to update the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) at Dunolly;

2.   Should authorisation be provided, prepare the amendment and place the amendment on exhibition.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

The Dunolly Flood Investigation, 2014 (the Study) was developed by North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in partnership with Central Goldfields Shire after receiving funding via the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme.

North Central CMA engaged expert hydrologists Water Technology to undertake a detailed flood investigation to:

- Simulate recent flood events (2010-11);

- Determine flood levels and flood extents for flood events up to and including the 1 in 200 year ARI flood event;

- Provide information to improve flood warnings and emergency response activities; and

- Determine the feasibility of a range of potential flood mitigation options.

The Study was guided by a community-based Steering Committee inclusive of representatives from North Central CMA, Central Goldfields Shire Council staff and Councillors, Water Technology, Dunolly community members and members of state-based agencies.

The Plan was developed to industry best practice and involved significant consultation with the Dunolly community to verify the accuracy of the flood maps and gain support for the Study's final recommendations.

The final recommendations included the following action:

- Amendment of the planning scheme for Dunolly to reflect the flood risk identified by this project (the Study).

Amendment c31 of the Central Goldfields Planning Scheme is planned to go on exhibition shortly to update the flood related planning controls for Dunolly. There are 19 properties within the Loddon Shire on the outskirts of Dunolly that were identified as subject to flooding as part of the Study. As part of the authorisation process for the Central Goldfields amendment, the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) have recommended that the Loddon Planning Scheme also be updated to reflect the new flood modelling.

Also of note, Amendment c44 of the Loddon Planning Scheme to update the flood controls in Bridgewater has recently been authorised by the Minister for Planning to go on exhibition. Exhibition will commence shortly and tie in with the other proposed flood related amendments being coordinated by the North Central CMA.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Planning Scheme Amendment Process

The purpose of this report is to seek Council resolution to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the Loddon Planning Scheme to update flood controls for Dunolly.

The Planning Scheme is a legal document prepared under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Changes to the planning scheme, including updated flood mapping and controls, need to go through a prescribed amendment process that commences with consent from the Minister to prepare the amendment and place it on public exhibition.

Council is required to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning prior to preparation of the amendment to ensure that the amendment is consistent with State planning policy and makes proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions. Once authorisation is provided from the Minister, the amendment will be prepared and exhibited.

Exhibition will include notice to affected land owners, other agencies and public notices in the local paper and Victorian Government Gazette.

Following exhibition, Council will be provided the opportunity to consider all submissions and decide whether to proceed with the amendment, modify the amendment in response to a submission or abandon the amendment.

Should Council choose to proceed with the amendment and not modify it in response to a submission, the amendment will proceed to a panel hearing, which will consider the amendment and any submissions and make a recommendation to Council on how to proceed with the amendment. An amendment to the planning scheme is approved by the Minister for Planning when adopted by Council.

Existing flood controls in Dunolly

The Loddon Planning Scheme currently includes flood controls in Dunolly in the form of the Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

The Floodway Overlay (FO) – is usually applied to mainstream flooding in both rural and urban areas. These areas convey active flood flows and generally designate higher risk flood areas. In Dunolly, the existing FO aligns with the Old Lead Reservoir. There are no proposed changes to the FO.

The Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) – is usually applied to the balance of the floodplain affected by 1 in 100 year flood and not included in the FO. Areas subject to the LSIO generally have lower flood risk and represent areas where moderate levels of development can still occur subject to appropriate conditions.

The existing LSIO was based on anecdotal information primarily geological maps. The accuracy of the existing LSIO is very poor and generally does not align with the location of the waterway. Figure 1 above shows the proposed changes to the LSIO to the north of Dunolly Township within the Loddon Shire.

The LSIO is unlikely to prevent development and is more about applying development conditions e.g. setting floor levels above flood levels and ensuring filling is managed so as not to change floodplain conditions.

Figure 1 – Proposed LSIO (light blue shade)
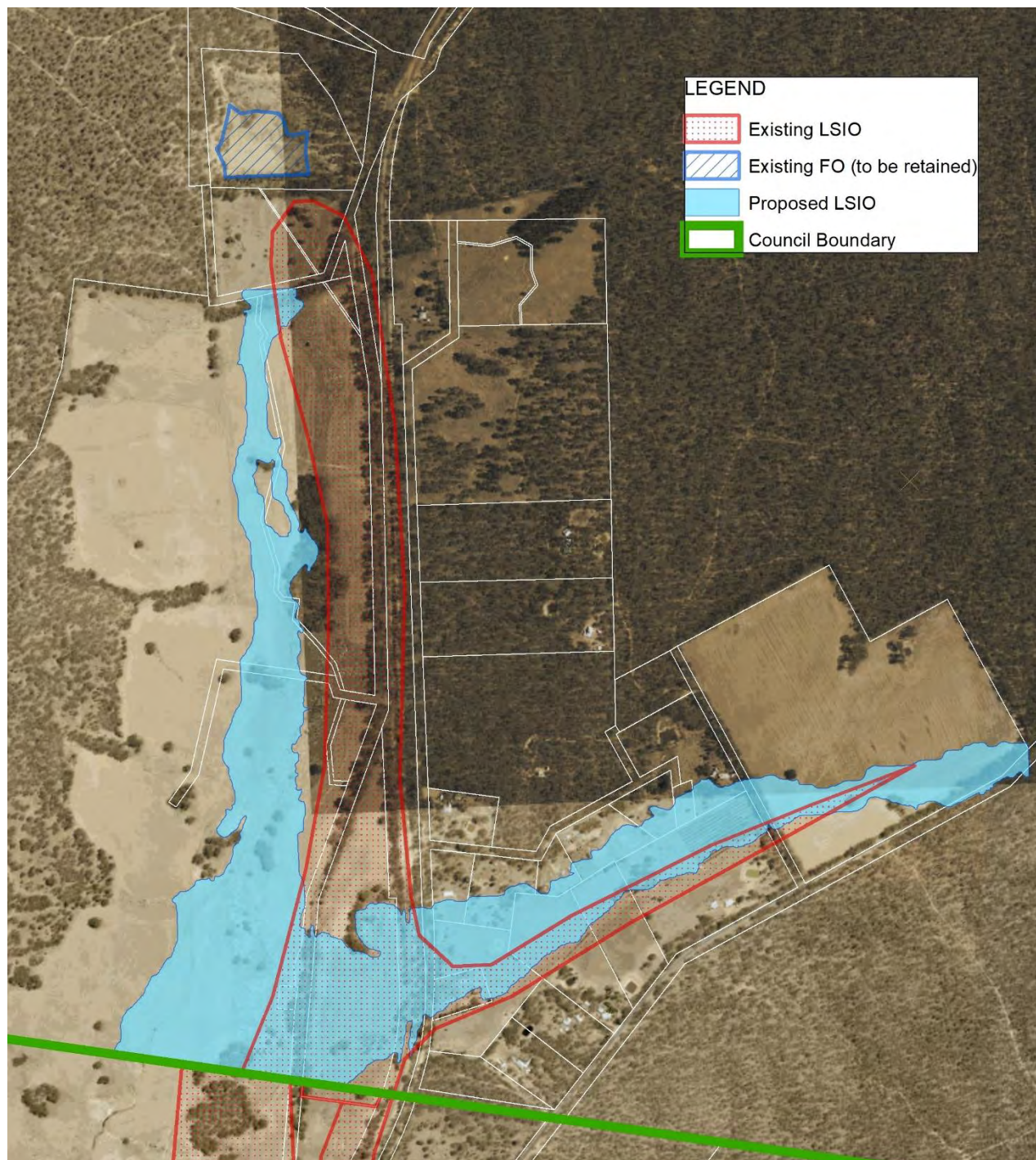
Preparation of the amendment

Once authorised by the Minister to prepare the amendment, Council staff will work with North Central CMA staff (the floodplain management authority and source of the flood mapping) to further refine the proposed LSIO maps. Overlay schedules to exempt minor developments from requiring a permit (e.g. minor dwelling extensions, small outbuildings, carports, hay sheds and similar) have been drafted as part of the Bridgewater amendment and will also be applied to this area.

North Central CMA has assisted the preparation of recent amendments for Bendigo, Charlton, Donald, Castlemaine, Creswick and Clunes, and therefore has good recent experience of the amendment process, consistency in development of FO and LSIO mapping and in developing appropriate schedules to exempt minor developments from requiring a permit.

It is expected that the amendment will provide greater clarity and guidance to development proposals in Dunolly.

COST/BENEFITS

Amendments costs to Council can generally be categorised into staff time and fees.

Staff time – in this instance, Council is being assisted by North Central CMA who have received funding to assist local Councils to implement a backlog of amendments, including Dunolly. Council and North Central CMA have entered into a MOU for the provision of planning services to carry out the majority of tasks required for this amendment. There will be a low level of requirement on existing Council staff to assist with exhibition activities and a Planning Panel if required.

Fees – A small allocation of budget would be required for fees associated with public engagement activities when exhibiting the amendment (e.g. mailouts, venue hire, public notices). The exhibition is planned to occur in conjunction with the Central Goldfields amendment, as well as the proposed Bridgewater amendment, therefore, additional fees associated with a Planning Panel to hear unresolved community submissions are likely to be avoided.

The staff time to prepare an amendment is generally the most significant cost of an amendment process and therefore Council should take the opportunity presented by North Central CMA whilst available. If deferred to a future date, the amendment would need to be managed within Council's own budget and strategic priorities and based on the current work demands and short-term priorities it is uncertain when this amendment could be implemented if not completed now with North Central CMA assistance.

RISK ANALYSIS

The Loddon Planning Scheme should be a robust document that correctly identifies known flood risk and provides clear guidance and transparency on potential uses and development of land. The amendment process is heavily prescribed in legislation and provides transparency and meaningful opportunities for community input. This explicitly defines the scope of community engagement activities and therefore manages any risks associated with community concerns of bias or unfairness.

Moreover, managing flood risk through Planning Schemes is an ongoing accountability for Council. Where mapping doesn't exist or is outdated the Planning Scheme should be amended:

"LGAs (Councils) are accountable for ensuring that their Planning Schemes correctly identify the areas at risk of a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (1 in 100 year) flood, and that they contain the appropriate objectives and strategies to guide decisions in exercising land use controls in regard to flooding."

Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy 2016

Figure 1 above clearly show inaccuracies in the flood overlays as compared to updated flood mapping produced through the Dunolly Flood Investigation, 2014. There are 19 properties affected by this amendment, of which only 7 properties are not currently within the LSIO. One dwelling is located within the existing LSIO and will continue to remain in the proposed LSIO. No other existing dwellings will be included in the proposed LSIO.

The amendment is required to update the overlay maps and amend the associated ordinance that controls buildings and works to ensure development within the floodplain in and around Dunolly is appropriately managed. Managing development through accurate and effective planning schemes is considered the most cost-effective method of managing flood risk and avoiding future flood damages and can promote faster recovery from major floods (e.g. because house floor levels were set above the flood levels).

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There is no requirement for consultation at this stage as the prescribed amendment process provides for consultation with the landholders and the community when exhibiting the amendment.

Community consultation activities occurred throughout the development of the Dunolly Flood Investigation, 2014. Community feedback was used to verify the accuracy of the flood models and determine the final recommendations of the Plan – which included amending the Planning Scheme with updated flood mapping.

9.5   FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2020

File Number: 08/06/001

Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services

Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1.   Finance Report for period ending 31 January 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1.   receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 31 January 2020'

2.   approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only

3.   approves the supplementary valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2019/20 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non Rateable Properties and Rate Book for 2019/20.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis with the exception of when changes to the Council meeting timetable result in the Council meeting occurring before the completion of the end of month finance procedures.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 January 2020 includes standard monthly information about budget variations, cash, investments, interest, debtors and creditors, and provides a comparison of year-to-date actual results to year-to-date budget (by dollars and percentage) and total revised budget (by percentage).

The information is in the format provided in the adopted 2019/20 Budget, and includes operating results, capital expenditure and funding sources.

This Finance Report also includes reporting on supplementary valuations. Each year Council makes a number of additions, subtractions and alterations to the valuations contained in the annual rate book. These changes arise from various sources including:

- splitting of parcels into new rateable assessments
- development of vacant or unproductive land (urban and rural)
- consolidation of separate rateable assessments into one assessment
- re-assessment of property valuations arising from objections to the initial valuation
- additions and cancellations of licences (grazing and water frontages)
- change of use
- covenant on Title
- area amendment
- change of Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC)

- supplementary valuation corrections.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Budgeted Surplus - Council's budgeted cash surplus has decreased by $69K to $1.19M.

Income Statement (revenue) - Council's year to date (YTD) operating revenue is at 94% of YTD budget. Revenue brought to account for January was $1.1M ($552K for December).

Income Statement (expenditure) - Council's operating expenditure is at 86% of YTD budget. Payments for this month totalled just over $2.24M ($2.43M for December).

Capital Works - The revised budget for capital works is $21.1M and is 20% complete in financial terms for the current financial year (17% at the end of December).

Balance Sheet - Council has a cash total of $21.2M with $3.79M in general accounts. Debtors are $9.3M which is a decrease of $0.81M for the month. Sundry debtors total $1.17M ($0.89M in December) with invoices outstanding for 90 or more days relating to community wellbeing debtors and local community groups totalling approximately $69K.

There were 10 supplementary valuations updated during January. The total rateable CIV at the end of January remains just under $2.35B.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council and the community is that accurate and regular financial reporting is being disclosed, along with an accurate representation of property valuations being reflected in Council's rating system and the distribution of rate notices for the year 2019/20.

Provision of financial reports on at least a quarterly basis is a requirement of the Local Government Act.

RISK ANALYSIS

The provision of regular and accurate finance reports to Council minimises the risk of Council not delivering projects within the approved budget. Council's risk exposure is also increased if the rating system does not reflect the valuation changes associated with supplementary valuations as Council will not be aware of the changes, which can alter the rate revenue in the current year and in future rating years.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There has been considerable consultation internally with respective managers in understanding their budget responsibilities and keeping within budgetary constraints.

Consultation with ratepayers and authorities that act on behalf of ratepayers occurs when a change to a property is required or occurs by virtue of a sale.

External engagement with the community was undertaken during the submission period of the budget, and regular reporting provides a mechanism of monitoring the financial outcomes of Council against that expectation.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

FINANCE REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2020

LODDON
SHIRE

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

During January 2020 the next Long Term Financial Plan was presented to Councillors at the Council Briefing for comment. Work has also commenced on the 2020/21 Budget with draft fees and charges sent to responsible officers for feedback.

1   CASH SURPLUS POSITION

1.1   Budget revisions

The overall budget cash surplus, which has been included in the attached financial reports, has decreased from $1,261,184 to $1,192,684.

These revisions are summarised below:

Item	December Finance Report	January Finance Report	Change $
Operating revenue	$29,211,439	$29,142,939	($68,500)
Operating expenditure	($34,981,703)	($34,981,703)	($0)
Transfers from reserves	$17,294,848	$17,294,848	$0
Transfers to reserves	($2,811,392)	($2,811,392)	$0
Other funding decisions	$383,617	$383,617	$0
Capital expenditure	($21,127,455)	($21,127,455)	($0)
Other non cash adjustments	$9,431,014	$9,431,014	($0)
Accumulated surplus carried forward	$3,860,817	$3,860,817	$0
Closing surplus (deficit) as reported in Appendix 2	**$1,261,185**	**$1,192,684**	**($68,501)**

Major changes are highlighted below. Some items that are listed above may have a large overall adjustment but are in fact made up of numerous smaller changes.

1.2   Operating revenue

Operating revenue has increased by $69K.

The only variance to budget is the grant for Bridgewater Raywood Road with a reduction in income being offset by decrease in expenses incurred within the 2018/19 financial year.

2   STANDARD INCOME STATEMENT

In the analysis of the statements only those areas which have a variance greater than 10% and $10,000 will be reported. Variances have been explained in further detail below.

2.1   Operating revenue

Total revenue brought to account for the month of January was $1.1M.

Revenue YTD is at 94% compared to YTD budget or $1.16M behind.

Page 3 of 15

2.1.1   Capital grants

Capital grants are behind budget by $1.3M.

The main variances to budget are:

- Roads to Recovery funding of $610K with a claim to be submitted in February
- Inglewood Dam of $400K, due to timing of the project claims
- Bridgewater Raywood Road project of $200K with full funding not expected due to lower expenditure incurred
- Bridgewater Foreshore of $150K, due to timing with the project underway.

2.1.2   User fees

User fees are currently $220K ahead of budget. The main variation is due to higher than expected planning permit activity and higher fee income as a result.

2.1.3   Interest income

Council's Investment Policy requires investment of funds with authorised deposit taking institutions rated AAA+ to BBB- with a maximum of 40% of funds at any one institution and a maximum of $2M in any one transaction.

The total investment interest received and accrued to date is $250K, and rates interest amounts to $13K. Year to date represents 120% of the year revised budget amount of $ 375K ($350K for investments only).

Progressive interest from investments for the years 2017/18 to 2019/20 is:
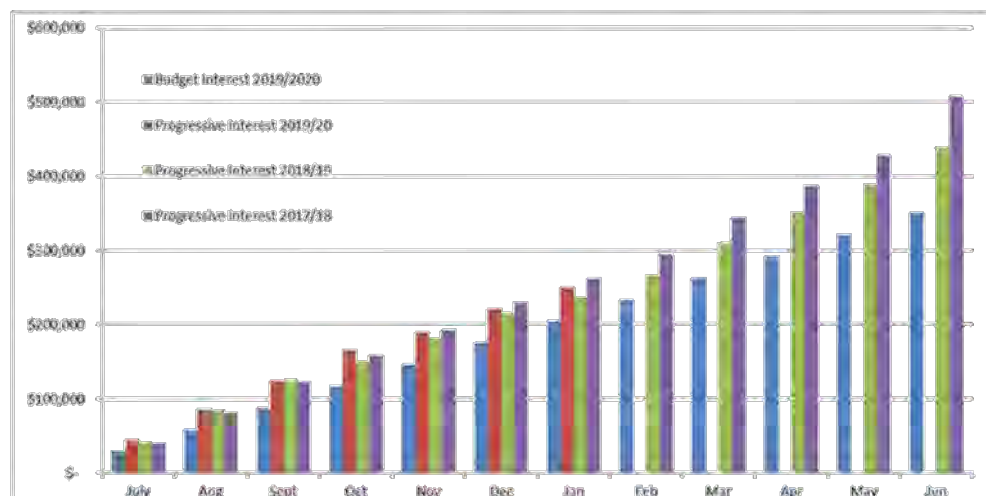
The below table shows all investments for the financial year to date.

Bank	Establishment date	Status	Maturity date	Term (days)	Interest rate	Investment amount	Total interest receivable on TD	Interest accrual 2018/19	YTD accrued interest	Total interest accrual	YTD interest received	Total YTD interest earned
LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL INVESTMENT SCHEDULE												
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	31/12/2018	Open	N/A	N/A	1.00%	$ 1,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,528	$ 3,528
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	27/03/2019	Closed	25/07/2019	120	2.51%	$ 2,000,000	16,435	$ 33,014	$ -	$ -	$ 36,991	$ 3,977
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	22/03/2019	Closed	25/07/2019				553					553
Members Equity Bank	26/03/2019	Closed	29/07/2019	104	2.65%	$ 2,000,000	22,362	18,180	$ -	$ -	22,362	4,212
NAB	26/05/2019	Closed	25/06/2019	30	2.24%	$ 2,000,000	11,047	4,296	$ -	$ -	11,047	6,751
AMP	28/05/2019	Closed	26/08/2019	90	2.30%	$ 2,000,000	11,342	4,411	$ -	$ -	11,342	6,931
Members Equity Bank	17/06/2019	Closed	16/09/2019	91	2.19%	$ 2,000,000	10,471	1,496	$ -	$ -	10,471	8,975
Auswide	19/06/2019	Closed	17/09/2019	90	2.15%	$ 2,000,000	10,603	1,296	$ -	$ -	10,603	9,307
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	30/07/2019	Closed	28/10/2019	90	1.75%	$ 2,000,000	8,630	-	$ -	$ -	8,630	8,630
Members Equity Bank	29/07/2019	Closed	29/10/2019	92	1.85%	$ 1,000,000	4,663	-	$ -	$ -	4,663	4,663
AMP	30/04/2019	Closed	30/10/2019	183	2.60%	$ 2,000,000	26,068	8,316	$ -	$ -	26,068	16,712
AMP	2/05/2019	Closed	6/11/2019	188	2.60%	$ 2,000,000	25,753	8,082	$ -	$ -	25,753	17,671
Members Equity Bank	19/06/2019	Closed	19/11/2019	153	2.10%	$ 2,000,000	17,605	1,266	$ -	$ -	17,605	16,339
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	17/06/2019	Closed	16/12/2019	182	2.10%	$ 2,000,000	20,942	1,496	$ -	$ -	20,942	19,446
MyState	17/06/2019	Closed	16/12/2019	182	2.10%	$ 2,000,000	20,942	1,496	$ -	$ -	20,942	19,446
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	22/08/2019	Closed	24/01/2020	150	1.60%	$ 2,000,000	13,151	-	$ -	$ -	13,151	13,151
AMP	26/08/2019	Open	24/02/2020	182	2.00%	$ 2,000,000	19,945	-	$ 17,315	$ 17,315	-	17,315
Macquarie Bank	28/11/2019	Open	28/02/2020	92	1.60%	$ 1,500,000	6,049	-	$ 4,208	$ 4,208	-	4,208
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	17/09/2019	Open	17/03/2020	182	1.65%	$ 2,000,000	16,754	-	$ 12,519	$ 12,519	-	12,519
NAB	19/09/2019	Open	17/03/2020	180	1.72%	$ 1,500,000	12,723	-	$ 9,472	$ 9,472	-	9,472
MyState	26/11/2019	Open	26/03/2020	121	1.70%	$ 1,500,000	8,460	-	$ 4,611	$ 4,611	-	4,611
MyState	16/12/2019	Open	15/04/2020	121	1.75%	$ 2,000,000	11,603	-	$ 4,411	$ 4,411	-	4,411
AMP	30/10/2019	Open	5/05/2020	188	1.75%	$ 2,000,000	18,027	-	$ 8,918	$ 8,918	-	8,918
Defence Bank	1/11/2019	Open	5/05/2020	186	1.65%	$ 2,000,000	16,816	-	$ 8,227	$ 8,227	-	8,227
AMP	6/11/2019	Open	6/05/2020	182	1.75%	$ 2,000,000	17,452	-	$ 8,247	$ 8,247	-	8,247
Total Interest on Investments								$ 63,346	$ 77,928	$ 77,928	$ 223,100	$ 238,222
Interest on General Accounts												$ 11,876
Interest transferred to/from externally funded projects												$ -
Net Interest on investments												**$ 749,597.43**

All investments are term deposits and are currently with banks which meet Council's rating standards as below.

Current investments:						
Members Equity Bank	A2/BBB				$ -	0.0%
NAB	A1+AA-				$ 1,500,000	9.1%
MyState	A2/BBB+				$ 3,500,000	21.2%
AMP	A2/BBB+				$ 6,000,000	36.4%
Macquarie Bank	A1/A				$ 1,500,000	9.1%
Defence Bank	A2/BBB				$ 2,000,000	12.1%
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A2/BBB+				$ 2,000,000	12.1%
Council Funds on Term Deposit					**$ 16,500,000**	**100%**
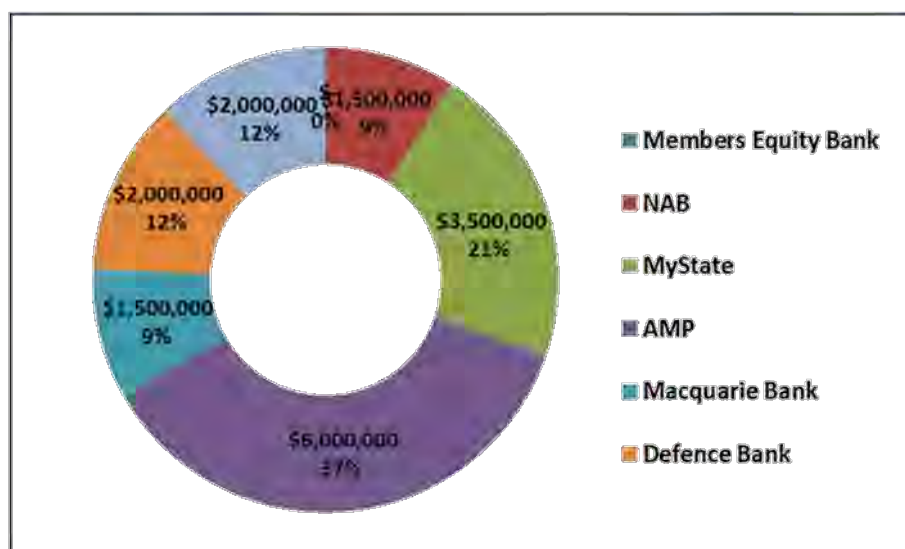
Due to the short term nature of the term deposits, those deposits which have not reached maturity are included as cash in the Balance Sheet.

Page 5 of 15

2.2   Operating expenditure

Total operating expenditure for January was $2.24M.

Expenditure YTD is at 86% compared to YTD budget or $2.79M behind.

2.2.1   Materials and services

Materials and services are behind YTD budget by $1.95M or 28%.

The main variations that are behind budget due to works progressing slower than expected or commencing later in the year than originally budgeted are:

- outdoor exercise equipment of $121K
- plant operating costs of $193K
- Bridgewater Football/Netball change facilities $100K
- Laanecoorie boat ramp of $90K
- scar trees campaign of $65K
- landfills and transfer stations of $109K
- local road maintenance of $112K
- service delivery reviews of $77K
- L2P program of $29K.

2.2.2   Utilities

Utilities are behind YTD budget by $41K or 14%.

The main variation to budget is pool water, due to the timing of the quarterly invoices.

2.2.3   Contract payments

Contract payments are behind YTD budget by $215K or 23%.

The main variation to budget is kerbside collection service and cleaning of public facilities, due to a delay in receiving monthly invoices.

2.2.4   Payments

During the month the following payments were made:

Creditor payments - cheque	$1,999.24
Creditor payments - electronic funds transfer	$1,052,307.89
Payroll (2 pays)	$613,024.91
TOTAL	**$1,667,332.04**

2.3   Operating surplus

The operating surplus to date is $785K.

2.4   Capital expenditure

Total capital works expenditure for January was $485K.

The total revised budget for the 2019/20 capital works program is $21.1M.

The total capital works expenditure is 20% complete in financial terms.

Page 6 of 15
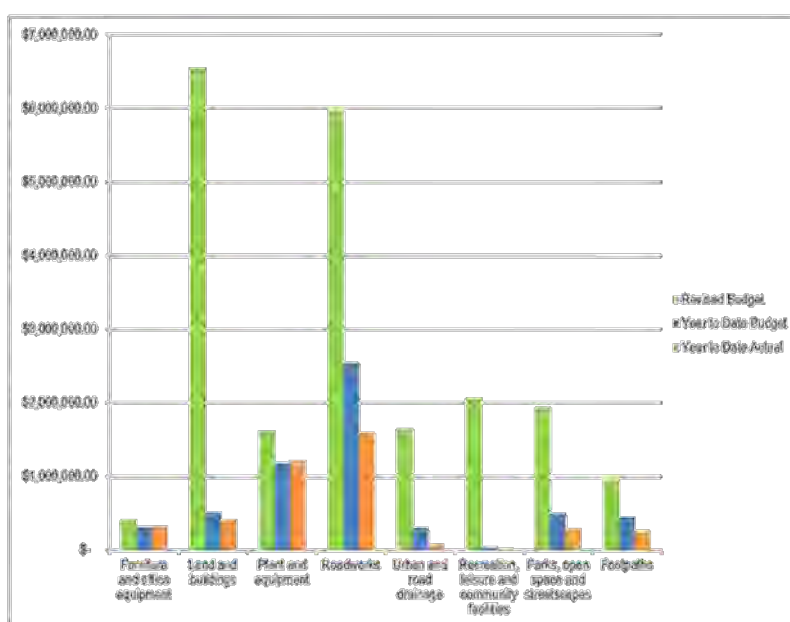
Within the asset types the major variations to YTD budget are:

2.4.1 Land and buildings

Land and buildings is behind YTD budget by $109K, the main variance is the energy efficient upgrades, with the project progressing but invoices being submitted slower than expected.

2.4.2 Roadworks

Roadworks are behind YTD budget by $952K.

The main variations that are behind budget due to works progressing slower than expected:
- Echuca Serpentine Road of $211K
- Bridgewater Raywood Road of $115K
- Pyramid Hill culvert upgrade of $96K
- local roads reseals of $326K.

2.4.3 Urban and road drainage

Urban and road drainage is behind YTD budget by $220K, the main variance to budget is Verdon South Street Inglewood and Old Lead Dam Dunolly projects where the works are progressing slower than expected.

2.4.4 Recreation leisure and community facilities

Recreation leisure and community facilities are behind YTD budget by $18K, the main variance to budget is caravan park trees and Inglewood Town Hall landscaping, due to slower than expected commencement of these projects.

2.4.5 Parks, open space and streetscapes

Parks, open space and streetscapes are behind of YTD budget by $207K, the variation relates to delay in commencement of many smaller projects.

Page 7 of 15

3   STANDARD BALANCE SHEET

3.1   Cash

At the end of the month, Council's overall cash total was $21.2M which includes a balance of $3.79M in general accounts.

Month end balances for Council's cash, from July 2016 until the current month, are reflected in the following graph:
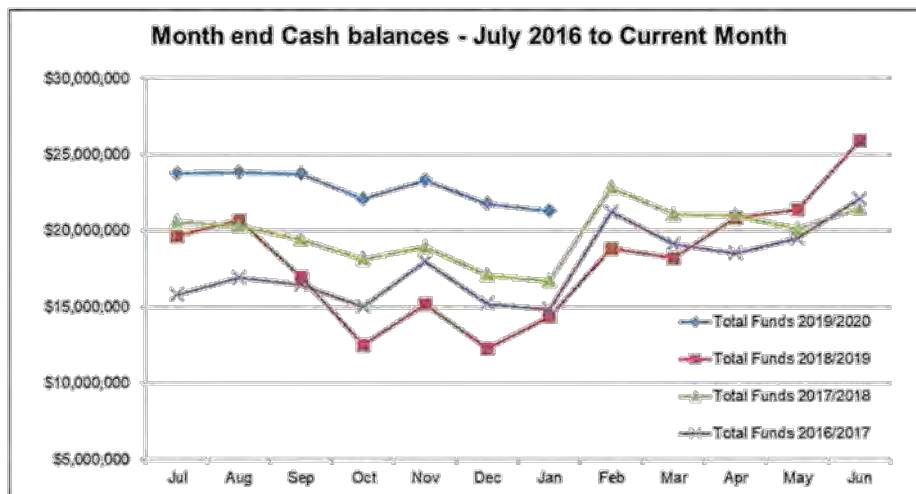
3.2   Receivables

3.2.1   Debtors

Monthly balances of the various categories of debtors for the financial year are:

Debtor category	January 2019	November 2019	December 2019	January 2020
Rates	7,243,024	8,744,005	8,306,827	7,341,449
Fire Services Property Levy	764,241	1,001,027	947,138	838,248
Total Rates & Fire Services Property Levy	*8,007,265*	*9,745,032*	*9,253,965*	*8,179,697*
Sundry debtors	736,221	890,139	914,736	1,174,690
Community loans/advances	3,600	2,400	2,400	2,400
Long term loans/advances	–	–	–	–
Employee superannuation	8,125	2,822	(1,095)	5,716
Magistrates court fines	100,319	100,319	100,319	100,319
LESS provision for doubtful debts	(112,950)	(118,887)	(118,887)	(118,887)
Total	**8,742,581**	**10,621,824**	**10,151,439**	**9,343,934**

Page 8 of 15

3.2.2 Rates debtors

Outstanding rates and Fire Services Property Levy at the end of selected months were:

	Jan 2019 (1/2/2019)	Nov 2019 (2/11/2019)	Dec 2019 (3/1/2020)	Jan 2020 (3/1/2020)
2006/07	$ 279	$ 305	$ 305	$ 308
2007/08	$ 440	$ 480	$ 480	$ 485
2008/09	$ 459	$ 501	$ 501	$ 507
2009/10	$ 1,760	$ 1,435	$ 1,434	$ 1,353
2010/11	$ 3,224	$ 2,823	$ 2,816	$ 2,843
2011/12	$ 5,045	$ 4,195	$ 4,188	$ 4,230
2012/13	$ 5,019	$ 3,453	$ 3,445	$ 3,478
2013/14	$ 4,959	$ 1,765	$ 1,756	$ 1,784
2013/14 Fire Services Property Levy	$ 1,382	$ 703	$ 703	$ 710
2014/15	$ 10,700	$ 3,766	$ 3,758	$ 3,613
2014/15 Fire Services Property Levy	$ 2,289	$ 1,344	$ 1,343	$ 1,172
2015/16	$ 21,700	$ 11,413	$ 10,929	$ 8,633
2015/16 Fire Services Property Levy	$ 3,787	$ 2,607	$ 2,562	$ 2,065
2016/17	$ 40,254	$ 25,456	$ 25,048	$ 21,273
2016/17 Fire Sevices Property Levy	$ 6,307	$ 4,316	$ 4,160	$ 3,715
2017/18	$ 89,045	$ 42,312	$ 41,674	$ 38,587
2017/18 Fire Sevices Property Levy	$ 14,112	$ 8,392	$ 8,193	$ 7,622
2018/19	$ 10,284	$ 102,403	$ 96,468	$ 86,532
2018/19 Fire Services Property Levy	$ 1,198	$ 16,977	$ 16,910	$ 15,684
2019/20	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
2019/20 Fire Services Property Levy	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Sub-total: arrears	**$ 222,244**	**$ 234,646**	**$ 226,673**	**$ 204,699**
Current year (outstanding but not due)	$ 7,050,444	$ 8,551,246	$ 8,120,127	$ 7,173,786
Fire Services Property Levy	$ 734,577	$ 959,140	$ 907,165	$ 801,213
Total outstanding	**$ 8,007,265**	**$ 9,745,032**	**$ 9,253,965**	**$ 8,179,697**
Summary				
Rates in arrears	$ 193,169	$ 200,307	$ 192,802	$ 173,731
FSPL in arrears	$ 29,075	$ 34,339	$ 33,871	$ 30,968
Total arrears	**$ 222,244**	**$ 234,646**	**$ 226,673**	**$ 204,699**

The full rate payment option for 2019/20 is due in the middle of February with the third rate instalment due at the end of February.

3.2.3 Sundry debtors

Outstanding sundry debtors at the end of the month consist of:

Current	$93,011	51%
30 days	$3,067	2%
60 days	$17,468	10%
90 + days	$68,926	38%
Sub total routine debtors	**$182,472**	**100%**
Paid Parental Leave	$1,481	
Government departments	$899,748	
GST	$90,900	
Total	**$1,174,600**	
90 + days consists of:		
Community Wellbeing debtors	$36,363	
Local community groups	$913	
Others	$31,651	
Total	**$68,926**	

Total outstanding sundry debtors as at 31 January 2019 are $1.17M.

The mainstream sundry debtors ($182K) have been broken into the amount of time they have been outstanding. At the time of this report $69K or 38% of that total has been outstanding for more than 90 days. All debtors are contacted as a matter of routine.

3.2.4   Supplementary valuations

All rateable and non-rateable supplementary valuations are included in this report.

Valuation type	Opening balance	Supplementary changes	Closing balance
Site Value	$ 1,556,669,900	-$ 634,000	$ 1,556,035,900
Capital Improved Value	$ 2,349,313,700	-$ 653,000	$ 2,348,660,700
NAV	$ 120,528,665	-$ 32,650	$ 120,496,015

The total rateable CIV at the end of January 2020 is just under $2.35B.

3.3   Water rights

Council-owned water rights were valued at $2.70M at 30 June 2019.

The rights are revalued to market at the end of each financial year.

There has been no purchase to date this financial year, and no future purchases are budgeted for the remainder of 2019/20.

APPENDIX 1: STANDARD INCOME STATEMENT

	2019/20 Original Budget	2019/20 Revised Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance of YTD Actual & YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to Revised Budget
REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES							
Rates	$11,027,275	$11,027,275	$11,027,275	$10,935,464	($91,811)	99%	99%
Revenue grants	$6,222,978	$6,404,196	$3,646,485	$3,586,291	($60,194)	98%	56%
Capital grants	$5,916,828	$8,312,014	$2,810,492	$1,512,061	($1,298,431)	54%	18%
Vic Roads	$524,064	$524,064	$0	$309,828	$4,124	101%	59%
User fees	$1,836,005	$1,874,431	$1,031,108	$1,251,569	$220,461	121%	67%
Capital contributions	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	0%
Recurrent contributions	$310,000	$330,000	$20,000	$21,165	$1,165	106%	6%
Interest income	$375,125	$375,125	$218,827	$263,250	$44,423	120%	70%
* Reversal of impairment losses	$0	$0	$0	$103	$103	0%	0%
* Library equity	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	0%
Reimbursements	$295,833	$295,833	$167,767	$189,888	$22,121	113%	64%
Total revenue	**$26,508,108**	**$29,142,939**	**$19,227,658**	**$18,069,619**	**($1,158,040)**	**94%**	**62%**
EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES							
Labour	$10,796,481	$10,832,561	$6,256,124	$5,668,258	$587,866	91%	52%
Materials & services	$8,638,752	$12,149,699	$6,916,516	$4,962,291	$1,954,226	72%	41%
Depreciation	$9,431,014	$9,431,014	$5,501,398	$5,501,426	($28)	100%	58%
Utilities	$507,274	$507,274	$301,201	$260,092	$41,109	86%	51%
Contract payments	$1,638,038	$1,750,359	$948,533	$733,508	$215,025	77%	42%
Loan interest	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	0%
Auditor costs	$84,631	$84,631	$20,250	$18,153	$2,097	90%	21%
Councillor costs	$226,166	$226,166	$131,929	$140,028	($8,099)	106%	62%
Loss on sale of assets	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	0%
* Impairment losses	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	0%
Bad debts expense	$0	$0	$0	$870	($870)	0%	0%
Total expenditure	**$31,322,355**	**$34,981,703**	**$20,075,951**	**$17,284,626**	**$2,791,325**	**86%**	**49%**
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	**($4,814,247)**	**($5,838,765)**	**($848,293)**	**$784,993**	**($1,633,286)**	**-93%**	**-13%**

The operating expenditure shown above is represented in Council's key direction areas as follows:

	2019/20 Original Budget	2019/20 Revised Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance of YTD Actual & YTD Revised Budget	% YTD Actual to YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to Revised Budget
EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES							
Economic development & tourism	$1,449,827	$1,832,657	$977,761	$839,806	$137,955	86%	47%
Leadership	$1,688,427	$1,783,405	$947,809	$929,340	$18,469	98%	52%
Works & infrastructure	$14,542,506	$14,730,343	$8,392,481	$7,765,833	$626,648	93%	53%
Good management	$4,353,730	$4,835,276	$2,784,152	$2,444,207	$339,944	88%	51%
Environment	$2,287,172	$2,313,250	$1,355,746	$1,114,086	$241,660	82%	48%
Community services & recreation	$7,000,694	$9,486,772	$5,618,003	$4,191,355	$1,426,648	75%	44%
Loss on sale of assets	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	0%
Total operating expenditure	**$31,322,355**	**$34,981,703**	**$20,075,951**	**$17,284,626**	**$2,791,325**	**86%**	**49%**
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	**($4,814,247)**	**($5,838,765)**	**($848,293)**	**$784,993**	**($1,633,286)**	**-93%**	**-13%**

*Income and expense items required by Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)

Page 11 of 15

APPENDIX 2: STANDARD CAPITAL WORKS STATEMENT

	2019/20 Original Budget	2019/20 Revised Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance of YTD Actual & YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to Revised Budget
FUNDING DECISIONS							
Add loan interest accrued	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	
Less loan repayments	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	
Add transfer from reserves	$7,812,974	$17,294,848	$0	$0	$0	0%	
Less transfer to reserves	($2,518,186)	($2,811,392)	$0	$0	$0	0%	
Add proceeds from sale of assets	$429,537	$383,617	$228,613	$266,138	($37,525)	116%	
TOTAL FUNDING DECISIONS	**$5,624,325**	**$14,867,073**	**$228,613**	**$266,138**	**($37,525)**	**110%**	
NET FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL	**$810,078**	**$9,028,308**	**($619,680)**	**$1,051,131**	**($1,670,811)**	**-170%**	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY ASSET TYPE							
Furniture and office equipment	$405,500	$405,500	$306,831	$315,922	($9,091)	103%	
Land and buildings	$4,994,164	$6,550,825	$510,719	$401,681	$109,038	79%	
Plant and equipment	$1,275,763	$1,611,689	$1,185,658	$1,211,111	($26,483)	102%	
Roadworks	$4,711,536	$5,970,450	$2,541,170	$1,589,475	$951,695	63%	
Urban and road drainage	$350,000	$1,541,240	$301,662	$81,380	$220,282	27%	
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	$885,822	$2,051,912	$34,757	$17,249	$17,508	50%	
Parks, open space and streetscapes	$800,000	$1,941,932	$494,687	$287,360	$207,327	58%	
Footpaths	$261,057	$953,807	$448,173	$251,627	$196,546	56%	
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PAYMENTS	**$13,683,842**	**$21,127,455**	**$5,823,657**	**$4,155,806**	**$1,667,851**	**71%**	
NON CASH ADJUSTMENTS							
Less depreciation	$9,431,014	$9,431,014	$5,501,398	$5,501,426	($28)	100%	
Add reversal of impairment losses	$0	$0	$0	($193)	$193	0%	
Less loss on sale of assets	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	0%	
Less bad debts expense	$0	$0	$0	$870	($870)	0%	
TOTAL NON CASH ADJUSTMENTS	**$9,431,014**	**$9,431,014**	**$5,501,398**	**$5,502,194**	**($796)**	**100%**	
Accumulated surplus brought forward	($3,591,683)	($3,860,817)	$0	$0	$0	0%	
NET CASH (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	**($148,932)**	**($1,192,684)**	**$941,939**	**($2,397,518)**	**$3,339,457**	**-255%**	

APPENDIX 3: STANDARD BALANCE SHEET

	January 2020 As per trial balance	June 2019 As per financial statements	January 2019 As per trial balance
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	$21,482,149	$25,893,132	$14,357,686
Trade and other receivables	$9,342,945	$2,498,935	$8,662,580
Financial assets	$18,290	$801,952	$21,229
Inventories	$33,770	$40,279	$49,296
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	$556,091	$556,092	$690,322
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**$31,433,244**	**$29,790,390**	**$23,781,113**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	$2,397	$2,397	$80,000
Financial assets	$788,516	$269,572	$305,813
Intangible assets	$2,702,545	$2,702,545	$1,979,130
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	$352,122,158	$353,733,913	$336,499,275
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**$355,615,617**	**$356,708,427**	**$338,864,218**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$387,048,861**	**$386,498,817**	**$362,645,331**
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	$139,816	$1,174,480	$52,963
Trust funds and deposits	$1,257,381	$340,748	$1,181,774
Provisions	$2,295,491	$2,412,407	$1,815,838
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**$3,692,687**	**$3,927,635**	**$3,050,595**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	$1,797,418	$1,797,418	$2,324,221
Interest bearing loans & borrowings	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**$1,797,418**	**$1,797,418**	**$2,324,221**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**$5,490,105**	**$5,725,053**	**$5,374,816**
NET ASSETS	**$381,558,757**	**$380,773,764**	**$357,270,515**
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	$94,405,649	$93,620,656	$90,950,519
Asset Revaluation Reserve	$265,442,673	$287,153,108	$247,387,366
Other Reserves	$21,710,435	$0	$18,932,630
TOTAL EQUITY	**$381,558,757**	**$380,773,764**	**$357,270,515**

Page 13 of 15

APPENDIX 4A: COMMUNITY PLANNING FINANCIALS BOORT

Boort Community Plans			ACTUALS			BUDGET		
			2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR			2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR		
YEAR	LEDGER	PROJECT	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST
		Income						
		Unspent Allocation from Previous Years	$70,848	$0	$70,848	$70,848	$0	$70,848
		This Year's Allocation	$50,000	$0	$50,000	$50,000	$0	$50,000
		Equity Adjustment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Movement in Wards	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Strategic Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	26802	BRIC Gym Alloc 1	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	26803	BRIC Gym Alloc 2	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Transfer from Reserve	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Total Amount Available	$120,848	$0	$120,848	$120,848	$0	$120,848
2017/18	26850	Lake Boort Outdoor Furniture	$0	$7,508	$7,508	$0	$8,780	$8,780
2018/19	26852	Korong Vale Playground Shade Sail	$0	$8,489	$8,489	$0	$8,489	$8,489
2019/20	26854	Boort Park Kitchen	$0	$20,000	$20,000	$0	$20,000	$20,000
CURRENT		Boort Community Plans Unallocated	$0	$0	$0	$0	$83,579	$83,579
		Total Expenditure for the Year	$0	$35,997	$35,997	$0	$120,848	$120,848
		Total Amount Not Spent at the End of the Year, and Available for Next Year						$0

APPENDIX 4B: COMMUNITY PLANNING FINANCIALS INGLEWOOD

Inglewood Community Plans			ACTUALS			BUDGET		
			2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR			2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR		
YEAR	LEDGER	PROJECT	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST
		Income						
		Unspent Allocation from Previous Years	$135,319	$0	$135,319	$135,319	$0	$135,319
		This Year's Allocation	$50,000	$0	$50,000	$50,000	$0	$50,000
		Strategic Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Movement in Wards	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Equity Adjustment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Total Amount Available	$185,319	$0	$185,319	$185,319	$0	$185,319
		LESS Expenditure for the Year						
2011/12	24804	Bridgewater Streetscape	$0	$0	$0	$0	$38,500	$38,500
2017/18	24747	Inglewood Sports Centre Power Upgrade	$0	$0	$0	$0	$4,200	$4,200
2018/19	17956	B/W Recreation reserve Lights	$0	$13,758	$13,758	$0	$21,949	$21,949
2019/20	26856	Inglewood Eucy Museum Annex Alloc 2	$0	$0	$0	$0	$81,000	$81,000
2019/20	18707	Campbells Forest & District Newsletter	$0	$2,299	$2,299	$0	$2,299	$2,299
2019/20	26857	Bridgewater Hall Alloc 3	$0	$20,000	$20,000	$0	$20,000	$20,000
CURRENT		Inglewood Community Plans Unallocated	$0	$0	$0	$0	$16,371	$16,371
		Total Expenditure for the Year	$0	$36,057	$36,057	$0	$185,319	$185,319
		Total Amount Not Spent at the End of the Year, and Available for Next Year						$0

APPENDIX 4C: COMMUNITY PLANNING FINANCIALS TARNAGULLA

Tarnagulla Community Plans			ACTUALS			BUDGET		
			2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR			2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR		
YEAR	LEDGER	PROJECT	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST
		Income						
		Unspent Allocation from Previous Years	$159,599	$0	$159,599	$159,599	$0	$159,599
		This Year's Allocation	$50,000	$0	$50,000	$50,000	$0	$50,000
		Strategic Fund	$150,000	$0	$150,000	$150,000	$0	$150,000
		Movement in Wards	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Equity Adjustment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Total Amount Available	$359,599	$0	$359,599	$359,599	$0	$359,599
		LESS Expenditure for the Year						
2017/18	16922	Rheola Playground	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2017/18	16923	Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve Seating	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2017/18	16858	Laanecoorie Boat Ramp	$0	$90,750	$90,750	$0	$89,807	$89,807
2017/18	12924	Newbridge Solar Bollards	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,234	$1,234
2018/19	17307	Rheola Hall verandah Flood Light	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,533	$1,533
2018/19	17308	Tarnagulla Public Hall Shed Repairs	$0	$23,224	$23,224	$0	$24,270	$24,270
2018/19	17309	Newbridge Rec Reserve BBQ Shelter	$0	$9,195	$9,195	$0	$13,110	$13,110
2018/19	17314	Newbridge Playground Shelter	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,000	$10,000
2018/19	27960	Newbridge Hall Repairs	$0	$4,545	$4,545	$0	$9,487	$9,487
2018/19	26851	TaCPSF Laan Boat Ramp UG	$0	$868	$868	$0	$0	$0
2019/20	26853	TaCPSF Newbridge Hall	$0	$36,117	$36,117	$0	$40,000	$40,000
2019/20	18704	TaCPSF Laanecoorie Hall Paint	$0	$0	$0	$0	$20,000	$20,000
2019/20	18705	TaCPSF Newbridge Recreational Reserve Mower	$0	$38,343	$38,343	$0	$40,000	$40,000
2019/20	18706	TaCPSF Tarnagulla Community Centre Asphalt	$0	$0	$0	$0	$50,000	$50,000
2019/20	26858	Tarnagulla Hall Solar System	$0	$0	$0	$0	$21,174	$21,174
2019/20	18708	Rheola Hall Heating and Cooling	$0	$0	$0	$0	$13,200	$13,200
2019/20	18709	Rheola Park Pipeline Connection	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,259	$10,259
2019/20	26859	Newbridge Progress Park BBQ and Shelter	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,809	$10,809
2019/20	18710	Laanecoorie Notice Board	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000	$2,000
2019/20	18711	Newbridge Notice Board	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000	$2,000
			$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
CURRENT		Tarnagulla Community Plans Unallocated	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,016	$1,016
		Total Expenditure for the Year	$0	$203,548	$203,548	$0	$359,599	$359,599
		Total Amount Not Spent at the End of the Year, and Available for Next Year						$0

Page 14 of 15

APPENDIX 4D: COMMUNITY PLANNING FINANCIALS TERRICK

Terrick Community Plans			ACTUALS			BUDGET		
YEAR	LEDGER	PROJECT	2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR			2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR		
			INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST
		Income						
		Unspent Allocation from Previous Years	$63,381	$0	$63,381	$63,381	$0	$63,381
		This Year's Allocation	$50,000	$0	$50,000	$50,000	$0	$50,000
		Equity Adjustment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Strategic Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Total Amount Available	$113,381	$0	$113,381	$113,381	$0	$113,381
		LESS Expenditure for the Year						
2010/11	18270	Pyramid Hil Rural Water Community Areas	$0	$0	$0	$0	$7,091	$7,091
2017/18	16917	Dingee Recreation Reserve Playground	$0	$0	$0	$0	$790	$790
2017/18	26849	Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Power Upgrade	$0	$1,923	$1,923	$0	$4,196	$4,196
2017/18	16916	Dingee Hall Storage Container	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,449	$1,449
2018/19	17943	Dingee Hall Solar	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,191	$1,191
2018/19	18362	Dingee EPU Feasibility Study	$0	$0	$0	$0	$12,000	$12,000
2018/19	27907	P/H Lions Park Redevelopment	$0	$12,276	$12,276	$0	$57,101	$57,101
2019/20	18712	Milarra Sporting Rooms Flood Upgrade	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,000	$10,000
2019/20	18713	Dingee Memorial Hall Toilet	$0	$0	$0	$0	$20,000	$20,000
CURRENT		Terrick Community Plans Unallocated	$0	$0	$0	$0	-$437	-$437
		Total Expenditure for the Year	$0	$14,199	$14,199	$0	$113,381	$113,381
		Total Amount Not Spent at the End of the Year, and Available for Next Year						$0

APPENDIX 4E: COMMUNITY PLANNING FINANCIALS WEDDERBURN

Wedderburn Community Plans			ACTUALS			BUDGET		
YEAR	LEDGER	PROJECT	2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR			2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR		
			INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET COST
		Income						
		Unspent Allocation from Previous Years	$196,073	$0	$196,073	$196,073	$0	$196,073
		This Year's Allocation	$50,000	$0	$50,000	$50,000	$0	$50,000
		Equity Adjustment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Movement in Wards	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Strategic Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
		Total Amount Available	$246,073	$0	$246,073	$246,073	$0	$246,073
		Expenditure						
2016/17	16912	Wedderburn Town Entry	$0	$2,530	$2,530	$0	$35,640	$35,640
2016/17	16913	Wedderburn Caravan Park	$0	$0	$0	$0	$50,000	$50,000
2018/19	27908	Soldiers Memorial Park Exercise Equipment	$0	$25,000	$25,000	$0	$25,000	$25,000
2018/19	27909	Wedderburn Caravan Park Redevelopment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$25,000	$25,000
2018/19	27910	Donaldson Park Redevelopment	$0	$10,000	$10,000	$0	$10,000	$10,000
CURRENT		Wedderburn Community Plans Unallocated	$0	$0	$0	$0	$100,233	$100,233
		Total Expenditure for the Year	$0	$37,530	$37,530	$0	$246,073	$246,073
		Total Amount Not Spent at the End of the Year, and Available for Next Year						$0

Page 15 of 15

9.6   APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR 2020

File Number: **06/02/003**
Author: **Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services**
Authoriser: **Allan Bawden, Acting Chief Executive Officer**
Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Audit Committee's recommendation to appoint [insert name] as Audit Committee Chair to 28 February 2020 or the date of the Ordinary Meeting of Council in February 2020 where a resolution for appointment of Chair for the new term will be made, whichever is the earlier.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

The Audit Committee Charter v7 at 5.2(g) states:

(a) At the first Audit Committee meeting each year an election of Chair from the external members of the committee will be held.

   At the first Council Meeting following the election, the Chair will be appointed by Council on advice of the committee.

   The term of the new chair will commence at the conclusion of the current Chair's term, and will be for a period of 12 months.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

This report seeks Council's approval of the Audit Committee recommendation from the meeting held on 20 February 2020 that [insert name] be Chair of Audit Committee.

Although the Audit Committee Charter currently states "for a period of 12 months", practically, the term of the Chair ends at the Ordinary Meeting of Council following the February Audit Committee Meeting where the committee provides a recommendation for the new Chair to the Council.

COST/BENEFITS

The chair of the Audit Committee receives an additional payment per year equivalent to one meeting attendance allowance.

RISK ANALYSIS

Appointment of the Chair by Council will ensure compliance with the Audit Committee's Charter.

Appointment of an external member of the committee as Chair is in line with good governance principles, and increases transparency and accountability of the committee.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Audit Committee has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

| 9.7 | RELEASE OF DRAFT YOUTH STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT |

File Number: 12/06/005

Author: Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing

Authoriser: Allan Bawden, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Draft Loddon Youth Strategy 2019-2025

2. Loddon Youth Strategy Engagement Summary 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to place the draft Loddon Youth Strategy 2019-2025 on public display for a period of 28 days and invite comment and feedback.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of this report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A presentation on the draft Youth Strategy was provided at the October 2019 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Council's previous Youth Strategy expired in 2013. Conversation Caravan was engaged in 2019 to undertake the consultation and engagement required to develop a new Youth Strategy.

The development of a Youth Strategy (strategy) will create a framework to effectively plan for, and consider the future needs of young people living in and returning to Loddon.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The strategy was developed in consultation with young people and describes the actions Council will take to support young people to access the same opportunities as their peers, are healthy, and are engaged and confident in their future.

The following activities were undertaken to inform the development of the strategy:

- literature review
- demographic analysis
- stakeholder and community engagement
- analysis of current services.

The stakeholder and community engagement resulted in 457 people being engaged across a broad age cross section. Consistent themes emerged from discussions with young people, their families and service providers:

- access to education
- access to employment
- travelling in and around Loddon
- access to reliable and confidential healthcare
- connection to friends and families
- access to the world

- access to entertainment

- being equipped for change

- connection to the land

Fourteen actions aligned to four strategic objectives provide the framework that will assist in bringing about the changes desired by young people living in, or returning to Loddon:

- strengthen connections

- consider young people in all we do

- equip young people for change

- provide engaging experiences.

COST/BENEFITS

Retaining and providing support for our young people is a powerful exercise in community strengthening and community development. Well supported and energised young people contribute to rural economies, community groups, local governance and provision of services.

Delivery of the actions and initiatives in the strategy will require a coordinated response and for Loddon Shire Council to partner with agencies and service providers working closely with young people.

The strategy identifies what will be required to support the delivery of the actions based on:

- within existing resources

- partnering, within existing resources

- securing funding to support delivery

- within project planning processes.

The securing of funding may consist of external grant applications or internal budget bids (as part of the annual budget development).

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk of implementing this strategy is minimal; rather the risks of not planning for the future of Loddon's young people are possibly more detrimental. The delivery of youth related initiatives is currently undertaken by one part time worker, and it has been identified that these limited resources influence the impact Council can have in make a positive difference to the lives of young people. This plan identifies seeking funding to enhance the work undertaken by Council in the youth space.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

A range of engagement activities were undertaken to support the development of the strategy:

- creative arts activity

- interview with Anglicare

- guided online survey

- community pop ups

A total of 457 people were engaged throughout these activities, with a total of 250 youth people aged 12-25 years of age.

The draft strategy has moved through Council's internal strategy approval process.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Strategic document
DOCUMENT STATUS:	Draft
POLICY OWNER POSITION:	Manager Community Wellbeing
INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT:	Not applicable
APPROVED BY:	Council
DATE ADOPTED:	Click here to enter date of approval
VERSION NUMBER:	1
REVIEW DATE:	Click here to enter a date.
DATE RESCINDED:	Click here to enter a date.
RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES: RELATED LEGISLATION:	Council Plan Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plan
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	

_____
Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION:	Document1

Strategic documents are amended from time to time, therefore you should not rely on a printed copy being the current version. Please consult the Loddon Shire website to ensure that the version you are using is up to date.

This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

Like many rural areas, Loddon Shire is affected by young people leaving the area. Loddon Shire has a significantly lower population percentage of young people aged 12 to 24 years living within the municipality.

Retaining and providing support for our young people is a powerful exercise in strengthening the whole community. Diagram 1 shows how a well-supported and energised community of young people can make endless contributions to rural economies, community groups, local governance and provision of services; young people that choose to stay in Loddon Shire may also help to raise the next generation of Loddon residents.

While recognising the importance of young people to the future of the Shire, Council recognises that young people have the freedom to design a lifestyle suited to their needs and aspirations.

Diagram 1: Lifecycle diagram

Lifecycle Diagram of Loddon residents

Infant — Toddler — Child — Teenager — Young Adult — Adult — Middle Age — Older Adult — Senior

Loddon Shire Council wants young people to feel supported, and have the ability to lead a healthy and fulfilling life while living in Loddon, and return easily if they decide to leave.
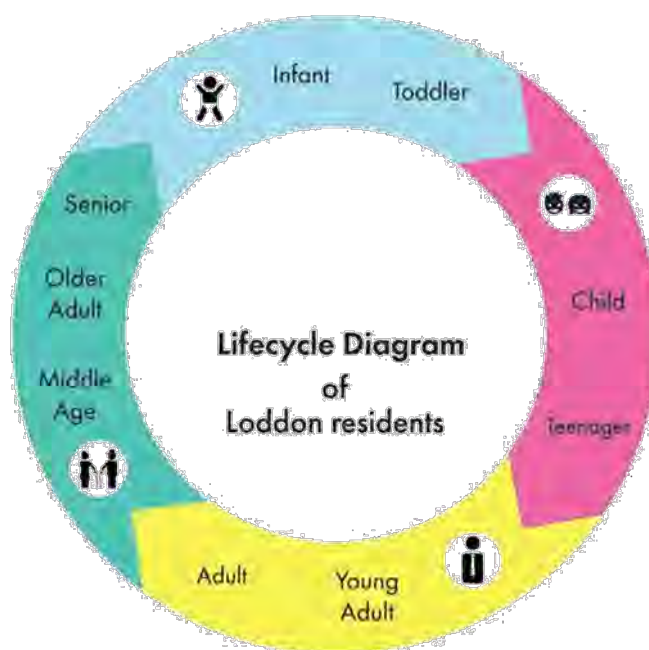
1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Youth Strategy 2019 - 2023 is to create a framework to effectively plan for, and consider the future needs of young people living in and returning to Loddon. The intent of this strategy is to understand what opportunities young people pursue within and outside of the Shire and the type of services and support needed to live a fulfilling life.

This strategy was developed in consultation with young people and describes the actions Council will take to support young people to access the same opportunities as their peers, are healthy, engaged and confident in their future.

This Strategy has direct links to *Council Plan 2017 - 21, a prosperous, vibrant and engaged community*. Delivering this strategy will help Council to deliver on the following Strategic Themes and Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Theme	Strategic Objective
Population	Grow and invigorate Loddon's population
Liveability	Develop attractive, vibrant well serviced communities
Economic Prosperity	Support development of a prosperous and diverse economy

4

1.2   Using this Youth Strategy

Loddon Shire Council plays many roles in providing services to support its community, much of Council's role is in bringing together other service providers and agencies to deliver and advocate for improved services.

Delivery of the actions and initiatives within this strategy will require a coordinated response and for Loddon Shire Council to partner with agencies and service providers that are working closely with young people.

Loddon Shire Council will use its many powers to deliver this strategy:

- **Deliver** – Council is responsible for managing and delivering a range of services, programs, buildings and infrastructure to support community health and wellbeing.
- **Plan** - Council is a planning authority that implements planning controls to achieve positive social, economic and environmental outcomes. Council also carries out internal projects and program planning to guide and target actions that support community health and wellbeing.
- **Advocate** - Council has a responsibility on behalf of the community to promote their needs and aspirations, and recommend preferred courses of action to state and federal levels of government, statutory authorities and other sectors.
- **Partner** - Council works together with interested people, groups and stakeholders for the greatest benefit to the community.
- **Lead** - Council provides leadership by identifying opportunities and challenges to address the needs and hopes of the community, and make decisions which align with long-term strategic plans.
- **Inform and involve** - Council makes accessible information available to the whole community on matters of public and personal interest. It actively consults with the community and provides opportunities to be included in Council's decision making.

Diagram 2: Many roles of Council

Loddon Shire Council will use its many powers to deliver this strategy including:
- Deliver
- Plan
- Advocate
- Partner
- Lead
- Inform and involve.

5

2 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The delivery of youth services related initiatives is currently delivered by one worker employed with Council for 0.8EFT. This role is also responsible for delivering services and programs related to early years, children and youth.

It has been identified that these limited resources influence the impact Council can have in making a positive difference to the lives of young people.   Further consideration on how this area is resourced, so that it can exercise all of the powers available to Council, will strengthen Council's ability to deliver more positive outcomes for young people.

"I have to travel to Ballarat to play football, mum said this is my last season because it's too far to travel every week. I have played for seven years."

Girl aged 13

Consideration has been given to how young people can be better supported through the delivery of existing services and programs within Council's current operational budget, as well as considered as part of projects that have a community-wide benefit. This is considered in Section 5.

None of the actions in this strategy have been costed. It is the intention that each project be scoped and costed as part of the planning process. Council staff will identify potential funding sources to support the implementation / delivery of the scoped projects.

3 RISK ANALYSIS
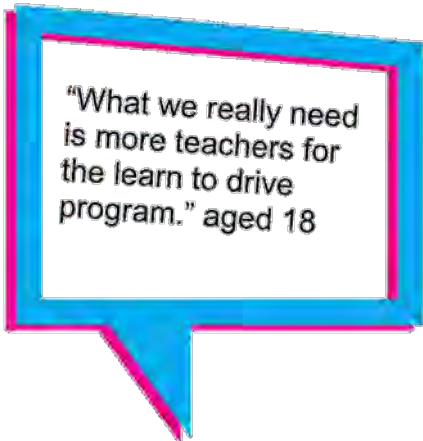
The risk of implementing this strategy is minimal, rather the risks in not resourcing this strategy, or planning for the future of Loddon's young people are possibly more detrimental. A further decline in Loddon's population is likely to have a moderate impact on Council's future ability to deliver services, or its ability to attract families and young professionals.

This decline in population will likely then reduce the number of rateable properties (residential/business) that contribute to Council's ability to deliver services and impact on businesses and service providers who may choose to locate closer to their customer base.

"What we really need is more teachers for the learn to drive program." aged 18

6

4   DEVELOPING THE YOUTH STRATEGY

To make informed recommendations to better support and engage Loddon Shire's young population it was necessary to understand the political, social and environmental context and what is happening at a local and national level.

Illustrated is the process taken to develop this youth strategy.

The following activities were undertaken to inform this understanding:
- literature review
- demographic analysis
- stakeholder and community engagement
- analysis of current services.

4.1   Literature review

Retaining and providing support for young people is a powerful exercise in strengthening the whole community. Many of the policies and strategies developed by Council either directly or indirectly impact young people. The following documents were reviewed to understand the connection to and recommendations for inclusion within the Youth Strategy:

- *Council Plan 2017 - 2021*
- *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2021*
- *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 - 2021*
- *Volunteer Strategy 2018 - 2022*
- *Tourism Strategy 2016 - 2019*
- *Recreation Strategy 2015 - 2020*
- *Loddon Economic Development Strategy 2015 - 2019*
- *Loddon Healthy Minds Network, Strategy Plan 2017 - 2022*
- *Central Highlands Children and Youth Area Partnership Plan 2018.*

The desktop review highlighted different organisations and service providers to speak with in relation to services that support young people access. The desktop review highlighted many opportunities to continue to advocate and engage young people in the community.

Detailed below are the key strategies and the actions that have a strong connection to support the delivery of the Youth Strategy 2019 - 2025.

7
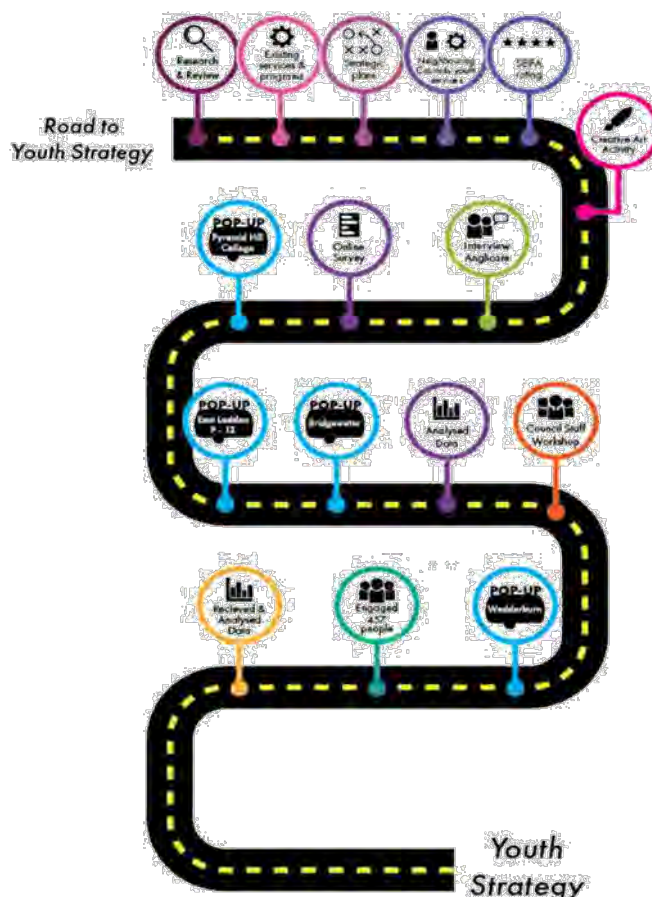
Council Plan 2017 - 2021

A key issue for the area, that was highlighted through the *Council Plan 2017 – 2021*, is the continual decline in population decline and lack of a sustainable demographic profile due to an ageing population.

Two youth-related actions are listed that appear to address this growing concern:
- advocate for the provision of quality facilities and services which attract and retain families
- explore opportunities to rejuvenate a Youth Council in partnership with 'Youth Building Places and Spaces' project

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

The Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 does not specifically address youth-related health and wellbeing strengths and challenges, but implies a response to residents of all ages.

The Plan addresses four priority focus areas with relevant outcomes that are essential for young people:

- good physical health, increase healthy start in life (including increase in dental health and hygiene).
- good mental health, increased mental wellbeing, prevention/decrease in youth suicide.
- protect and promotion of health, reduce tobacco use and harmful alcohol and drug use.
- feel safe and secure, young people are safe, resilient and free from abuse and family violence.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 - 2021

Though this Plan does not have age-related or life-cycle-related recommendations, it is inferred that all ages and abilities are considered as part of this project.

Some of the main concerns and aspirations raised during the consultation included:
- accessibility of services, programs and events: being about to participate in the community and seek support services regardless of location and a person's disability
- accessing buildings and infrastructure: moving within the community and the difficulty of using uneven footpaths, lack of accessible toilets as well as businesses and buildings that were not accessible for a person with a physical mobility
- seeking employment: a person with a disability being considered for work, training placements along with other candidates; and providing support for candidates and employers
- communication and signage: wayfinding across Loddon Shire was not considered easy to read; and the need to consider other ways of providing this information apart from online
- social isolation: many reported social isolation experienced as a result of geographical distance, lack of public transport and difficulty in accessing the community.

Volunteer Strategy 2018 - 2022

The Volunteer Strategy outlines a number of methods to encourage more youth participation in volunteering which are included within the action plan of this Youth Strategy. Other opportunities considered through this Youth Strategy to increase volunteering include:
- work with local community organisations and sporting clubs on referral pathways and barriers to involving young people in volunteering (eg. inability for community organisations to support needs of young people, higher skill requirements, safeguarding issues) and ways in which Council can support greater youth engagement within those organisations.

8

- engage with young people that have volunteered locally to understand common routes to volunteering, opportunities or barriers in order to maximise attraction and retention opportunities.

Recreation Strategy 2015 - 2020[1]

Key challenge is in the sustainability of local sporting clubs (due to an ageing population), as well as maintenance of sporting grounds due to environmental impact (namely floods and droughts).

Youth participation was highlighted throughout the document as integral to the success of the strategy, the strategy outlined activities to support young people:

- attracting and retaining junior players, providing modified sports and partnerships with other clubs
- develop a range of Shire-wide physical activity programs and events such as Come and Try Days, summer in the parks (which may include live music and movies), family BBQs at swimming pools, guided walks in forests / parks, etc
- research and develop programs to attract and retain younger volunteers in clubs
- assist communities to develop community gyms as required.

Loddon Economic Development Strategy 2015 - 2019

Some of its stated goals are to attract new residents and workers, develop tourism and agri-business industries, build on local infrastructure and attract investment, enhance streetscapes, and leverage the region's NBN and Wi-Fi hotspot facilities.

Key challenges faced include a declining population (amplified with high levels of 18-24 year olds leaving rural areas), inadequate infrastructure and decline in labour demand from the agricultural sector.

Ideas to further youth engagement:

- engage with local businesses to identify the 'skills gap' referred to in the *Loddon Economic Development Strategy (pg 11)*, caused by a shrinking and ageing population and assess Council's role in supporting young people to upskill
- audit existing programs that support young people engaging in local employment
- engage with local education and training programs to explore opportunities to collaborate with local businesses for youth employment opportunities.

Loddon Healthy Minds Network, Strategy Plan 2017 - 2022

Supporting the mental health of residents of all ages was a key driver of this strategy, two activities specifically identified to support youth are:

- advocate for funding of Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA) – especially Adolescent and Youth MHFA
- increase access to local services, for example expansion of the Doctors in Schools program.

4.2   Demographic analysis

Loddon Shire has a lower proportion of younger people aged 0 to 17 years and a higher proportion of people in the older age groups 60+ years compared to Victoria average (Id Profile 2016).

In 2016, 12.4% of the population was aged between 12 and 24 the basis for this Youth Strategy. The major differences between the age structure of Loddon Shire and Victoria were:

- a larger percentage of 'Empty nesters and retirees' (17.4% compared to 10.3%)

---

[1] The Recreation Strategy was current at the time this strategy was developed. It has subsequently been renewed although the outcomes identified remain.

9

- a larger percentage of 'Seniors' (14.5% compared to 8.5%)
- a larger percentage of 'Older workers & pre-retirees' (17.1% compared to 12.4%)
- a smaller percentage of 'Young workforce' (6.9% compared to 15.0%).

Loddon Shire has a SEIFA Index of Disadvantage of 942, the index measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage and is derived from attributes that reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations.

Adjoining municipalities Buloke Shire (967), Campaspe (967), Gannawarra (957) and Greater City of Bendigo (981) have a higher SEIFA Score compared to Loddon Shire. A lower SEIFA Score is likely to impact the disposable income available for extra-curricular activities young people are involved in, and can also impact the level of education pursued by young people.

4.3 Stakeholder and community engagement

Engaging with all stakeholders provides a complete understanding of the needs of young people; the young people themselves who are experts on their lives, the services and organisations that service young people, parents and guardians who play a role in raising young people and the Council staff who work to provide for the needs of the community.

To engage Loddon Shire's young population, their parents and guardians, service providers, and Loddon Shire Council staff, the following engagement activities were undertaken.

Creative arts activity
Young people were engaged to help design a brand and implement a logo to be utilised for this project and online. This activity was designed to provide an initial insight into their views of Loddon and areas to further explore in the engagement process.

"Outmigration issues cause a loss of skills and difficulty in maintaining skills (in the community)" Local agency
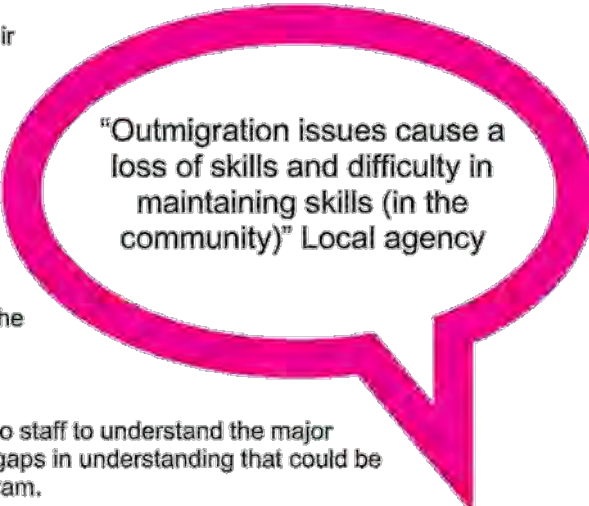
Interview with Anglicare
An activity was carried out with Anglicare Bendigo staff to understand the major issues confronting young people in Loddon and gaps in understanding that could be considered during the broader consultation program.

Guided online survey
The survey was designed for services to have a conversation within their organisation or community group about the needs of young people living in the Loddon. Service providers, sporting clubs, community groups and schools located within the Loddon Shire and Bendigo region were invited to participate.

Community pop ups
Two pop ups were held at schools located in the Loddon Shire and two community pop ups were held at local sporting matches to engage with young people and their parents. These place making pop ups provided young people the opportunity to provide feedback to inform the data for this strategy.

4.3.1 Engagement participation

A total of 457 people were engaged throughout the engagement activities, with a total of 250 young people aged 12-25 years of age. Diagram 3 provides a breakdown of all ages engaged.

10

Diagram 3: Engagement participation

4.3.2 Key stakeholders

There were four stakeholder groups identified in the engagement process; agencies and organisations, young people, parents and Council staff. Each stakeholder played a role in understanding the needs of young people. Refer to the Engagement Summary August 2019 to see the full engagement findings.

Agencies and organisations

The provision of services and programs to young people are a vital support in young people living a healthy and fulfilling life. Understanding current issues for young people as seen by service providers is key in identifying service gaps and areas of opportunity.

Service organisations and agencies identified major issues confronting young people in the Loddon Shire. There were several areas of concern facing young people. The two key themes identified:

Access
- to transport, there is only an am and pm service and as a result, young people hitchhike.
- to affordable and attainable housing, there is discrimination towards young people in the rental market and lack of social housing.
- of learning to drive programs, the waiting lists are too long.
- to healthcare, accessibility and confidentiality, especially mental health services.
- to phone and internet services, the cost and reliability of service in remote areas.
- to services; with the dearth of services and the lack of outreach in the Loddon area.

Their future
- education transition, leaving home, assimilation into a larger community.
- intergenerational expectations from parents to take over farms, continue parent's legacy.
- underemployment and unemployment.

11

Young people

Young people are the experts on their lives and as such they are an important part of the process of uncovering what their needs are. Identifying areas young people would change and what their worries are now and for their future self provides information on how to make positive changes for the young residents of Loddon.

Young people prioritised the internet, recreation and youth spaces and local shops and upgraded supermarkets as the areas of change they would make to Loddon as seen in Diagram 4. Young people reported the frustrations and impacts to their life the current internet service limitations create, and the need for free WiFi.

Having a place to 'hang out' and spend their time was important, whether at a skatepark or an indoor youth space providing areas to study, spend time with friends playing ping pong or table tennis or learning new skills together. Opportunities for shopping and upgrades to local supermarkets were also a priority for young people.

Diagram 4: Top three changes young people would make to Loddon.

The young people of Loddon have worries for themselves now and for their future as seen in Diagram 5. Concerns around schooling, maintaining friendships, making big life decisions and obtaining the life they want for themselves; with meaningful relationships and opportunities for family. Living on the land there are concerns regarding the environment and the effects of climate change.

Diagram 5: Biggest concerns for young people now and in the future.
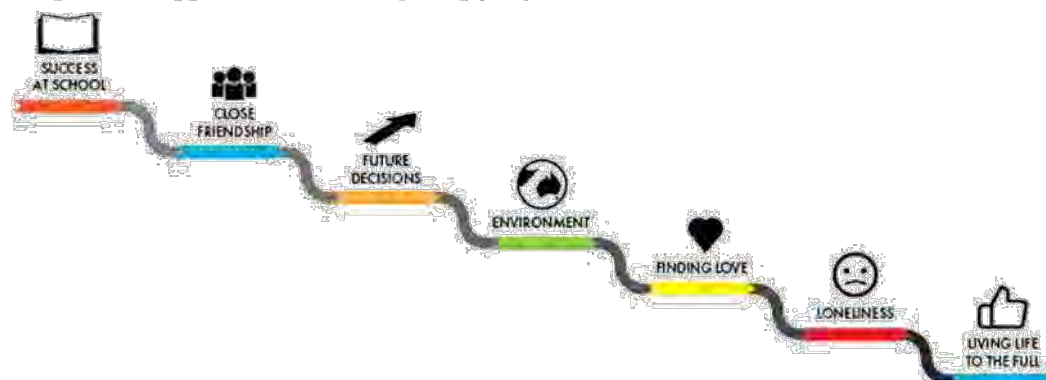
Parents

It was important to understand what support the parents and guardians of Loddon's young people felt they needed to raise healthy and fulfilled young people. Parents and guardians want their children to have the opportunities needed to set them up for success for their future

12

Diagram 6 shows what parents/carers believe makes it difficult to raise a young person in Loddon.

Diagram 6: What makes it hard to raise a young person in Loddon
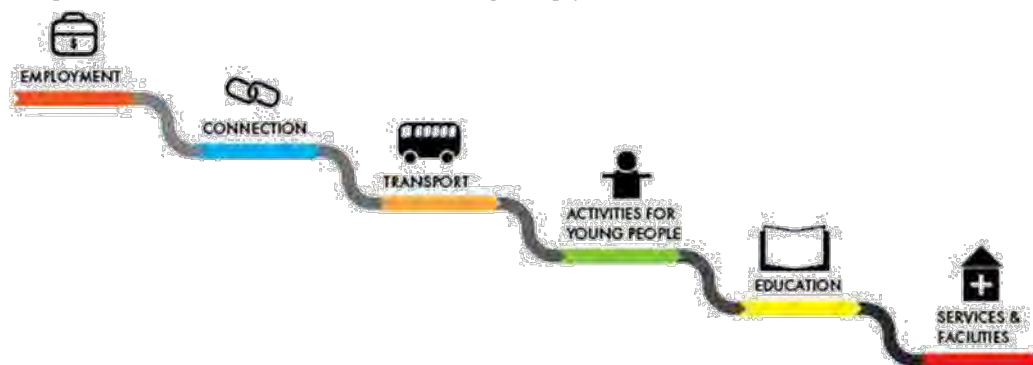
Parents and guardians want their children to have the same opportunities as their peers; strong connections with their friends, a large enough population to provide educational opportunities, facilities and youth activities for young people to have something to do and ways to move safely around the Shire. Diagram 7 shows what this group believe would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon.

Diagram 7 What would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon
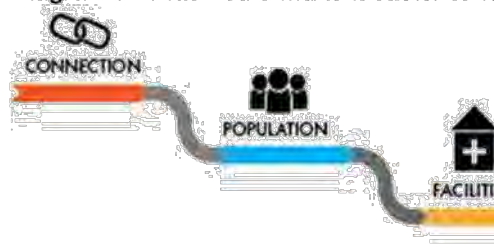
"More employment opportunities, workplaces partnering with young people to provide training opportunities" (Parent of a young person)

"(I love) that you can do anything out in the paddocks" (aged 16)

13

4.4 Review of services

Preparation of this Youth Strategy also considered the services that are currently being provided or offered to young people in the area, to both determine gaps in service and level of need. This review considered services provided by the Loddon Shire Council, adjoining municipalities as well as local service organisations and agencies. Table 1 provides a comparison of these services.

Table 1: Comparison of services provided for young people

Services/Programs	Loddon Shire Council	Adjoining Councils	Community Organisations	Agencies
Community Houses	Yes	Yes		
Youth Council	In progress	Yes		
Parenting programs	Yes	Yes		Yes
Driver education	Yes	Yes		
Social media platforms for young people or youth website		Yes	Yes	
Youth space		Yes		
Youth week		Yes		
LLEN (Local Learning and Employment Network)	Yes	Yes		
Young makers market		Yes		
Youth awards		Yes		
Youth grants		Yes		
Teenage school holiday program		Yes		
Skills training (Barista)		Yes		Yes
Road Trip Project (driving behaviours and hazard awareness)		Yes		
Pool parties	Yes			
Freeza	Yes	Yes		
Mentoring programs		Yes	Yes	Yes
Creative arts program	Yes			
Drug and alcohol support			Yes	Yes
Mental health support				Yes

14

4.4.1 Local service providers

To understand the service gaps and possible barriers for young people it is important to engage with services and community groups that have a relationship with and currently service the young people of Loddon. Fourteen different providers of service to young people undertook the guided questionnaire consisting of sporting clubs, mental health service providers, employment services and other community groups. The highest representation of services was for mental health, sports, physical health and employment services.

Diagram 8 shows the age group each service provider felt they were supporting.

Diagram 8: Age groups supported by providers
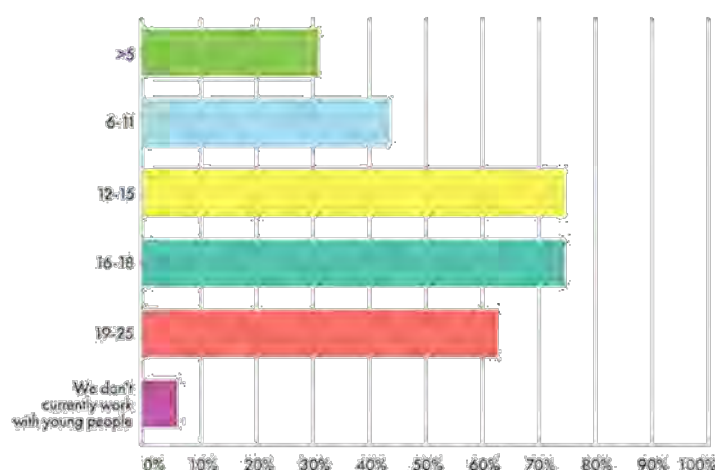
Diagram 8 shows the largest age bracket supported was for young people aged 12-15 and 16-18 years of age. Young people of Loddon are being serviced by an array of different service providers, sporting groups and organisations. There were many benefits for young people from various providers:

- sporting clubs: physical activity, skill development, sportsmanship, teamwork, building connections, activity to participate in (training, game day).
- organisations: counselling, mentoring of students, independent living skills, training in areas such as first aid, responsible service of alcohol, food handling course, forklift licence, and skill-based preparation for the workforce.

Organisations identified things their service was doing currently to indirectly or directly improve areas they felt were concerns or challenges. Organisations were already providing several services to directly help with concerns facing young people. Organisations were targeting the following areas:

- sports clubs are providing training and education around drugs and alcohol.
- parenting programs, for parents to develop skills to support their children.
- utilisation of positive role models and mentors to work alongside young people and offer support such as transportation to appointments.
- providing fundamental skills for young people to live independently in the future, encouraging and financing training and supporting and advocating for further education.
- providing employment skills and opportunities for work experience, self-employment opportunities and encouraging long term thinking around education and employment.

15

5   KEY ISSUES AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE

In our discussions with young people, their families and the service providers consistent themes emerged related to the challenges and difficulties young people experience while living in Loddon. Please refer to the Community Engagement Summary Report to view the full analysis of the consultation program. Challenges young people experience while living in Loddon are themed below by subject matter.

Access to education

Young people in local schools find it difficult to pursue emerging and mainstream careers while living in Loddon. Throughout the consultation we heard that young people need to travel to study a specialist subject not offered within their secondary school, and travel to Bendigo, Geelong or Melbourne to pursue Higher Education opportunities. More common was that young people were unable to study their desired subjects.

Access to employment

Underemployment and unemployment was an issue that many young people faced, many young people were working within the same cafés and supermarkets however were working short shifts.

Young people also faced intergenerational expectations from parents that they would eventually take over farms, continue their parent's legacy.

Travelling in and around Loddon

Most young people were reliant on their families, older siblings or friends with drivers licence to access the Shire. Not only is this access to pursue recreational activities, it is also needed to pursue employment, education and to access healthcare and other support services.

Young people living in areas serviced by public transport, were reliant on the infrequent bus service that often required them to leave the Shire early and return after dark, even if it was for a short medical appointment.

Young people without access to public transport, or a friend or family member with a car, took to hitchhiking; targeting tradies leaving the area early in the morning as their safest option to travel to Bendigo.

Young people with a driver's licence noted the pressure they experienced. The expectation that they will drive their friends and take more than the permitted number of passengers, despite being aware of the safety and licensing risks.

Access to reliable and confidential healthcare

The majority of young people needed a qualified person to speak to, to talk through immediate concerns related to their sexual or mental health; their concerns with school, their body or relationships with a close friend or family member; other young people needed a trusted advisor to help them to piece together their future, to make choices related to their career or education, or to understand their finances better or the practicalities of leaving home.

Many wanted the ease of finding out this information for themselves, and either did not have access to the internet or did not know where to start.

Connection to friends and family

Loss of connection was something that many young people faced or were experiencing, this included those still living in Loddon, as well as those returning home periodically to play in a local football match or come home to visit family.

16

Many young people were concerned with their ability to make friends, to start a relationship and eventually start their own family. Concerned that continuing to live in Loddon would prevent them from having these opportunities. With a continual outmigration of young people, this concern is quite plausible especially for young people that feel leaving Loddon is not a possibility.

Those that have left the Shire were finding the connection to family and friends difficult to maintain; as the pressure in their new lives/communities increased some were finding it more difficult to return home as regularly. Siting a lack of phone and internet services (cost and reliability of service) as well as the lack of physical activities and areas to socialise; weekend sports were really the only opportunity.

Access to the world

Majority of the young people living in the Shire have issues with internet in terms of connection and speed. The lack of WiFi throughout the Shire creates barriers across many levels of young people's lives; connection to family and friends through apps such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat; ability to complete homework; access to health information and support; knowledge about opportunities and upcoming events. Many young people feel frustrated by the limited internet provisions in Loddon.

Access to entertainment

Young people felt the need for a space in their community to 'hang out'. A place they could come together to study, spend time together away from school, play ping pong or table tennis and learn new skills. Many young people reported coming together at the local pub to spend time with each other, many especially in Pyramid Hill look forward to turning 13 so they can gain entry.

Young people in the Shire want to have things to do with their spare time, many suggestions related to recreational spaces; skate parks, outdoor gyms, motorcycle tracks. The love young people in Loddon have for the outdoors compliments these suggestions, many spoke of travelling to Cohuna skatepark and nearby dirt bike tracks.

(I love) "the strength of our small, close knit friendly community." (aged 16)

The lack of local shopping options was a concern many young people shared. Missed opportunities for friends to shop together due to the distances needed to travel and the high price of shipping were issues the young people of Loddon faced. felt they needed to travel to Bendigo or Echuca to purchase groceries supermarkets could not provide them with the fresh produce and variety

Young people as the local they need.

Many would welcome an upgrade to the local supermarkets they currently have, fresh produce and variety to take away the fortnightly commute for groceries.

Being equipped for change

The future was an apparent concern for many young people. Facing concerns of career choice, obtaining employment and 'good' jobs, the need to move away to receive further education or employment opportunities. Young people of Loddon need support in their transition from Loddon life to living in a city; skills to set them up for success in perusing further education, being gainfully employed and living away from the family unit. By implementing transitional programs and support young people of Loddon can take their next step into adulthood with confidence and self-reliance.

17

Connection to the land

Young people of Loddon have a connection to their environment; their farms, rivers, lakes, mountains, bush, countryside, and their backyard paddocks. This is where they feel at peace, in their quiet, safe community.

Many young people spoke of their responsibility to their family farms; consisting of the many chores they carry out both before and after school and the family vision of their role for the future; managing the land. Young people of Loddon have concerns around climate change and the impacts of pollution, floods, fire and drought and the resulting effects on the land.

The love and desire to live in the local area was very evident, however young people faced the large questions around their future; employment, opportunities to purchase homes, meet partners and build family lives in the Shire.

6   INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE, IS THE WAY WE WORK

Involving young people in the current actions of Council is beneficial for young people both now and in the future, as they continue to be residents of the Shire or return to enjoy their contributions made as a young person.

In addition to shaping their communities, there are many benefits for young people to be engaged and involved in Council processes, these include:

- feeling valued by their community
- providing a platform for young people to express their needs and ideas
- increasing a young person's confidence to be involved in their community
- increasing knowledge and understanding of government and decision making processes
- exposure to new career or educational opportunities.

Likewise, for Council, there are also many advantages of engaging with young people, these include:

- informed decision making with the consideration of all of their residents
- increased quality of services based on needs and feedback from young people
- building of trust and transparency
- creating higher participation from young people in their community.

Through the collaboration with young people policies, actions, programs and services will be more relevant, providing the best service possible to the young residents of the Loddon Shire. Consideration of young people across Council's activities will also ensure that programs delivered are cost effective and maximise Council's limited financial resources.

Considering the impact on young people across all of Council's services, requires all staff to adopt a philosophy to planning and better engaging young people in the design and implementation of projects.

These opportunities include:

- youth advocacy: opportunity to participate in the decision making, this includes involvement within the planning and design phase as well activation and implementation.
- building connections: opportunity to build a connection to Loddon as a place but also with the people of Loddon.
- growth and development of young people: opportunities for young people to gain further education and training.
- promotion of health and wellbeing: opportunities for young people to gain confidence and self-esteem through contribution to their community.

18

Some examples of this philosophy are presented for consideration.

Example Project 1: Implementation of a streetscape master plan
- Consider the design: design places for young people to connect with each other through public seating, play spaces (that are age appropriate) and provide access to free WiFi.
- Engage young designers: allow young people to build connection and sense of achievement through direct involvement in the project.
- Provide opportunities for learning: public engagement, project management or practical skills of implementing the streetscape provide exposure to new pathways.

Example Project 2: Provision for childcare services
- Consider needs of young families: when completing a business case for childcare services, consider the needs of young parents requiring day care to enable them to run a business from home, engage in further education online or partake in employment.
- Engage young parents in the design of services: ask young families what they will and wouldn't use; understanding what types of services are beneficial will ensure Council is maximising its investment and resources.

Many projects within Council's direct control can have a stronger connection to young people and deliver on the needs of young people.

7   THE FUTURE OF LODDON SHIRE

We know retaining and providing support for our young people is a powerful exercise in strengthening the whole community. An energised community of young people can make endless contributions to rural economies, community groups, local governance and provision of services; young people that choose to stay in Loddon Shire may also help to raise the next generation of Loddon residents.

7.1   Vision

While recognising that young people have the freedom to design a lifestyle suited to their needs and aspirations, Loddon Shire Council wants young people to feel supported, and have the ability to lead a healthy and fulfilling life while living in Loddon, and return easily if they decide to leave. We know they are the future of the Shire.

A further decline in Loddon's population is likely to have a moderate impact on Council's future ability to deliver services, or its ability to attract families and young professionals.

Our vison is therefore for:

Young people living in Loddon Shire have access to opportunities to lead a healthy life, where they are ready to learn and confident and supported in their future. If they do move away they are encouraged and supported to move back to Loddon to raise their own families.

7.2   Our strategic objectives

To achieve our vision for Loddon Shire and realise the opportunities and mitigate the challenges with young people we need to:

7.2.1   Strategic objective 1: Strengthen connections

A young person with strong family connections, strong personal connections and strong connections within the community is going to be set up for success. Loddon Shire Council will work to provide opportunities to establish, strengthen and support these connections to ensure young people have strong ties to the Loddon Shire.

19

7.2.2   Strategic objective 2: Consider young people in all we do

Loddon Shire Council will not only consider the direct impact on young people across all of Council's services, it will adopt a philosophy to ensure young people are involved and considered in the planning, design and implementation of projects. Consideration of young people across Council's activities will also ensure that programs delivered are cost effective and maximise Council's limited financial resources.

7.2.3   Strategic objective 3: Equip young people for change

Young people have the freedom to design a lifestyle suited to their needs and aspirations, we want young people to feel equipped to handle future changes and challenges that will come in choosing and designing their future lifestyle. This means ensuring that young people feel supported while living in the Shire and encouraged to pursue possibilities.

7.2.4   Strategic objective 4: Provide engaging experiences

Young people living in Loddon enjoy the many benefits offered by a rural setting; they enjoy the wide open spaces, safe communities and the freedom to explore natural areas. While their basic needs also provided, there are some needs that are not provided for in Loddon. Council will work to provide access to these experiences and opportunities to enjoy a full and engaging lifestyle.

7.3   Strategic principles

Use these strategic principles to make decisions about services and programs to support young people, particularly larger decisions that will likely have an impact on the resourcing or funding of the department.

These principles define the way Loddon Shire Council will work in the future and are considered in more detail below:

Diagram 9: Strategic principles
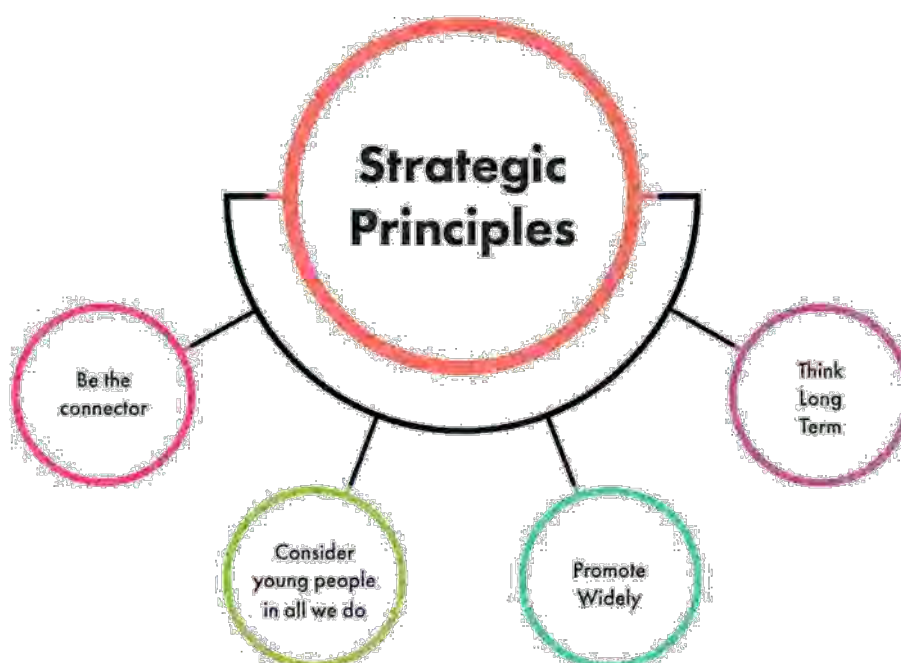
7.3.1   Be a connector

Council may not be able to directly deliver all of the actions and initiatives within this strategy; it can however bring together many services and organisations that are directly working with young people. Ways to put this principle into action everyday:

- Sharing the data and key findings collected as part of this strategy.
- Bringing together service providers, agencies and organisation to present 'launch' this strategy.
- Continue to speak with and partner with relevant agencies when planning and implementing projects and actions.

7.3.2   Build relationships with young people /Consider young people in all we do

The young people of Loddon are a valuable resource to the Shire, as they are the experts in their own lives. They are best placed to provide feedback and solutions about the issues that affect them and their communities. There are benefits for both young people and Council staff when young people have a voice in the planning and decision processes.

Ensure young people are considered in every Council project, consider how young people are affected by the project.

7.3.3   Promote widely

Council needs to promote the services and programs offered not only by Council but also by other service providers. Young people will not hunt for information and as a result Council needs to ensure information is readily available.

Ways to put this principle into action everyday:

- advertise programs and services available for young people of Loddon on the Shire website.
- create stronger social media linkages for young people in the Shire to advertise and promote services, programs and opportunities for young people in the Shire.
- utilise schools and sporting clubs to advertise events and programs for young people.

7.3.4   Think long term

Loddon Shire Council needs to think long term when implementing programs or resources for the young people of Loddon; ensuring the programs and resources are viable and sustainable long term. Trust needs to be built between Council and young people so that when Council offers a program it is maintained and built upon rather than discontinued, leaving young people believing that positive change is fleeting. Ways to put this principle into action everyday:

- evaluate programs at planning levels to consider the viability and sustainability; implement checklist such as, where will this program be in 6 months, 12 months, 2 years; how long will the funding last, is this the best use of current funding, what are the running costs to maintain this program?
- set programs up for success by ensuring they meet the needs of young people; young people have provided evidence based data to support the need for the program or service.

21

8 ACTION PLAN

With so many ideas and opportunities to better support young people, all with seemingly competing urgency, this section recommends an approach for bringing about the changes desired for young people living in, or returning to Loddon.

The approach is based on implementing actions that will have the greatest benefit overall for young people, their families and the community at large. Therefore actions that help to achieve each of the objectives are considered higher than the other actions.

Table 2: Loddon Youth Strategy Action Plan

Strategic objective 1: Strengthen connections

Action	Strategic Objective 1 Strengthen Connections	Strategic Objective 2 Consider young people in all we do	Strategic Objective 3 Equip young people for change	Strategic Objective 4 Provide engaging experiences	Funding of actions	Priority
1.1 Create a business case for the provision of free WiFi in Council owned facilities. Explore the possibility of extending this into privately owned facilities for a lower cost (businesses, sporting facilities) to expand the reach for young people.	•	•	•	•	Within existing resources Secure funding to support this action	High
1.2 Continue to strengthen the current L2P Program to reduce waiting times and bring together Loddon's older and younger residents with a community run, learn to drive program.	•		•	•	Partner to secure funding to support this action	High
1.3 Investigate a mentoring program that facilitates opportunities for young people to be involved in the community and to explore different employment and volunteering opportunities.	•		•	•	Partner within existing resources	Low

22

Strategic objective 2: Consider young people in all we do

Action	Strategic Objective 1 Strengthen Connections	Strategic Objective 2 Consider young people in all we do	Strategic Objective 3 Equip young people for change	Strategic Objective 4 Provide engaging experiences	Funding of actions	Priority
2.1 Co-design with young people youth-friendly public spaces within the proposed new community centre in Pyramid Hill, with activities and spaces for young people to use after school and on the weekends.	•	•	•	•	Partner within existing resources	High
2.2 Co-design with young people the design of youth-friendly public spaces as part of the streetscape masterplans and facility upgrades (with consideration of youth spaces such as pump parks, outdoor gyms and areas where young people can ride their bikes or picnic).	•	•	•	•	Delivered within project planning processes	High
2.3 Work with young people to establish (or review existing) policy and procedure for Council staff that supports the involvement of younger people when planning projects.	•	•	•		Secure funding to support this action	Medium
2.4 Develop a youth engagement protocol to support Councillors and staff to use when engaging or consulting with young people	•	•	•		Within existing resources	Medium
2.5 Facilitate and participate in a sub-regional youth network (agencies) to undertake collaborative planning and identify shared or value add program delivery options.	•	•	•		Within existing resources	Medium

23

Strategic objective 3: Equip young people for change

Action	Strategic Objective 1 Strengthen Connections	Strategic Objective 2 Consider young people in all we do	Strategic Objective 3 Equip young people for change	Strategic Objective 4 Provide engaging experiences	Funding of actions	Priority
3.1 Seek funding to resource an internal role within Council with a particular focus on mental health, health promotion and education transition: • establish communication channels that are relevant to young people • coordinate data sharing between services, schools and Council • support collaborative environment for local services and schools to deliver on emerging priorities for young people (particularly bullying, career selection and transition, mental and physical health, things to do for young people, and youth-friendly public places and spaces) • support engagement with young people across Council's projects • provide input into any education or training needs analysis and • apply for external grants and funding to support Council and partners to deliver on emerging priorities.	•	•	•	•	Secure funding to support this action	High
3.2 Advocate for an expansion of the Doctors in Schools program to be delivered in all Loddon secondary schools.		•	•		Within existing resources	Medium

24

Strategic objective 4: Provide engaging experiences

Action	Strategic Objective 1 Strengthen Connections	Strategic Objective 2 Consider young people in all we do	Strategic Objective 3 Equip young people for change	Strategic Objective 4 Provide engaging experiences	Funding of actions	Priority
4.1 Investigate options to reduce public liability insurance costs for community groups and clubs wanting to provide services for young people however find the insurance requirements restrictive (e.g. men's shed).	•			•	Within existing resources	Medium
4.2 Continue to bid for and advocate for events and activities to come to Loddon Shire, particularly events that provide entertainment or employment opportunities for young people (sporting events, concerts, music events).	•			•	Within existing resources	Medium
4.3 Investigate the level of interest from young people in participating in local area Youth Development Networks (such as previous Young Farmers model) which could include: • learning, fellowship and entertainment opportunities • promotion of local employment/career opportunities • combined network opportunities					Partner within existing resources	

25

Action	Strategic Objective 1 Strengthen Connections	Strategic Objective 2 Consider young people in all we do	Strategic Objective 3 Equip young people for change	Strategic Objective 4 Provide engaging experiences	Funding of actions	Priority
4.4 Continue to advocate for improved broadband and telecommunications services to: • support young people who live in households without broadband connections in rural areas • enable services to deliver digital outreach services (eg skype consultations) • enable people to access study and work opportunities such as online courses.			•	•	Within existing resources	Medium

9 COSTING AND FUNDING OF ACTIONS

This Youth Strategy will inform the development of annual operational plans that will identify activities, responsible and participating teams, measurable outcomes, costs and timing for each project undertaken within the year.

The funding of actions section in the previous tables indicate what will be required to support delivery of the identified action . It is the intention that each project be scoped and costed as part of the planning process. Council staff will identify potential funding sources to support the implementation / delivery of the scoped projects.

10 MAKING THIS HAPPEN

Delivery of the actions and initiatives within this strategy will require a coordinated response and for Loddon Shire Council to partner with agencies and service providers that are working closely with young people.

Engagement on this project has generated interest and awareness of the Loddon Shire Youth Strategy. Goodwill has been created between the Council and the young people of Loddon their parents and guardians, and the service organisations and agencies that support young people.

26

10.1 Using Council's many roles to create change

Loddon Shire Council will need to use its many roles if it is to bring about the required change to ensure its young people feel supported, and have the ability to lead a healthy and fulfilling life while living in Loddon, or return easily if they decide to leave.

- **Deliver** – Council is responsible for managing and delivering a range of services, programs, buildings and infrastructure to support community health and wellbeing.
- **Plan** - Council is a planning authority that implements planning controls to achieve positive social, economic and environmental outcomes. Council also carries out internal projects and program planning to guide and target actions that support community health and wellbeing.
- **Advocate** - Council has a responsibility on behalf of the community to promote their needs and aspirations, and recommend preferred courses of action to state and federal levels of government, statutory authorities and other sectors.
- **Partner** - Council works together with interested people, groups and stakeholders for the greatest benefit to the community.
- **Lead** - Council provides leadership by identifying opportunities and challenges to address the needs and hopes of the community, and make decisions which align with long-term strategic plans.
- **Inform and involve** - Council makes accessible information available to the whole community on matters of public and personal interest. It actively consults with the community and provides opportunities to be included in Council's decision making.

10.2 Partner with service providers and agencies

Loddon Shire Council is unable to bring about the positive change for young people alone, the successful implementation of this strategy requires the support of service providers and agencies work in this space. Here are some ways Loddon Shire Council will leverage its relationships and connection to these agencies:

- Continue the conversation: thank the participants and organisations that participated in the project. We will consider ways to recognise their involvement and ensure their continued involvement in the implementation of this strategy.

- Share data collected: As a Council we have invested financial and human resources into the collection and analysis of this data. We will openly share the Engagement Summary Report and the raw engagement findings with the wider community.

10.3 Engaging with young people in the future

When planning future engagement programs that affect young people, we will continue to take a place-based approach to engaging young people; that means continuing to go directly to them.

27

Loddon Shire Youth Strategy 2019
Engagement Summary

August 2019

Prepared by Conversation Caravan

Executive Summary

Conversation Caravan was engaged by Loddon Shire Council to carry out research and engagement to prepare its youth strategy. The Youth Strategy 2019 – 25 will guide Council's investment and services provided to best support young people and their families, particularly the planning, development and delivery of Youth programs and infrastructure throughout the municipality

This report presents the methodology and findings of the engagement with organisations, service providers, young people, their parents, guardians and Council staff.

Conversation Caravan undertook to plan and facilitate a creative arts school activity, an interview with Anglicare, an online guided question kit, and five pop ups; two at local schools, two in the community at sporting matches and one with Council staff.

The engagement program ran between Friday 26th of June and Saturday 17th of August 2019.

Stakeholder Group 1 Agencies and Organisations
Service organisations and agencies spoke of the major issues confronting young people in the Loddon Shire. There were several areas of concern facing young people. There were two key themes identified:

Access
- to transport, there is only an am and pm service and as a result, young people hitchhike.
- to affordable and attainable housing, there is discrimination towards young people in the rental market and lack of social housing.
- of learning to drive programs, the waiting lists are too long.
- to healthcare, accessibility and confidentiality, especially mental health services.
- to phone and internet services, the cost and reliability of service in remote areas.
- to services; with the dearth of services and the lack of outreach in the Loddon area.

Their future
- Education transition, leaving home, assimilation into a larger community.
- Intergenerational expectations from parents to take over farms, continue parent's legacy.
- Underemployment and unemployment.

Quick fixes
Suggestions from organisations and service providers around quick fixes the Loddon Shire could do to make Loddon a better place for young people identified the following ideas:
- Youth Spaces, including skate parks, half basketball courts, also youth groups providing a safe space for young people and the offering of arts, and music.

2

- Hiring of youth workers, and the appointment of a youth council, enabling young people to have a voice.
- Incentives for local businesses to hire young people.
- Alternative school programs, providing opportunities other than mainstream schooling.
- School holiday events for young people to alleviate boredom and encourage socialisation.
- Improve access to public transport, buses more often and to more places.
- Increase specific youth services in the Loddon Shire, such as counselling.
- Provide crisis accommodation for young people.

Stakeholder Group 2 Young People
The top three areas of change that young people would make about living in Loddon were

- the internet, connection, speed and free WIFI
- Recreational and youth spaces
- local shops, including upgrading the local supermarket

What are young people's worries now and for their future self?

The immediate worries facing young people are around

- Success at School (passing, homework, failure)
- Close friendships and relationship
- Future decisions (university, family, work)
- Environment (farm life, climate)
- Finding love (starting a family)
- Loneliness (death, friends leaving)
- Living life to full (not same level of opportunity, education, activities).

Concerns around ATAR scores, tests and not passing year 12, employment and attaining their dream job or a 'good' job and once again their future in terms of being successful, needing to move away for education or career, failing and the uncertainty of life.

Stakeholder Group 3 Parents
There were many areas seen as challenging or hard about raising a young person in the Loddon Shire. The main themes were around
- employment
- connection
- transport
- activities for young people
- education
- services and facilities

Making it easier to raise a young person in Loddon

3

There were several ideas around what would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon. The themes were consistent with the things parents and guardians found hardest when raising a young person in Loddon

- connection
- population
- facilities and services
- youth activities and events
- transport
- local area opportunities.

Stakeholder Group 4 Council Staff

Council staff members all provided responses around a Youth Council when asked around ensuring the voice of young people is included across all policies and strategies. The activation of a Youth Council, with governance training provided for young people and the implementation of the Youth Council software the Council currently owns.

Opportunities for young people

There were many areas in which the Council staff felt they could provide opportunities for young people within their existing work plans such as

- volunteering
- work experience and skill-based training
- activities
- engaging and consulting
- careers in Council
- mentoring programs

Next Steps

Engagement on this project has generated interest and awareness of the Loddon Shire Youth Strategy. Goodwill has been created between the Council and the young people of Loddon their parents and guardians, and the service organisations and agencies that support young people; as a courtesy and to build on the momentum created by this project Conversation Caravan recommends the following next steps:

- Thank the participants for participating in the project and for sharing their ideas and inspirations.
- Consider sharing this Engagement Summary Report and the raw engagement findings with the wider community.
- When planning future engagement programs that affect young people, continue to take a place-based approach to engaging young people; that means continue to go to them.
- Participants have shared their ideas and their feedback through the engagement process and are waiting for what happens next. Tell them, share what you are working on, dates of the Council Meeting and keep them informed with next steps; this is known in engagement as 'closing the loop'.

4

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

Table of Contents

<p align="right">5</p>

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

1. Introduction

Conversation Caravan was engaged by Loddon Shire Council to carry out research and engagement to prepare its youth strategy. The Youth Strategy 2019 – 25 will guide Council's investment and services provided to best support young people and their families, particularly the planning, development and delivery of Youth programs and infrastructure throughout the municipality.

As part of this, Conversation Caravan

- Audited and evaluated existing services and programs offered by the Loddon Shire.
- Carried out a comprehensive review of policies and strategies.
- Reviewed neighbouring Councils highlighting the services they offer to the young people of their shire.
- Delivered a series of engagement activities with service providers, community organisations and young people living in and using Loddon's services.

This report summarises the feedback and data collected through our conversations with the community and from the formal engagement sessions. It provides the evidence for the Youth Strategy 2019- 2025.

1.1 Research and Engagement Methodology

The first step was for Conversation Caravan to have a thorough understanding of the political, social and environmental context to ensure the recommendations consider what is happening at a local and national level.

An engagement plan was developed to plan an approach suited to the context and requirements of this project. Please refer to Appendix 1 to view the engagement plan.

The following engagement activities were delivered as part of this project, all engagement activities, except where stated were with Loddon residents or community members:

- **Creative youth activity**: young people were engaged to help design a brand and influence a logo to be utilised by the project and for online use. The young people explored words, colours, images and sounds they associate with Loddon, what they wanted Loddon to be when it grew up, what needed fixing or changing in Loddon and what worried them now and for their future self. This activity was designed to give Conversation Caravan an initial insight into the young people's views of Loddon and Loddon life and areas to further explore within the engagement process.
- **Interview with Anglicare**: Conversation Caravan attended a staff meeting with Anglicare Bendigo and ran an activity to understand the major issues confronting young people in Loddon, and gaps in understanding that could be considered during the broader consultation program.
- **Online Survey**: the survey was designed for services to have a conversation within their organisation or community group about the needs of young people living in Loddon. Service providers, sporting clubs, community groups and schools located within the Loddon Shire and Bendigo region were invited to participate.

6

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

- **Community Pop Ups:** Conversation Caravan delivered four pop ups between Friday 26th and Saturday 17th of August 2019. There were two school pop ups held at Pyramid Hill College and Loddon P-12 College. The two community pop ups were held at Bridgewater Oval, which was hosting football and netball games between Bridgewater and Newbridge and Donaldson Park, which was hosting football, netball and hockey games between Wedderburn and Boort.
- **Internal Loddon Shire Council Pop Up:** Council officers were given the opportunity to experience the engagement process and understand how data was collected. It also encouraged staff to consider their role in opportunities to support young people living in the Loddon Shire.

2. Participation

Conversation Caravan invited participation to the pop up's through the advertising with flyers, Instagram and Facebook posts, communication with principals, sporting clubs and Council staff. Phone calls were made with follow up emails to over 100 organisations and service providers located in Loddon and the Bendigo region for the guided online questionnaire. The creative arts activity was an event utilised to start the engagement process whilst young people from the Shire were visiting Melbourne.

2.1 Participation across the engagement activities

Table 1 shows the participation across the engagement activities shown by age groups and provides a total number of participants per activity. A total of 457 people participated throughout the engagement process; this number is probably higher due to the online guided questionnaire being undertaken by groups rather than individuals.

Table 1 - Participation across the engagement activities

Activity	11 years and under	12 - 14 years	15-17 years	18-21 years	22-25 years	25 years and above	Total
Creative Art Activity		22					22
Anglicare Interview					2	4	6
Online Guided Questionnaire							14
Pyramid Hill College Pop up		25	19		2		46
East Loddon P-12 Pop up	58	32	25	4		4	123
Bridgewater Community Pop up	13	5	27	5	4	3	57

7

Internal Council Staff Workshop			1	1		35	37
Wedderburn Community Pop up	41	29	27	12	8	35	152

2.2 Barriers to participating

An important part of our practice is to reflect upon where and how engagement with our target stakeholders could be improved; to improve both our practice and provide more information about your stakeholders for future engagement programs run by Council.

- **Reaching older students:** The year 11 classes at Loddon P-12 College were on an excursion, so were unable to participate in the engagement. Ensuring next time, the senior levels are in attendance.
- **Sport a large priority:** The community pop ups were held at sporting events and therefore some young people not involved in sport may not have had the opportunity to participate in the engagement activities. Next time limit the community pop ups to one and do further school pop ups to engage young people at school as opposed to at their interests, which may not be shared would be a consideration.
- **Lack of online traction:** the Instagram photo competition did not have the traction Conversation Caravan expected, this may have been due to the Council not having strong social media connection within the Shire, or possibly the difficulties some young people face with Wi-Fi and internet connection as discovered during the consultation.
- **Lack of parent understanding:** mid-way through the consultation we recognised there was no way or parents or carers to participate and have their say. We included a parent and guardian activity to understand what pressures parents or guardians are facing raising a young person in Loddon and what support or resources they need to raise a healthy, fulfilled young person in Loddon. This was included as part of the staff pop up and the last community pop up.
- **Young people from Bendigo:** a large proportion of non-Loddon Shire residents play in the Newbridge team due to low local numbers of football and netball participation and the supplement of players from Bendigo. The football game in Wedderburn was much better in terms of attendance and participation from local Loddon young people.

2.3 Overcoming barriers

Identifying engagement barriers and assessing how they can be overcome is an integral part of the process. This process helps us to identify any gaps in the data and ensure all possible efforts have been made to reach the target audience. Conversation Caravan made the following adjustments to the engagement plan to ensure as many engagement barriers were overcome as possible.

- **Making engaging look even cooler:** the age bracket of young people from 18-25 became a focus for the community pop ups, due to the limitation of participation of

8

those ages at the school pop ups. The incentive provided at the Wedderburn community pop up was changed from canteen vouchers and fruit to a friendly club rivalry with the highest participating club receiving $300 towards resources for their club to try and target that demographic better.

- **Working closely with the pop-up hosts:** the effective communication between the sporting club presidents and Conversation Caravan ensured the event was advertised and momentum was created for the friendly rivalry between the two sporting clubs; to increase participation and to advertise the $300 incentive for the winning team. Flyers, text for social media and consistent contact with the sporting clubs contributed to the increased participation from the target age groups.

9

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

3. Engagement Findings

This section summarises the key findings and themes from the engagement. Feedback collected is reported under the engagement activity.

3.1 Creative Schools Activity

Young people were engaged to help design a brand and influence a logo to be utilised by the project and for online use. The young people explored words, colours, images and sounds they associate with Loddon, what they wanted Loddon to be when it grew up, what needed fixing or changing in Loddon and what worried them now and for their future self. This activity was designed to give Conversation Caravan an initial insight into the young people's views of Loddon and Loddon life and areas to further explore within the engagement process.

Refer to Appendix 1 to view the activity plan explaining the engagement activities used.

What words, colours, images or sounds would you use to describe living in Loddon?

- The colour 'green' was spoken of, this was related to the natural aspects of the place, the mountains, rivers, wildlife, national parks, farming and flora and fauna.
- Respondents felt Loddon was a quiet place, a friendly, welcoming place, a peaceful place where they felt safe and familiar, not only with the area but with people living there.
- Sport was a common theme mentioned with various sporting clubs and opportunities to be active, for example bike riding and have 'freedom' to explore and have adventures.
- Boring was another word used to describe Loddon, with mention of there being 'nothing to do'.
- The 'horrible' roads and lack of service towers were also mentioned, when describing Loddon.

When Loddon Grows Up... and what needs fixing?

- Internet service being better and the option of Wi-Fi being free in Loddon, and the introduction of more service towers, this was a recurring theme.
- Transport was a key theme identified by respondents. More public transport was a major need. Trains and options of free transport for young people to Bendigo in holidays was reported.
- Better infrastructure for Loddon was mentioned in the form of more streetlights, safer and better roads, better public toilets, access to drinking water in public spaces, and not having power cuts.
- It was reported that better shopping facilities were a key theme, not only better supermarkets but also more variety of shops in general.
- More engagement for young people in various forms from youth groups and kid's clubs (which provide opportunities such as cooking classes), to skate parks, public

10

arts spaces, such as graffiti walls and silo art, outdoor fitness opportunities and also fitness classes for teenagers, as well as more parks in the Loddon Shire.

- Educational opportunities were also mentioned with opportunities for different learning styles and increased subject choice.

What are your worries, now or in the future?

- Worries of the respondents ranged from global issues such as natural disasters, global warming, war, terrorism, pollution, to concerns of dying young, the death of family or friends or crimes against them such as burglary or home invasion.
- Education and job opportunities were also other worries of some people, deriving from the population decreasing in Loddon, not having enough education to get the job they want or not having the opportunity to undertake that work in Loddon.

What makes you happy?

There were many things making the respondents happy, most stemmed from connection to family, friends and their community. Sport played a large role in their happiness, the physical component of playing sport but also the team environment, the sports club culture and having something to belong to.

Animals were also connected to a young person's happiness, family pets but also their cattle and horses they enjoy riding. Food also made several young people happy.

3.2 Interview with Anglicare

Conversation Caravan attended a staff meeting with Anglicare Bendigo and ran an activity to understand the major issues confronting young people in Loddon, and gaps in understanding that could be considered during the broader consultation program.

Issues confronting young people

Anglicare staff spoke of the major issues confronting young people in the Loddon Shire. There were several areas of concern facing young people. There were two key themes identified:

Access

- to transport, there is only an am and pm service and as a result, young people hitchhike.
- to affordable and attainable housing, there is discrimination towards young people in the rental market and lack of social housing.
- of learning to drive programs, the waiting lists are too long.
- to healthcare, accessibility and confidentiality, especially mental health services.
- to phone and internet services, the cost and reliability of service in remote areas.
- to services; with the dearth of services and the lack of outreach in the Loddon area.

Their future

- Education transition, leaving home, assimilation into a larger community.

11

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

- Intergenerational expectations from parents to take over farms, continue parent's legacy.
- Underemployment and unemployment.

3.3 Loddon Shire Youth Strategy Guided Question Kit

The Loddon Shire Youth Strategy Guided question kit was designed for services to have a conversation within their organisation or community group about the needs of young people living in Loddon. Service providers, sporting clubs, community groups and schools located within the Loddon Shire and Bendigo region were invited to participate, a list of over one hundred received phone calls and were emailed the Loddon Shire Youth Strategy Guided question kit.

Refer to Appendix 2 to view guided question kit.

The online guided questionnaire was undertaken by 14 different providers of service to young people, consisting of sporting clubs, mental health service providers, employment services and other community groups. The highest representation of services was for mental health, sports, physical health and employment services.

Diagram 1 shows the age group each service provider felt they were supporting.

Diagram 1 Age Groups Supported by Providers
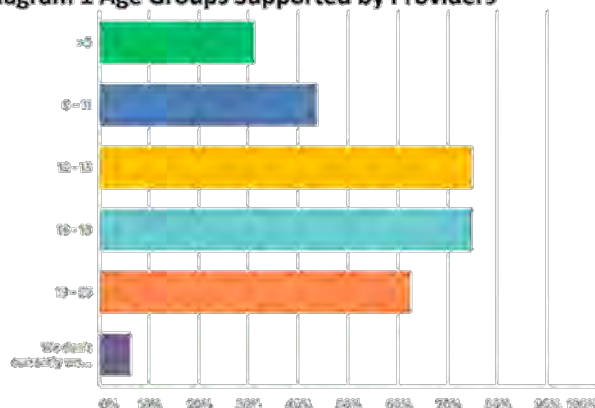
Diagram 1 shows the largest age bracket supported was for young people aged 12-15 and 16-18 years of age.

The Young people serviced through the organisations identified with being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (56.25%), a person with a disability (50%), English as a second language (31.25%), LGBT+ (43.75%).

Location of Services

Out of the 14 organisations who participated in the online questionnaire, 12 (85%) were located within the Loddon Shire and 2 (15%) were from the adjourning Council areas.

12

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

Services offered

The organisations surveyed offered an array of services to the young people of Loddon. Sports clubs provided young people with physical activity, skill development, sportsmanship, teamwork and connection. The sports club also provides training and game days which gives the young people things to do, participate in.

Other organisations offered counselling, mentoring of students, independent living skills, training in areas such as first aid, responsible service of alcohol, food handling course, forklift licence, and skill-based preparation for the workforce.

Immediate concerns facing young people

Organisations were asked about the top three immediate concerns facing young people living in the Loddon Shire. The top three areas of immediate concern reported from organisations were moving freely and safely around the community (62.50%), and unemployment and access to support and services (56.25%). Underemployment sat just below (50%) followed by sexual identity and acceptance and breakdown of family life (37.5%), financial security (25%), access to technology, access to education, preparedness for living independently (18.75%) and other noted as connecting their interests with their community group (12.5%).

Diagram 2 shows the top three immediate concerns facing young people living in the Loddon Shire.

Diagram 2 Top 3 Immediate concerns facing young people

13
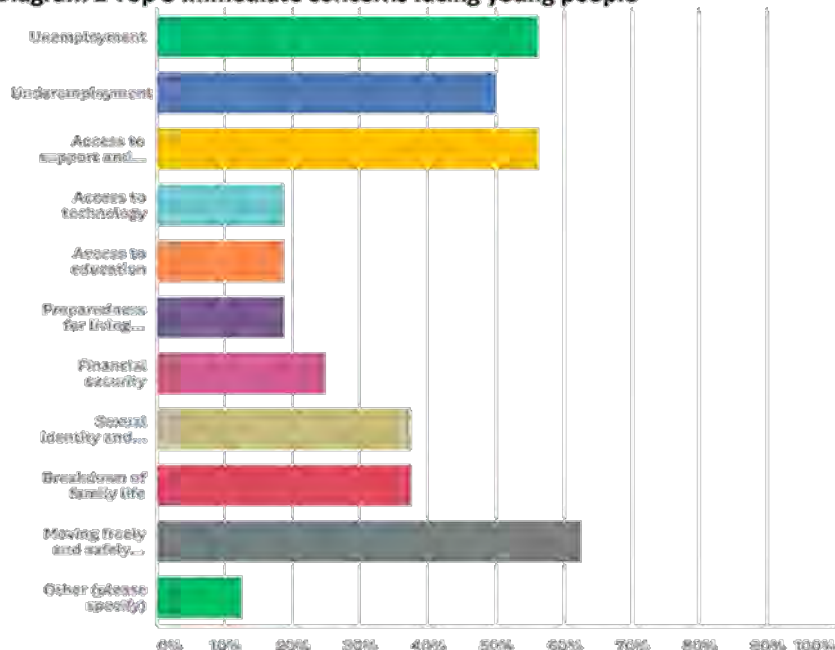
Effects on young people

Organisations were asked about the effects the immediate concerns they rated had on young people. There were several effects on the young people as a result of their immediate concerns which can be categorised under the following areas:

Access
- to events and opportunities in their community.
- to services such as mental health.
- to transport contributing to social isolation and lack of access to services outside of the Shire.
- to information on available options for young people.
- to employment opportunities and as a result inability to remain at home, creating a service dependent cycle.

Lack of direction and boredom
- Boredom, resulting in 'distractions' behaviour by young people.
- Disempowered and disengaged and not aligned to their broader community.
- Alcohol abuse as a result of boredom.

The immediate concerns reported were seen by organisations as impacting every aspect of a young person's life. Financial strain on families was also noted, due to climatic conditions.

The next ten years

The scope was widened, and organisations were asked to identify what they thought the major challenges would be for young people living in the Loddon Shire in the next ten years.

The following areas were seen as the major challenges young people living in the Loddon Shire would be facing in the next ten years:
- Employment and generational poverty.
- Housing opportunities, opportunities are limited currently, and the concern is growing, without appropriate land development for the future, the concern will keep growing.
- Cost of living versus wages, financial independence, especially with lack of employment opportunities.
- Lack of services and access to services, with services already seen as 'stretched'.
- Lack of transport, impacting access for young people; to services, employment, education.
- Access to drug and alcohol.
- Access to sporting opportunities and things for young people to do, the changing work structures and parental support offered to young people to be involved in activities such as sport.

What services are providing to young people

14

Organisations were asked to identify things their service is doing currently to indirectly or directly improve these concerns or challenges. Organisations were already providing several services to directly help with concerns facing young people. Organisations were targeting the following areas:

- Sports clubs are providing training and education around drugs and alcohol.
- Parenting programs, for parents to develop skills to support their children.
- Utilisation of positive role models and mentors to work alongside young people and offer support such as transportation to appointments.
- Providing fundamental skills for young people to live independently in the future, encouraging and financing training and supporting and advocating for further education.
- Providing employment skills and opportunities for work experience, self-employment opportunities and encouraging long term thinking around education and employment.

Resources needed to support young people

Organisations were asked to explore; with the right resources, the role their organisation could play in supporting young people living in the Loddon Shire.

Increased staff and funding were a common theme amongst organisations, allowing the provision of a larger service scope and greater services offered to young people. The suggestions of a holiday and after school program for adolescents as well as a young mother's group and supported playgroup, providing an opportunity for connection for young people and a safe space. The implementation of health and fitness services for young people, life skills building and employment and education support. Increased service provision including outreach in the Loddon Shire to help overcome lack of access due to transport.

Big ideas for making Loddon a better place for young people

Organisations had many big ideas on how to make Loddon an even better place for young people. The suggestions were themed around two key areas: families and opportunities for young people.

Families
- Engaging young people earlier through working with families was a recommendation, organisations were working with 16-22 years old where they believed the 'damage is already done'.
- Encouraging parents to be more engaged with their children and providing transport to sports games, employment opportunities, and teaching them to drive.
- Provide cheap events for families to attend that are drug and alcohol free.

15

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

Opportunities for young people

- Providing art and music opportunities for young people, especially those who aren't involved in local sports.
- Youth Hubs in each town where young people feel safe and connected, with access to technology (computers, internet) so they can stay connected with education, employment and socialisation.
- Local facilities such as skate parks and half basketball courts to reduce boredom and encourage activity.
- Tafe and University courses run face to face out of community houses.
- Opportunities for young people to participate, be valued and demonstrate their capacity, through youth councils, employment and education opportunities.
- Greater guidance and mentoring for young people, to increase connection, and create positivity for their future.
- Providing better services for young people, especially those dealing with complex issues.
- The provision of a better transport system, enabling socialisation, work opportunities, shopping opportunities and access to services.

The Quick fixes

Suggestions around quick fixes the Loddon Shire could do to make Loddon a better place for young people identified the following ideas:

- Youth Spaces, including skate parks, half basketball courts, also youth groups providing a safe space for young people and the offering of arts, and music.
- Hiring of youth workers, and the appointment of a youth council, enabling young people to have a voice.
- Incentives for local businesses to hire young people.
- Alternative school programs, providing opportunities other than mainstream schooling.
- School holiday events for young people to alleviate boredom and encourage socialisation.
- Improve access to public transport, buses more often and to more places.
- Increase specific youth services in the Loddon Shire, such as counselling.
- Provide crisis accommodation for young people.

When Loddon grows up

Organisations were asked to complete the sentence when Loddon grows up, it will be. There were key words identified; happy, inclusive, healthy, opportunities. There were statements such as "place with everything everyone needs without having to leave' and an 'inclusive, healthy, happy place to live'. Another was 'place with a vibrant community that is inclusive and provide opportunities for all ages.'

16

3.3 School Pop ups

Conversation Caravan delivered pop ups at Pyramid Hill College and Loddon P-12 College on Friday 26th of July 2019. A breakfast of bacon and egg muffins and pancakes was put on Pyramid Hill to encourage participation and place incentive on engaging with the activities. At Loddon P-12 College canteen voucher with a value of $2 were provided as an incentive for young people to engage in the activities. Both schools were provided with fresh fruit.

To reach a cross-section of the community of young people aged 12 to 25 years and their parents or guardians, and enable meaningful conversations to occur, a place-based approach to community engagement was undertaken with the aim of speaking with young people and their parents and guardians as they go about their daily lives; attending school or their weekend sport.

Refer to Appendix 3 to view the activity plan explaining the engagement activities used.

The engagement activities focused on understanding:

- **Demographic data**: a young person's age and their location of residence (Loddon Shire or outside Loddon Shire).
- **The one thing they would change about Loddon**: to understand what matters to the young people of the Loddon Shire, what resources, facilities, opportunities do they need to live a healthy, fulfilling life in Loddon? Example options were given based on data from the creative schools' art activity; transport, support, street lighting, free Wi-Fi, more shops, learn to drive, fitness classes for young people, street art, education, youth council, safer roads, public facilities, faster internet, opportunities to learn and youth spaces.
- **What makes them happy**: to understand what is important for young people for their happiness.
- **What they love about living in Loddon**: to understand the strengths of Loddon for young people and what is working and can be built upon.
- **What their worries were now and for their future self**: to understand current challenges and stresses impacting their life in Loddon both now and for their future self.

This information is presented under these key question areas.

17

Demographic Breakdown of school pop ups

A total of 169 students were engaged at the school pop ups. 46 (27%) were from Pyramid Hill College and 123 (73%) were from the Loddon P-12 College. This data represents the populations of the schools, with Pyramid Hill having a total of 99 students and Loddon P-12 College having 236 students.

Ages	Pyramid Hill College	Loddon P-12 College
11 and under		58
12 - 14	25	32
15-17	19	25
18-21		4
22-25		
25+	2	4

58 (34%) of participants were aged 11 years and under, 57 (34%) were aged 12 to 14 years of age, 44 (26%) were aged 15-17 years of age, 4 (2%) were aged 18 to 21 years and 6 (4%) were aged over 25 years of age.

Change

There were several key areas identified that the participants would like to change about living in Loddon. The themes report areas of change that would help young people to live a healthy and fulfilled life in Loddon.

Shops

- More shops and shopping options
- Sports shops, EB games, a bakery and clothing shops
- Improvement to the local IGA.

Currently families travel to Echuca and Bendigo to do their shopping from groceries to clothes and shoes. The absence of local shops take away opportunities for young people to shop by themselves or with friends as they rely on a parent or guardian to drive them into another larger town to access shops.

There was a lot of feedback around the local supermarket, the quality of food, the hygiene practices and availability of items. There was strong support for improvements to the local supermarket.

Wi-Fi and Internet

- Fast and reliable internet
- Free Wi-Fi in public places.

18

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

Wi-Fi and internet connection and speed were well represented on what young people would like to change. Young people reported internet dropping out for as much as a week a month, impacting the ability to do homework and connect with friends and family. A lot of students mentioned relying on data from their phone which came at a large cost to parents.

Fitness classes and gym
- Fitness classes for young people, especially for those who don't participate in team sport
- Outdoor gyms
- Gym.

There was strong support for fitness classes for young people and the addition of a gym for young people to access. An outdoor gym was also a well-represented suggestion for change. Young people who were not participating in team sport still wanted the opportunity to stay fit and healthy and those who were participating in team sports wanted access to gyms and fitness classes as part of their training.

Facilities - Infrastructure
- More public facilities.
- Upgraded toilet facilities.
- Water taps available around town.
- Better and safer roads.
- More footpaths around Pyramid Hill and on both sides of the road.

It was reported that young people would change the standard of local facilities such as the toilets and implement water taps to fill their drink bottles. The footpaths would increase their feeling of safety of having a 'place to walk' off the road. Fixing roads and making roads safer was also a change many young people would make to the Loddon Shire.

Facilities - Recreational
- Year-round swimming pool
- Park upgrades
- Skate Parks
- Sporting facilities upgrades
- Bike tracks
- Walking tracks
- Community gardens
- More and bigger playgrounds
- Bike centre with tools and a bike pump on trails
- Motorbike track
- Dog parks
- Gardens, parks and picnic areas.

It is clear that the young people of Loddon like their recreational activities and as a result they would make changes to the recreational facilities in the area. The skate park was commonly reported as a change they would make, referring to the skatepark in Cohuna as a

19

favourite place to visit and spend time. The implementation of motorbike and bike tracks was also a repeated suggestion of change. Parks, community reserves to picnic was also a recommendation where young people could spend time with their friends.

Community Events
- Public and community events
- Events to bring people together.

There were suggestions of increasing community events to bring people together. Young people want to feel connected to their community and peers.

Education and Employment
- All VCE classes should be offered
- More career options for students
- University
- More opportunities for work in the Loddon Shire.

It was reported that a university in the Loddon Shire would help reduce the number of young people moving away as currently "people come back to see family and that's it". More VCE subject offered would also be a change made by many. Students currently do some VCE subjects by correspondence, but they do not have face to face contact and the teacher usually takes a few hours to get back to them if they have a question.

Youth Spaces and Opportunities
- More youth spaces
- Public art spaces and art classes
- Places to hang out
- Photography course
- Cinema.

Young people reported they do not really have places to study together or hang out. They spoke of a place to study together, hang out, play pool or ping pong and have opportunities to learn new skills such as first aid or work ready skills. One young person spoke of using a wall at the rear of her property to express herself through art but would love the opportunity to collaborate with other artists and share skills.

Transport and Learn to Drive
- Increased public transport, destinations and service
- Assistance in learning to drive
- Need more teacher for student driving.

Young people spoke of the bus heading to Bendigo at 1030am and returning at 3.30pm as the current bus service available. Young people spoke of transport being the key to connect and meet up with friends and to go into Bendigo to shop. Young people find it hard to get access to the learn to drive programs due to the availability of drivers to support the program.

20

Sport
- More netball games
- A Gaga Pit
- Junior footy
- Self-defence classes
- Girls Footy.

Sport is an important part of the lives of many young people living in the Shire. Girls spoke of the desire to play football within the Loddon Shire. Her parents currently drive her to Ballarat to play in a league but after this year she will not be able to continue due to the time commitments and cost of petrol. She spoke of 'football being a part of me, I have played for seven years and soon I won't be able to play, as I can't play here'.

Access to support
- Northern District Centre need better (local) offices for people to have counselling.

Young people advised that services needed to have local offices so they could access the support they needed.

What makes the young people of Loddon happy?
There were several things that made the students happy and were important for their happiness. Many areas were identified for their happiness; family and friends, connection to community, animals, sports, school, the local area, music and food.

Friends and family
- Friends.
- Family.
- Living close to friends.
- Spending time with friends.
- Having friends of different kinds.

Connections to friends and family is an important part of a young person's life. Friends play a large role of a young person's happiness.

Connection to community
- Good community.
- Supportive community that everyone is involved in.
- Seeing people and making sure they are ok.
- Everyone knows each other and gets along.

Young people spoke to their connection with the community. One young person spoke of their community doing things that other communities don't do, such as Christmas carols.

Animals
- Pets and farm animals,

21

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

- Spending time with pets,
- Riding horses,
- Turtles.

Animals are a big part of young people's lives and account for a part of their happiness. The stock on the farm and their pets played a role in their happiness.

Sport
- Sport in general - physical and social aspects
- Netball, football, basketball, cricket, self-defence classes
- Riding my bike
- Outdoor activities, mountain biking, canoeing, hiking.

Sport plays a large role in young people's lives and in turn their happiness. They love the physical side of playing but also the team members and camaraderie.

The local area
- Having great sights to see
- The river
- The land and working on the farm.

Many young people of Loddon have a connection to their environment, whether their farm of their natural surroundings of rivers, mountains and open space.

School
- Having fun teachers
- Positive learning environments
- Coming to school with friends
- School in general and learning.

Music
- Abba
- Music programs such as cool schools
- Piano
- Music in general.

What do young people love about living in Loddon?
There were many ideas about what young people love about living in Loddon. They can be broken down into the categories of connections, sport, nature, and animals.

Connections to family, friends and the community
- Close community.
- Friends and family.

22

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

- The strength of our small, close, friendly community.
- Knowing most people in the community.
- The supportive farming community.
- The loving school community.
- Small schools.

Sport
- Sport teams
- Netball, football, basketball competitions
- Club culture
- Swimming pool.

Nature, Farmland and Surrounds
- That you can do anything in the paddocks
- The space
- Freedom and quietness
- Being able to adventure
- The bush
- Living on a farm
- Mt Hope
- Breathing fresh air
- Nan and Pop's farm
- Sunsets.

Animals
- Horses
- Dingoes
- Animals in general.

Others
- Communication online - Facebook, Instagram, snapchat
- Pyramid Hill festival
- School.

23

Worries for now and their future self

Participants were asked about their worries they have now and the worries they have for their future self. Their worries for now were themed under the following areas; school, connections, future, self, family, community and world. Some young people reported having no current worries for themselves.

School
- School in general
- School marks
- Failing school
- Exams
- Getting a good ATAR
- Handing in homework late
- Limited subject selection and it impacting future employment opportunities
- Not be happy about school scores
- Not getting into university
- Failing university and not obtaining my dream job.

Connections
- Ruining my closest friendships
- Having no friends
- Losing my friends
- Losing a loved one or family member
- No places to hang out after school.

Future
- Never getting a job
- Buying a house, the location and debt involved
- Failure
- Future in general.

Self
- Dying
- Being dumb or lonely
- Injuring myself through sport, recurring injuries
- Not knowing what I want to do with my life
- Not being successful enough
- Not having opportunities when I am older
- When I feel upset, having someone to talk to
- Not being able to enjoy my life like I want to
- People being mean to me
- Being left
- Getting a boyfriend
- Not getting pregnant
- Nightmares
- Monster

24

- The dark
- That one day we won't have a netball team
- I don't like heights.

Family
- My family getting (becoming) poor
- My little brother leaving home before me because I am not rich enough
- My brother's health
- My animals getting hurt, dying.

Community
- Robbers and criminals
- Safety at home
- Snakes and unwanted guests
- Less people (reduction in population)
- Farming future
- No chaplain
- Sexist people
- Our community not getting a gym
- No rugby in the area.

World
- Global warming.

The students worried for their future self were described under the themes of school, connections, their future, self, family, community and world. There were also some young people who had no worries for their future self.

School
- ATAR results
- Year 12
- Not passing year 12
- Year 10
- Having tests
- University in general and not getting into university.

Connections
- No friends
- Friends moving away
- Having friends
- Staying in touch with my family (if I have to leave for employment)
- That I will forever be lonely
- Maintaining friendships
- Roblox and Fortnight.

Future

25

- Finding employment
- Not knowing what to do after school
- Job making decisions.

Self
- Being too dependant
- No self-love
- Becoming homeless
- Being single for life / Not finding someone
- Knowing what I want in life / Not knowing what to do with my life
- Becoming a failure
- Staying alive/dying
- Never being successful
- Getting a job
- Money
- Not having children
- Not being good enough
- Being able to drive a car.

Family
- All animals dying.

Community
- No Wi-Fi
- Littering
- Accidents
- Taxi's to get around
- Decreasing sporting opportunities
- Not being able to play netball.

World
- Global warming
- Pollution
- World War 3
- Humans wrecking the planet
- Habitat.
- Being in a drought
- Being taken over by technology.

26

3.3 Community Pop ups

Conversation Caravan delivered two pop ups, one at the Bridgewater football oval on Saturday 27th of July 2019 and one at Donaldson Park on Saturday 17th of August 2019.

Refer to Appendix 4 to view the activity plan and the engagement activities used.

This also included a parent and guardian activity to understand what pressures parents or guardians are facing raising a young person in Loddon and what support or resources they need to raise a healthy, fulfilled young person in Loddon.

Demographic Breakdown of Community pop ups

A total of 174 (83%) Loddon Shire young people and 35 (17%) outside of Loddon Shire residents were engaged at the community pop up, totalling 209 young people.

Age	Loddon residents	Non-Loddon residents
Under 11	46	8
12-14	31	3
15-17	40	14
18-21	14	3
22-25	8	4
25+	35	3

What do young people want to change?

There were several themes identified around changes the young people would make to Loddon, or an area similar to Loddon. This data highlighted things of importance to young people to live a healthy and fulfilling life in Loddon.

Shops
- Takeaway shops such as McDonalds and KFC.
- Better supermarkets
- Implementation of a shopping centre
- Reopen shops
- More shops found in cities
- More shops for school supplies such as Kmart and Target
- Clothing shops.

Facilities
- Better public toilets (modernised)
- Better street lighting
- Better/upgraded playgrounds
- Public sporting facilities (skate parks, basketball half courts, water parks)
- Recreational facilities
- Bring back the Men's shed for under 18's
- Hospital (create jobs, keep families).

Internet

27

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

- Free Wi-Fi
- Better internet speed
- Better internet connection
- Better phone service.

Safer Roads
- Better serviced roads
- Less potholes
- Speed limits enforced with speed cameras
- Implementation of speed bumps and signage around school zones.

Transport
- More frequent and increased destination of public transport
- Faster way to get to Bendigo
- More driving instructors for young people needed to accrue 120 hours of driving.

Internet
- Free public Wi-Fi
- Better internet speed and connection
- Better phone service.

Education and Employment
- More high schools in the area
- Increased education options and information regarding courses.
- More employment opportunities for young people
- A university in Loddon
- Guest speakers for young people to learn new skills (Past residents coming back and speaking about current life and accomplishments, health promotion, drink driver education, nutrition)
- Increased environmental awareness
- Transitional skills and life skills (injury prevention).

Community
- Increased local and community events
- Increase in population; increasing people, friendship opportunities
- More colour in the area; brighten up Loddon.
- Promotion of food opportunities; gastro tourism.
- Major events (such as when Hamish and Andy coming to Wedderburn).

Recreational Opportunities
- Art classes and an opportunity for street art.
- Four-wheel drive track, where you can drive without a licence
- Basketball courts
- Improved Hockey facilities (Astroturf)
- Improved football ovals (re seeded)
- Opportunities to learn new skills; arts, sports, cooking.

28

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

- Trap shooting field and game events.

What makes the young people of Loddon happy?

The young people who engaged in this activity had the opportunity to advise what is important for their happiness. This was broken down into three key areas; self, family and friends and community.

There were many things connected to self when feeling happy. Playing sport was a huge contributor to happiness, as well as being in open space or on a farm, getting out and about and having the freedom of speech; being able to speak their mind and feeling heard, a feeling they did not experience in busier areas.

Family and friends also played a large role in the happiness of young people. Being around friends, having fun with mates and spending time with family were all noted as things that made young people happy.

A sense of community, the feel of a small town and the culture of the local sporting club they belonged to, rated high on a young person's happiness.

The varied hobbies of young people contributed to their happiness and reflected their different personalities; clay shooting, cooking, skating, gymnastics, motorbike riding, riding horses, camping and playing online games.

What do young people love about Loddon?

There were four main areas that identified what young people love about living in Loddon; relating to areas around themselves, their family and friends, their community and recreation.

Feeling their voice was heard was something young people loved about living in Loddon. Their connection to family, friends and their family history in Loddon were all things they loved and valued about living in Loddon. The people in their communities, the familiarity, the helpfulness, the support when faced with tragedy; when a family's house burnt down.

The young people of Loddon loved the sense of community they experience, the peacefulness and quietness as well as the feeling of being safe in their community. They love the community events they participate in such as Christmas carols and their proximity to the local shops and schools.

What are young people worried about?

Participants were asked about their worries they have now and the worries they have for their future self. Worries now were aligned under the topics of self, safety, community, education, and world. Some reported having no worries for their current self.

Self

- Not having places to hang out
- Lack of population, reducing opportunities for friendships of the same age

29

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

- Running out of food.
- Not fitting in.
- Social scene dropping off during summer.
- Money, and trying to save money.
- Being bullied, both in school and community settings and how they are treated.
- Personal skills, such as time management, transitional skills for the future.

Safety
- Highways near primary schools
- Security.

Community
- People moving to Bendigo (larger towns).
- Loss of local employment and therefore demise of town.
- The menu at the pub.
- More shops.

Education
- Getting a bad ATAR
- School
- Transport to school
- High school
- School progression
- Workload.

World
- Pollution
- Global warming
- Water bottles in the ocean
- Environment (damage to environment)
- Plastic pollution.

The worries concerning young people for the future were also depicted under categories of self, community, education, employment and there were also a number who had no worries for their future, one because they had landed an apprenticeship.

Community
- That some towns aren't developing.
- The Loddon Valley league will stop and there will be no sports.
- To not be able to continue sport at Bridgewater.
- Having enough people living in Loddon to have a community.
- The population moving away to get jobs (Loddon dying in a sense).
- Lack of hospital causing separation of families with medical needs.
- Not being prepared for a natural disaster (bush fire).

Education/Employment

30

- Not having the chance to get the job I want.
- Not having a good job.
- Not getting the education I want.
- Limited jobs in area of study I choose.
- Employment opportunities.
- Sustainable employment.
- Failing school/university.
- High school.

Self
- Failing at life.
- Having a baby.
- Paying bills.
- Not fitting in.
- Low amount of money.
- Not getting enough sleep.
- Not being smart enough.
- That I don't know what I am going to do in the future.
- Cost of living versus wages.
- Ability to obtain licence.
- Being self-sufficient in the future.

What do parents and guardians feel is needed?
Parents and guardians were asked to respond to the questions:
- What is the hardest part about raising a young person in Loddon?
- What would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon?

There were many areas seen as challenging or hard about raising a young person in the Loddon Shire. The main themes were around employment, activities for young people, education, transport, technology and balancing modern life as a parent/guardian.
- **Employment Opportunities:** many parents and guardians reported that there are no employment opportunities for young people in the Shire; jobs for young people now or in their future.
- **Activities and events for young people:** the lack of activities and events for young people, that aren't sport related in the Shire, is a difficulty for parents and guardians; concerns young people don't have anything to do.
- **Subject selection:** there was significant feedback around the limited subjects offered at their children's schools; minimal choices due to the size of the school.
- **Transport and distance:** transport is difficult for many, the amount of travel required to provide opportunities for their young person to participate in sport or in activities not offered in the Shire; the distance from supermarkets and doctors for afterhours service.
- **Understanding technology:** parents and guardians are not knowledgeable regarding the technology young people are utilising; creating fear of the unknown.
- **Positive influence:** the reduction of successful positive role models in the community aged between 20 – 25 years due to outmigration.

31

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

- **Life balance for parents and guardian:** the non-standard work hours and growing employment and life demands on adults takes away time from parents and guardian to spend time with their children and provide opportunities for them such as driving lessons.

There were several ideas around what would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon, many relating to what makes it hard to raise a young person in Loddon.

- **Youth Spaces:** the implementation of youth spaces for young people to 'hang out'; skate parks, outdoor gym, water parks and mountain bike parks to name a few offered suggestions from parents and guardians.
- **Youth Activities:** creating opportunities for young people other than sport; cooking, dancing, arts and music programs. The collaboration between towns to provide these less popular activities to increase participation numbers and ensure viability.
- **Youth Events:** providing young people with events such as outdoor cinemas, fun runs and regatta events, with different towns taking turns to host events. Parents and guardians felt these events will help keep young people connected to the Loddon Shire and their community.
- **Transport / opportunities for carpooling:** the provision of community buses to help young people access opportunities in the Shire, and local Shires such as Bendigo. The creation of opportunities for carpooling to increase opportunities for young people across the Shire.
- **Service delivery:** the delivery of services such as childcare, holiday programs and mental health services in the Loddon Shire.
- **Increasing local population:** the reduced population impacts a lot of areas for young people; smaller schools; impacting educational and friendship opportunities, reduced local business; minimises youth employment opportunities, lack of young people to participate; puts local sporting teams at risk.

32

3.4 Internal Loddon Shire Council Staff Pop Up

Council officers were given the opportunity to experience the engagement process and understand how data was collected. It also encouraged staff to consider their role in opportunities to support young people living in the Loddon Shire.

Refer to Appendix 5 to view the activity plan and the engagement activities used.

Some of the activities presented the ideas and concerns young people have shared and the other activities collected data on opportunities for the Council to support young people in the Shire.

There were four questions asked to Council members in the internal staff Council workshop:

- **How do we ensure the voice of young people is included across all policies and strategies?** To understand the ways young people can be supported to have a voice regarding Council policies and strategies and what roles staff members will play in this process.
  What ways can we provide more opportunities for young people within our existing work plans? To understand how opportunities for young people can be incorporated into current work plans, the role staff play in Council to further support young people and to identify what staff are passionate about in their roles and how young people can be integrated into their area of work.
- **How will you address some of the worries of young people of Loddon?** To understand what changes can be made to address the concerns of young people in Loddon and what role the staff members can have in this process.
- **What will you start doing now based on this feedback?** To understand what changes Council staff members will make for the young people of Loddon in their workplace, community and home.

Giving young people a voice

Council staff members all provided responses around a Youth Council when asked around ensuring the voice of young people is included across all policies and strategies. The activation of a Youth Council, with governance training provided for young people and the implementation of the Youth Council software the Council currently owns.

Providing more opportunities for young people within existing work plans

There were many areas in which the Council staff felt they could provide opportunities for young people within their existing work plans:

- **Providing young people volunteering opportunities:** providing training for young people to obtain volunteer positions within their communities.
- **Work experience and skill-based training:** the creation of work experience placements for young people within the Council, and the sourcing of funding to support local businesses to train young people and build young people's skill set for their future.

33

- **Increasing activities offered to young people:** supporting the provision of a youth group, partnering with organisations to invest and provide youth activities and the implementation of a holiday program and youth events.
- **Involving young people:** engaging and consulting young people when developing Council plans and strategies.
- **Highlighting Council careers:** building relationships between Council and schools to showcase what a career in Council looks like, identify employment opportunities and pathways for young people to work for Council after school.
- **Focusing on mental health and bullying and harassment training:** promoting and advocating for mental health awareness training for young people and rolling out bullying and harassment training at schools and in the community.
- **Supporting mentoring in the Shire:** the collaboration between Council staff and schools with the MATES program, and encouraging and equipping older people, not just parents to mentor young people.
- **Partnering:** working with groups in Bendigo to help with funding and participation numbers to offer programs such as the Kokoda track program offered by Mallee Accommodation Support Program (MASP).

Addressing the worries of young people

Council staff members were asked about the ways in which they will address some of the worries of the young people in Loddon. There were several suggestions on how this could be undertaken:

- **Setting up young people for future success:** investing in youth engagement speakers such as Nathan Hulls and Melinda Tankard-Reist, providing transitional opportunities to Melbourne for exposure for employment and educational opportunities, and utilising current Latrobe university students to mentor young people in terms of their educational options.
- **Supporting students:** acquiring volunteer tutors to support students, access to school counselling and providing skills for young people to strengthen their friendships.
- **Providing space for young people:** expanding the hours of the local community houses where young people can 'hang out' and access free Wi-Fi.
- **Building on local business:** the notion of building on what works in terms of business in the local area. Expanding the businesses that thrive in the rural areas to create employment opportunities for the local area.
- **Focus on mental health:** encouraging community members to undertake mental first aid courses and to promote mental health support networks.

34

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

Moving forward with this knowledge

Council staff members were invited to consider what they will start doing now based on the feedback presented to them about the young people of Loddon at the workshop:

- **Building a case for free Wi-Fi:** start working in collaboration to build the case for free Wi-Fi in the Shire.
- **Engaging young people:** ensuring young people are identified as a cohort to engage when planning.
- **Exploring opportunities:** investigating an event with Melinda Tankard-Reist for local schools, to provide ideas for the community house with a youth focus.
- **Working with young people:** initiating programs young people will lead and helping to create youth focused events.

35

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

4. Conclusion

Engagement on this project has generated interest and awareness of the Loddon Shire Youth Strategy. Goodwill has been created between the Council and the young people of Loddon their parents and guardians, and the service organisations and agencies that support young people; as a courtesy and to build on the momentum created by this project Conversation Caravan recommends the following next step:

4.1 Thank participants

Issue a statement thanking participants for participating in the project and for sharing their ideas and aspirations. Thank the participants and organisations that participated in the project. Consider ways to recognise their involvement from the higher levels of the Shire for example: thank you letter from the CEO or Mayor may be appropriate for the organisations. Update the Shire webpage to thank young people and their parents for their contribution and inform them of the process of finalising the youth strategy.

4.2 Share the data

Loddon Shire Council has invested into the collection of this data. Consider sharing this Engagement Summary Report and the raw engagement findings with the wider community. Not everyone can invest in research and this information will be useful in others to provide for young people.

4.3 Engaging with young people in the future

When planning future engagement programs that affect young people, continue to take a place-based approach to engaging young people; that means continue to go directly to them. Take not of the potential barriers to participation and work towards reducing these.

4.4 Closing the loop with participants

Keeping participants informed in engagement and project process is called 'closing the loop' the information loop is currently open. Participants have shared their ideas and their feedback through the engagement process and are waiting for what happens next. Tell them, share what you are working on, dates of the Council Meeting and keep them informed with next steps.

36

5. Appendix

5.1 Appendix 1 Creative Arts School Activity Sheet

Conversation Facilitator Activity Sheet

Loddon Shire Youth Strategy – Blender Studios Creative Student Group **Date:** Tuesday 18 June 2019

Time	Activity	Responsibility	Resources
6:00 pm	**Welcome and Introductions** • Loddon Shire creating a Youth Strategy that will detail how Council and the community can make Loddon an even better place for young people. • Introduce Conversation Caravan – Dennis – Conversation Facilitator and Nathan Graphic Designer.	Dennis Kamau	

37

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

6:05 pm	**Purpose of tonight** · Putting together a project brand, look that will be used to promote the project online and across the Shire. · We want to use this time to create a brief for me to use to create a brand. · What is a brand and identity?	Nathan Jackson	Some examples of brands and identities you have created. To help explain a brand.
6:15 pm	**Q1. What words, colours, images or sounds would you use to describe living in Loddon?** - 10 minutes to write, draw this individually - 10 minutes to share as part of a group discussion. Share is not compulsory invite if anyone wants to share. - Document detail and collect all individual components. - Ask open ended questions to draw out the reasoning behind this "Say more about that?" "What does mean to you?" ***Thank everyone for sharing their views.***	Nathan Jackson	Sheets of paper Markers and pens Holders for pens

38

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

6:25 pm	**Q2. When Loddon Grows Up –** *In Groups of 5 work through the activity sheet.* - Help organise the groups into groups of 4 or 5 people - Encourage groups to read activity sheet and start working through the questions - Prompt discussion if groups are stuck. - 15 minutes to work through the activity - 3 minutes each for each group to present to broader group. - Document detail and collect all individual components. - Ask open ended questions to draw out the reasoning behind this "Say more about that?" "What does mean to you?" **Thank everyone for sharing their views.**	Dennis Kamau	Butchers paper – 5 sheets Markers and pens

39

| 6:55 pm | **Q3 What's missing or needs fixing across the categories?**
 - Consider each category and think is there anything that needs improving or fixing?
 - Provide an example – Getting Around – is it easy for you to get around the area or go to Bendigo? Or does something need fixing?
 - Write the idea or comment on a post it note and stick of on the category?
 - Help young people to write down ideas if needed.
 - 15 minutes for activity. | Dennis Kamau | Conversation Tiles
 Post it notes
 Pens |
| 7:10 pm | **Q4 Closing Activity**
 Explain that it is an individual activity – no sharing required – participants can put their responses in the feedback box.
 - What worries you, now or future?
 - What makes you happy? | Dennis Kamau | Individual Cards (Two Types, Box to Collect Feedback)
 Pens |

40

7:20 pm	**Thank you and Next Steps** - Thank you for your feedback - Your feedback will be used to create the brand and inform the strategy - Conversation Caravan coming out to Loddon in July (schools, football matches) tell your friends, have your say.	Nathan Jackson	

41

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

5.2 Appendix 2 The Loddon Shire Youth Strategy Guided Question Kit

Loddon Shire Youth Strategy Guided Question Kit

This Guided Question Kit is designed for you to have a conversation within your organisation or community group about the needs of young people. Discuss this as part of a regular meeting within your organisation, record your responses online before the 7th of July for inclusion as part of the next phase of the project.

1. What is the name of your group or organisation?

2. What is the primary reason a young person connects with your group or organisation?

Access to education

Employment or support finding employment

Sport and keeping fit

Mental health

Physical health

Sexual health

To reduce tobacco, use or alcohol and drug use

Respite or emergency accommodation

Permanent care or housing

Family violence

Financial support

Drivers education

Work on projects across the community

Learn skills or languages

Social connection and interaction

Transportation across community

Other (please specify)

3. How does your group or organisation support young people in these areas? (programs, services, other)

4. What age groups does your group or organisation primarily support? (select all that apply)

>5

6 – 11

12 - 15

16 - 18

19 - 25

We don't currently work with young people

5. Do any of your young people identify with the following:

Aboriginal or Torres Strait

Person with a disability

English as a second language

LGBT+

Unsure

Other (please specify)

6. Where are you located?

42

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

Within Loddon Shire

Adjoining Council (please specify)

Somewhere else (please specify)

7. What do you consider to be the immediate concerns facing young people living in Loddon Shire? (select your top three)

Unemployment

Underemployment

Access to support and services

Access to technology

Access to education

Preparedness for living independently

Financial security

Sexual identity and acceptance

Breakdown of family life

Moving freely and safely around the community (transport, driving, walking, cycling)

Other (please specify)

8. What effect do you believe (what you've selected above) has on young people?

9. What do you consider to be the major challenges facing young people living in Loddon Shire in the next ten years?

10. Is your group or organisation doing anything that will indirectly or directly improve these concerns or challenges (above)?

11. With the right resources, what role do you think your group or organisation could play in supporting young people living within Loddon Shire?

12. What is your big idea to make Loddon an even better place for young people?

13. What are some quick fixes Loddon Shire Council could do to make Loddon a better place for young people?

14. Complete this sentence: When Loddon Grows Up, it will be a

15. Please provide your best contact details:

- Name
- Company
- City/Town
- Postal Code
- Email Address
- Phone Number

2

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

<u>5.3 Appendix 3 Activity Plan for the School Pop Ups</u>

Duration	Activity	Outcome
30 Seconds	**How old are you? What area do you live in?** Invite young people to place a ball in the tube representing their age. The colour of the ball will represent where they reside.	**Understanding of:** • Age represented • Location represented
5 Minutes	**What do you love best about living in Loddon? What makes you happy?** Invite young people to consider what they love about Loddon or what makes them happy. Invite young people to take their own photo using the Instagram Frame next to what they love about living in Loddon.	**Understanding of:** • The strengths of Loddon for young people. • What is working currently that can be built upon.
7 Minutes	**If you could change one thing about living in Loddon, what would it be? Why?** Invite young people to share what they would change about living in Loddon to improve their experience.	**Understanding of:** • What matters to the young people of the Loddon Shire, what resources, facilities, opportunities do they need to live a healthy, fulfilling life in Loddon? • What young people would change to improve Loddon. • Physical improvements that can be changed in the short term.
4 Minutes	**What is your biggest worry now, and for your future self?** Invite young people to write a note advising of their biggest worry now and/or for their future self.	**Understanding of:** • Current challenges and stresses impacting their life in Loddon both now and for their future self. • What is important to young people for their happiness.

2

5.4 Appendix 4 Activity Plan for the Community Pop Ups

Duration	Activity	Outcome
30 Seconds	**How old are you? What area do you live in?** Invite young people to place a ball in the tube representing their age. The colour of the ball will represent where they reside.	**Understanding of:** Age represented Location represented
5 Minutes	**What do you love best about living in Loddon? What makes you happy?** Invite young people to consider what they love about Loddon or what makes them happy. Invite young people to take their own photo using the Instagram Frame next to what they love about living in Loddon.	**Understanding of:** • The strengths of Loddon for young people. • What is working currently that can be built upon.
7 Minutes	**If you could change one thing about living in Loddon, what would it be? Why?** Invite young people to share what they would change about living in Loddon to improve their experience.	**Understanding of:** • What matters to the young people of the Loddon Shire, what resources, facilities, opportunities do they need to live a healthy, fulfilling life in Loddon? • What young people would change to improve Loddon. • Physical improvements that can be changed in the short term.
4 Minutes	**What is your biggest worry now, and for your future self?** Invite young people to write a note advising of their biggest worry now and/or for their future self.	**Understanding of:** • Current challenges and stresses impacting their life in Loddon both now and for their future self. • What is important to young people for their happiness.

3

3 Minutes	**What is the hardest part about raising a young person in Loddon?** Invite parents or guardians to write down what they find hardest about raising a young person in Loddon.	**Understanding of:** • What pressures parents or guardian are facing raising a young person in Loddon.
5 Minutes	**What would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon?** Invite parents or guardians to write down suggestions of what would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon.	**Understanding of:** • Support or resources parents and guardians need to raise healthy, fulfilled young people in Loddon.

4

5.5 Appendix 5 Activity Plan for the Staff Pop Up

Duration	Activity	Outcome
3 Minutes Participation	**Moving forward, how do we ensure the voice of young people is included across all policies and strategies?** Invite staff members to suggest ideas to ensure young people's voices are heard for future policies and strategies.	Understanding of: • Ways young people can be supported to have a voice regarding Council policies and strategies. (Youth Council) • What roles staff members will play in this process.
4 Minutes Participation	**What ways can we provide more opportunities for young people within our existing work plans?** Invite staff members to provide ideas on how to increase opportunities for young people	Understanding of: • How opportunities for young people can be incorporated into current work plans. • How the role staff play in Council can further support young people. • Tap into what staff are passionate about in their roles and how young people can be integrated into their area of work.
4 Minutes Participation	**How will you address some of the worries of young people of Loddon?**	Understanding of: • What changes can be made to address the concerns of young people in Loddon? • What role the staff members can have in this process.
4 Minutes Participation	**What will you start doing now based on this feedback?**	Understanding of: • What changes Council members will make for the young people of Loddon, in their workplace, community, home?

Staff (Parents) Participation Activities

5

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

Duration	Activity	Outcome
3 Minutes Participation	**What is the hardest part about raising a young person in Loddon?** Invite parents or guardians to write down what they find hardest about raising a young person in Loddon.	**Understanding of:** • What pressures or challenges parents or guardian are facing raising a young person in Loddon.
3 Minutes Participation	**What would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon?** Invite staff members who are parents or guardians to write down suggestions of what would make it easier to raise a young person in Loddon.	**Understanding of:** • Support or resources parents and guardians need to raise healthy, fulfilled young people in Loddon.

6

Conversation Caravan | www.conversationcaravan.com.au | hello@conversationcaravan.com.au

10   INFORMATION REPORTS

10.1   ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN DEFECT RECTIFICATION COMPLIANCE REPORT

File Number: 14/01/022

Author: **Daniel Lloyd, Manager Works**

Authoriser: **Steven Phillips, Director Operations**

Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the road management plan defect rectification compliance report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the second report for the 2019 - 2020 financial year, summarising road network defect rectification compliance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan (RMP).

BACKGROUND

This report is produced quarterly and provides statistical data with respect to the Organisation's performance in managing the road network. Performance is measured through a comparison of actual defect rectification timeframes against requirements specified in the RMP.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Table 1 below provides a summary of the compliance against the schedule of road and street inspection regimes as set in the RMP.

Table 1: Inspection summary report

Quarter 2 (01/10/2019 – 31/12/2019)						
District	**Number of scheduled inspections**	**Number completed by due date**	**Number completed after due date**	**Number not completed**	**Compliance**	**Number of Defects Raised**
Loddon Plains	18	18	0	0	100.0%	610
Loddon Goldfields	22	22	0	0	100.0%	649
Total	**40**	**40**	**0**	**0**	**100.0%**	**1259**

During the second quarter of 2019 – 2020 financial year, 100% of the programmed inspections were completed according to the schedule.

Table 2 below provides a summary of compliance of actual response times for rectification works of defects as detailed in the defect intervention levels and response timetables of the RMP.

Table 2: Defect rectification summary report

District	Number of Defects				Compliant with RMP			
	Adhoc	Requests	Defects from inspections	Total	Yes	No	Not complete	%
Loddon Goldfields	41	13	345	399	399	0	0	100.0%
Loddon Plains	116	7	496	619	614	5	0	99.2%
Shire Wide	58	12	439	509	509	0	0	100.0%
Townscape Services	31	2	47	80	80	0	0	100.0%
Total	**246**	**34**	**1327**	**1607**	**1602**	**5**	**0**	**99.7%**

Quarter 2 (01/10/2019 – 31/12/2019)

Table 2 comprises a summary of defects that have been identified through programed inspections, customer requests and works crews identifying and rectifying defects as they find them, known as adhoc work actions. During the second quarter of 2019 – 2020 financial year, 99.7% of all date imposed defects were completed before their due date. This is 0.3% below the target of 100% set in the RMP.

Table 3 provides a summary of performance against the unsealed road maintenance grading program, defects as identified through programed inspections, customer requests and works crews identifying and rectifying defects as they find them, known as adhoc work actions. The maintenance grading program identifies each road segment by its road hierarchy and grading frequency as detailed in the RMP.

Table 3: Maintenance grading program

District	Number of Grading Work Actions					Compliant with scheduled timeframes			
	Programmed Maintenance Grading	Defects	Requests	Adhoc	Total	Yes	No	Not completed	%
Loddon Goldfields	632	0	3	10	645	645	0	0	100.0%
Loddon Plains	433	2	5	62	502	491	0	11	97.8%
Total	**1065**	**2**	**8**	**72**	**1147**	**1136**	**0**	**11**	**99.0%**

Quarter 2 (01/10/2019 – 31/12/2019)

The data in table 3 indicates that 1136 grading work actions were completed for the second quarter of the 2019 – 2020 financial year. There is no set level of compliance for the maintenance grading program in the RMP.

A graph has been provided in Chart 1 indicating a breakdown of the grading work actions, by road hierarchy and kilometres. The sealed roads section relates to shoulder grading work actions on the Sealed Road network. The gravel road section includes all grading work actions on Gravel Collector and Gravel Access roads. The Gravel Minor and the Formed Road sections relate directly to Council's road hierarchy and show all grading work action on roads within that hierarchy.

Chart 1: Maintenance Grading Program
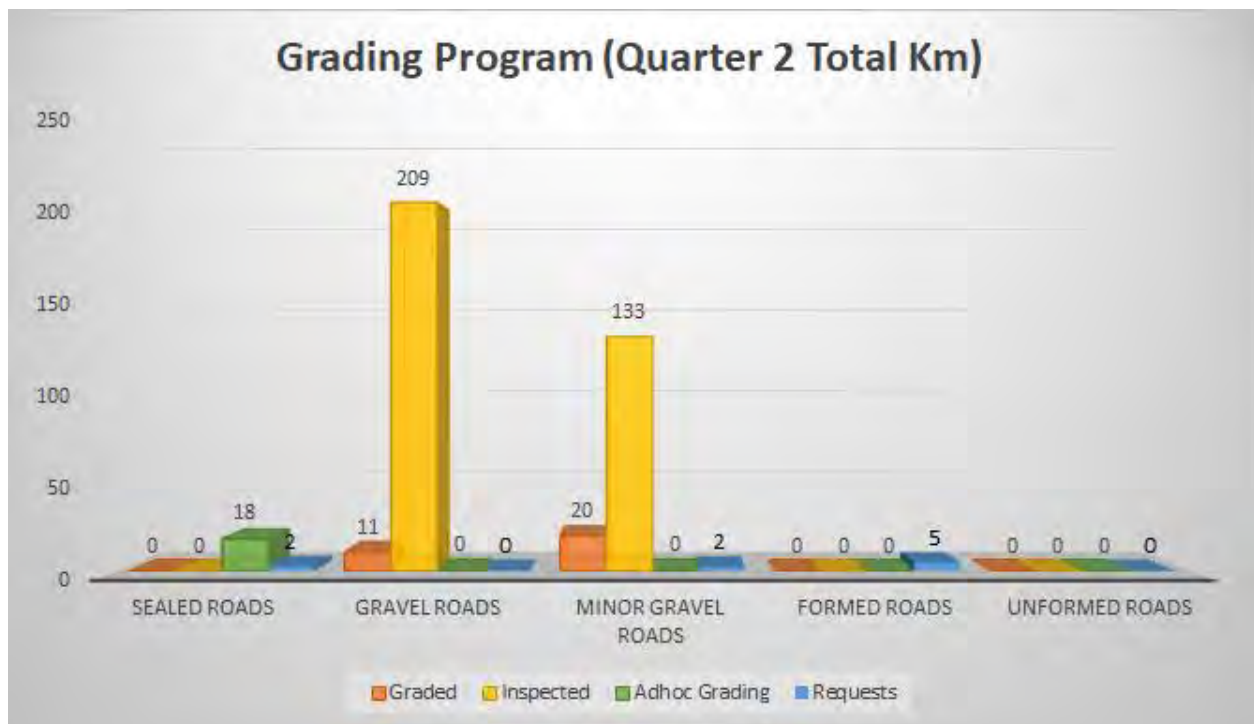
COST/BENEFITS

The year to date actual expenditure to the end of second quarter of 2019 – 2020 financial year of the Local Road Maintenance Program is $3,152,819. The expenditure for the second quarter was $1,447,099.

The benefits to the community in complying with the RMP are that it ensures a safe road network.

RISK ANALYSIS

Repairing 100% of all date imposed defects before their due date limits Council's liability for any claims for damage made against Council.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

No internal or external consultation is required in the formation of this report.

10.2	PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 12/02/001

Author: **Teresa Arnup, Senior Public Health Officer**

Authoriser: **Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance**

Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Public Health activity report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the second report for the 2019-2020 financial year, summarising public health activities within the Development and Compliance Department.

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council is responsible for the administration and enforcement of a number of Acts including the:
- Food Act 1984
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Residential Tenancies Act 1997
- Environment Protection Act 1970
- Tobacco Act 1987.

Council's Public Health officer has regular contact with business operators, community groups, home owners and developers whilst administering the above Acts. Activities undertaken by the staff include inspection of registered premises, the taking of food and water samples, the issuing of septic tank permits and complaint investigations.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Registered Premises

Council undertakes annual inspections of premises that are registered under the Food Act, Public Health and Wellbeing Act and Residential Tenancies Act. Inspections are also undertaken of public swimming pools and of properties that are required to meet the requirements of the Tobacco Act. Table 1 provides a summary of the inspections undertaken during the reporting period.

Table 1: Registered premises inspections

1 October to 31 December 2019		
Governing Legislation	**Inspection Outcome**	**Number of inspections**
Food Premises	Compliant*	38
	Major Non Compliance	2
Health Premises	Compliant*	3
Swimming Pools	Satisfactory	4
	Unsatisfactory	4
Total number of inspections for reporting period		**51**

---

*compliant includes sites that were fully compliant and some sites that required minor actions to become compliant

All unsatisfactory inspections are followed up with the businesses to ensure remedial actions are taken to reach compliance.

Tobacco Act

Council is funded to undertake a set number of Tobacco inspections throughout the year. Most of the inspections are carried out in conjunction with Food Act inspections, however a number of them are non-smoking public outdoor venues such as at kindergartens, schools, play grounds and hospitals. Table 2 summarises the Tobacco Act activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Table 2: Tobacco inspections

1 October to 31 December 2019	
Inspection Type	**Number**
Retailer includes vending machines	4
Indoor Drinking and Dinning Areas	3
Outdoor Drinking and Dinning Areas	5
Public Outdoor Venues	5
Total number of Inspections	**17**

Septic Systems

Table 3 summarises septic system permit applications processed during the reporting period.

Table 3: Septic system permits

1 October to 31 December 2019	
Permit Type	**Number**
Installation or alteration	4
Certificate to use	6
Total Number of Permits	**10**

The average processing time for permits to install or alter is six days.

Table 4 summarises the activities associated with management of septic tank applications and installed systems.

Table 4: Septic system activity

1 October to 31 December 2019	
Activity / Inspection Type	**Number**
Application Inspection	3
Installation Inspection	1
Final Inspection	5
Complaint Inspection	1
Total Number of Inspections	**10**

Public Health Complaints

Council is responsible for the investigation of nuisance complaints under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act. Complaints of nuisance can be complex and time consuming. Table 5 summaries the complaints during the reporting period.

Table 5: Public health complaints

Nature of complaint	Number carried over from previous reporting period	Number received	Number resolved	Number currently pursuing resolution
Food Premises	-	2	1	1
Wastewater	2	2	1	3
Other	-	1	1	-
Total	**2**	**5**	**3**	**4**

1 October to 31 December 2019

Sampling Program

The number of food samples that are to be taken by Council is set annually in the government gazette. The program focuses on the microbiological quality of the food items that are being sampled to ensure that safe food handling practices are being implemented within food premises. The focus is on sampling locally made and sold food products. This approach to the program also assists local businesses in verifying the content on the food label of their products. Food labelling is quite complex and small home businesses benefit by having their labels checked by the analysis.

At the commencement of the swimming season all public pools are assessed for water quality, with water samples taken from each pool. Council maintains five public swimming pools and one pool at a caravan park. There are a varying number of pools at each site with each pool being sampled individually.

Table 6 summaries the sampling program activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Table 6: Sampling program summary

Sample Type	Number	Testing	Outcome	
Food	24	Microbiological	Satisfactory*	14
			Unsatisfactory	0
		Labelling	Satisfactory	0
			Unsatisfactory	2
		Allergen	Satisfactory	2
			Unsatisfactory	8
Swimming Pool	15	Microbiological	Complies	11
			Does not comply	4
Total number of Samples	**39**			

1 October to 31 December 2019

*satisfactory microbiological results include samples that were marginal

A focus of this year's sampling program was allergens; milk free drinks were purchased and tested for milk protein. Unfortunately the failure rate for the samples was significant with 80% of the samples containing milk protein. An education campaign has been conducted with proprietors and resampling will occur in early 2020.

In general all other unsatisfactory samples were followed up with the businesses that produced and/or sold the product including the swimming pools to ensure remedial actions are taken.

Additional samples from the swimming pools that failed were taken in January 2020 and all have now passed.

COST/BENEFITS

The actual expenditure for the second quarter of 2019-2020 financial year of the public health unit activities contained within this report is $31,389

Administration of the Acts that the Public Health officer has responsibility for includes significant field work, with staff regularly in the field engaging with business operators, developers, residents and ratepayers.

This investment increases significantly when compliance issues are identified within registered premises and when complaints are received.

The benefits that stem from this investment include:
- improved public health and safety within registered premises
- improved local amenity
- full implementation by Council of our responsibilities under the various Acts and regulations.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure of Council to adequately administer and enforce the provisions of the applicable legislation would pose the following possible risks:
- the spread of infectious diseases through the community including food poisoning
- a barrier to the new developments and economic growth within Council
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- contamination of the local environment
- failure to meet obligations set within the relevant legislation.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Public Health officer regularly engages with business operators, developers, residents and ratepayers during the administration of the various Acts which can range from annual assessments/inspections to the provision of advice for the processing of septic tank permits. Any business operator, developer, residents or ratepayer that is subject to enforcement action is regularly consulted with during the enforcement process.

10.3	LOCAL LAWS AND PLANNING COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 04/02/012

Author: David Price, Local Laws \ Planning Compliance Officer

Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the local laws and planning compliance activity report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff writing the report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the second report for the 2019-20 financial year, summarising the local law and planning compliance and enforcement actions taken within the Development and Compliance Department. It provides Council with a high level summary for the purpose of monitoring performance within this area.

BACKGROUND

Council is responsible for a range of advisory, compliance and enforcement services to the community and maintains powers under various legislation and Council local laws to enable effective animal management, planning enforcement, local law compliance and fire prevention for community and township amenity.

A number of organisational policies and procedures have been developed, outlining the methodology and circumstances under which Council officers will undertake compliance action. Key areas of focus in respect to compliance action include:

- management of local laws, particularly with respect to unsightly properties
- effective animal management
- assessment of properties for potential fire risk/fire prevention measures
- control of roadside activities, occupation and utilisation
- investigate planning scheme breaches and enforce planning permit conditions
- intervention in public nuisance issues.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Administrative and fire prevention

Table 1 provides a summary of administrative and fire prevention actions undertaken.

Table 1: Administrative and fire prevention activities

Quarter 2 (1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019)				
Activity	**After hours call outs (*)**	**Littering or illegal rubbish dumping**	**Fire prevention notices (^)**	**Local law permits issued**
No. actions	8	4	302	8

(*) Council provides a 24 hour emergency call out service in respect to animal management or local law compliance and enforcement.

(^) Figures are provided by the OHS/Risk Management and Fire Prevention Officer.

Following an internal review of service delivery, the statutory role of Municipal Fire Prevention Officer is now undertaken by the OHS/Risk Management and Fire Prevention Officer. This position is within Council's Corporate Services Directorate and no longer part of the local laws/planning compliance role. The reporting of municipal fire prevention activities to Council will still be included in this report.

Unsightly properties

A summary of activity statistics and locations that are the subject of compliance with local laws relating to unsightly properties is provided in Table 2. Identified unsightly properties are assessed and prioritised for compliance action.

Table 2: Summary of unsightly properties activities

Quarter 2 (1 October 2019 – 31December 2019)																
Town/Locality	Eddington	Rheola	Newbridge	Tarnagulla	Inglewood	Bridgewater	Wedderburn	Korong Vale	Borung	Boort	Pyramid Hill	Mitiamo	Dingee	Serpentine	Rural/Other	Total
No. identified from previous report period	2	0	3	2	4	3	12	11	3	1	2	1	0	0	2	46
No. resolved during quarter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New action commenced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. currently pursuing	2	0	3	2	4	3	12	11	3	1	2	1	0	0	2	46
Progress Activities																
Site meeting / discussion held	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Letter to comply issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Occupier has commenced clean-up work	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Notice to comply issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Contractor engaged for clean-up work	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Local laws staff continue to work with community members in resolving unsightly property issues. Achieving resolution of unsightly property issues can be difficult, with many property owners committing to attend to the issue and in some cases starting the process of cleaning up only to relapse. This requires an approach of escalation of interventions until compliance is reached. Many of these issues involve longstanding patterns of behaviour that will require continual intervention and time to establish significant change in individual's behaviour in order for lasting compliance to be reached.

Animal management

Table 3 provides a high level summary of animal management activities.

Table 3: Summary of animal management activities

Quarter 2 (1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019)						
Activity	**Wandering livestock**	**Trespassing livestock**	**Dog attack**	**Domestic animal at large**	**Distribution of cat traps**	**General complaints / other**
No. of actions	18	8	2	13	14	39

Table 4 summarises animal management activities that resulted in impoundments, encompassing both domestic animals and livestock.

Table 4: Impoundment activities

Quarter 2 (1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019)				
Animal type	**Impoundments**	**Returned to owners**	**Animals rehoused**	**Animals disposed**
Livestock	53	27	0	24 (sold)
Dogs	11	7	4	0
Cats	6	2	4	0
Feral Animals	-	-	-	43
Total	**70**	**36**	**8**	**67**

Planning Compliance and Enforcement

Table 5 provides a summary of planning compliance and enforcement activities undertaken.

Table 5: Planning compliance and enforcement activities

Quarter 2 (1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019)					
Type	**No. identified from previous report period**	**New action commenced**	**PIN's issued**	**No. resolved during this quarter**	**No. currently pursuing resolution**
Land use in contravention of planning scheme without a permit	7	2	0	3	6
Native vegetation removal without a permit	7	1	0	3	5

Breach of planning permit	4	0	0	1	3
Dog breeding / animal keeping	4	1	0	1	4
Land used as a store without planning permit	4	1	0	2	3
Occupation of a shed without a planning permit	3	5	0	1	7
Total	**29**	**10**	**0**	**11**	**28**

Throughout all of the above compliance activities tabled, the Development and Compliance Department aims to work proactively with property and animal owners to achieve a positive outcome within the legislative framework set by the State Government and Council Local Laws.

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the second quarter of 2019-2020 financial year for the local laws and compliance activities contained within this report is $56,168. As the identified properties are escalated through the compliance process, costs associated with legal proceedings may also be incurred by Council.

The resulting cost to Council can be significant in terms of officer(s) time; particularly undertaking various site inspections across Loddon Shire. Direct monetary costs can be significant should a matter progress to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or the Magistrates Court. Therefore, it is of benefit to Council and the community that the Development and Compliance Department work through these matters in a timely and respectful manner to reach an appropriate outcome wherever possible.

Benefits derived from investing in local law and planning compliance activities include:

- improving and maintaining township amenity
- ensuring that appropriate development occurs
- maintaining and improving public safety
- encouraging good domestic animal and livestock management
- reduced bushfire risks.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure of Council to adequately manage the provisions associated with the Loddon Planning Scheme, Planning and Environment Act 1987 or other applicable legislation including the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Impounding of Livestock Act 1994, Country Fire Authority Act 1958 or Council Local Laws is considered to pose the following risks:

- barrier to development and associated economic growth within Loddon Shire
- inappropriate development
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- public safety that endangers life and property
- adverse amenity of our townships
- increased bushfire hazards.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Land and animal owners subject to compliance and enforcement actions under the abovementioned legislation and local laws are consulted with at each stage of the process.

10.4	QUARTERLY BUILDING SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 13/06/001, 13/08/001 & 13/08/003

Author: Greg Johnston, Municipal Building Surveyor

Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance

Attachments: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Building Services Activity report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with information quarterly summarising building services activities relating to permits, certificates and statutory enforcement activity undertaken within the Development & Compliance Department. This is the second quarterly report for the 2019-2020 financial year.

BACKGROUND

Council provides a range of building services through the Municipal Building Surveyor including the following:

- issuing relevant permits and certificates
- issuing report & consent determinations on matters not complying with the Building regulations
- building advisory and information services including legal point of discharge requests
- consultancy and building control functions
- administrative functions prescribed by the Building Act & Regulations including keeping records relating to the activity of private building surveyors issuing permits within Loddon Shire
- regulatory enforcement of relevant Acts.

The number of building permits, occupancy permits and final inspections is a basic indicator of building development and investment within the Loddon Shire Council area.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Building permits

Table 1 provides the number and total value of building permits issued for the last two quarters of the 2018-2019 financial year and the first two quarters of the 2019-2020 financial year. The number of building permits across the various quarters has been relatively constant with this latest quarter being slightly lower in number and value. There is variation in the value of permits throughout any given financial year. The variation in value is largely attributable to the scale and cost of individual projects with only one building permit for this quarter having a value over $650,000 for a farm production (dairy) shed and only two others for new dwellings exceeded $330,000 in value.

1.
2.
3.

4.
5.
6.

Table 1: Summary of new building permits issued

	Quarter 3 2018-19 (01/01/2019 – 31/03/2019)	**Quarter 4 2018-19 (04/01/2019 – 30/06/2019)**	**Quarter 1 2019-20 (01/07/2019 – 30/09/2020)**	**Quarter 2 2019-20 (01/10/2019 – 31/12/2020)**
No. of new Permits	44	45	45	42
Value of Works	$3,588,195.65	$13,484,687.57	$3,951,645.58	$3,137,156.30

Table 2 provides a summary of the number of final inspections and certificates of occupancy issued for building permits for the final two quarters of the 2018-2019 financial year and the first two quarters of the 2019-2020 financial year.

Table 2: Summary of final inspections and occupancy permits

	Quarter 3 2018-19 (01/01/2019 – 31/03/2019)	**Quarter 4 2018-19 (01/04/2019 – 30/06/2019)**	**Quarter 1 2019-20 (01/07/2019 – 30/09/2020**	**Quarter 2 2019-20 (01/10/2018 – 31/12/2020)**
Certificates of final inspection	31	32	42	27
Occupancy Permits	12	7	9	7

Council Building Services Staff continue to work proactively sending follow up letters with respect to the significant number of incomplete building permits that have lapsed from past years. Council now notifies building owners approximately two months before their building permits are due to lapse to inform them that they can either arrange a final inspection/occupancy permit or apply for an extension of time for their building permit to minimise the likelihood of old permits not being finalised or have occupancy permits issued. This seems to be improving completion rates for more recent permits with 26 of the total 34 final inspections and occupancy permits for the quarter being carried out by Council. There still remain a number of old building permits to be finalised.

Statutory enforcement

Table 3 provides a high level summary of statutory enforcement activities undertaken by the Municipal Building Surveyor.

Table 3: Summary of statutory enforcement activities

Type	Actions incomplete from previous report period	New action started	Total actions	Building notice issued	Building order issued	Appeal to Building Appeals Board	Legal action / solicitors letter started this quarter	Legal action ongoing	No. resolved during this quarter
Building damaged by fire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Works required to make building safe (including pools)	7	3	10	0	3	1	1	0	1
Carrying out building works without a permit	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	1
Works not in accordance with building permit	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal occupation of non-habitable building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building with non-complying essential safety measures	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Whilst new issues requiring enforcement are identified regularly, it is also noted there are some longstanding enforcement activities that are ongoing. The time spent on individual items can be significant particularly when it requires escalation to Court. Council officers work to try to resolve matters without legal intervention. Unfortunately this cannot always be achieved. One such matter where Council has tried to arrange an inspection has resulted in a threat to an Officer's life. This matter has been referred to Victoria Police for follow up.

There have been a number of other actions relating to matters under the Building Act & Building Regulations that have been resolved without the need for formal enforcement action. This has been achieved by staff working pro-actively with property owners to have works completed. Other inspections that have taken place following this reporting period have identified more matters that will require enforcement actions that will be captured in the next quarterly report.

Council is largely responding to matters on a complaints basis. There are a significant number of properties with illegal buildings, some of which are occupied that resources are not available to follow up. This matter is covered in more detail under the Risk Analysis section. It remains a significant challenge for Council.

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the second quarter of the 2019-2020 financial year for building services activities contained within this report is $28,958. The provision of building activity statistics informs Council of the level of building activity and statutory enforcement activity in the municipality.

The cost to Council of enforcement activity can be quite significant, particularly in terms of Council officers' time. This in turn impacts on other activities such as the timeframe for building permits. Direct monetary costs significantly escalate if matters progress to a Magistrate's hearing or the Municipal Building Surveyor needs to arrange for the work associated with any order to be completed by Council. As such, the Municipal Building Surveyor, together with other Development & Compliance Department staff endeavours to work through enforcement matters in a manner that engages with property owners/occupiers to have required works completed.

Council's Municipal Building Surveyor has arranged for work to be carried out in respect to one property that required an emergency order and co-operation of the owner to complete the work could not be achieved. Ongoing costs are mounting in relation to this matter. This matter has been referred to Council's solicitor for prosecution with the first hearing set for 20 January 2020. Once prosecution of this matter is completed costs will be sought to be recovered through the courts.

RISK ANALYSIS

There are risks associated with all building and development works. As such, it is vital that Building legislation, standards and controls are administered effectively. Failure of Council to adequately enforce the provisions of applicable legislation poses the following possible risks:

- unsafe development and building works which may affect the safety of property owners, occupiers and the general public within Loddon Shire
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- Council being held liable for failure to act in a matter which results in damage to other property, or injury or death to a person
- failure to meet statutory obligations set within relevant legislation.
      7.

As part of the risk management process when undertaking enforcement work, the Municipal Building Surveyor makes reference to the building enforcement intervention filter criteria, developed by the Victorian Municipal Building Surveyors Group and which forms part of the procedures covered in Loddon Shire Council's Building Control Policy.

A significant risk within Loddon Shire is unregulated developments, in particular small allotments which are sold to purchasers that have expectations of using it for a cheap home or "weekender". Often the landholder is unable or unwilling to meet the regulatory requirements to safely utilise the site as they desire. This has led to a number of undesirable and potentially unsafe outcomes of unregulated developments. Action by Council's Local Laws & Planning Compliance Officer has improved some areas of the Shire in this regard. Development & Compliance staff will continue to work collaboratively to make best use of limited resources to address some of these issues. It is noted that Council's current capacity to enforce compliance in every instance, is limited. Generally enforcement matters are followed up by the Municipal Building Surveyor on a complaints basis having regard to risk management principles.

The Victorian Building Authority released Amended Building Regulations on 30 November 2019 for changes to the regulations affecting swimming pool and spa safety barriers. The Regulations came into effect on 1 December 2019. These changes include requirements that pool owners register their swimming pool or spa with Council by 30 June 2020 and to arrange for a certificate of compliance to be issued by one of three dates over an 18 month period commencing 30 June 2020

and dependant on the age and regulations applicable to the pool or spa fence/safety barrier construction. Council has a number of obligations under the changes to the Regulations including advising pool and/or spa owners of the applicable date of the construction of a pool or spa and following up with enforcement action where a certificate of non-compliance has been issued by a private swimming pool inspector. The requirements of the proposed legislation will impact on Council's already limited Building Services resources.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Municipal Building Surveyor regularly engages with business operators, developers, residents and ratepayers during the administration of the various Acts which can range from annual assessments/inspection to the provision of advice for the processing of building permits. Any business operator, developer, residents or ratepayer that is subject to enforcement action is regularly consulted with during the enforcement process to give them the opportunity to avoid the next step up in enforcement action.

10.5	UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM 2019-2020 AND OTHER PROJECTS

File Number: 14/01/001

Author: Adam Cooper, Project Management Coordinator

Authoriser: David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure

Attachments: 1. Annual Infrastructure Program 2019-2020

2. Other Projects 2019-2020

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the update on progress of the Annual Infrastructure Program 2019-2020 and Other Projects as at end of December 2019.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This report is for the second quarter of 2019-2020 financial year, providing an update on the progress of the Annual Infrastructure Program. The statuses of other projects that are delivered by the Assets & Infrastructure Department but are not part of the Annual Infrastructure Program are also included in the report.

BACKGROUND

This report is produced quarterly and is provided to Council for the purpose of reporting progress of the Annual Infrastructure Program and other projects that the Assets & Infrastructure Department is responsible for delivering. The information in this report covers progress up until the end of December 2019.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Annual Infrastructure Program

Attachment 1 provides a progress summary of the Annual Infrastructure Program for the second quarter of the 2019-2020 financial year. There are 92 individual projects, including carryovers from previous financial years that form the Annual Infrastructure Program 2019-2020.

Other Projects

In addition to the Annual Infrastructure Program, the Assets & Infrastructure Department is responsible to oversee the delivery of a number of different projects. Attachment 2 provides a summary of the other projects at the end of second quarter of 2019-2020 financial year. All completed projects are removed for subsequent quarterly progress reports.

COST/BENEFITS

The total proposed expenditure for the 2019-2020 financial year for the Annual Infrastructure Program is $6,468,236.12. The expenditure for the second quarter is $1,091,625 and $1,471,210 for the financial year to date.

The Annual Infrastructure Program includes a number of substantial grants for projects including:

- Bridgewater-Raywood Road widening – Heavy Vehicle Programme
- Echuca-Serpentine Road widening – Fixing Country Roads

- Serpentine-Prairie Road intersection upgrade – Fixing Country Roads

- Sloans Road bridge replacement – Bridges Renewal

- Old Inglewood Dam safety upgrade – DELWP Dam Safety

- Solar and LED installations - Local Government Energy Saver Facilities Upgrade

During the period covered within this report a number of major projects have been put out to public tender. Attachment 1 gives a summary of progress of individual projects within this program as at 31 December 2019.

The Assets & Infrastructure Department is currently managing other significant projects covered in Attachment 2 which are in different stages of progress. The combined value of such projects is in excess of $3.625 million. Expenditure to date is on these projects is $233,745.

RISK ANALYSIS

There are a number of risks associated with the delivery of the Annual Infrastructure Program and other significant projects. The following is a list of some but not all of the associated risks:

- delivering within timeframe and budget

- meeting community expectations

- delivering projects in accordance with engineering standards

- compliance with procurement legislation

Council officers are committed to monitoring and managing the risks associated with the Annual Infrastructure Program and other significant projects to ensure that any issues are minimised.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The information provided in this report is presented after consultation between Manager Assets and Infrastructure and the Works Department.

Attachment 1: Annual Infrastructure Program 2019 - 2020

Category	Project No.	Project Name	Project Details	Expenditure	% Activity	Comments
Local Road Resheet	LRS1188	Berrimal Wedderburn Rd	Resheet 0.9 kms x 4.9 wide x 100 mm depth	$ 33,082.00	100%	Complete
	LRS1190	Berrimal West Rd	Resheet 2.0 kms x 4.7 m x 100 mm	$ 67,636.00	100%	Complete
	LRS1182	Canning St, Lytton St, Stanley St	Resheet 0.58 km x 4.5 m wide x 100 mm depth	$ 17,102.00	100%	Complete
	LRS1191	Wedderburn-Brenanah Rd	Resheet 0.8 kms x 4.7 m wide x 100 mm depth	$ 27,055.00	100%	Complete
	LRS1193	Northlands Rd	Resheet 1.7 kms x 4.7 m wide x 100 mm depth	$ 57,492.00	100%	Complete
	LRS1158	Nickola Rd	Resheet 1.5km x 4.6m x 100mm	$ 55,220.00	100%	Complete
	LRS1163	Campbells Rd G	Resheet 1.3km x 4.6m x 100mm	$ 42,114.00	100%	Complete
	LRS1165	Vinnecombes Rd	Resheet 2.5km x 4.6m x 100mm	$ 85,388.00	100%	Complete
Local Road Shoulder Sheet	LRSS0350B	Dingee Rochester Rd	Shoulder resheet and seal 4.02km x 1.5m x 100mm x 2 sides	$ 114,654.00	100%	Complete
	LRSS0304	Inglewood Rheola Rd	Shoulder resheet 1.6km x 1.8 x100mm x2 sides	$ 39,025.00	100%	Complete
	LRSS0346	Arnold West Inglewood Rd	Shoulder resheet 1.7km x 1.8m x100mm x 2 sides	$ 24,804.00	100%	Complete
	LRSS0361	Rheola Llanelly Rd	Shoulder resheet 0.9km x 1.8 x 100mm x 2 sides	$ 17,239.00	100%	Complete
	LRSS0362	Rheola Llanelly Rd	Shoulder resheet 1.1km x 1.8 x 100mm x 2 sides	$ 14,890.00	100%	Complete
	LRSS0328	Rheola Llanelly Rd	Shoulder resheet 1.1km x 1.8m x 100mm x 2 sides	$ 23,355.00	100%	Complete
	LRSS0333	Pyramid Cemetary Road	Shoulder resheet 0.930km x 1.5m x 100mm x 2 sides	$ 18,281.00	100%	Complete
Local Road Construction	LRC0483	Echuca Serpentine Rd	Rehabilitation and widening of existing pavement and seal	$ 319,069.00	100%	Complete
	LRC0478	Bridgewater Raywood Rd	Rehabilitation & widening of existing pavement & seal - from 3.8m to 7.0m m width	$ 123,798.00	20%	Commenced
	LRC0480	New Road off Wet Lane, Inglewood	New road to give access to a property without road access	$ 4,205.00	100%	Complete
	LRC0467	New Road off Teasedale Rd, Appin South	New road to give access to a property without road access			Q3
Safety	SAF0029	Serpentine Rd Prairie Rd intersection	Realign and reconstruct intersection, install safety barriers, and rehabilitate the section of road between the intersection and the Bullock Creek	$ 10,538.00		Commenced
	SAF0030	Design and Construct Laanacoorie Newbridge Rd	Upgrade approach barrier rails to Bridge at chainage 8.1 km on Laanacoorie Newbridge Rd	$ 96,773.00	100%	Complete
Township St Improvement	TSI0445	Main St, Bridgewater	Concrete footpath has lifted by tree roots. Needs digging up and replacing. 10 m long x 1.5 m wide.			Contract commenced Jan 2020
	TSI0443	Wedderburn High Street	Replace footpath past Police Station			Works in Road reserve permit submitted
	TSI0437	Godfrey St Wedderburn - Section 3	Requirement for new strategic concrete footpath (approx 143m x 1.5m) from the Eastern side of Nardoo Creek culvert to Western Side - to be provided in conjunction with upgrade of drainage culvert.			Contract commenced Jan 2020
	TSI0441	Lyndhurst St and Lily St Bridgewater	Construction of new strategic concrete footpath on North side (160m x 1.5m) from the intersection with Lyndhurst St to near Brougham St (stop short by 150m)			Contract commenced Jan 2020
	TSI0455	Eucy Distillery Footpath, Inglewood	500m x 1.5 m footpath on west side			Contract commenced Jan 2020
	TSI0303	Kiniry Street, Boort	100m Kerb & Channel			To be tendered in February 2020
	TSI0447	Gordon Street, Boort	160 m x 1.5 m footpath on one side			Contract commenced Jan 2020
	TSI0448	Lake View St, Boort	410 m x 1.5 m footpath on one side			Contract commenced Jan 2020
	TSI0398	Malone Street, Boort	80mx1.8m footpath South Side			Contract commenced Jan 2020
	TSI0446	Malone Street, Boort	100m x 1.8m footpath South Side			Contract commenced Jan 2020

Attachment 1: Annual Infrastructure Program 2019 - 2020

Category	Project No.	Project Name	Project Details	Expenditure	% Activity	Comments
Local Bridges and Culverts	LBCC0380	Sloan's Rd Bridge	Upgrade of the existing wooden bridge to a concrete bridge			Contract awarded at November meeting. Designs approved.
	LBCC0382	Pyramid Hill Culvert upgrades	Pyramid Hill Kelly St Culvert and Coliban Entrance Upgrade			Tender closes 5 Feb
	LBCC0381	Wedderburn Brenanah Rd Drop Structure	Installation of a drop structure to prevent further erosion of table drain and damage to road	$ 92,000.00	80%	Construction commenced October 2019
Roseals	Multiple	Multiple	Spray Seal Contract			Tender awarded 28 Jan 2020
Urban Drainage	TSD0150	Safety Upgrade of Old Inglewood Dam	Safety upgrade of the Old Inglewood Dam			Tender awarded 28 Jan 2020
	TSD0151	Old Lead Dam Dunolly	Upgrade of the Old Inglewood Dam to comply with audit requirements from GMW	$ 8,747.00	15%	First part complete
Parks and Gardens	PGC022	Avenue of Honour Tree Replacement	Removal and replacement of trees	$ 7,600.00	100%	Complete
	PGC021	Jacka Park Soldiers Memorial Fence	Refurbishment of Jacka Park Soldiers Memorial Fence			Q3
	PGC024	Inglewood Town Hall	Upgrade of irrigation system			Q4
	PGC023	Boort Angling Club	Removal and replacement of trees and upgrade of park infrastructure	$ 9,667.00	35%	Commenced
	PGC020	Tree Replacement	Tree removal and replacement - high priority trees first	$ 2,300.00	10%	Q4
Buildings	BLD034	Serpentine Public Toilets	Install vinyl in cubicles with core cornice			Q4
	BLD035	Korong Vale Mech Inst Window renewal	Replace timbers on windows			Q4
	BLD036	Dingee Preschool Lighting Upgrade	Upgrade internal fluoros to LEDs	$ 1,032.00	50%	Commenced
	BLD037	Boort Courthouse Steps Installation	Install (replace) steps at rear entrance	$ 6,040.00		Commenced
	BLD038	Wedderburn Senior Citizens Downpipes refurbishment	Repair and repaint timber downpipes and railings	$ 6,546.00	75%	Commenced
	BLD039	Jacka Park Shelter Refurbishment	Replace rotten timbers on building. Repaint including signwriting			Q4
	BLD040	Tarnagulla Public Toilets Septic Field Replacement	Replace currently failing septic field	$ 260.00	2%	Q4
	BLD041	East Loddon School Door Replacement	Replace non-compliant rear door	$ 1,872.00	50%	Commenced
	BLD042	Wedderburn Depot floor replacement	Vinyl floor, old and difficult for cleaners to clean, heavily stained. Requires replacement			Q4
	BLD043	Preschool safety glass Installation	Replace glass in low lying windows with 'safety glass' to ensure all windows in the kindergarten are compliant and safe for children and staff	$ 8,796.00	50%	Commenced
	BLD044	Wedderburn Bowling Club New Cover	Make up and place cover over Backflow Prevention Device (RPZ) at the Wedderburn Bowling Club to prevent frost damage	$ 1,273.00	100%	Complete
	BLD045	Bridgewater Recreation Reserve RPZ removal	Undertake works as suggested by Coliban Water to remove RPZ. Works include trenching from RPZ to tank and installing poly pipe. Install new pump and float valves for tank.	$ 2,547.00	15%	Commenced
	BLD046	Eddington Public Hall septic tank and field replacement	Replace septic tank and field	$ 260.00	1%	Q4
	BLD051	Loddon Shire Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Installation of solar and energy efficient lighting systems	$ 112,216.00	60%	15 Buildings with solar systems installed.
	BLD053	Wedderburn Office Evacuation Safety Alert System	Installation of an evacuation safety alert system at the Wedderburn office.			Q4
	BLD057	Boort Courthouse	Foundation refurbishment			Q4
	BLD058	Emergency Evacuation Diagrams	Develop diagrams			Q4
	BLD059	Compliance Audits and Repairs	Compliance Audits and Repairs	$ 17,373.00	45%	Commenced
	BLD060	Building Emergency Works Allocation	Allowance for emergency works	$ 516.00		Q4

Attachment 2: Other Projects 2019 - 2020

Project no.	Project Description	Estimated/Budgeted Cost	Expenditure	Responsible Officer	Activity %	Comments
1	Boort Levee	$ 500,000.00	$ 138,345.00	PMC, PO	25	Parks Victoria have submitted notice of works to Dja Dja Wurrong. Awaiting outcome.
2	Pyramid Hill Drainage Strategy and Drainage data capture	$ 500,000.00	$ 26,730.00	PMC, PO	32	Ground water monitoring completed. Draft strategy being completed.
3	Township, Locality and Boundary sign replacements	$ 55,000.00		PMC, PO	15	Sign replacements ordered for 77 sign faces.
4	Asbestos Audit and Removal	$ 66,000.00	$ 37,523.00	BMO	33	Annual cost for 3 year contract
5	Public Facilities and office cleaning (contract)	$ 160,000.00	$ 28,714.00	BMO	NA	Under contract
6	Wedderburn township entrance sign	$ 40,000.00	$ 4,160.00	MAI	10	Quotes obtained, Report to Jan Council meeting.
7	Pyramid Hill title re-alignment		$ 2,433.05	PMC, PO	100	Complete
8	Echuca-Serpentine Road Feasibility study	$ 15,000.00		PMC, PO	90	Grant awarded, complete.
9	Our Regions, Our Rivers (Caravan Parks)	$ 1,196,806.00		PMC, PO, MEC	5	Plans submitted for DELWP comment/approval.
10	Pyramid Hill Flood Mitigation Works	$ 1,148,000.00		PMC, PO	10	Community consultation to commence in new year.
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						

Responsible Officer

PMC	Project Management Coordinator
PO	Project Officer/Engineer
MAI	Manager Assets and Infrastructure
BMO	Building Maintenance Officer
MEC	Manager Executive and Commercial Services

10.6	QUARTERLY STRATEGIC PLANNING ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: **13/01/002**

Author: **Carolyn Stephenson, Statutory / Strategic Planner**

Authoriser: **Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance**

Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Strategic Planning Activity report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the second report for the 2019 – 2020 financial year summarising the strategic planning activities undertaken within the Development and Compliance Department.

BACKGROUND

Council undertakes strategic land use planning projects to ensure that its planning scheme is robust, relevant and is consistent with the Council Plan.

This report provides an overview of the current activities of the Strategic Planner. The Strategic Planner's time is divided between statutory planning (10 hours per week) and strategic planning (8 hours per week) activities. It is the strategic planning activities that are the subject of this report.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Current Strategic Planning Projects

Table 1 provides a summary of current strategic planning projects and the activities undertaken as part of these projects during the second quarter of the 2019 – 2020 financial year.

Table 1: Current Strategic Planning Projects

Current Strategic Planning Projects Quarter 2 (1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019)			
Project	**Tasks undertaken during the quarter**	**Future tasks**	**Estimated project completion**
Settlement Strategy	Following community consultation and forum presentation and discussion with Council, the strategy has been refined in response to feedback.	Present finalised strategy for Council adoption.	The strategy is to be considered for adoption at the February Ordinary Council meeting.

Planning Scheme Review	Draft report prepared and circulated for comment.	Circulation to policy review committee. Presentation and adoption of report by Council. Submission of report to Minister for Planning.	The Planning Scheme Review Report is to be presented to Council following finalisation of the Settlement Strategy. Implementation of recommendations are to be staged over 2020 - 2025.
Bridgewater Planning Scheme Amendment – Flood controls	This planning scheme amendment is being prepared by the NCCMA. Council staff have been involved in the review of the prepared documentation.	Exhibition of the planning scheme amendment. Dates have not yet been set, however it is not likely to commence until early 2020.	It is estimated that this amendment will be completed by December 2020.

The time available for staff to spend on strategic planning is limited and can lead to protracted timeframes for the delivery of projects. During December, the strategic planner has had to take on more statutory planning tasks following the resignation of the statutory planner.

Upcoming Strategic Planning Projects

Table 2 outlines future strategic planning projects that have been identified to commence as soon as practicably possible.

Table 2: Upcoming Strategic Planning Projects

Future Strategic Planning Projects			
Project	**Overview**	**Key Tasks**	**Estimated project timeframes**
Heritage Framework	Council has allocated $100,000 in reserve to be used to support restoration of heritage buildings in the municipality. It is proposed that this money be used to provide loans to owners of buildings subject to heritage protection under the planning scheme or State legislation. The loans will be provided to successful applicants to undertake works on their property that would support the protection of the heritage buildings within Loddon Shire.	Preparation of guidelines, criteria and process for approval and implementation.	Document prepared for Policy Review Group: June 2020 Document prepared for Management Executive Group: August 2020 Document presented at Council Forum: October 2020 Policy adopted by Council: December 2020

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the second quarter of the 2019-2020 financial year for the strategic planning activities contained within this report is $6,844

Benefits derived from investing in strategic planning managed by the Development and Compliance Department include:

- clearly defined directions for land use and development that are underpinned by research and supported by the community
- a relevant and effective planning scheme that provides for economic development, population growth, attractive townships and protection of heritage and the environment.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure of Council to undertake strategic planning includes:

- outdated planning controls that do not respond to current issues and opportunities
- inappropriate development that compromises the amenity of towns and undermines economic development opportunities
- loss of opportunities for population and residential growth.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The strategic planning staff member consults with a number of stakeholders on a regular basis including:

- community members and organisations
- government agencies including Department of Environment Land Water & Planning, Department of Economic Development Jobs Transport & Resources, North Central Catchment Management Authority
- other Loddon Shire Council departments
- other municipalities.

10.7   QUARTERLY PLANNING PERMIT ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 13/01/002

Author: **Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance**

Authoriser: **Steven Phillips, Director Operations**

Attachments: 1.   **Planning applications completed between 1 October 2019 and 31 December 2019**

2.   **Planning applications being processed between 1 October 2019 and 31 December 2019**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the planning application and permit activity report for October – December 2019.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the second report for the 2019- 2020 financial year summarising planning application activities undertaken within the Development and Compliance Department.

BACKGROUND

This report covers the planning permit activity for each quarter and provides Council with a high level summary for the purpose of monitoring performance within this area.

Council maintains powers under the Planning & Environment Act 1987 which are delegated to Planning Officers. Applications made under these powers may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- consideration of a planning application for a new use/development
- consideration of an amendment to an existing planning permit
- secondary consent applications (minor changes)
- extensions of time to existing planning permits.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Planning permit activities

A detailed summary of the status of planning permits can be found in attachments 1 and 2.

Timeframes

The Planning & Environment Act 1987 requires a 60 day timeframe for the processing of planning applications by Councils. The Act details how the 60 days are to be measured following the acceptance of a planning permit application.

Table 1 provides a summary of the average timeframes in which the Development and Compliance Department assessed and issued Planning Permits during the second quarter of the 2019-2020 financial year and compares these to the Victorian rural average.

Table 1: Average timeframes for decisions

Quarter 2 of the 2019/2020 financial year			
Month	Average gross days to determine	Completed within 60 days	Rural average completed within 60 days
October	48	83%	73%
November	120	73%	69%
December	57	88%	71%
	Total Quarterly average	81%	71%

During the second quarter of the 2019- 2020 financial year 81% of all Planning Permit applications were assessed and issued within the timeframes as set in the Planning & Environment Act 1987.

COST/BENEFITS

The expenditure for the second quarter of 2019-2020 financial year of the statutory planning activities contained within this report is $44,275. This is significantly lower than normal and reflects the current staffing levels.

Benefits derived from investing in the planning process managed by the Development and Compliance Department include:

- well managed and appropriate development
- well informed community members who understand the value of planning within local government
- applications processed in a timely manner
- correct implementation of regulations and standards.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure of Council to adequately implement the planning scheme poses the following risks:

- inappropriate development which could endanger life and property
- Council's reputation as a responsible Authority
- breaches of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 requiring compliance action.

Insufficient investment in resources in the Development and Compliance Department may result in extended timeframes for the processing of applications.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Planning Staff consult with a number of stakeholders on a regular basis including:

- applicants
- surrounding land owners
- regulatory authorities
- other Loddon Shire Council departments
- other municipalities.

Planning Applications completed between 1 October 2019 and 31 December 2019

Number	Assess No	Lodged	Site Address	Locality	Status	Reason For Permit	Applicant
5498	41901100	28-Nov-19	831 Dunolly-Eddington Road	Eddington	Application Complete	Buildings and works (carport) associated with an existing dwelling in a ESO and LSIO	Darren Freemantle
4962.2	41900800	12-Nov-19	4028 Bendigo-Maryborough Road	Eddington	Amendment Issued	Amend the figure in condition 3 to 40 as per 'Seating must not be provided for more than 40 people'. Amend permit to allow for liquor license to supplement the existing cafe & shop	Timothy Bray
5493	67617310	12-Nov-19	107 Nine Mile Road	Wedderburn	Application Complete	Buildings and works in a BMO and RLZ ancillary to a dwelling with a total floor area of more than 100m2. Buildings and works less than 100 metres from designated waterway.	Bendigo Garages
5491	52847500	23-Oct-19	Thompson Street	Inglewood	Application Complete	Buildings and works less than 20 metres from Railway Drive within the Farming Zone	Geoff McEwan
5490	52103350	18-Oct-19	328 Bacon Road	Kurting	Application Complete	Construction of a Storage Shed within 100 meters of Kingower Creek.	Goulburn Valley Buildings
5488	41900800	15-Oct-19	EDDINGTON ROAD HOUSE ED, 4028 Bendigo-Maryborough Road	Eddington	Withdrawn	To obtain a liquor license to supplement the existing operation of restaurant and cafe by offering liquor to customers.	Tim Bray
5487	44352200	9-Oct-19	Main Road	Laanecoorie	Application Complete	Buildings and works (storage shed) within a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.	Sharon Atkin
5486	52703100	10-Oct-19	102 Chamberlains Road	Inglewood	Application Complete	Building and works (shed) within LSIO where the sheds development floor area is larger than 130m squared.	Michelle & James Nevins
5485	NCPR	7-Oct-19	Boort-Yando Road	Yando	Application Complete	Buildings and works (pump) and native vegetation removal within the Public Conservation and Resource Zone.	Sawers Farms Pty Ltd
5484	52831400	4-Oct-19	7-13 Borung Street	Inglewood	Application Complete	Use and development of the land for a plant nursery in a Low Density Residential Zone.	Helen Nesbitt
5482	67615500	13-Sep-19	370 Josephine Drive	Wedderburn	Application Complete	Construction of a 12 meter squared freestanding carport within a Salinity Management Overlay	Bendigo Garages
5481	50901100	10-Sep-19	Brenanah Glenalbyn Road	Brenanah	Application Complete	Buildings and works associated with eucalyptus storage within the Farming Zone and Bushfire Management Overlay.	Felton Grimwade & Bosisto's Pty Ltd Felton Grimwade & Bosisto's Pty Ltd
5479	0	5-Sep-19	Andrews Street	BOORT	Application Complete	Buildings and works associated with a telecommunication facility (upgrade to existing tower)	Charlotte Phillips Aurecon (for NBN Co)
5477	53408100	3-Sep-19	1280 Inglewood-Rheola Road	Kingower	Application Complete	Construction of stone woodshed less than 100m from the Kingower Creek.	Bruce Needs
5476	10716000	29-Aug-19	NATIONAL BANK, 100-104 Godfrey Street	Boort	Application Complete	Use of the land for accomodation (AirB&B)	Miriam Smith EGBP Castlemaine
5474	15400800	6-Sep-19	53 Majors Line Road	FERNIHURST	Application Complete	2 lot subdivision (house lot excision)	Kenneth Pattison
5471	31011800	21-Aug-19	25 Arnold Road	Bridgewater on Loddon	Application Complete	Extension to the existing dwelling to create a second dwelling on the lot.	Andrew Page Wilby Building Consultants

Page 1 of 2

Planning Applications completed between 1 October 2019 and 31 December 2019

Number	Assess No	Lodged	Site Address	Locality	Status	Reason For Permit	Applicant
5469	31600900	2-Aug-19	26 Derby-Serpentine Road	Derby	Application Complete	Use and development of the land for a renewable energy facility (Solar Farm), utility installations (overhead 66kV power line and switching station), native vegetation removal within the Farming Zone and buildings and works within 100 metres of a Road Zone Category 1.	Duncan Lowis Chris Smith & Associates Pty Ltd
5465	10604600	15-Aug-19	886 Boort-Yando Road	Yando	Application Complete	Extension to shed (domestic) on land liable to flooding – total floor area of shed will exceed 130m2	Darren Slatter Gardner Group Pty Ltd
5464	52806900	13-Aug-19	14 Brooke Street	Inglewood	Application Complete	Construction of a new crossover from a RDZ1 (Calder Highway)	Barry Pitman
5460	67745210	26-Jul-19	Harpers Lane	Wedderburn	Lapsed	Construction of a dwelling within the Rural Living Zone	Jamie Constantine
4544.1	60307300	24-Jul-19	Nine Mile South Road	Barrakee	Amendment Issued	Amendment of location of dwelling within the BMO	Amanda Kate Bauer
5452	60802820	24-Jun-19	Henderson Lane	Woolshed Flat	Application Complete	Low density outdoor pig farm	Ian Kimpton
5416	18100600	21-Jan-19	509 Wychitella Bus Route Road	BOORT	Withdrawn	Native vegetation removal to erect a centre pivot	Matthew Chalmers
5394	10601000	5-Oct-18	1501 Boort-Yando Road	YANDO	Lapsed	Native vegetation removal	Simon Rogers Sawers Farms P/L

Planning Applications Being Processed Between 1 October 2019 and 31 December 2019

Number	Assess No	Lodged	Site Address	Locality	Status	Reason For Permit	App Type	Applicant
5517	47001700	11-Feb-20	25 Gladstone Street	Tarnagulla	Lodged	To be able to breed two Beagle litters a year. I have show dogs - have a number of dogs of different ages some of which are de-sexed. They are all house pets, NOT kennel dogs.	Permit	Elaine Soane
5516	52809500	10-Feb-20	40 Brooke Street	Inglewood	Lodged	6m x 3.74m Carport	Permit	Robert Danieli
5515	67614700	12-Feb-20	Lot 20 Boort-Wedderburn Road	Wedderburn	Referral	Use and development of the land for shed and container to be used for storage of equipment and material	Permit	Matthew Dodman
5514	24706200	7-Feb-20	74 Herdmans Road	Loddon Vale	Advertising	Earthworks within a farming zone, irrigation upgrade on farm	Permit	Brendon Boyd Planright Australasia Pty Ltd
5513	10807550	11-Feb-20	Old Boort Road	Borung	Further Information	Motorcycle event	Permit	Justin Mellerick
5512	67745230	3-Feb-20	Harpers Lane	Wedderburn	Advertising	Use and development of the land for a dwelling	Permit	Brad Kerr
5511	10601500	31-Jan-20	308 Yando Swamp Road	Yando	Referred	Construction of a 108m x 24m steel farm shed	Permit	Entegra Signature Structures
5510	52803205	28-Jan-20	73 Southey Street	Inglewood	Further Information	Subdivide the land into 2 lots, each greater than 4000 m2 in area.	Permit	Bernhard Koolstra
5509	52807700		Nixon Street	Inglewood	New Application	Subdivision of land into 30 residential lots.	Permit	Peter Lewis
5508	46903650	14-Jan-20	Laanecoorie-Newbridge Road	Newbridge	Advertising	Mining- small scale, excavate, doze and detect for alluvial gold.	Permit	Brenton Shannon
5506	47007400	22-Jan-20	96-100 Commercial Road	Tarnagulla	Ready For Decision	Change of use to include a convenience shop within the township zone	Permit	Kelly Whitton
5505	25005950	8-Jan-20	Spences Road	Mincha	Referral	2 lot subdivision	Permit	Planright Surveying Pty Ltd
5504	46907100	7-Jan-20	Lot 2 Laanecoorie-Newbridge Road	Newbridge	Ready for Meeting	Gold Mining	Permit	Brenton Shannon
5500	31108200	19-Dec-19	19 Main Street	Bridgewater on Loddon	Ready For Decision	Buildings and works (signage) within the township zone and land subject to inundation overlay, demolition and asbestos removal in a heritage overlay.	Permit	Brendan Slattery
5497	12402600	29-Nov-19	Boort-Quambatook Road	Barraport	Advertising	Use and development of the land for a dwelling (relocatable cabin)	Permit	Janet Piccoli
5495	52844650	14-Nov-19	Reservoir, Inglewood Powlett Road	Inglewood	Referred	Native vegetation removal at the Inglewood Reservoir for the Loddon Shire	Permit	LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
5489	67741600	16-Oct-19	66 Reef Street	Wedderburn	Referral	Buildings and works within a bushfire management overlay with a total floor area of more than 100 metres squared. Removal of native vegetation on site (Yellowgums)	Permit	Tania Davis
5483	53601300	25-Sep-19	Loddon West Road	Kinypanial	Planner Assessment	Earthworks (surface drains) within the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay	Permit	Orana Agriculture Pty Ltd Orana Agriculture Pty Ltd

Page 1 of 2

<u>Planning Applications Being Processed Between 1 October 2019 and 31 December 2019</u>

Number	Assess No	Lodged	Site Address	Locality	Status	Reason For Permit	App Type	Applicant
5478	36702750	6-Sep-19	Railway Station & Yard, Lot 8 Bendigo-Pyramid Hill Road	Dingee	Ready For Decision	Use and development of the land for accommodation	Permit	Rod Hinton Shane Muir Consulting Engineers P/L
5473	50500100	22-Aug-19	14 Greens Lane	Fentons Creek	Further Information	Permit to run a boarding kennel for up to 16 dogs at any one time. Also seeking a multi-dog permit for personal use to house show & breeding dogs.	Permit	Lyn McPhail Berrimal Breeding
5461	46915000	26-Jul-19	160 Tarnagulla Road	Llanelly	Further Information Complete	Extension to existing dwelling, use and development of the land as a Cellar Door construction & car park & amenities.	Permit	Michael Callipari
5457	10609400	24-Jul-19	465 Osborne Road	Barraport	Further Information Complete	The permit application is for removal of native vegetation for a Overhead Power line along road reserves located on Council land (road reserve) from- 1. Whittaker lane 2. Boort Wycheproof Road 3. F Hills Road to 465 Osborne Road.	Permit	Fernando Ferreira Spirecom Pty Ltd
5435	46604300	28-Mar-19	Shelbourne Road	Shelbourne	Advertising Complete	Use and development of the land for a single dwelling and associated outbuildings (4 bay farm shed & Garage)	Permit	Pete Collings Pete Collings Architect
5275.1	46905400	18-Apr-18	Boyds Road	Newbridge	Referral	Modify road access to property via Yorkshire Rd & Boyds Rd North & amend locction of retarding basin.	Amendment	Bruce Mitchell Land Management Surveys
5446	46906100	17-May-19	1477 Yorkshire Road	Newbridge	Further Information	Construction & operation mushroom growing associated facilities	Permit	Andrew Glatte Scato Plus
5442	47501100	10-May-19	Bridgewater-Dunolly Road	Waanyarra	Referral	Alluvial mining for gold	Permit	Noel Laidlaw Laidlaw & Associates
5440	10601050	7-May-19	Boort-Yando Road	YANDO	Further Information Complete	Removal of native vegetation to maximise efficiency of water use	Permit	Simon Rogers Sawers Farms P/L
5419	47101100	25-Jan-19	135 Old Logan-Burkes Flat Road	Burkes Flat	Advertising Complete	Gold Mining	Permit	K R Johnson Dunolly Gold Developments
5414	38305200	18-Jan-19	4067 Pyramid-Yarraberb Road	SEBASTIAN	Advertising	Use & development of Renewable Energy Facility & associated buildings & works, removal of native vegetation & signage	Permit	Joanna Barnett AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
5407	31109600	10-Dec-18	16 Park Street	Bridgewater on Loddon	Further Information	Landscaping and 2 Lot Subdivision	Permit	Dave Edwards

Page 2 of 2

11   COMPLIANCE REPORTS

11.1   SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP DETAILS-BOORT PARK

File Number:	**02/01/046**
Author:	**Michelle Hargreaves, Administration Officer**
Authoriser:	**Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services**
Attachments:	**Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoints the persons named in this report as members of the Boort Park Section 86 Committee of Management, effective immediately.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council approved the current list of committee members for Boort Park Committee of Management on 27 November 2018.

BACKGROUND

Current Section 86 committee instruments of delegations include Clause 3.6 which outlines the requirement for nomination and appointment of committee members, which is as follows:

Members and Office Bearers of the Committee

At the Annual General Meeting each year nominations shall be called for proposed members of the committee. The committee must then elect from its proposed members the following office bearers:

- President, who shall be Chairperson of the Committee

- Secretary

- Treasurer.

The full list of proposed members must be forwarded to Council for formal appointment at an Ordinary Meeting of Council, in accordance with section 86(2). Until this formal appointment by Council occurs, the previous committee members will continue to hold office.

Clause 3.3 Membership of the committee outlines Council's preferred composition of the committee specific to each delegation, and states that Council seeks to provide broad representation to the committees.

For community based committees, at least 6 community representatives are preferred.

For organisation based committees, each delegation has a list of organisations that are required to provide representatives for the committee.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Boort Park is an organisation based committee with representatives from each of the stakeholder groups. The following is a list of nominated representatives for the committee which meets the minimum requirement:

Name	Organisation
Neil Beattie (Chairperson)	Chairperson
Karen Coutts (Secretary / Treasurer)	Community representative
Ken Loader	Boort Agricultural and Pastoral Society
Madeleine Scott	Boort Agricultural and Pastoral Society
Vacant	Boort Cricket Club
Vacant	Boort Cricket Club
Tim Byrne	Boort District Harness Racing Club
Ray Stomann	Boort District Harness Racing Club
Gordon Parker	Boort Football Club
Kane Arnold	Boort Football Club
Jacquie Verley (Vice President)	Boort Hockey Club
Jacqui Challis	Boort Hockey Club
Kristen Gooding	Boort Netball Club
Vacant	Boort Netball Club
Tom Bleicher	Boort P12 College
Lee Anne Sherwell	Boort P12 College
John Nelson	Community representative
Barry Kennedy	Community representative

The Council representative for this committee is Cr Neil Beattie.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefit of this report is that Council has an up to date and accurate record of current committee members to ensure that contact can be made, particularly where Council is requesting committees to comply with reporting requirements under the legislation.

RISK ANALYSIS

Section 86 Committees act for and on behalf of Council which creates a risk for Council should they ever act outside their delegated authority.

Under Section 86(2) of the Act, "Council may appoint members to a special committee and may at any time remove a member from a special committee".

Council's appointment of committee members, not only satisfies the legislation, but also provides Council with the opportunity to sight the list of committee members before formally appointing them as they are the people that will be operating the committees, and in effect, acting for and on behalf of Council over the course of the year.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

11.2	SIX MONTHLY REPORT AGAINST COUNCIL PLAN

File Number: **02/02/003**

Author: **Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services**

Authoriser: **Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer**

Attachments: **1.**   **Six month report against Council Plan 2017-2021**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the progress against the actions and tasks (strategic indicators) in the Council Plan contained in the attachment to this report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council Plan 2017-2021 was adopted by Council on 27 June 2017.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework requires reporting against the Council Plan half yearly.

A half year report is presented in about February each year. A full year report is provided in the Annual Report each year.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Attached is a report on the progress of actions and tasks (strategic indicators) identified in the Council Plan. Council is currently working on year three of the four year plan.

COST/BENEFITS

There are no costs associated with the recommendation of this report. Costs of individual projects within the plan are included in the Budget for the relevant delivery years.

RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks associated with the recommendation of this report.

Reporting on a regular basis provides an opportunity to monitor progress and respond to any issues.

Reporting on a six monthly basis ensures compliance with Item 17 of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Governance and Management Checklist.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation was undertaken with responsible Council officers in the preparation of this report.

Action and Task Progress Report

Loddon Shire Council

Print Date: 18-Feb-2020

www.cammsgroup.com

Loddon Shire Council	Action and Task Progress Report

REPORT FILTERS

Date Select: From 01-Jul-2000 To 30-Jun-2050

Hierarchy: Planning Hierarchy

Hierarchy Level: Strategic Theme

Hierarchy Node: All

Action Responsible Officer: All

Agency: All

Action Related Plan: All

Budget Type: All

Action Grouping Category: All

Action Grouping: All

Action Status: All

Action Filter:

Task Responsible Officer: All

Task Related Plan: All

Show Overview: No

Show Additional Information: No

Show Financials: No

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 2 of 17

Loddon Shire Council   **Action and Task Progress Report**

Show Confidential Actions: Yes

Show Linkages: No

Show Task(s): No

Show Progress Comments: Yes

Show Milestone Comments: No

18-Feb-2020   **CAMMS**   Page 3 of 17

Loddon Shire Council	Action and Task Progress Report

ACTION PLANS

GREEN	**AMBER**	**RED**	
At least 75% of action target achieved	Between 50% and 75% of action target achieved	Less than 50% of action target achieved	No target set

* Dates have been revised from the Original dates

1.1 Grow and invigorate Loddon's population

1.1.1 Develop a more balanced and sustainable demographic profile.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.1.1 Implement the Donaldson Park Master Plan.	Anne Donovan - Manager Community Support	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	30.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Council prepared and submitted a fully costed project plan to the Community Development Grants Programme, Regional Programs , Regional Development & Local Government Dec 2019/ Jan 2020.

A funding commitment has been provided by the National Party's new member for Mallee, Anne Webster for $2.5M. This amount, combined with the funds from other sources, will enable the implementation of the Donaldson Park Master Plan. A letter has been sent to Anne Webster asking how the promised funds can be accessed. The letter also advises that the Donaldson Park Redevelopment Group has been reconvened to progress the project and that Council has factored the funding into its recently adopted2019/20 budget in anticipation of the work proceeding.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

1.1.2 Optimise the potential for all residents to pursue employment opportunities and lifestyle choices.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.2.1 Complete feasibility study for childcare services.	Amy Holmes - Manager Community Wellbeing	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	50.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
A tender has been issued for the development of a feasibility study.

Last Updated: 30-Sep-2019

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 4 of 17

| Loddon Shire Council | | | | | Action and Task Progress Report |

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.2.2 Complete business case for childcare services.	Amy Holmes - Manager Community Wellbeing	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	50.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
As part of the childcare services feasibility study, a business case will be prepared.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

1.1.3 Support community needs with high standard infrastructure, facilities, services, and programs.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.3.1 Complete reviews of Asset Management Plans	David Southcombe - Manager Assets and Infrastructure	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	80.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Building Asset Management Plan was adopted in October 2019. Bridges, Urban Drainage and Footpath Asset Management Plans will follow.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.3.1 95% or more of road defects completed within time frame allocated.	Daniel Lloyd - Manager Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	50.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
During the second quarter of 2019 – 2020 financial year, 99.7% of all date imposed defects were completed before their due date. This is .3% below the target of 100% set in the RMP and 4.7% above the target of 95% set in the Council Plan. The year to date actual expenditure to the end of second quarter of 2019 – 2020 financial year of the Local Road Maintenance Program is $3,152,819. The expenditure for the second quarter was $1,447,099.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

1.1.4 Encourage population growth by improving the ease of transition for new residents.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.4.1 Provision of vacant land zoned for residential development in and around towns.	Glenn Harvey – Manager Development and Compliance	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	80.00%

| 18-Feb-2020 | CAMMS | Page 5 of 17 |

Loddon Shire Council	Action and Task Progress Report

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:

The draft Settlement Strategy was presented to Council Forum in February 2018. Community consultation was carried out in April 2018. Revisions have been made to the draft since April 2018. The Settlement Strategy is being presented to Council for advertising at the February 2020 meeting.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.4.2 New residential development in and around towns.	Glenn Harvey – Manager Development and Compliance	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	30.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:

Upon completion of the Settlement Strategy it is anticipated that new residential development in and around towns will be generated.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

1.1.5 Improve the mobility and accessibility of residents to lifestyle needs and choices.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.5.1 Complete feasibility study on increase to public transport.	Wendy Gladman - Director Community Wellbeing	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:

At the March 2019 Councillor Forum, there was item presented regarding the preliminary project proposal for a Public Transport Feasibility Study. In discussion with Councillors on the study, the view was expressed that it is disingenuous to continue to promote this through Regional Partnerships as it seemed to be an unresolvable issue. With the adoption of Council's Annual Report 2018/19 this approach has been confirmed.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
1.1.5.1 Work in collaboration with Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership to examine opportunities for transport for smaller communities.	Phil Pinyon - Chief Executive Officer	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:

At the March 2019 Councillor Forum, there was an item presented regarding a preliminary project proposal for a Public Transport Feasibility Study. In discussion with Councillors on the study, the view was expressed that it is disingenuous to continue to promote this through Regional Partnerships as it seemed to be an unresolvable issue. A report to Council will be submitted seeking a resolution to not pursue this action in the Council Plan.

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 6 of 17

Loddon Shire Council	Action and Task Progress Report

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

2.1 Support development of a prosperous and diverse economy.

2.1.1 Realise Loddon's tourism potential by supporting and promoting our natural, historical and cultural assets.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
2.1.1.1 Complete a review of the Loddon tourism strategy.	Lynne Habner – Manager Executive and Commercial Services	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
New Economic Development and Tourism Strategy adopted 26 November 2019.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

2.1.2 Encourage economic development by providing support which facilitates business initiatives and growth.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
2.1.2.1 Maintain and enhance resources to ensure timely processing of planning and building applications.	Glenn Harvey – Manager Development and Compliance	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Council is provided with quarterly reports on the statistical data for planning and building applications.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
2.1.2.1 Continue to provide forums for business networks that provide training and support.	Lynne Habner – Manager Executive and Commercial Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	60.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Forums continue to be held on a quarterly basis by the Loddon Valley Tourism Network.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

2.1.3 Secure adequate water access to maintain the viability of diverse economic activities.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 7 of 17

| Loddon Shire Council | | | | Action and Task Progress Report | |

					%
2.1.3.1 Pursue advocacy opportunities for water security initiatives which support economic development.	Lynne Habner – Manager Executive and Commercial Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	50.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Ongoing advocacy and support is generated for initiatives, such as the Loddon Southern Pipeline and Newbridge Water and Sewer.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

2.1.4 Support the delivery of key public infrastructure that facilitates improved economic returns.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
2.1.4.1 Review Road Asset Management Plan	David Southcombe – Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Road Asset Management Plan was adopted by Council in March 2017 and is due for review by June 2021.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
2.1.4.2 Pursue advocacy opportunities for essential infrastructure and services.	David Southcombe – Manager Assets and Infrastructure	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	50.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Council had some success in achieving positive outcomes using the "priorities" document in the recent State elections. A number of priorities remain outstanding and opportunities will be taken to promote those in the lead up to the Federal election in 2019. Loddon Shire is also actively participating in the development of the "Loddon Campaspe Investment Prospectus" that includes a number of Loddon's priorities. This Prospectus was used as an advocacy tool for the Federal election.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

2.1.5 Facilitate improvement in the business capabilities of Loddon traders and entrepreneurs.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
2.1.5.1 Provide communication and training opportunities about available grants and tender processes.	Lynne Habner – Manager Executive and Commercial Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	60.00%

| 18-Feb-2020 | CAMMS | Page 8 of 17 |

Loddon Shire Council	Action and Task Progress Report

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Details of available grants have been communicated via Councils Mayoral Column and Social Media. Councils suppliers and community have been notified of e-Procure, Councils tender processing system via email and Mayoral Column.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
2.1.5.2 Develop and implement a policy to provide a framework to access Council's heritage loans scheme.	Lynne Habner - Manager Executive and Commercial Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	10.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The draft document is scheduled to be reviewed by Councils internal policy review group in June 2020.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

3.1 Develop attractive, vibrant and well-serviced communities.

3.1.1 Ensure our townships are presented to a high standard.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
3.1.1.1 Implement streetscape improvements in key townships.	David Southcombe - Manager Assets and Infrastructure	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	30.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project was officially opened in November 2018. Work has commenced on preparing for the improvement of the Pyramid Hill Streetscape.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
3.1.1.1 Identify and manage rectification of unsightly premises.	Glenn Harvey - Manager Development and Compliance	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	60.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Council works proactively with property owners to improve the presentation of their properties.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

3.1.2 Build relationships and foster community engagement, pride and resilience.

Loddon Shire Council				Action and Task Progress Report	

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
3.1.2.1 Explore opportunities to rejuvenate a Youth Council in partnership with "Youth Building Places and Spaces" project	Anne Donovan - Manager Community Support	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
A range of activities to support the rejuvenation of the Loddon Youth Council were adopted at the June 2018 Council meeting.
Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
3.1.2.1 Continue the provision of library services.	Lynne Habner - Manager Executive and Commercial Services	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Library services continue to be offered by six agencies – Boort, Dingee, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn.
Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
3.1.2.1 Develop a volunteer strategy.	Carol Canfield - Manager Organisational Development	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Volunteer Strategy 2018-2022 was adopted by Council on 27 November 2018. A Volunteer Support Officer has been appointed to assist with the implementation of the strategy.
Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
3.1.2.2 Provide opportunities for for the community to develop community gardens.	Lynne Habner - Manager Executive and Commercial Services	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Communities are provided with opportunities through LSC Community Grants and Community Planning Programs.
Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

3.1.3 Provide quality infrastructure which supports the desired lifestyles of our residents.

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 10 of 17

| Loddon Shire Council | | | | Action and Task Progress Report | | |

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
3.1.3.1 Develop a plan for rationalisation of unecessary assets with a direction towards future use of multi-purpose facilities.	David Southcombe – Manager Assets and Infrastructure	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	70.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Building Asset Management Plan was adopted in October 2019. Other asset management plans will have their own asset rationalisation plan. A Small Towns Policy is being developed and service level reviews are commencing which will both assist in the identification of assets which can be rationalised.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

3.1.4 Secure adequate water access which supports lifestyle needs and recreational choices.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
3.1.4.1 Pursue advocacy opportunities for water security initiatives which support lifestyle needs and recreation choices as they arise.	Anne Donovan - Manager Community Support	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
As well as the involvement in the South West Loddon Pipeline Project via the Steering Committee, work is being done to advocate for the Mitiamo pipeline project. This has been listed in the Regional Partnerships priorities as a key outcome for the Loddon Shire.

In addition, water for the reservoirs at Skinners Flat, Wedderburn and Inglewood is being negotiated with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water so as to secure water at recreational lake water prices to maintain a level suitable for ongoing recreational use.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

4.1 Provide leadership which contributes to the sustainability of our region.

4.1.1 Ensure the ongoing economic viability of Loddon Shire Council operations.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
4.1.1.1 Complete a minimum of three service delivery reviews per year.	Sharon Morrison - Director Corporate Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	51.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
A review of community support commenced with Councillors at the January 2019 Forum.

| 18-Feb-2020 | CAMMS | Page 11 of 17 |

Loddon Shire Council	Action and Task Progress Report

A report on the service planning project was presented to Councillors at the January 2020 Briefing.

Last Updated: 21-Jan-2020

4.1.2 Deliver adequate, efficient and sustainable environment and waste management services.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
4.1.2.1 Complete Urban Drainage Asset Management Plan.	David Southcombe - Manager Assets and Infrastructure	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	30.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Consultants are working on the Pyramid Hill Drainage Strategy and a tender has been issued for capturing data for input into the Urban Drainage Asset Management Plan which will be developed over the next few years.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
4.1.2.2 Complete Roadside Management Plan.	David Southcombe - Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Roadside Management Plan was adopted in June 2018 and is due for review in June 2022.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

4.1.3 Actively promote policies and activities which facilitate community health, harmony and engagement.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
4.1.3.1 Complete a long term community plan for Loddon Shire.	Wendy Gladman - Director Community Wellbeing	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	10.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Community plan options are currently being worked through with Council. This will form the basis for the development of a long term community plan.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %

Loddon Shire Council   **Action and Task Progress Report**

4.1.3.1 Review the Small Towns Policy.	Lynne Habner – Manager Executive and Commercial Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	10.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Council is considering engaging a consultant to undertake this review and a budget has been allocated for this purpose.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
4.1.3.1 Input into the Loddon and Buloke Education and Training Needs Analysis Project.	Carol Canfield - Manager Organisational Development	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Council provided input into the Loddon and Buloke Education and Training Needs Analysis Project to help inform the strategic direction of the Local Learning and Employment Network.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
4.1.3.2 Acceptance of the reconciliation Action Plan by Reconciliation Australia.	Wendy Gladman - Director Community Wellbeing	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	99.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Loddon Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan 2019-2021 was adopted by Council September 2019.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
4.1.3.2 Review the Community Support Policy	Lynne Habner – Manager Executive and Commercial Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	70.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Draft to be finalised and reported to Council.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 13 of 17

Loddon Shire Council					Action and Task Progress Report

4.1.3.3 Adopt the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.	Wendy Gladman - Director Community Wellbeing	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan was adopted by Council at its September 2017 meeting.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

5.1 Implement frameworks which enable sound decision making and support a high performing and customer-focused organisation.

5.1.1 Practice responsible and sustainable financial behaviours.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.1.1 Prepare an annual budget with budgeted cash surplus.	Deanne Caserta - Manager Financial Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	50.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The adopted budget for year ending 30 June 2019 included a cash surplus of $149K.
Work has commenced on the 2020/21 Budget.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

5.1.2 Improve communication with community and customers.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.2.1 Review the Customer Service Charter and develop a Customer Service Strategy	Peter Williams - Manager Information and Business Transformation	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Customer Service Charter and Strategy was adopted by Council on 27 March 2018. Council is now implementing the Strategy and delivering on the Charter.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.2.1 Review the Communication and Community Engagement Policy.	Sharon Morrison - Director Corporate Services	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Community Engagement Policy was adopted by Council at the May 2019 meeting.

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 14 of 17

Loddon Shire Council	Action and Task Progress Report

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

5.1.3 Improve internal and external service delivery.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.3.1 Upgrade finance, human resource, document management and payroll software.	Peter Williams - Manager Information and Business Transformation	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	5.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Document Management software has now been installed. Finance and Payroll are part of the $5M Rural Council Transformation Program Grant (RCTP), business case is due for 31/3/2020.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.3.2 Replace phone system.	Peter Williams - Manager Information and Business Transformation	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The new phone system was implemented in June 2018.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

5.1.4 Deliver results in line with direction of Council.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.4.1 80% of Strategic Indicators met by June 2021	Sharon Morrison - Director Corporate Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	42.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Of the 45 strategic indicators for the 2017-2021 Council Plan, 19 (42%) have been completed (target 50%) with the remaining strategic indicators in progress. This is on track to completing 80% by 30 June 2021.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

5.1.5 Develop the necessary culture and capabilities to achieve Council's strategic and operational objectives.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 15 of 17

Loddon Shire Council   Action and Task Progress Report

					%
5.1.5.1 Adopt a Child Safe Standards Framework and associated policies.	Sharon Morrison - Director Corporate Services	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
The Child Safe Standards Framework and associated policies were adopted by Council on 23 April 2019.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.5.1 Complete a Workforce Strategy	Carol Canfield - Manager Organisational Development	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	85.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
In June 2019, Councillors were briefed on the key findings and recommendations in the Workforce Strategy. Recommendations will be progressed during 2019/20.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.5.2 Undertake a staff climate survey and address outcomes.	Carol Canfield - Manager Organisational Development	Completed	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Council has implemented a process for conducting quarterly staff surveys. Outcomes of each survey are communicated to staff.

Last Updated: 18-Feb-2020

5.1.6 Meet our legislative requirements and improve internal efficiencies.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %
5.1.6.1 Implement corporate planning and reporting software.	Sharon Morrison - Director Corporate Services	Completed	01-Aug-2019	30-Jun-2021	100.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Software has been implemented and is used for quarterly audit committee reporting, monthly performance reporting and six monthly reporting against the Council Plan.

Last Updated: 23-Aug-2019

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE

Loddon Shire Council				Action and Task Progress Report	

					%
5.1.6.2 Maintain an ongoing focus on the principle of continuous improvement.	Sharon Morrison - Director Corporate Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2017	30-Jun-2021	75.00%

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:
Council is involved in a collaborative project with five other councils to establish shared corporate systems. The outcome of this project will be increased efficiency in the delivery of corporate services. The business case is currently being finalised through the production of an addendum.

Last Updated: 20-Jan-2020

18-Feb-2020	CAMMS	Page 17 of 17

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

13   CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989:

13.1   Review of confidential actions

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 89(2) - (h) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with Any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

13.2   C474 - Culvert Replacement - Kelly Street, Pyramid Hill

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 89(2) - (d) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with contractual matters.

13.3   Captain Melville Trail project

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 89(2) - (d) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with contractual matters.

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 24 March 2020 at Serpentine commencing at at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at enter time.

Confirmed this……………………..day of………………………………. 2020