



MOIRASHIRE



ENRICHING LIFE ON THE MURRAY

COUNCIL AGENDA

26 April 2016



Discover Moira



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AGENDA

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL **FOR** **TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2016** **TO BE HELD AT YARRAWONGA TOWN HALL, BELMORE STREET, YARRAWONGA** **COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM**

1. CALLING TO ORDER – CEO

RECORDING

Consistent with section 72 of our Meeting Procedures Local Law, Council officers have been authorised to record the public session of this meeting using an audio recording device.

2. PRAYER

Almighty God we humbly ask you to guide our deliberations for the welfare and benefit of the Moira Shire and its people whom we serve.

Amen

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Moira Shire Council, would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.

4. APOLOGIES & REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5. DECLARATION UNDER ACTS, REGULATIONS, CODES OR LOCAL LAWS

6. DECLARATION OF ANY INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Recommendation: “That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 29 March 2016 and the minutes of the Special Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday, 11 April 2016, as prepared, be confirmed.”

8. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

NIL

9. OFFICER REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION

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NIL

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18. CONFIDENTIAL ACTION OFFICERS LIST

19. URGENT OR GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

20. CLOSE OF MEETING

FILE NO: 180.07.0021
3. OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCESSES

ITEM NO: 9.1.1
(TEAM LEADER - FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTANT, RAMKI SUBRAMANIAM)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes and approves the projections for the 2015/16 financial year contained in the March 2016 quarterly budget review.

1. Executive Summary

Council continues to actively manage its financial position. While the original budget for 2015/16 was in surplus, 50% of the Victorian Grant Commission funding (\$4.83 million) was received in the previous financial year instead of the budgeted current year, causing the current deficit. This is purely a timing issue and does not affect its overall positive cash position. The council has further reduced its 2015/16 December deficit of \$1.98 million by \$0.27 million to \$1.71 million as detailed in Discussion 2.1.

There are a number of challenges in achieving such an extensive and far-reaching capital works program of \$14.11 million in the current year, with 2/3 nearing completion (including commitments), and there is the possibility some projects will roll into the 2016/17 year such as the Cobram Library. This is the largest capital program ever committed in one financial year and this cements the Council's commitment to investing within the municipality, whilst retaining a conservative outlook and strong cash balance for future years.

There is an increase in the Capital Expenditure forecast from \$14.08 million to \$14.11 million (\$30,000 increase) for the Yarrawonga Recreational Trail following Council being successful in obtaining a "Transport Investing in Regions" grant.

The projected cash position as at 30 June 2016 is expected to be \$17.15 million, an increase of \$0.29 million on the figure projected as the December 2015 review.

The movements are detailed in forecast overview table in the next page. Council continues to closely monitor expenditure and income throughout the 2015/16 financial year. Operating cash flow is detailed in Table 2.3.

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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

The following table summarises the forecast changes or movements arising from the March 2016 review:

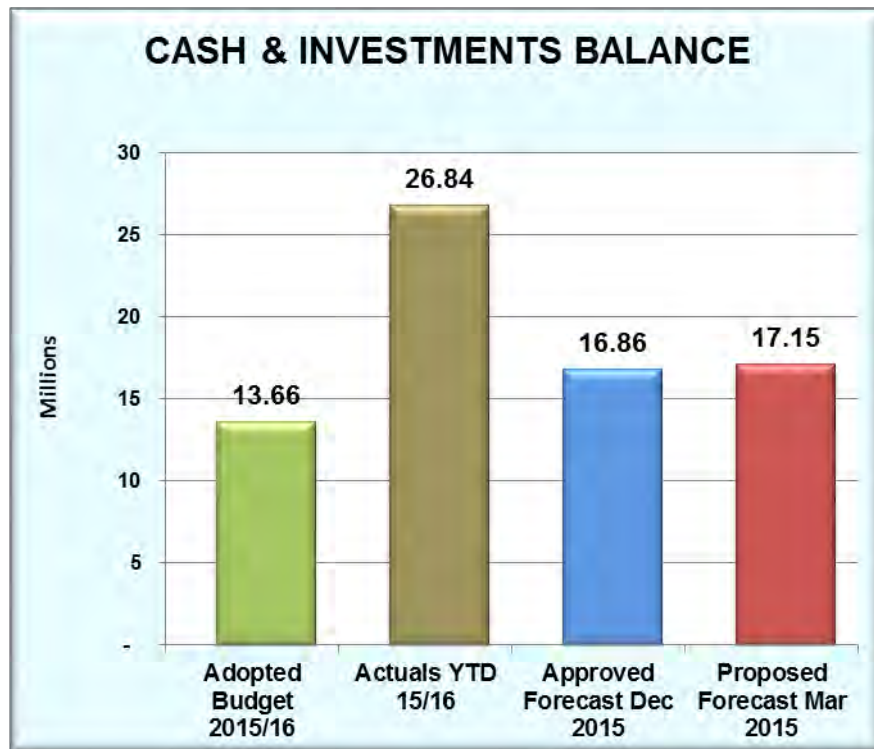
Table 1.0

Item	Adopted Budget 2015/16	YTD Actuals 2015/16	Approved Forecast Dec 2015	Proposed Forecast Mar 2015	Variance Dec 2015 Forecast Vs Mar 2015 Forecast Favourable / (Unfavourable)	Comments
BALANCE OF CASH & INVESTMENTS	13,657,931	26,840,783	16,860,622	17,154,185	293,562	Variance driven by reduction in forecast of operating expenditure.
OUTSTANDING LOANS	5,579,446	5,868,926	5,579,446	5,579,446	-	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	11,571,406	5,575,315	14,079,696	14,109,696	(30,000)	Variance driven by additional spend on Yarrowonga Recreational Trail following receipt of additional grant
CAPITAL INCOME (A)	5,212,617	2,913,923	6,419,892	6,449,892	30,000	Variance driven by additional grant received for Yarrowonga Recreational Trail
OPERATING INCOME (B)	49,176,218	41,522,918	44,448,538	44,389,592	(58,946)	Variance driven by reduction in income generated from Supplementary Rates
OPERATING EXPENSES (C)	52,540,599	34,334,716	52,855,707	52,551,826	303,881	Variance driven by various programs postponed until the 2016/17 year, and reduced Plant operating costs and Fringe Benefits Tax liability
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	1,848,236	10,102,125	(1,987,277)	(1,712,342)	274,935	A + B - C

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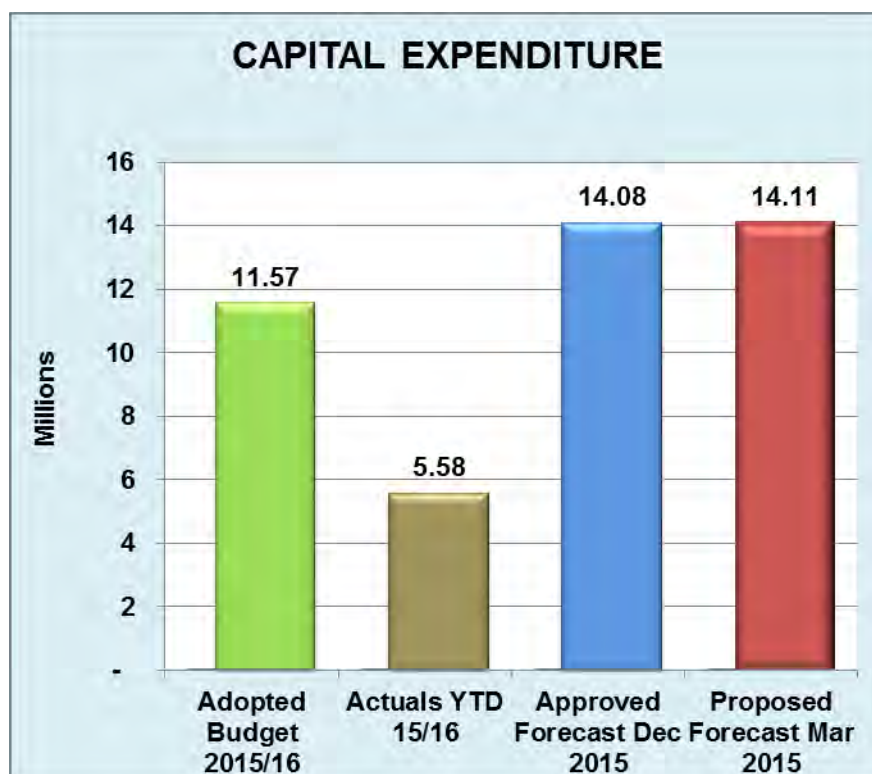
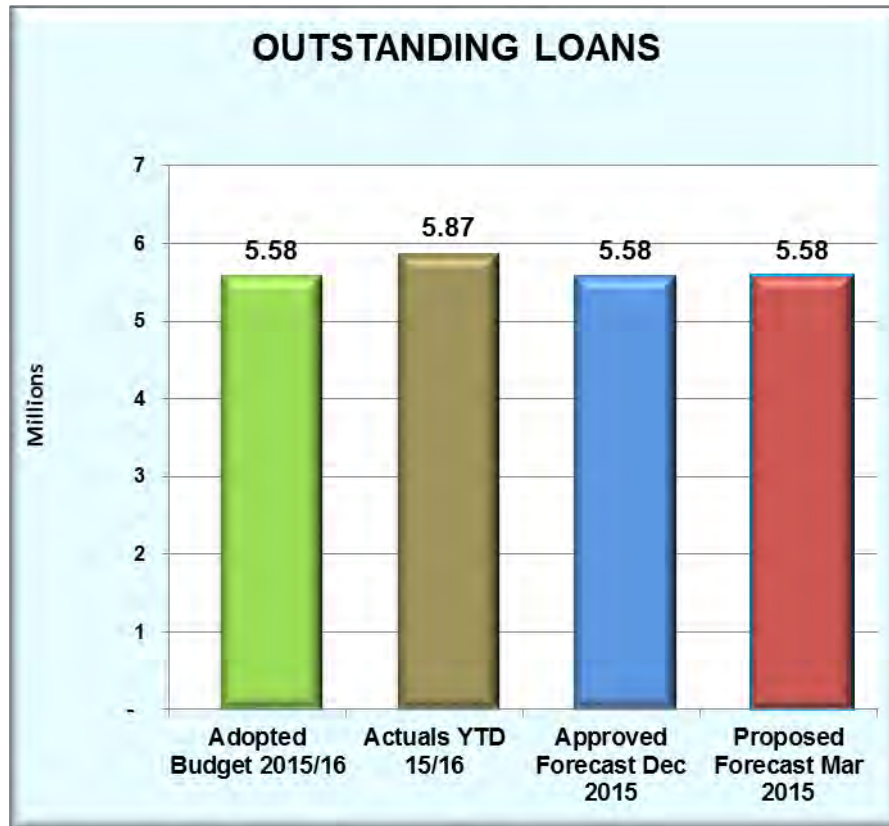
QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)



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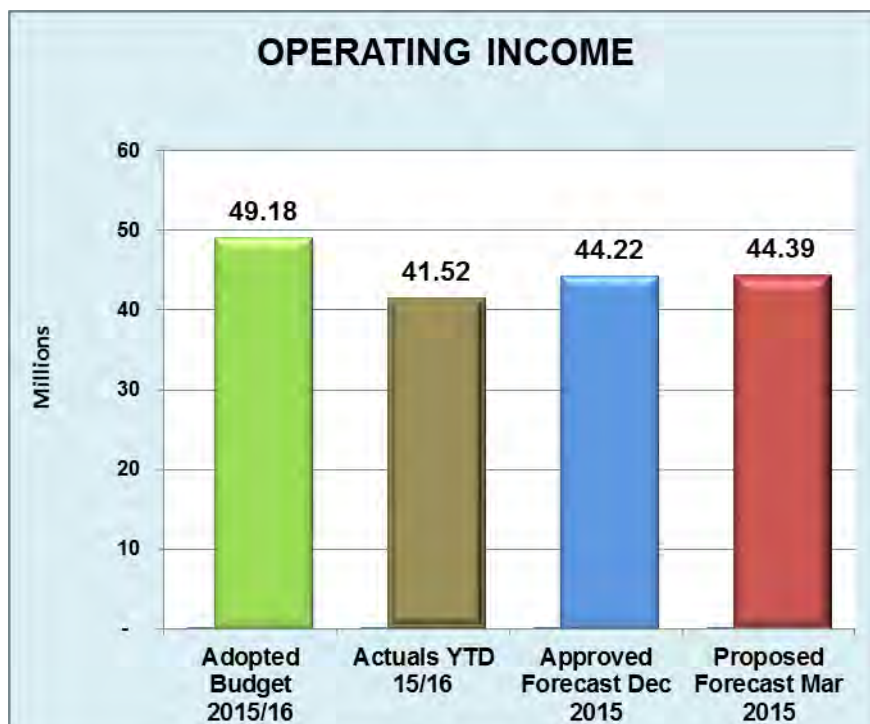
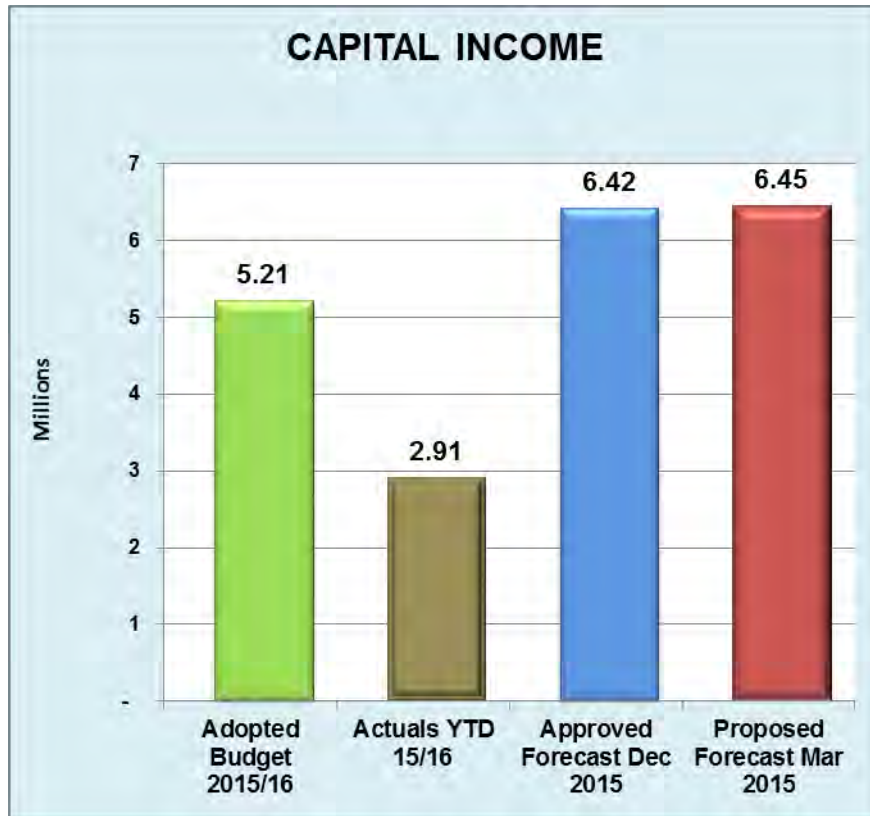
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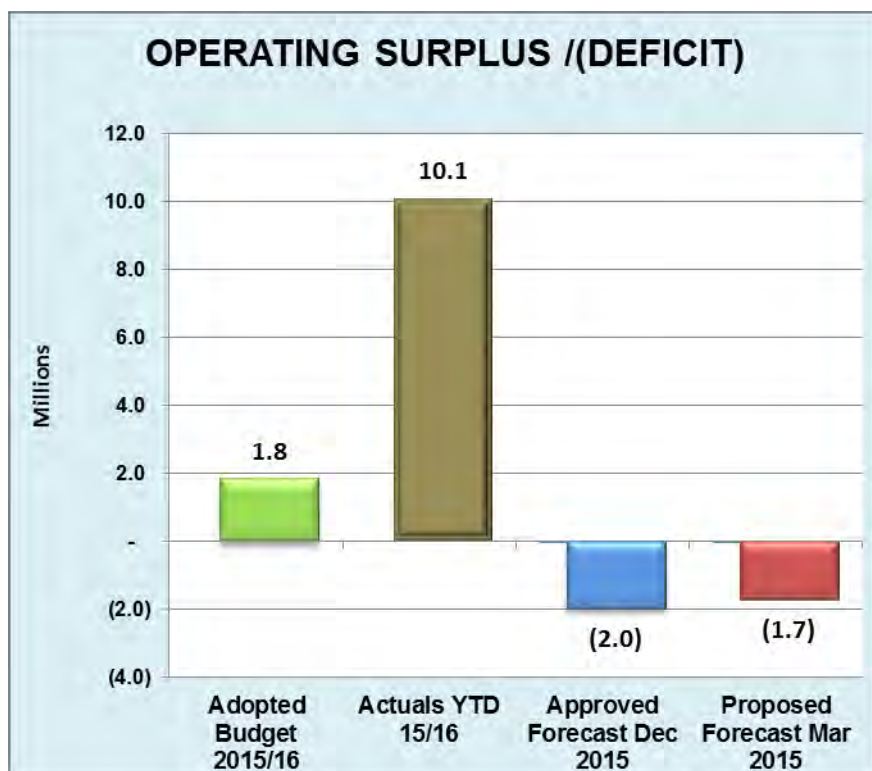
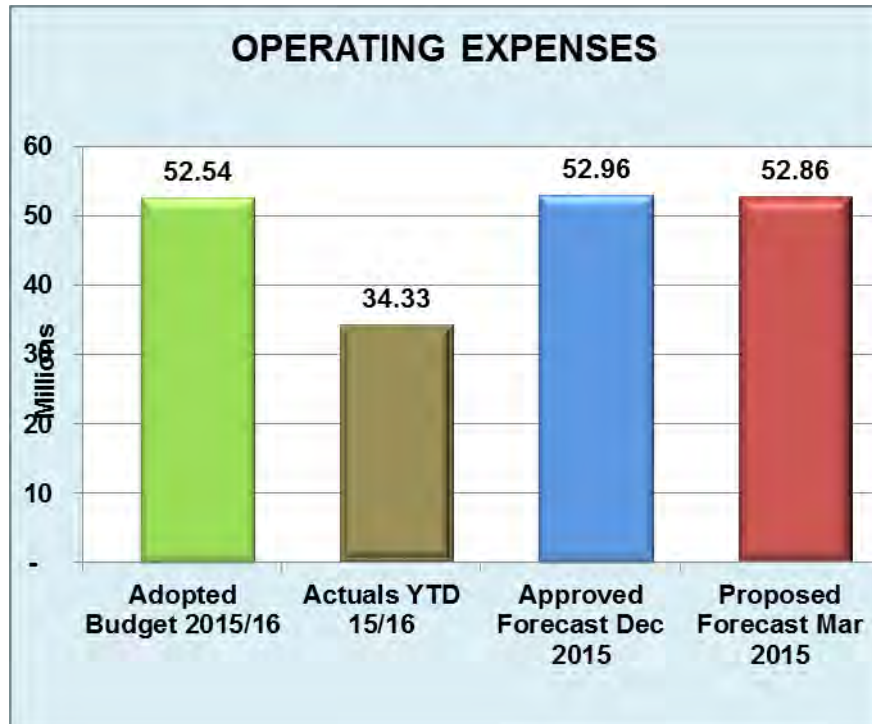
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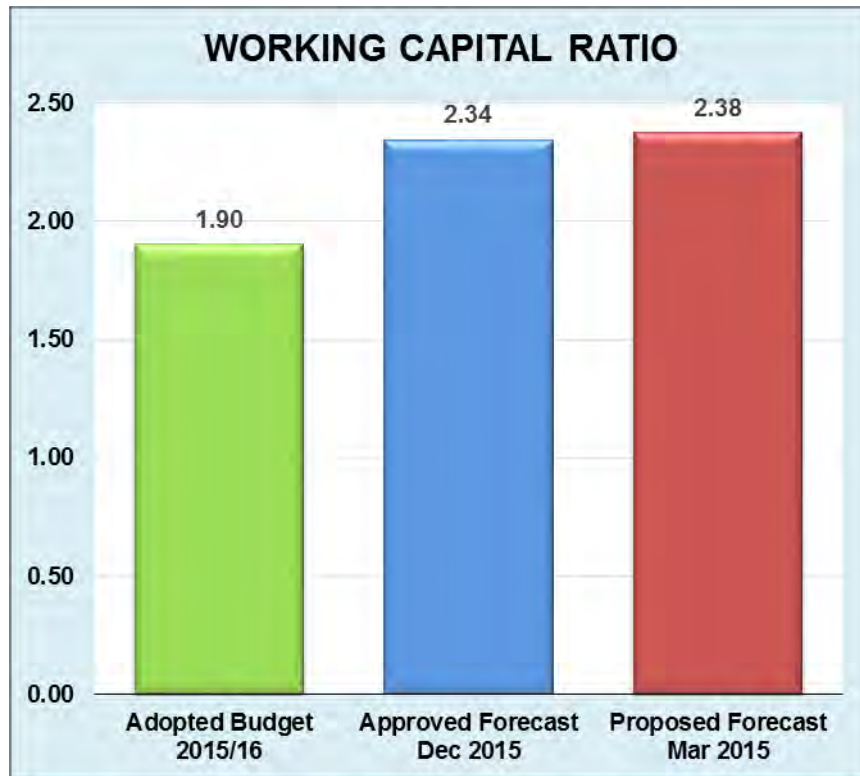
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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)



2.

FILE NO: 180.07.0021
3. OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCESSES

ITEM NO: 9.1.1
(TEAM LEADER - FINANCIAL
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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

Discussion

2.1 Summary of changes to projected operating result for the 2015/16 financial year

The deficit for the Proposed March 2016 Forecast is expected to be \$1,712,342 - a decrease in the deficit of \$274,935 compared to the Approved December 2015 Forecast deficit of \$1,987,277. The major reasons for the decrease in the deficit are as follows:

Approved Forecast Dec 2015 Vs Proposed Mar 2016 Forecast	Favourable / (Unfavourable) \$
Deficit – Approved Forecast December 2015	(1,987,277)
Rates Income	(40,022)
Capital Income	30,000
Operating Grants	(40,000)
Other Operating Income	21,076
Employee Costs	51,428
Material & Services	190,354
Contract Services	46,149
Other Operating Expenditure	15,950
Proposed December 2015 Forecast Deficit	(1,712,342)

Council has a forecast deficit of \$1,712,342. The significant points are as follows:

- Rates Income** – Variance driven by forecast for reduced income generated from supplementary rates.
- Capital Income** – Variance driven by receipt of new grant for Yarrawonga Recreational Trail.
- Operating Grants** – Variance driven by environmental grants which are no longer available.
- Other Operating Income** – Variance is mainly driven additional income from the Landfill/Transfer Stations offset by reduced legal cost recoveries.
- Employee Costs** – Variance is driven by reduced Fringe Benefits Tax cost.
- Materials & Services** – Variance is deferred cost for Economic Development programs (Farmland in Transition, Industrial Land Design and Signage Strategy) to 2016/17.
- Contract Services** – Variance driven by reduced IT Hardware leasing costs and deferred cost for Fire Prevention plan to 2016/17.
- Other Operating Expenditure** – Variance is mainly driven by reduced Legal Expenses.

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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

2.2 Income Statement

	Adopted Budget 2015/16	YTD Actuals 2015/16	Approved Forecast Dec 2015	Proposed Forecast Mar 2015	Variance Dec 2015 Forecast Vs Mar 2015 Forecast Favourable / (Unfavourable)
Income Statement					
Income					
Rates	33,254,274	33,262,780	33,269,860	33,229,838	(40,022)
Operating Grants	10,932,084	4,711,926	6,163,336	6,123,336	(40,000)
Capital Grants	4,525,000	2,820,437	5,551,775	5,581,775	30,000
Capital contributions	687,617	52,074	767,617	767,617	-
Contributions- cash	132,837	93,842	102,375	90,375	(12,000)
Contributions- non - monetary (Donated assets)	200,000	-	200,000	200,000	-
Reimbursements and Subsidies	62,859	69,065	84,467	84,467	-
User Charges	2,933,890	1,834,472	2,915,168	2,947,244	32,076
Statutory Fees and Fines	861,920	743,686	870,620	861,620	(9,000)
Interest	350,000	372,703	350,000	460,000	110,000
Other Revenue	365,854	254,885	456,381	406,381	(50,000)
Net Proceeds of Sale of Land Held for Resale	42,000	96,331	96,331	46,331	(50,000)
Net Gain on Disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment	40,500	41,411	40,500	40,500	-
Share of Net Profit of Associated Entity	-	-	-	-	-
Previously Unrecognised Assets	-	-	-	-	-
Income Total	54,388,835	44,353,613	50,868,430	50,839,484	(28,946)
Expenditure					
Employee Costs	20,169,063	13,350,458	19,454,338	19,402,910	51,428
Materials & Services	11,517,863	7,262,050	12,202,328	12,011,974	190,354
Contract Services	5,707,640	3,292,011	5,892,153	5,846,004	46,149
Utilities	967,359	692,984	993,407	993,907	(500)
Bad and Doubtful Debts	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-
Depreciation	8,886,214	6,664,660	8,886,214	8,886,214	-
Other expenses	4,111,573	2,641,636	4,246,380	4,229,930	16,450
Interest on Borrowings	464,541	347,688	464,541	464,541	-
Interest on Unwinding of Discount of Provisions	491,346	-	491,346	491,346	-
Written Down Value of Infrastructure Replaced	200,000	-	200,000	200,000	-
Net Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Share of Net Loss of Associated Entity	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	-
Expenditure Total	52,540,599	34,251,488	52,855,707	52,551,826	303,881
Operating Result	1,848,236	10,102,125	(1,987,277)	(1,712,342)	274,935

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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

2.3 Statement of Cash Flow

				Variance Dec 2015 Forecast Vs Mar 2015 Forecast Favourable / (Unfavourable)
Statement of Cash Flow	Adopted Budget 2015/16	Approved Forecast Dec 2015	Proposed Forecast Mar 2015	
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	11,579,425	7,610,055	7,933,617	323,562
Net cash flow used on investing activities	(11,656,030)	(14,099,762)	(14,129,762)	(30,000)
Net cash flows provided by financing activities	(935,538)	(927,731)	(927,731)	-
Net change in cash held	(1,012,143)	(7,417,438)	(7,123,875)	293,562
Cash at the beginning of the year	14,670,075	24,278,060	24,278,060	-
Cash at the end of the year	13,657,932	16,860,622	17,154,185	293,562

2.4 Balance Sheet

				Variance Dec 2015 Forecast Vs Mar 2015 Forecast Favourable / (Unfavourable)
Balance Sheet	Adopted Budget 2015/16	Approved Forecast Dec 2015	Proposed Forecast Mar 2015	
Current Assets	18,430,733	22,458,953	22,688,861	229,908
Non-Current Assets	503,455,574	506,060,685	506,090,685	30,000
Total Assets	521,886,307	528,519,638	528,779,546	259,908
Current Liabilities	9,681,850	9,578,068	9,563,041	(15,027)
Non-current Liabilities	12,853,495	15,018,784	15,018,784	-
Total Liabilities	22,535,345	24,596,852	24,581,825	(15,027)
Equity	499,350,962	503,922,786	504,197,721	244,881

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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

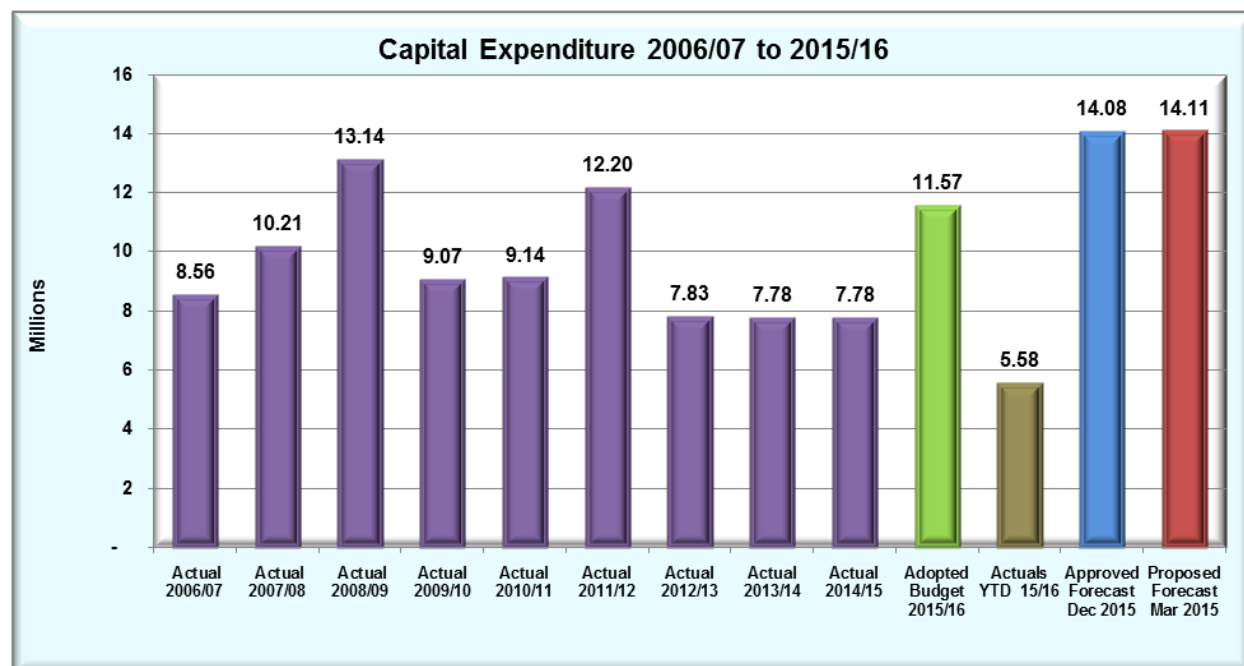
2.5 Capital

	Adopted Budget 2015/16	YTD Actuals 2015/16 (incl. commitments)	Approved Forecast Dec 2015	Proposed Forecast Mar 2015	Variance Dec 2015 Forecast Vs Mar 2015 Forecast Favourable / (Unfavourable)
Total capital income	(5,212,617)	(2,913,923)	(6,419,892)	(6,449,892)	30,000
Total capital expenditure	11,571,406	9,506,669	14,079,696	14,109,696	(30,000)
Grand Total	6,358,789	6,592,747	7,659,804	7,659,804	-

Total Capital Expenditure includes Actuals of \$5,575,315 and Commitments of \$3,931,355.

2.6 Capital expenditure

Historical expenditure on capital works:

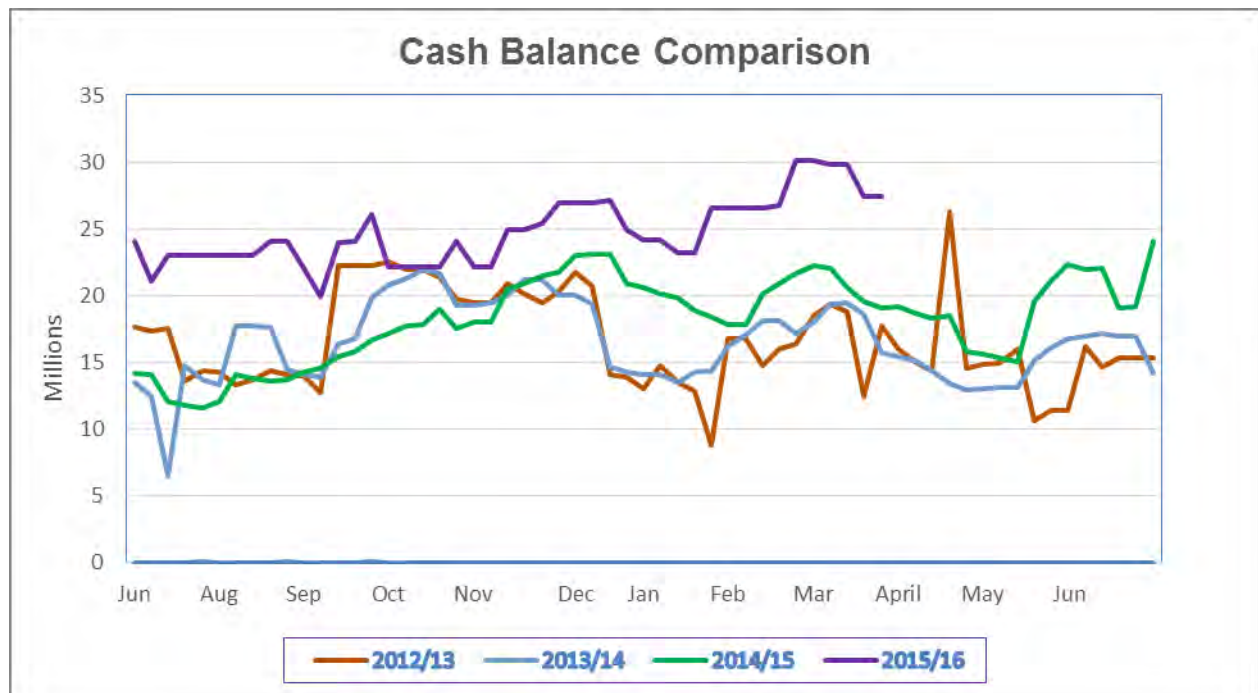


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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

2.7 Cash Balances



This graph represents the balance of cash assets which comprises cash at bank and on hand plus investments. The balance of cash assets remains in a sound position at \$26.84 million year to date. The proposed balance at 30 June 2016 is proposed to be \$17.15 million.

2.8 Working Capital

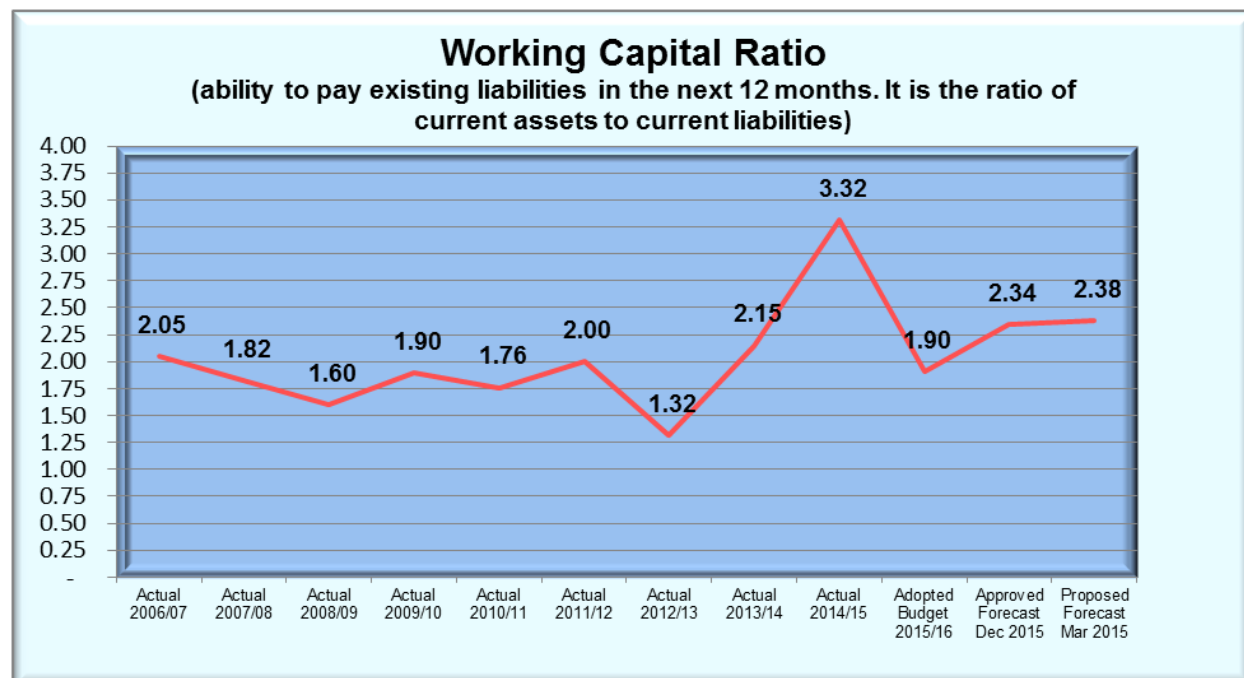
Working capital equals current assets (assets which can be turned into cash within one year) less current liabilities (amounts owing by Council which need to be paid within one year).

The working capital is projected to be \$12.88 million as at 30 June 2016.

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3. OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCESSES

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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)



2.9 Financial Risks

Moving forward it is appropriate to examine risks as they may impact on the financial position of Council. The areas identified are flagged to highlight potential impacts on Council.

Capital Works

Council's capital works need to be managed prudently to strengthen Council's financial position and ensure Council meets all the low risk financial sustainability indicators as specified by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

Grant Income

Council has a significant level of government grants - \$11.7 million (after excluding \$4.83 million received in 2014/15). These grants underpin several capital works projects and operating programs, all of which are of importance to the community. Capital grants, for 2015/16, total \$5.58 million and operating grants \$6.12 million. Due to the conservative position taken by Government in approving new grants the trend as a proportion of the total income may continue to decrease. The continuation of this level of funding will be monitored closely and to actively look for more income streams.

3. Community Consultation

The Council's March 2016 budget review is provided for public viewing in accordance with Council's open and transparent governance policy.

4.

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QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

Internal Consultation

The following members of staff were consulted:

- Corporate Management Team
- All Managers
- Manager - Finance
- Financial Accountant

5. Legislative / Policy Implications

This report complies with the Local Government Act 1989 and Council's Budget and Financial Reporting policy.

In accordance with Section 138 of the Local Government Act 1989, at least every three months the Chief Executive Officer must ensure a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented to the Council.

6. Environmental Sustainability

Council's sound financial position continues to allow Council to implement and maintain its environmental projects.

7. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There are no officer conflict of interest issues to consider within this report.

8. Conclusion

The projected cash position is \$17.15 million as at 30 June 2016.

An operating deficit of \$1.71 million is forecast as at 30 June 2016.

A capital works program of \$14.11 million.

Council continues to face a challenging position and will have to seek additional revenue streams and monitor expenditure as explained earlier.

Attachments

Nil

FILE NO: 180.11.0002
3. OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCESSES

ITEM NO: 9.1.2
(TEAM LEADER - FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTANT, RAMKI SUBRAMANIAM)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

FINANCIAL POSITION REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Financial Position Report as at 31 March 2016.

1. Executive Summary

The March 2016 finance report includes Rates and Charges totalling \$33.3 million (\$26.61 million in general rates, municipal charges, interest and legal charges and \$6.69 million in garbage collection charges, recycling and organic waste charges and environmental levy) which is recognised as income at the time of being levied.

For the month of March a total of approx. \$99,100 of receipts were collected for prior year's rate debtors, this brings the year-to-date total collected to \$1.75 million or 75.47% of the total outstanding. Payments of outstanding rates are being actively managed with payment plans and any rate payers who are experiencing difficulty are encouraged to contact Council officers to discuss options.

Sundry debtors in excess of 30 days are within acceptable levels of 2.89% of total sundry debtors; this represents a figure of \$8,048 out of the total of \$278,574 and is under active management.

Cash and Cash Equivalents balance as at 31 March 2016 is \$27.41 million, and the higher than average balance is due to delayed cash outflows now expected in the June quarter for capital work commitments and creditors.

There has been a challenge delivering a substantive \$14.08 million capital works program within the current financial year. A number of projects have been completed such as St. James Road, Naring Road and the Cobram north east retarding basin. The \$2.2million resealing program is commencing and is due to be completed by June 30. There is a possibility that some projects will roll into the 2016/17 year, such as the completion of the Cobram Library.

Council's tracking against budget remains satisfactory as Council approaches year end.

FILE NO: 180.11.0002
3. OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCESSES

ITEM NO: 9.1.2
(TEAM LEADER - FINANCIAL
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FINANCIAL POSITION REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

Moirā Shire Council Funding Analysis Summary - March 2016				
Operating Income Statement	Ref	2015/16 Adopted Budget	Forecast Dec 2015	Actuals YTD 2015/16
Income				
Operating Grant		(10,932,084)	(6,163,336)	(4,684,848)
Operating Contributions		(86,962)	(56,500)	(91,842)
Reimbursements		(62,859)	(84,467)	(69,065)
Statutory Fees & Fines		(831,920)	(840,620)	(686,503)
User Charges		(2,731,290)	(2,724,568)	(1,697,986)
Other Revenues (incl. Waste Charges & Environmental Levy)		(7,035,256)	(7,138,369)	(6,928,136)
Interest Income		(350,000)	(350,000)	(353,396)
Net Proceeds - Land for resale		(42,000)	(96,331)	(96,331)
Total Income		(22,072,371)	(17,454,191)	(14,608,107)
Expenditure				
Employee Costs		20,169,063	19,434,410	13,333,109
Contractors		5,875,287	5,892,153	3,248,778
Materials & Services		11,627,863	12,222,256	6,928,330
Utilities		967,359	993,407	674,550
Other Expenses		3,833,926	4,246,380	2,617,174
Interest on Borrowings		464,541	464,541	347,688
Bad & Doubtful Debts		5,000	5,000	-
WDV of Disposal of Assets		60,000	60,000	-
Total Expenditure		43,003,039	43,318,147	27,149,628
Net Operational (Inflow) / Outflow		20,930,668	25,863,956	12,541,520
Net Operational (Inflow) / Outflow		20,930,668	25,863,956	12,541,520
Funding available through				
Rates and charges		26,863,347	26,854,347	26,613,802
Rate funds available for Capital Projects	A	5,932,679	990,391	14,072,282
Capital Expenditure		11,571,406	14,079,699	5,433,990
Capital External funding		(5,313,117)	(6,419,892)	(2,909,971)
Net Council Funding of Capital Projects	B	6,258,289	7,659,807	2,524,019
Surplus of Rate Funds after funding Capital Projects	A - B	(325,610)	(6,669,416)	11,548,263
Equity Inflow / (Outflow)		(892,495)	(892,495)	(436,814)
Net Rate Funds Surplus / (Shortfall)		(1,218,105)	(7,561,911)	11,111,458

FILE NO: 180.11.0002
3. OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCESSES

ITEM NO: 9.1.2
(TEAM LEADER - FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTANT, RAMKI SUBRAMANIAM)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

FINANCIAL POSITION REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

Reconciliation with Income Statement		2015/16 Adopted Budget	Forecast Dec 2015	Actuals YTD 2015/16
Net Rate Funds Surplus / (Shortfall)		(1,218,105)	(7,561,911)	11,111,458
Eliminate Balance Sheet items				
Repayment of Loans		892,495	892,495	436,814
Fund from Equity reserves for Capital carryover		-	-	-
Capital Expenditure Capitalised as Assets		11,571,406	14,079,699	5,433,990
Accounting for Non-cash items				
Depreciation Expense and amortisation		(8,886,214)	(8,886,214)	(6,664,660)
Share Profit/Loss Associated Entity		(20,000)	(20,000)	-
Landfill - Interest Unwinding Discount		(491,346)	(491,346)	-
WDV of Infrastructure Replaced		(200,000)	(200,000)	-
Contributions - Non-Monetary Assets		200,000	200,000	-
Income Statement Surplus / (Deficit)		1,848,236	(1,987,277)	10,317,602

Rates & Other Debtors Report - March 2016

General Rates & Municipal Charges		Mar-15	Mar-16	Year on Year Variance
Rate Debtors Outstanding previous month + New Supplementary Charges		9,826,915	10,496,351	669,436
Collection for month		1,993,815	1,936,529	(57,286)
Rate Debtors Outstanding as at end of month		7,833,100	8,559,822	726,722
No. of Rateable Assessments		17,526	17,748	222
Rateable Valuation C.I.V		4,996,645,300	5,103,004,000	106,358,700
Special Scheme Debtors		Feb-16	Mar-16	Monthly Variance
Balance Outstanding		16,548	16,310	238
Sundry Debtors		Feb-16	Mar-16	Monthly Variance
Current		481,996	175,788	306,208
30 Days		1,817	94,738	(92,921)
60 Days		2,314	1,334	980
90 Days		1,579	326	1,253
> 90 Days		5,703	6,388	(685)
Total		493,409	278,574	214,835
Infringements		Feb-16	Mar-16	Monthly Variance
Balance Outstanding		156,716	158,066	(1,350)

FILE NO: 180.11.0002
3. OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCESSES

ITEM NO: 9.1.2
(TEAM LEADER - FINANCIAL
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(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

FINANCIAL POSITION REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

Quarterly Cash Position - Projection as at 30 June 2016	
	\$
Cash and Cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet - 31 Mar 2016	27,412,918
Confirmed inflow/(outflow) recorded in the books of accounts as of date	
Debtors - invoices registered in the system	342,295
Payroll	(3,900,000)
Fire Services levy - due to SRO [net of Creditors & Debtors]	(196,206)
Loan instalment due for the quarter	(228,050)
Estimated future (outflows) and inflows up to 31 March 2016	
Creditors - estimated quarterly payout	(13,500,000)
Rates	5,832,538
Capital Grants	2,731,338
Operating Grants	1,478,488
Projected Cash Balance as at 30 Jun 2016	19,973,321
Following restrictions imposed on Cash and cash equivalents by	
Restricted reserves - Open Space, Car Parking & Net Gain Native	(1,257,837)
Vegetation reserves	
Trust Funds and Deposits	(737,069)
Unexpended Grants [estimated for the year end]	(300,000)
Projected Unrestricted Cash Balance as at 30 Jun 2016	17,678,415

2. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications outside of the normal quarterly review.

3. Risk Management

Regular monthly financial reporting; increases confidence that the internal controls which ensure accuracy are working effectively.

4. Internal and External Consultation

The following members of staff were consulted:

- General Manager – Corporate;
- Finance Manager
- Financial Accountant;
- Finance Analysts;
- Business Support Officer, Safety Amenity & Environment

FILE NO: 180.11.0002
3. OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCESSES

ITEM NO: 9.1.2
(TEAM LEADER - FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTANT, RAMKI SUBRAMANIAM)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

FINANCIAL POSITION REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2016 (cont'd)

Council's Financial Position Report is provided on a monthly basis for public viewing in accordance with Council's open and transparent governance policy.

5. Regional Context

There are no regional context issues to consider within this report.

6. Council Plan Strategy

The report assists Council to deliver on its organisation plan strategy by ensuring sound financial management practices.

7. Legislative / Policy Implications

The report complies with:

- the Local Government Act s136;
- Council's Budget and Financial Reporting Policy; and
- Council's 2013-2017 Council Plan strategic objective (Delivering sound financial management) and Strategic Resource Plan

8. Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impacts associated with this report.

9. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There are no officer conflict of interest issues to consider within this report.

10. Conclusion

Council's financial position at 31 March 2016 is in line with approved forecast and builds on a strong 2014/15 year end result.

Attachments

Nil

FILE NO: F13/2614
3. BUILD ON OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTHS IN
AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING AND
TOURISM

ITEM NO: 9.1.3
(TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
LOUISE MUNK KLINT)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Thank the respondents on the feedback on the draft RV Strategy
2. Adopt the Recreational Vehicle strategy

1. Executive Summary

Council recognises the potential to promote the shire as a friendly destination for the Recreational Vehicle (RV) market through the provision of relevant visitor information and facilities, provision of suitable visitor packs to the RV market, and the development of a RV strategy, which was presented to Council in draft format in late 2015.

Following the Council Meeting on 14 December 2015, Council commenced the broader consultation of the draft RV strategy. An overview of the feedback received by 4 March 2016 was presented to Council at the 15 March 2016 Council Briefing.

This report provides Council with an overview of the community consultation and the development of the RV Strategy and recommends the endorsement and consequent implementation of the RV Strategy.

2. Background and Options

The draft RV Strategy sets out the actions to be implemented to make Moira Shire an RV Friendly Shire that seeks to proactively encourage greater visitation and economic impact from this niche market.

Invitations to provide feedback to the draft RV strategy were distributed via email and letters to the RV Friendly Working Group, the Campervan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA), the local tourism associations, the caravan parks, the section 86 committees, and the regional tourism board. A media release were sent to local media on 23 December and the general public were advised that Council was seeking feedback on the strategy via Council's newspaper corporate ad on 6 January. Copies of the draft RV Strategy were made available to the general community on Council's website and through each of the four visitor information centres.

Council received a total of 49 responses to the RV strategy. The comments and feedback received mirrored many of the topics that were discussed by the RV friendly working group including:

- Low cost overnight camping
- Competitive Neutrality
- Dump Points – Location, Access and Trade Waste Agreement
- Potable Water
- Power
- Noise
- Enforcement

Some examples of the feedback received is provided below, but as one Caravan Park operator succinctly identifies, one of the dilemmas in the RV Strategy is *"There is nothing free in life - someone always pays for it"* (Cobram Willows Caravan Park) and Council will have costs associated with enforcement, waste and ongoing management of the RV friendly facilities.

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HENDERSON)

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

Table 1: Extract of feedback received from some RVers, local caravan parks, Section 86 committees and Goulburn Valley Water

RVers	Local Caravan Parks
<p>"As a regular traveller from WA to the eastern states in a self contained caravan I am not prepared to pay up to \$80 per night to stay in a caravan park where I cannot get in until 2pm and have to be out by 10am. I don't need all the fancy facilities such as internet rooms, tv rooms, swimming pools, games rooms, bouncy pillows and the others designed for the family on annual holidays. I just need a level site and prefer access to water and a dump point, although this is not essential. My wife and I avoid towns and shires that do not provide free/low cost camping for 24/48 hours and simply move on to the next RV friendly area where we are quite prepared to spend our hard earned monies for fuel, food, restaurant, café and bakery items and the occasional maintenance for the car or caravan." Ian Spence, Bibra Lake, WA</p>	<p>The influence that park owners, manages and staff have in interacting with guests play a huge role in where these people, shop, have their hair cut, what pubs/clubs to visit, day trips, and a hundred other activities. Not to mention encouragement to stay longer. It is highly unlikely that towns will cease to exist if non compliant camping was not available. Non compliant camping would mean more expense to rate payers, liability issues, legal issues with Competitive Neutrality Principles, and not the spend amount promised when considering independent reports." Numurkah Caravan Park</p>
<p>"A showground with the basics of power, water and access to "showground quality" toilets and showers would not be the choice of holiday makers and is arguably not in competition with a reasonable standard commercial camping ground. It appeals to the traveller who is after the basics but who will still spend money if they stay a couple of days. It should also appeal to the showground S86 committee who can generate an income from a facility that would be otherwise unused." Geoff Bradford, location unknown</p>	<p>"However all parks and any business would find it impossible to compete with a Council who intend to give things away for free. Will the Council be giving free accommodation in motel rooms for those who wish to come to the Shire but don't have an RV? It will attract more people to the area. Why not give every one that comes here a free shirt and perhaps a nice pair of trousers would be nice. No. Why not? That's exactly what you are proposing to do with a select few. Most owners live on site, so the security to guests is high where as I see nothing in the proposal as to the level of security the Council will provide free campers. It is our belief rather than giving away free holidays to a select few who expect it just because they have an RV, Council would be far better off spending OUR money to promote the area and all it has to offer as well as help fund events that would attract a larger group of people who don't mind if they have to spend money in the shire to enjoy it." Cobram East Caravan Park</p>

Section 86 Committees are requiring further information to fully understand the implications it will have on them. As highlighted by two Section 86 Committee representatives highlight:

"Our decision at this meeting was that we require further information. Who is going to police this, collect fee's, ensure rubbish is picked up. Ultimately who is responsible for people camping at our recreation reserve and if this goes ahead will the COM be given increased funds? What about the caravan park next door and others in town?" Caitlin Bourke, Nathalia Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

"Who supervises – who cleans up ? Who pays for clean up ??- what happens when events are on eg Markets. Rodeo , Show etc. who allows them access and egress- If what is said how many of these stopovers 1-2-3-5 + nights are going to stop in Yarrawonga Mulwala - ?? Do we have numbers ? What is the effect on local rate paying caravan parkes?? We need to know what is the impact !! Why do they have to be free ?? Why should they be free ?? We all have to contribute to provision of services !! The Sewer and Water cost Ratepayers to provide – Showgrounds have to be maintained ! ?? Is Council going to provide special subsidy for this trial ???? It is said these RDV contribute greatly to our local economy – I do not dispute this – but show us the figures of what stays in the local economy?? What is fuel and supermarket that goes out of town {maybe a small % of labour stays}. Doug Evans

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**3. BUILD ON OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTHS IN
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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

Of the three section 86 Committees that have responded, two require more information and expresses significant concern and one committee unanimously opposes the grounds being used as an RV friendly area due to the perceived imposition of costs for the committee, the lack of monitoring and the presence of existing free camping along the river with some in walking distance from the town.

Goulburn Valley Water supports the initiative of Moira Shire to be a Recreational Vehicle (RV) Friendly Shire, but have the following concerns that need to be addressed in terms of the continued provision of dump points whether public or commercially managed, including: (a) Open access to potable water; (b) Installation of backflow prevention devices at each of the dump points to prevent contamination of GVW water supply from mishaps by users of the dump points; and (c) Supervision of existing and potential future dump points.

The RV Strategy in its current format recommends the following eleven actions:

1. Endorse and Promote Moira Shire as an Attractive RV Friendly Shire
2. Establish Economic Data and Visitor Profile of RV Market
3. Transition to Commercially Managed Dump Points
4. Trial the continuation of Council managed dump points
5. Develop RV Friendly Low Cost Overnight Sites in smaller towns and surrounds
6. Trial RV Friendly Low Cost Overnight Sites in major towns
7. Commit resources to enforcement
8. Encourage local businesses to become CMCA RV Friendly Destinations
9. Provide long-vehicle parking close to shopping precincts
10. Offer access to potable water from designated locations
11. Provide new signage

Action item 4 and action item 6 are the two actions that create controversy. Action 4 trials the continuation of dump points in showgrounds, which up until now have created some issues for Council and Section 86 Committees. Action 6 trials RV Friendly Low Cost Overnight Sites in major towns (in the showgrounds), which is opposed by the local caravan parks and by most of the Section 86 Committees.

These trial actions were developed as a tool for Council, Caravan Parks and Section 86 Committees to gain localized data that could identify if this solution is a viable way forward after the one year trial.

Council has two options:

1. Endorse the RV Strategy in its current draft format with its 11 actions
2. Endorse the RV Strategy in a revised format with only 9 actions (removing action item 4 and action item 6 of the current draft format).

3. Financial Implications

There are a number of financial implications to be considered that were detailed in the 14 December 2015 report to Council.

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HENDERSON)

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

4. Risk Management

RV Friendly tourism fits into the larger regional context of continuing to grow visitor numbers that have an economic impact on the wider community and region.

More localised research is required to identify what the economic impact of RV Friendly tourism is for Moira Shire and the Murray Region. This has been identified as a key action item of the RV Strategy to ensure the strategy is evidence-based and sound moving forward.

5. Internal and External Consultation

Internal Meetings

Over the years, internal consultation has involved the CEO, Council's Corporate Management Team and Council Officers and Managers from areas of Infrastructure; Property, Risk and Compliance; Safety, Amenity and Environment; Community Development; Economic Development; and Tourism.

External Meetings

In 2011, the Economic Development Unit distributed fifty-five invitations to accommodation houses to attend meetings in Yarrawonga, Cobram and Numurkah on 14th, 15th and 16th September respectively to discuss RV Friendly status in the Moira Shire. Each business was contacted by phone as a follow-up. Twelve people attended the meetings, representing nine businesses within the Moira Shire.

Online Survey

A survey was conducted through the Survey Monkey website, which attracted thirty-one responses.

In 2015, the RV Strategy has been discussed by the RV Friendly Working Group and the Tourism Advisory Committee.

Submissions to draft RV Friendly Strategy

A total of Total of 49 responses were received before the closing date on 04 March 2015. These represented 13 local residents (excl. other local categories); three Section 86 Committees; one local sporting club; two local businesses (excl caravan parks); nine local caravan parks; the Caravan Park Association of Victoria; five RV and caravan clubs (incl. the Campervan and Motohome Club of Australia (CMCA); Goulburn Valley Water; 12 tourists as far away as NSW, South Australia and Western Australia; and two of unknown origin and representation.

A total of 15 comments were also posted to a Goulburn Murray ABC Facebook post, which received 22 likes.

Another two responses were received after the closing date.

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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

6. Regional Context

RV Friendly tourism fits into the larger regional context of continuing to grow visitor numbers that have an economic impact on the wider community and region.

More localised research is required to identify what the economic impact of RV Friendly tourism is for Moira Shire and the Murray Region. This has been identified as a key action item of the RV Strategy to ensure the strategy is evidence-based and sound moving forward.

7. Council Plan Strategy

The RV Strategy links to Council's strategic goal to *Build on our economic strengths in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism* and the specific action *Strengthen Moira's tourism offer* through the development of a *Moira Shire Tourism and Event Strategy (destination management plan)*.

8. Legislative / Policy Implications

If Council proceeds to become an RV Friendly Shire there are a number of legislative and policy implications, as were detailed in the report to Council on 14 December 2015.

9. Environmental Impact

If Council continues to offer the use of dump points, it would need to continue to ensure the proper procedures are in place to prevent contamination of the dump points. Garbage and litter management are also items that need to be considered together with access to water and power.

Council would also have to consider the environmental impact if Council decided to discontinue the provision of free dump points to the RV market, as some RVers may dump their grey and black water on the side of the road, if they cannot access the appropriate facilities. This could have some significant environmental ramifications.

10. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There is no officer conflict of interest with regards to this report.

11. Conclusion

The RV Friendly Town Scheme is an initiative of The Caravan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA). Holding an RV Friendly status for a town means that the community welcomes and provides amenities to accommodate the needs of RV tourists, including parking, access to potable water and a free dump point.

In 2014 the Council established an RV Friendly Working Group to discuss the issues of the Shire becoming RV Friendly. Issues that have been discussed at the RV Friendly Working Group include: Local laws; Water; Waste; Power; Noise; Competition; Risks; Insurance, and the Application of the final implementation framework.

The attached RV Strategy has considered the identified issues and has presented the best option for Moira Shire to become an RV Friendly Shire that promotes the Sun Country on the Murray region in partnership with the tourism industry as a destination that welcomes tourists travelling with RVs.

It is recommended that Council recognises the potential to promote the shire as a friendly destination for the RV market through the provision of relevant visitor information and facilities,

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(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

provision of suitable visitor packs to the RV market, thank the respondents to the release of the draft RV Strategy, Endorse the RV Strategy either in its current format or in a slightly revised format and action Council Officers to implement the strategy.

Attachments

- 1 Moira Shire Council - Recreational Vehicle (RV) - Strategy 2015

FILE NO: F13/2614
3. BUILD ON OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTHS
IN AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING AND
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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council - Recreational Vehicle (RV) - Strategy
2015



DRAFT

**Recreational Vehicle (RV)
Friendly Strategy**



FILE NO: F13/2614
3. BUILD ON OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTHS
IN AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING AND
TOURISM

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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council - Recreational Vehicle (RV) - Strategy 2015

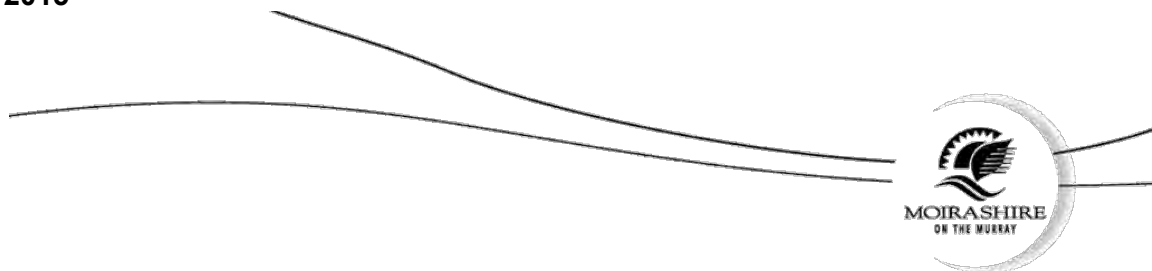


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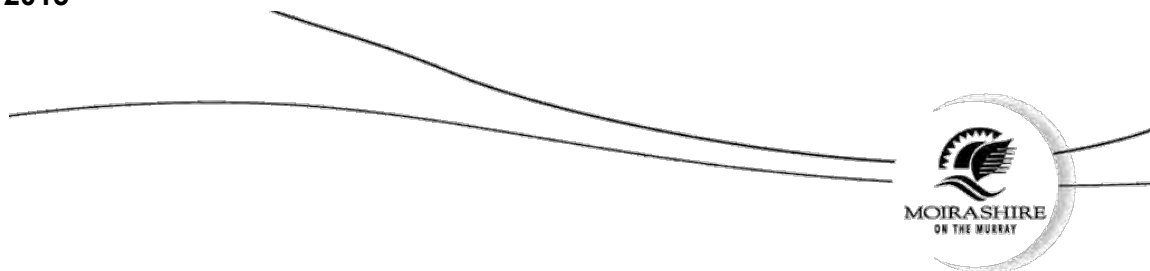
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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council - Recreational Vehicle (RV) - Strategy 2015



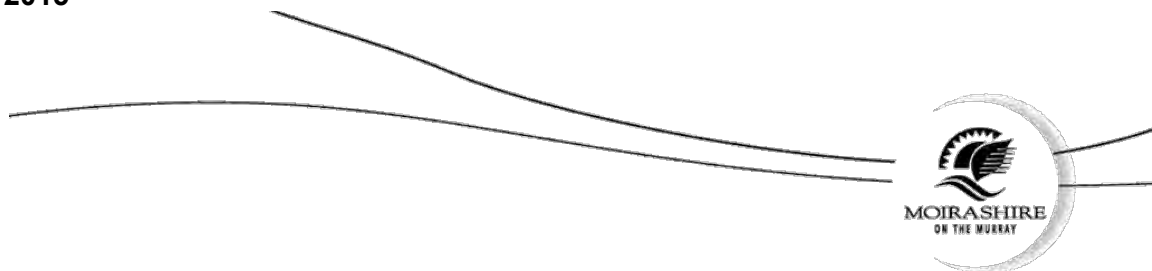
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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council - Recreational Vehicle (RV) - Strategy 2015



1 Executive Summary

Moira shire Council wants to be a Recreational Vehicle (RV) Friendly Shire and seeks to proactively encourage greater visitation and economic impact from this niche tourism market.

Tourism is an important contributor to the local economy in Moira Shire Council with around 900,000 visitors coming to the region annually. The tourism industry makes a considerable contribution by bringing new dollars into the region that directly spent on a wide range of services from accommodation, restaurants and attractions to the retail sector.

The traditional caravan and camping market represent an important component of the tourism mix in Moira Shire with caravan parks and commercial camping grounds being the second most popular type of accommodation for domestic overnight visitors. In total, there are 22 caravan parks registered in Moira Shire offering a total of 1,010 cabins and 1,450 powered/unpowered sites.

A new market has developed; the self-contained RV market that covers visitors travelling with caravans, campervans and/or motorhomes, but does not necessarily require the facilities of commercial caravan parks and camping grounds. This market require only access to potable water, dump points and a place to stop and camp overnight legally.

Research has shown that the self-contained RV market has the potential to generate economic activity with an average weekly spend of \$500 and an average of 163 days of travel annually. Some RVers will only stay in commercial caravan parks, other RVers will never stay in commercial caravan parks and some RVers will stay in a mixture of commercial and non-commercial caravan parks and camping grounds.

The self-contained RV market represents a growing but lower yielding market that should be considered in Moira Shire's tourism offering, but should not detract from the traditional caravan and camping market.

In 2007 The RV Friendly schemes (i.e. RV Friendly Destination and RV Friendly Town) was established by the Caravan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) with the purpose of assisting regional areas to attract RV tourists and provide a network of RV friendly sites throughout Australia. Specific criteria apply to each of these schemes.

Moira Shire Council currently has four RV Friendly Towns (i.e. Yarrawonga, Cobram, Nurmukah and Nathalia), but is looking to take a shire-wide approach to being RV Friendly.

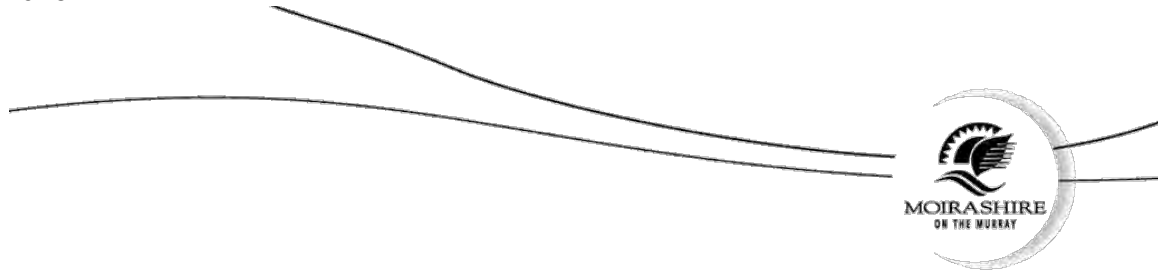
There are a number of issues relating to the provision of free dump points and low cost or free camping that must be considered, including management and maintenance of dump points, enforcement and policing, cost of water/power, noise, risks and insurance, application and adherence to regulatory requirements.

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LOUISE MUNK KLINT)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
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RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

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Taking into the consideration the range of challenges and issues, Moira Shire Council's vision is to become an RV Friendly Shire.

To achieve the vision of becoming an RV Friendly Shire, Moira Shire Council will have to implement the following actions:

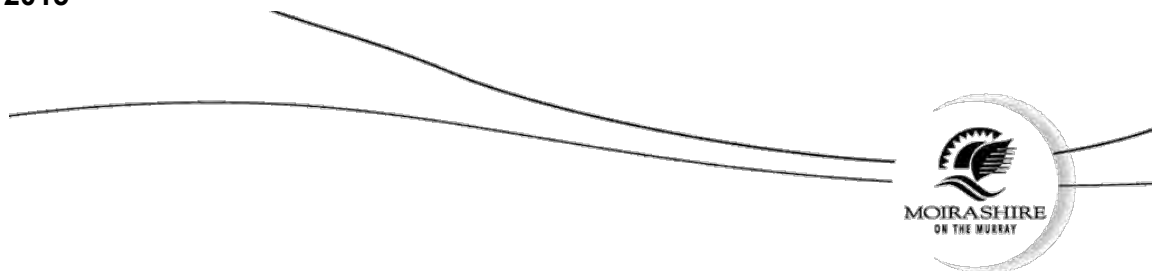
- ❖ Endorse and Promote Moira Shire as an Attractive RV Friendly Shire
- ❖ Establish Economic Data and Visitor Profile of RV Market
- ❖ Transition to Commercially Managed Dump Points
- ❖ Trial the continuation of Council managed dump points
- ❖ Develop RV Friendly Low Cost Overnight Sites in smaller towns and surrounds
- ❖ Trial RV Friendly Low Cost Overnight Sites in major towns
- ❖ Commit resources to enforcement
- ❖ Encourage local businesses to become CMCA RV Friendly Destinations
- ❖ Provide long-vehicle parking close to shopping precincts
- ❖ Offer access to potable water from designated locations
- ❖ Provide new signage

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2 Industry Overview

2.1 Importance of Tourism

Tourism is an important contributor to the local economy in Moira Shire Council. The tourism industry makes a considerable contribution by bringing new dollars into the region that are directly spent on a wide range of services from accommodation, restaurants and attractions to the retail sector. Then there are the indirect and flow-on effects from tourism in Moira Shire.

The tourism sector in Moira Shire currently contributes:

- ❖ \$95.504 million (3.7 %) of total output
- ❖ 580 jobs (6.3 %) to total employment
- ❖ \$22.335 million (4.5 %) of total wages and salaries
- ❖ \$43.417 million (4.1 %) of total value-added

Source: These figures are derived from economic modelling by REMPLAN for July 2014 based on the following sources of data: 2012-13, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Tourism Satellite Account.

For the year ending March 2015, Sun Country on the Murray¹ received close to 900,000 visitors of which 525,000 were domestic overnight, 365,000 domestic day visitors and 5,200 were international visitors. Domestic visitors (day and overnight) spent an approximately \$320 million in the region. International visitor expenditure in the region is considered statistically unreliable for the year ending March 2015.

After 'friends or relatives property' (40.3%), 'caravan parks and commercial camping grounds' represent the second most popular type of accommodation for domestic overnight visitors, with 15.3 per cent of the overnight domestic visitors staying at this type of accommodation. The caravan and commercial camping grounds do not rank highly with international visitors.

Moira Shire Council seeks to strengthen Moira's tourism offer through the development of a destination management plan (DMP) and advocacy and support for the development of key tourism assets in the region.

2.2 Traditional Caravan and Camping Market versus the Self Contained RV Market

As highlighted in the above section, the typical caravan and camping market represent an important component of the tourism mix in Moira Shire. Nevertheless, an opportunity also exists to tap into the self-contained RV market.

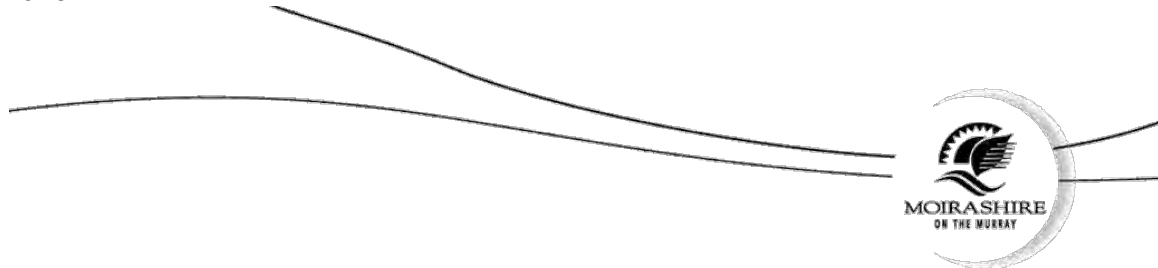
¹ For the statistics reported, the Sun Country region includes Yarrawonga, Mulwala, Cobram, Barooga, Numurkah, Barmah, Nathalia, Tocumwal, Finley and Berrigan.

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The traditional caravan and camping market covers visitors that travel with tents or vehicles such as caravans, campervans and motorhomes that can either be self-contained or not self-contained that stay in commercial caravan and camping grounds.

The self-contained RV market covers visitors that travel with caravans, campervans and/or motorhomes, but does not require the facilities of commercial caravan and camping grounds. This newer generation of RVers are seeking an experience that offers freedom of choice along with new options to satisfy their needs. In other words, the self-contained RVers are capable of being independent for up to a week and enjoy the freedom of stopping whenever and wherever they want. They require only access to potable water, dump points and a place to stop and camp overnight legally.

Nationally, the interests of businesses associated with the caravan and camping market is represented by the Caravan Industry Association of Australia (CIAA). The CIAA is the national peak body for the Australian caravan and camping industry representing over 4000 industry businesses ranging from caravan parks, manufacturers and retailers of industry products, suppliers of goods and services, and service providers.

In Victoria the traditional caravan and camping market is also represented by the Victorian Caravan Parks Association (often referred to as VicParks) and other relevant industry associations. The Victorian Caravan Parks Association was formed in 1964 to protect, promote and advance the caravan park industry. VicParks represents the interests of the commercial caravan and camping grounds.

In Victoria the self-contained RV market is also represented by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia. The Caravan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) is the peak body for the RV market. It was established in 1986 and currently represents more than 65,000 members.

Being a relative new and growing market, research for the self-contained RV market is not yet covered through formal research channels, such as the traditional caravan market that is represented in our national and international visitor surveys conducted by Tourism Research Australia. However, research conducted by the CMCA indicates that the RV market has potential to generate economic activity with the average weekly spend of RV tourists when travelling is around \$500. This is generally spent on:

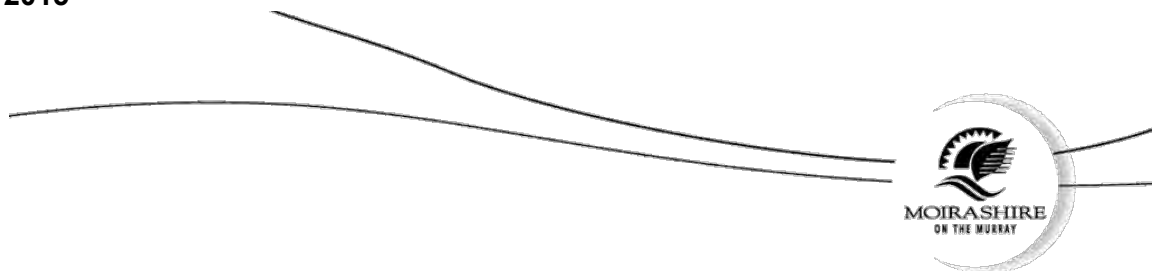
- ❖ Fuel \$210
- ❖ Expenses \$160
- ❖ Repairs/maintenance \$25
- ❖ Site fees \$51
- ❖ Other \$46

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What is particularly important to note is that the RV tourists spend around 163 days travelling annually and on average spend three days at each stop that they make. The replenishment cycle of the RV tourist means that generally RVers will stock up on day 1 (fully stocked vehicle), day 2 (need to stock up with fuel and basics), day 4 (need to stock up with more basics) and day 7 (full replenishment of groceries and vehicle needs).

Research conducted by CMCA of their 65,000+ members has also shown that of the RV market:

- ❖ 33% will only stay in a commercial caravan and camping grounds;
- ❖ 16% will only stay in RV friendly site (i.e. non-commercial sites only); and
- ❖ 51% will stay in a mixture of commercial and non-commercial caravan and camping grounds.

The following provide an overview of research considering the pros and cons of RV Friendly:

The 2013 Caravan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) snapshot report highlights the growth and value of the RV market

- ❖ Around 500,000 RVs registered in Australia
- ❖ RV market is worth \$6.5 billion a year to the Australian economy
- ❖ The RV market spend on average expenditure of \$500-\$900 per week
- ❖ The RV market is a growing market due to baby boomers
- ❖ 34% of the RV market stay in caravan parks – only 16% of the RV market will only stay in non-commercial accommodation
- ❖ 50% use a mix of commercial and non-commercial accommodation.

The 2012 Caravan and Road Vehicle Accommodation (CRVA) snapshot report highlights the commercial and non-commercial camper spend patterns

- ❖ Commercial campers create \$5.4 billion of economic activity a year in Australia – with 90% of direct expenditure (\$2 billion) spent in regional areas.
- ❖ Commercial campers' average expenditure is \$576 per location (excl. accomm. cost) vs. \$213 non-commercial campers. The average daily spend for a commercial camper is around \$73 versus \$53 for a non-commercial camper.
- ❖ Commercial campers on average stay longer

The RV market represents a growing tourism market that should be considered in Moira Shire's tourism offering, but should not detract from the traditional caravan and camping market.

3 CMCA RV Friendly Schemes

The RV Friendly schemes were launched by the CMCA in 2007. The purpose of the RV Friendly Schemes was to assist regional areas to attract RV tourists and provide a network of RV friendly sites throughout Australia as a service to their club members.

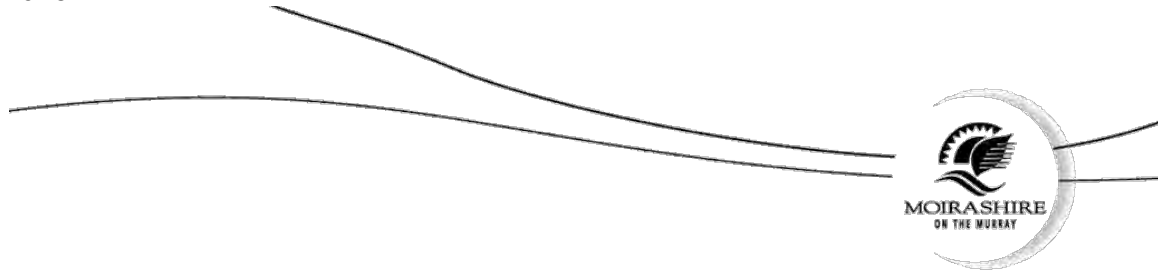
The RV Friendly Schemes identify common criteria that are appealing to the RV market and which will help encourage short stays within the communities or destinations that enter into the scheme.

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There are two schemes:

1. RV Friendly Destinations
2. RV Friendly Towns

An RV Friendly Shire scheme has not yet been identified. We have discussed this with CMCA and they are welcoming Moira Shire Council to take an RV Friendly Shire approach where Council can promote to RVers that we welcome them to the shire and identify the relevant RV facilities. Macedon Ranges is one example of a local council that has recently taken an RV Friendly Shire approach to being RV Friendly.

The criteria for each of the existing schemes have been outlined below.

3.1 RV Friendly Destinations™

An RV Friendly Destination™ is often a small town, club, oval, showground, scenic attraction or business that is not able to meet the full criteria of the CMCA RV Friendly Town™ program. Councils, progress associations and businesses can apply to participate by completing an application form, which is available from the CMCA National Headquarters.

3.1.1 Essential criteria:

- ❖ Provision of short term, low cost overnight parking (24/48 hours) for self-contained RVs.
- ❖ The parking area needs to be on a solid, level surface.
- ❖ There must be enough room for large vehicles to manoeuvre.

3.1.2 Desirable criteria:

- ❖ A waste water dump point.
- ❖ Potable water.
- ❖ Longer term parking.

CMCA will offer RV Friendly Destinations™ specified signage at cost price plus promotion of the destination on the Club website (subject to terms and conditions).

In Moira Shire, the following RV Friendly Destinations are:

- ❖ Wakiti Creek Resort; and
- ❖ The Big Strawberry

With the appropriate Council permits in place, other businesses could be encouraged to enquire about joining this RV Friendly Destination™ scheme.

3.2 RV Friendly Towns™

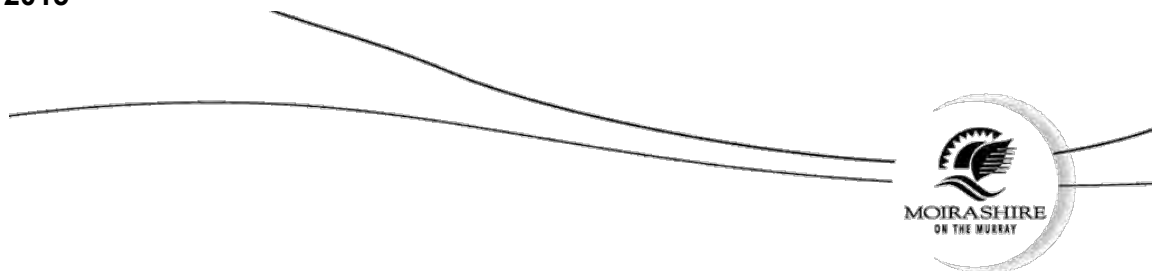
An RV Friendly Town™ is a town that has met a set of guidelines to ensure they provide a certain amount of amenities, and a certain level of services for these travellers. When RV tourists enter a

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town displaying the RV Friendly Town sign, they know they will be welcome, certain services will be provided for them that may not be available in other centres, and they will have access to a safe place to stay overnight, and possibly for a longer period.

3.2.1 Essential criteria:

- ❖ Provision of appropriate parking within the town centre, with access to a general shopping area for groceries and fresh produce.
- ❖ Provision of short term, low cost overnight parking (24/48 hours) for self-contained RVs, as close as possible to the CBD.
- ❖ Access to potable water.
- ❖ Access to a free dump point at an appropriate location.

3.2.2 Desirable criteria:

- ❖ Provision of long term parking for self-contained RVs.
- ❖ Access to medical facilities or an appropriate emergency service.
- ❖ Access to a pharmacy or a procedure to obtain pharmaceutical products.
- ❖ Visitor Information Centre (VIC) with appropriate parking facilities.
- ❖ VIC to provide a town map showing essential facilities, such as short and long term parking areas, dump point and potable water.
- ❖ RV Friendly Town™ signs to be erected within the town precinct.

The CMCA provides the participating Council with two signs advertising the RV Friendly Town™ and promotion of the town on the Club website (subject to terms and conditions). The CMCA signs are not compliant with VicRoads standard signage.

Moira Shire Council currently has four RV Friendly Towns™ including Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah and Nathalia.

3.3 Leave No Trace®

The CMCA recognised that one of the great advantages of travelling in a self-contained vehicle is having the luxury to be able to stop at remote and regional locations, with no facilities, and become immersed in the tranquillity.

The CMCA wants to secure the opportunity for freedom camping and have established a code of conduct for their members titled the Leave No Trace® Program, which was introduced in 1994.

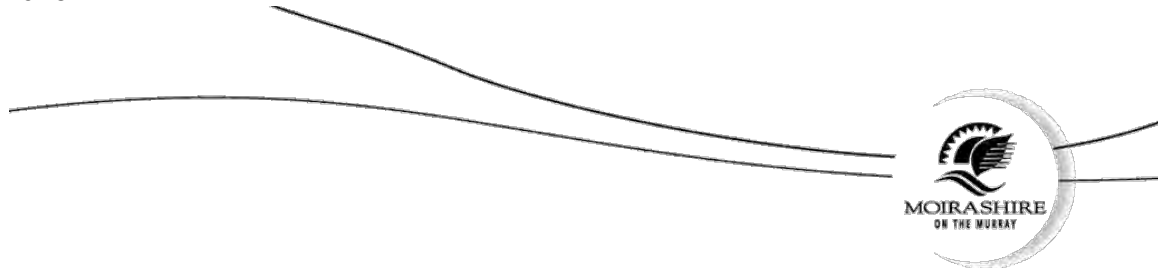
The program demonstrates to all levels of governments that self-contained vehicles do not necessarily have a negative impact on the environment, even if the campsite does not have any facilities. Under the Leave No Trace program, RV users adhere to strict guidelines relating to the vehicle's capacity for holding fresh, grey and black water allowing Councils to give access to controlled areas for RV self-contained users.

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4 Situation Analysis

4.1 Tourism Destinations in the Murray Considering RV Friendly Option

Moira Shire Council is not the only council in the Murray Region and Victoria to consider the RV Friendly tourism options. Many towns in the Murray Region are considering or have become RV Friendly Towns under the guidelines set out by the CMCA.

Considering the issues that it creates for commercial caravan parks, The Murray Regional Tourism Board (MRTB) indicates in their Destination Management Plan that a strategic approach to RV Friendly Towns and the provision of RV infrastructure is required.

The MRTB recommends that

only towns without caravan parks and existing visitor demand should consider becoming RV friendly; other locations should consider providing RV facilities on a commercial basis, typically within existing caravan parks (MRTB DMP, p. 39).

It is recommended that this regional tourism strategy is considered in the development of Moira Shire's RV Friendly Strategy and implementation of such.

4.2 Moira Shire's Existing Caravan and Road Vehicle Accommodation Capacity

Moira Shire is rather unique in terms of its existing caravan and road vehicle accommodation capacity. Many councils in Victoria do not have the same existing capacity that Moira Shire Council does.

In Moira Shire there are currently 22 operational caravan parks on offer across the towns of Barmah, Bathumi, Bundalong, Cobram, Kanyapella, Katamatite, Koonoomoo, Kotupna, Nathalia, Numurkah, Strathmerton and Yarrawonga. Of these 22 caravan parks, four (4) are council owned but managed through a Committee of Management. We have no community parks in Moira Shire.

Across these 22 caravan parks, there are a total of 1,010 cabins and 1,450 powered/unpowered sites. The sites vary in size and further investigation is necessary to identify the capacity to cater for large scale RVs.

Prices in the commercial caravan parks although varying are approximately between \$30-\$35 per night, increasing up to \$50 during holiday periods; cheaper for non-powered and chain member discounts. Member discounts are usually a percentage with a maximum discount of \$40.00

The 22 caravan parks that are registered with Moira Shire Council include:

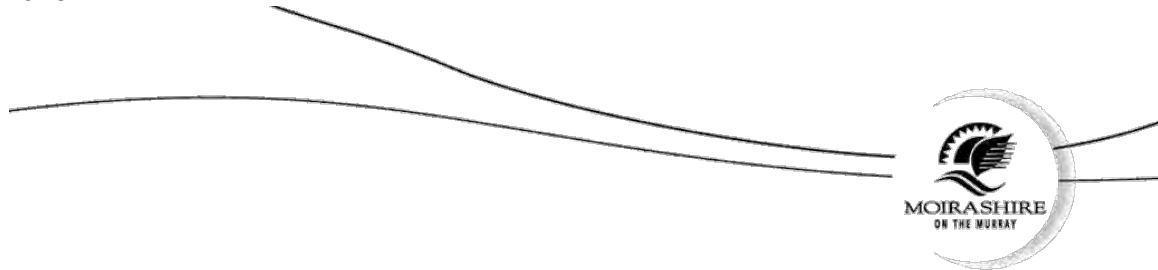
- ❖ Apex Caravan Park
- ❖ Barmah Camping Pty Ltd Caravan Park

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- ❖ Bundalong Holiday Park
- ❖ Coach Stop Caravan Park
- ❖ Cobram East Caravan Park
- ❖ Cobram Oasis Tourist Park
- ❖ Cobram Willows Caravan Park
- ❖ Green Palms Caravan Park
- ❖ Jelara Caravan Park
- ❖ Katamatite Caravan Park
- ❖ Murray Perch Caravan Park
- ❖ Murray River Hideaway Holiday Park
- ❖ Nathalia Motel & Holiday Park
- ❖ Numurkah Caravan Park
- ❖ RACV Cobram Resort
- ❖ River Bend Caravan Park
- ❖ Riverbank Caravan Park
- ❖ Time Out Holiday Resort
- ❖ Wakiti Creek Resort
- ❖ Yarrawonga Holiday Park
- ❖ Yarrawonga Westside Caravan Park
- ❖ Skiland Motel Pty. Ltd.

There is also a wide range of vehicle dispersed camping opportunities in the parks and forests of our shire. These sites are too many to list. Areas where such dispersed camping options can be found include but is not limited to:

- ❖ Barmah National Park;
- ❖ The Murray River Reserve;
- ❖ Cobram Regional Park;
- ❖ Yarrawonga Regional Park; and
- ❖ Warby-Ovens National Park.

4.2.1 Current Unauthorised Sites

There are areas within Moira Shire Council that currently has camping occurring on an ad hoc basis, which Council's Local Laws Officers from time to time receive complaints about. Some sites include:

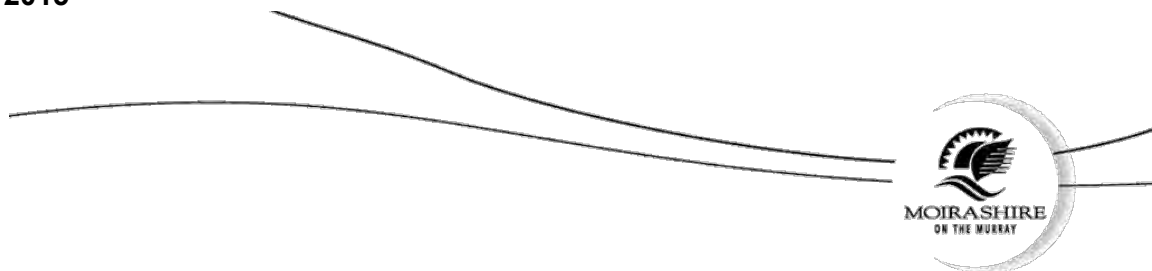
- ❖ Thompsons Beach, Kennedy Park Cobram
- ❖ Showgrounds, Cobram
- ❖ Showgrounds, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Showgrounds, Numurkah
- ❖ Lions Park, Numurkah
- ❖ Murray Valley Highway, Strathmerton

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- ❖ West Rest Area, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Rest Area, Bundalong
- ❖ Truck Stop, Wunghnu

Increasing the awareness of RV Friendly sites and facilities will assist to limit the inappropriate usage of unauthorised sites and lessen the burden on our Local Laws Officers.

A clearer promotion of where the RV Friendly facilities and sites are will direct RVers to the appropriate sites and may offer opportunities for promotion of commercial caravan and camping grounds within the shire.

4.2.2 Current Authorised Sites

There are currently no Authorised Sites.

4.3 Dump Points

A dump point is a properly designed facility allowing RVers to dispose of grey and black water, as well as sewage waste. Dump points need to be installed as low to the ground as possible to allow discharge from a vehicle by gravity. Dump points are usually connected either directly to the sewage system or to a septic tank. Dump points also need to be placed in a position that allows access to large vehicles up to 19.5 metres in length.

The purpose of providing easily-accessible dump points is to encourage more self-contained tourism throughout Australia, benefiting both regional and rural centres, and the environment.

4.3.1 Dump Point Locations in Moira Shire

Over 300 public dump points have been installed throughout Australia under the dump point subsidy scheme organised by the CMCA.

In Moira Shire, there are five dump points managed by Council and a range of dump points located within caravan parks. The following provide a list of dump points in Moira Shire:

- ❖ Showgrounds, Numurkah
- ❖ Showgrounds, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Showgrounds, Cobram
- ❖ Murray Valley Highway, Strathmerton
- ❖ Weir St, Nathalia

The following commercial dump points also exist in Moira Shire:

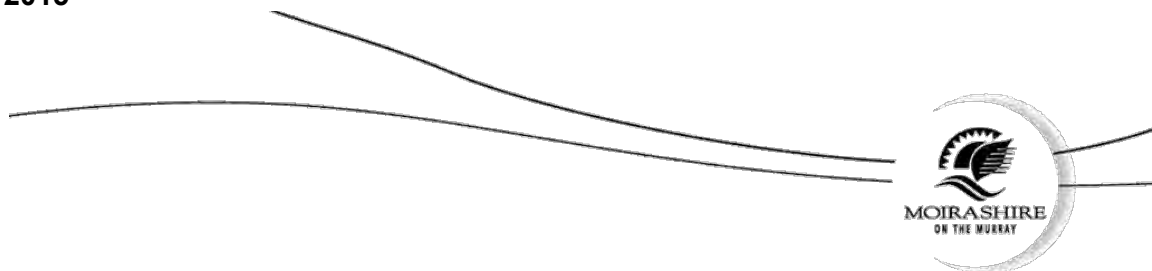
- ❖ Yarrawonga Holiday Park, Yarrawonga x 2 - For guests only
- ❖ Bundalong Holiday Resort, Bundalong - For guests only
- ❖ Murray River Hideaway, Strathmerton (septic tank)
- ❖ Nathalia Motel & Holiday Park, Nathalia - For guests only

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- ❖ Oasis, Cobram – \$5 dollar user charge
- ❖ RACV, Cobram – For guests only
- ❖ River Bank, Nathalia – For guests only
- ❖ Time Out Holiday Park, Koonoomoo (currently installing) – would allow user charge
- ❖ Wakiti Creek, Kotupna – would allow user charge

The following caravan parks would allow usage by RVers either for free or at a charge if they had a dump point installed:

- ❖ Barmah
- ❖ Numurkah Caravan Park, Numurkah
- ❖ Cobram East Caravan Park, Cobram
- ❖ Willows, Cobram
- ❖ Westside Creek, Yarrawonga – need more information to confirm if they would allow usage

The Westside Petrol Station in Strathmerton has also expressed an interest in allowing usage by RVers either for free or at a charge if they had a dump point installed. The Westside Petrol Station is open 24 hours, seven days a week.

4.3.2 Dump Point Installation Costs

Under the RV Friendly scheme, CMCA/KEA Campers provide selected councils with a dump point for installation at a suitable public site, such as a community facility or rest area. The subsidised dump point must be provided free of charge as a public facility and be available for use, at the minimum, during normal daylight hours. Subsidised dump points will display a small stainless steel plaque (supplied by CMCA) acknowledging the contribution of CMCA and KEA Campers.

Although CMCA under their RV Friendly Town Scheme can provide the actual dump point free of charge, the installation of the dump point can be costly. All dump points need to be connected to the local sewerage system and depending on the location can cost up to \$15,000 to install.

4.4 Long Vehicle Parking (day time)

One of the essential criteria of the RV Friendly Town scheme is to provide appropriate parking within the town centre, with access to a general shopping area for groceries and fresh produce.

Long vehicle parking bays are significantly longer than regular vehicle bays and allow for parking of caravans, motorhomes, boats and longer vehicles that can be otherwise difficult to accommodate.

The provision of long vehicle parking options within the major towns as well as smaller towns is crucial to ensure that the economic impact of RV tourism is felt locally.

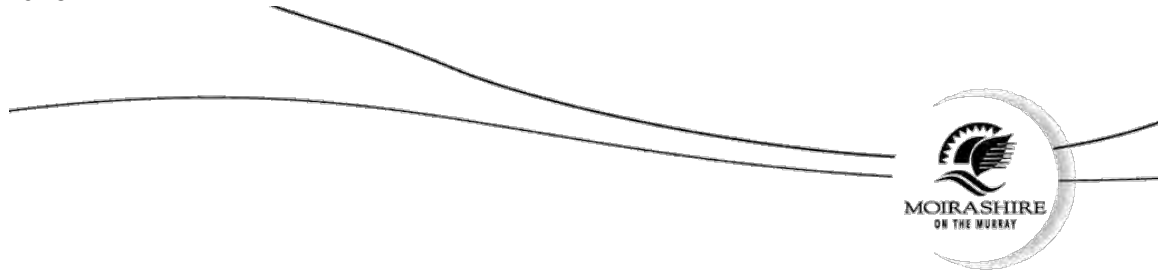
Long vehicle parking options can either be line-marked designated long-vehicle parking or unmarked off the side of the street parking.

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4.4.1 Long Vehicle Parking in Major Towns

Long vehicle parking is available un-marked or line-marked in the following locations within the four major towns of Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah and Nathalia:

- ❖ Punt Road, Cobram
- ❖ Behind Federation Park, Cobram Railway Station, Cobram
- ❖ Mivo Park, Cobram
- ❖ Blake St, Nathalia
- ❖ Weir Street, Nathalia
- ❖ Irvine Parade, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Hunt Street, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Hume Street, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Hovell Street, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Gilmore Street, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Melville Street Numurkah
- ❖ Knox Street, Numurkah

There may be further options for long vehicle parking that could be explored further, including but not limited to:

- Railway land at the end of Lott Street, Yarrawonga – this land is owned by VicTrack and not Council. In other words, this would either require VicTrack's direct consent or the Committee of Management could apply for an extension of their lease of land near the Railway Station to allow Council to promote this location for parking.

4.4.2 Long Vehicle Parking in Smaller Towns

Long vehicle parking is available un-marked in the following locations:

- ❖ Lions Park, Tungamah
- ❖ Barr Street, Tungamah
- ❖ Swamp Road, Lake Rowan
- ❖ Hotchin Street, Katamatite
- ❖ Off Murray Valley Highway near Goughs Lane, Bundalong
- ❖ Off Murray Valley Highway, Strathmerton
- ❖ Wunghnu, by the creek
- ❖ Moran Street, Picola

4.5 Potable Water

Access to potable water in Moira Shire will be from the following locations:

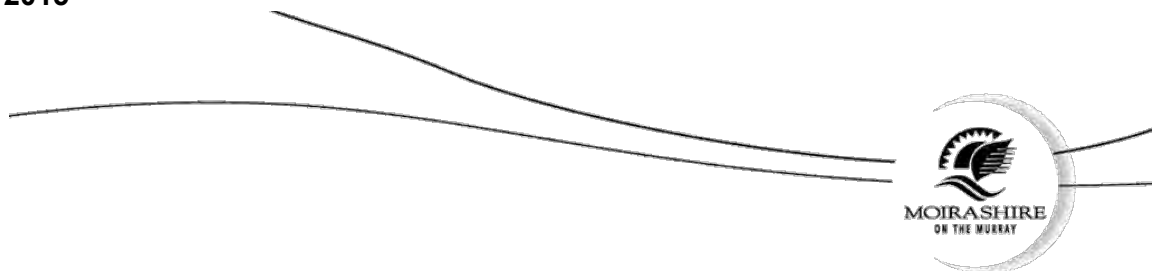
- ❖ Cnr Barr Street and Tungamah Main Road, Tungamah
- ❖ Cnr Benalla - Tocumwal Road and Moore St, Katamatite

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- ❖ Benalla-Tocumwal Road, Katamatite
- ❖ Blake Street, Nathalia
- ❖ Weir Street, Nathalia

Access to potable water may also potentially be provided from the same location as the commercial dump points. This will depend on the level of interest from the caravan parks to be part of such a packaged deal (i.e. dump your waste and fill up with potable water) at a minimal set fee.

5 RV Friendly Policies and Strategies for Other Councils

RV Friendly policies and strategies vary between shires in Victoria depending on the features and needs of the differing regions.

5.1 Murray Region

The following provide just a snapshot of the RV Friendly policies and strategies of other councils within the Murray Region (tourism region):

Albury City Council

Albury City is RV Friendly but the shire does not have a specific RV Strategy. Albury City Council promotes one free dump site located within their Railway Precinct and one designated free camping site within the shire.

Gannawarra Shire Council

Gannawarra Shire has three RV Friendly towns (i.e. Leitchville, Cohuna and Murrabit) and another two towns in the process of becoming RV Friendly (i.e. Kerang and Quambatook). Gannawarra Shire Council does not have a specific RV Strategy, but will be developing an RV Friendly Policy in the near future. Four free dump points are provided to RVs visiting the Gannawarra Shire. Gannawarra Shire Council is also planning to provide five short stay camping areas and already has an extensive range of longer term camping sites in the parks and forests managed by either Parks Victoria or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Campaspe Shire Council

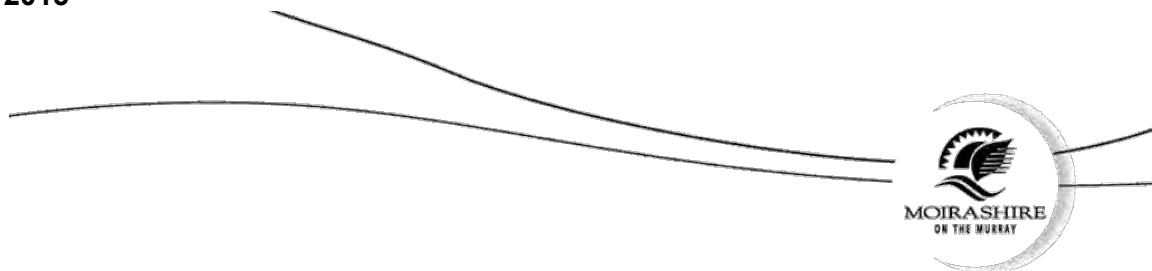
Campaspe Shire has two official CMCA RV Friendly Towns (i.e. Kyabram and Lockington). The Campaspe Shire offers six dump points to RVers. Four dump points are free. Two dump points are located within Caravan Parks and are free to guests and \$5 and \$15 to non-guests. In terms of designated camping sites, Campaspe Shire offers one council operated free camping site with a stay limit of 28 days, two on Parks Victoria and GV Water sites and four in townships where camping fees are by way of a donation, plus innumerable other free-camping sites along the Murray River.

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Corowa Shire Council

Corowa Shire is not RV Friendly under the CMCA scheme, but the shire does offer free dump points in all three towns (i.e. Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala). There are also a number of reserves where RVers can camp overnight at no cost (e.g. Kyffins Reserve, Wagon Wheel and Lions Park).

Berrigan Shire Council

Each of the towns in Berrigan Shire now has a dump point accessible to all, including: Barooga, Berrigan, Finley and Tocumwal.

Deniliquin

Deniliquin Shire is RV Friendly, but does not have a specific RV strategy. Deniliquin Council promotes its RV Friendly town (i.e. Deniliquin) with one free dump point and two free camping areas with a maximum stay of 48 hours.

Swan Hill Rural City Council

There are two RV Friendly Towns (i.e. Nyah and Robinvale) within the boundaries of Swan Hill Rural City Council. The Council also offers three free dump points and one designated free camping site at the Nyah Recreation Reserve.

Wakool Shire Council

The Wakool Shire may consider becoming an RV Friendly Shire and developing a specific strategy, as part of their process of reviewing all tourism strategies. There currently is one RV Friendly Town (i.e. Moulamein). There are three dump points available across the Wakool Shire - one in Barham that is free for guests and with a fee for use of dump point only and two dump points in Moulamein that are both free. Multiple designated free camping sites are available from Campbell's Island and Koondrook State Forest.

Wentworth Shire Council

The Wentworth Shire is not RV friendly nor is any of its towns under the CMCA scheme. Wentworth Shire, however, does offer the following facilities for RVers visiting: a free dump point at the Wentworth Caravan Park; and two 48 hour free camping sites.

5.2 Other Rural Victorian Councils

The following provide just a snapshot of the RV Friendly policies and strategies of other rural Victorian Councils:

Bass Coast Shire Council

No RV strategy, but a number of dump points are located in commercial caravan parks.

Baw Baw Shire Council

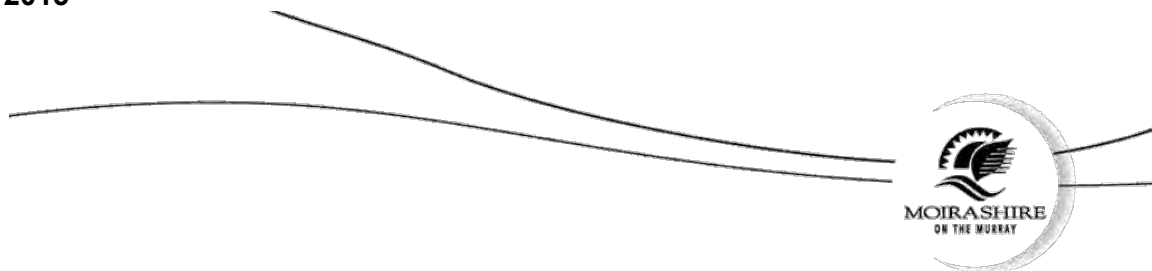
No RV strategy – the RV market is however recognised in their draft strategy.

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Glenelg Shire Council

Provides free camping sites.

East Gippsland Shire Council

East Gippsland Shire Council promotes four designated free rest areas and eight dump points.

LaTrobe City Council

LaTrobe City Council does not have an RV Strategy and does not offer any public dump points or overnight parking facilities to cater for the RV market.

Macedon Ranges

The Macedon Ranges has one RV Friendly Town (i.e. Kyneton) with overnight parking of up to 48 hours at the Kyneton Mineral Springs Reserve. A dump point is also made available at this location. RV parking is available in five towns (Kyneton, Woodend, Gisborne, Romsey and Lancefield).

Moynes Shire Council

No free camping within the shire – Council owned caravan parks provide free dump points.

Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council has five RV Friendly towns and locations, 11 dump points and promotes more than 50 free or low cost camping and short term overnight parking.

Shepparton City Council

Shepparton City Council is not RV Friendly under the CMCA scheme and does not offer any designated free camping sites. They do however offer one free public access dump point, three dump points can be accessed at a fee within caravan parks and one dump point is offered for free within a business (car dealership). Shepparton City Council currently has established a working group to look into the topic of RV Friendly further.

Wangaratta City Council

Wangaratta not RV Friendly under the CMCA scheme, but does offer seven designated free camping sites, a free dump point at Oxley Reserve and access to a dump point at a caravan park in Wangaratta (i.e. Painters Island Caravan Park) at a small fee (\$5).

Benalla Rural City Council

Benalla is not yet officially recognised by the CMCA, but has been working with the CMCA to achieve this. Although Benalla does not have a specific RV strategy, there is one free public dump point and five designated free camping sites within the shire.

Indigo Shire

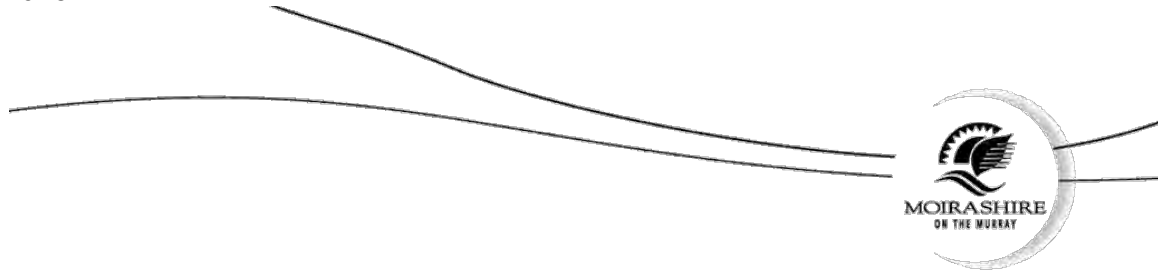
Indigo Shire is keen to demonstrate to the RV community that its towns embrace RVers and acknowledge their valuable contribution to regional economies whilst recognising that not all towns will be able to meet the CMCA RV Friendly Town/Destination criteria. Indigo Shire Council has

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developed an internal RV policy that clearly states Council's policy on RV tourism. The policy outlines that RV facilities within major towns will exclude overnight parking and that dump points are provided within commercial caravan parks to RVers at a fee (token amount/\$5).

6 Challenges and Issues

Regardless of the RV market contributing to the local economy, there are a number of issues relating to the provision of free dump points and low cost or free camping that must be taken into consideration:

6.1 Dump Points

The current location of three of the current council managed dump points in showgrounds is not ideal, particularly when users wish to use the dump points during sporting and other events.

As the dump points are connected to the sewage system, Council is required to sign a Waste Trade Service agreement with the local water board at a cost of \$300 per year per dump point. This is due to the fact that the chemicals used in the black water holding tanks of RVs impede the natural processes of decomposition by either killing or retarding beneficial bacterial growth or may result in blockages of the discharge pipeline.

Under the Waste Trade Service agreement Council must ensure that the dump points are:

- ❖ Locked when not in use;
- ❖ Supervised at all times when used - This is to ensure that the dump points are not misused and that the wrong waste is not dumped into the sewage system; and
- ❖ Record vehicle registration numbers and time/date of use.

All dump points are in locations that are not easily supervised. Finally, there is also the cost of ongoing maintenance of these dump points.

6.2 Short-Term Parking Locations

To be an RV Friendly Town under the CMCA scheme, there must be short term (e.g. 15min – 8 hours) parking within the vicinity of the town. These need to be long enough to fit RV vehicles and brings with it the challenge of policing to ensure that the given time limits are adhered to.

6.3 Low Cost Overnight Parking:

The low cost overnight parking (e.g. 48 hours) bring with it the following challenges and issues:

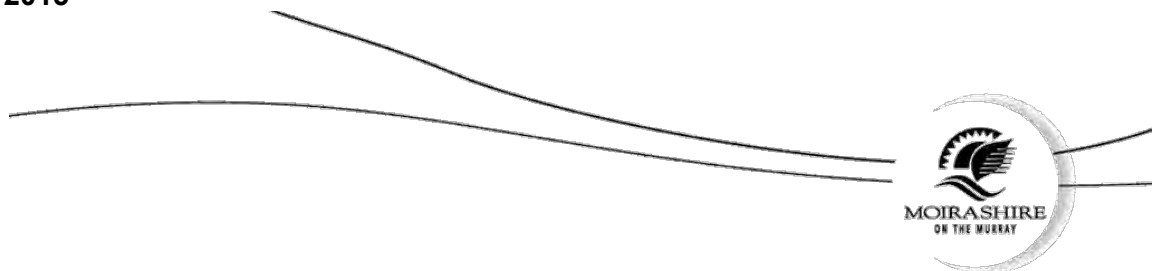
- 1) Enforcement - ensuring that RVers only stay for the permitted period of time;
- 2) Waste – dump points, contamination of dump points and general waste;
- 3) Water – potable water needs to be accessible to become RV Friendly – who bears the cost?;
- 4) Power – should this be accessible and who pays and how is the use otherwise prevented;

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- 5) Noise caused from increased traffic – will this affect the amenity of neighbouring residents?;
- 6) Competition to commercial businesses;
- 7) Risks and insurance – changes would be required to premium and coverage;
- 8) Current local laws do not allow for camping (except when linked to an event with a successful 'hire of park/reserve' application) – amendments would be required; and
- 9) Application – is this for RVers only or can all caravan'ers and campers use these facilities and sites. This raises the issue of being in competition with existing commercial caravan parks. On the other hand, not all commercial caravan parks can fit the very large motorhomes and RVs.

6.4 Regulatory Requirements

If Council proceeds to become an RV Friendly Shire there are a number of legislative and policy implications, as follows:

6.4.1 Moira Shire Council's Recreation Reserves Local Law 2009

Part 3, 12.1(d) of the Recreation Reserves Local Law outlines that no camping is allowed at a recreation reserve.

Clause 9, however, states that the Section 86 Committee of Management may issue a permit for an event. There is a process for hiring of a recreation reserve that needs to be followed in order for any permit to be successfully granted. The end decision for the approval of any application for hire of the reserves lies with the relevant Section 86 Committee.

In order for Council to provide camping facilities for RVers in Council's Recreation Reserves, Council would have to amend this local law in order to allow camping (outside of permitted event) to be allowed in recreation reserves.

6.4.2 Moira Shire Council's Community Safety & Environment Law

Clause 2.16 of the Community Safety and Environment Law outlines that "A person must not, except with a permit, camp on any Council land, on any public land, or on any privately owned vacant land within the municipal district unless within a designated camping area."

In order for Council to provide camping facilities for RVers on Council managed land, Council would have to amend this local law or on a case by case basis resolve to approve the erection of signage stating "free camping allowed" at the designated location(s).

6.4.3 Competitive Neutrality Policy

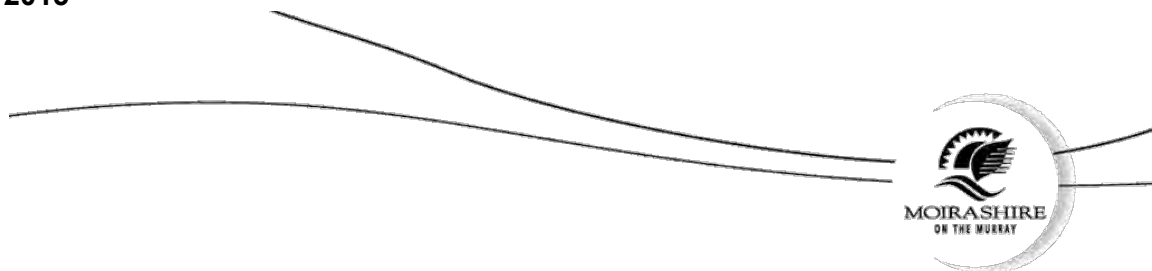
As per the policy, "The objective of competitive neutrality is set out in Clause 3(1) of the CPA [read Competition Principles Agreement] as 'the elimination of resource allocation distortions arising out of the public ownership of entities engaged in significant business activities: Government business should not enjoy any net competitive advantage simply as a result of their public sector ownership."

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These principles only apply to the business activities of publicly owned entities, not to the non-business, non-profit activities of these entities’.”

This means that if Council was to supply overnight camping facilities to the RV market as a significant business activity, Council would have to comply with the same regulatory environment that commercial caravan parks must comply with. This includes fire, safety and environmental regulations. Council would also be required to charge the true market value for the provision of such service and facility. The Emergency Management requirements can be particularly arduous.

Council is not proposing to engage in significant business activity through the delivery of the RV Strategy and therefore the Competitive Neutrality Policy does not strictly apply.

6.4.4 Residential Tenancies Act 1997

The regulations covering caravan parks set out the following requirements for operating a caravan park in Victoria:

- ❖ Registration with local council and associated duties on owners;
- ❖ Fees for registration;
- ❖ Standards for fire safety and emergency management planning in caravan parks;
- ❖ Construction standards and installation requirements for movable dwellings in parks; and
- ❖ Standards for services and amenities and the maintenance of sites and dwellings.

6.5 Risk Management

All Victorian councils and caravan park operators are required to protect sites users and to minimize risk to themselves, Council and the environment.

6.6 Environmental and Waste Management

With no provision of dump points, Council would face the issue of RVers disposing of their waste water (grey and black) on the side of the road.

Council will have to consider waste management for any new proposed RV sites. Council will be required to allocate funds to and/or find appropriate solutions that minimise the cost and impact to the flora, fauna and local communities. These are issues that are already being considered by Council for campers camping in the bush.

During the development of this strategy, the suitability of several sites has been assessed with the above issues and challenges in mind.

7 Discussion

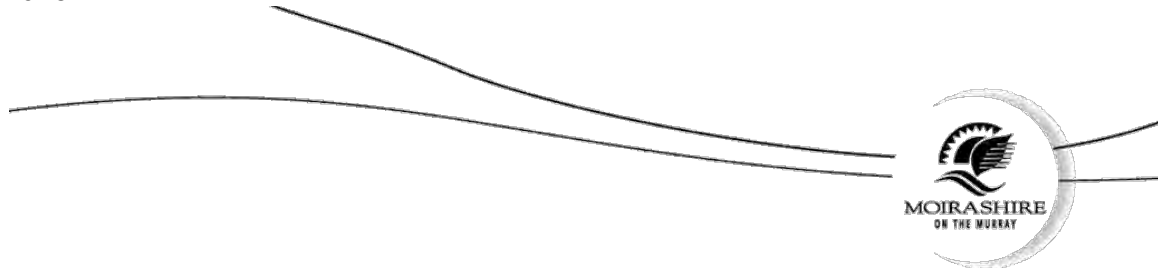
Travelling the country-side in RVs has become a popular lifestyle of retirees as well as the family market. The RV market is growing in size and will continue to grow in coming years. In order for

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Moira Shire Council to capitalise on this market growth and encourage any economic activity from this market, it is crucial that the current needs of the RV market are considered and appropriate facilities and services are provided.

Many RVers regularly use formal caravan parks. It is the intention by Moira Shire Council to actively support the shire's formal caravan parks by increasing the pool of RVers coming to the region; by providing a few low cost camping sites and promoting the RV market to stay longer, explore the region, visit the region's attractions and stay in formal caravan parks for at least part of their stay.

Although Moira Shire Council currently has four RV Friendly Towns, Council seeks to take a shire-wide approach. An RV Friendly Shire approach is the appropriate way forward, capturing the opportunities arising from tapping into the RV market.

Tourism business operators and businesses supporting the tourism industry can apply for the RV Friendly Destination status where the business addresses the CMCA RV Friendly Destination criteria and are subject to planning approval.

Moira Shire Council is an attractive destination for the RV market, situated in the south to north/north to south route from Melbourne. Using the appropriate communication channels and clearly promoting the approved RV facilities and services will limit inappropriate usage and address the challenges and issues currently faced by Moira Shire Council.

By taking a shire-wide approach, effective measures can be applied to ensure that the:

- ❖ Benefits of tapping into the RV market are enhanced;
- ❖ Needs of the RV market are met;
- ❖ Sites are properly maintained, protected and preserved through regulation of the sites; and
- ❖ Existing caravan park operators and other tourism operators are respected and in-directly supported.

A series of actions will transition Moira Shire from having four RV Friendly Towns to becoming an RV Friendly Shire with a range of facilities and services on offer to the RV market while enhancing the economic input.

8 Action Plan

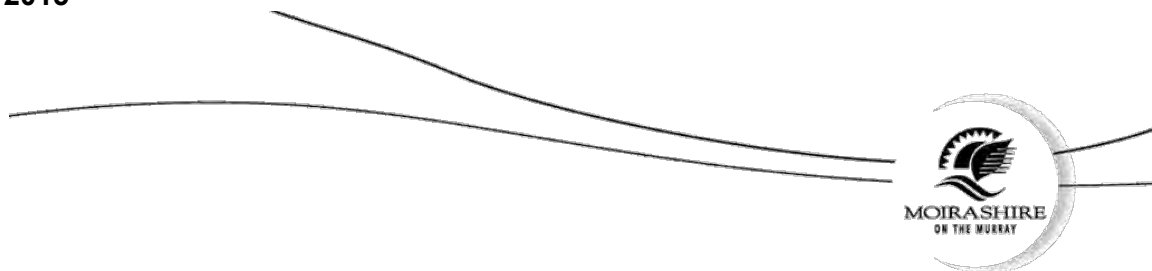
The following actions will further enhance the profile of Moira Shire as an attractive region for RVers. Moira Shire Council will pro-actively encourage greater visitation and economic impact from the RV market by:

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8.1 Endorse and Promote Moira Shire as an Attractive RV Friendly Shire

Council will position and promote Moira Shire (utilising its tourism brand) in partnership with the tourism industry as a destination that welcomes RVs and highlights the facilities and experiences encouraging visitation and increased length of stay.

Council can provide visitor information packs targeted specifically to the RV market from the visitor information centres and promote the facilities and experiences on offer through appropriate RV channels, the destination tourism website(s), Murray Regional Tourism Board and the visitor information centre network.

8.2 Establish Economic Data and Visitor Profile of RV Market

Moira Shire Council to work with community groups to develop the appropriate mechanisms to obtain economic data (i.e. visitor length of stay and expenditure), visitor profiles (i.e. visitor demographics and psychographics) and industry feedback.

This data will help validate if this strategy is the best way forward for Moira Shire Council and if any amendments are required to this RV strategy.

8.3 Transition to Commercially Managed Dump Points

A number of existing caravan parks with dump points have expressed an interest in providing this service to the RV market at a fee. There are also existing caravan parks that do not yet have a dump point, but if given the chance would be interested in providing the service to the RV market at a fee. Council should liaise with these caravans to finalise the list of commercially managed dump points available to the RV market (at a fee).

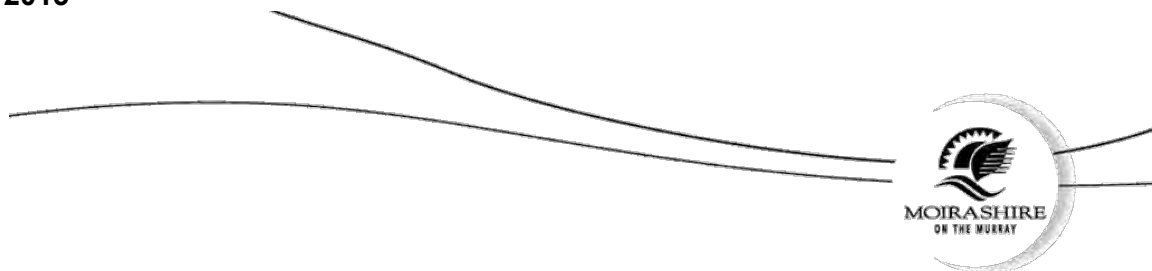
- ❖ Existing commercial dump points that could be offered at a charge:
 - Murray River Hideaway, Strathmerton (Septic Tank)
 - Oasis, Cobram – \$5 dollar user charge already in place
 - Time Out Holiday Park, Koonoomoo (currently installing)
 - Wakiti Creek, Kotupna
- ❖ Caravan parks interested in having dump point installed in order to offer their service at a charge:
 - Numurkah Caravan Park, Numurkah
 - Cobram East Caravan Park, Cobram
 - Willows, Cobram
 - Westside Creek, Yarrawonga– need more information
- ❖ There may also be service stations that could be interested in installing dump points and making these available at a nominal fee for non-patrons and free of charge for patrons.
 - Westside Petrol Station, Strathmerton

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In the transition phase, existing public dump points that can be offered free of charge include

- ❖ Murray Valley Highway, Strathmerton
- ❖ Weir Street, Nathalia
- ❖ Nangunia St adjacent to the Lions Bus Shelter, Barooga – approval for promotion of this dump point has been sought from Berrigan Shire Shire.
- ❖ Purtle Park, Mulwala – approval for promotion of this dump point has been sought from Corowa Shire.

Economic data and evaluation (Section 8.2) will identify if Moira Shire Council should continue to offer a mixture of public and commercially managed dump points or fully transition to only commercially managed dump points.

8.4 Trial the Continuation of Council Managed Dump Points in Showgrounds

Council should seek to trial the continuation of the Council managed dump points in showgrounds – i.e. Cobram, Numurkah and Yarrawonga. During the trial period, free dump points will also be accessible from:

- ❖ Showgrounds, Cobram
- ❖ Showgrounds, Numurkah
- ❖ Showgrounds, Yarrawonga

A review should be taken after 12 months. The review will ascertain if Council should continue to provide free dump points at the showgrounds, keep the dump points open for events only or completely decommission the dump points.

8.5 Develop RV Friendly Low Cost Overnight Parking Sites in Smaller Towns and Surrounds

Council should in the long term seek to develop 8 locations that offer low cost overnight parking (up to 48 hours), catering for RVers travelling to the east, south, west and north of the shire. These locations should aim to increase economic activity in smaller towns thereby enhancing the economic benefit of tapping into the RV market and at the same time not be seen as in competition with our formal caravan parks.

Council will be required to register the following proposed sites with its Environmental Health Department, to follow the fire safety and emergency management standards and to abide by the given standards for services, amenities and maintenance, as outlined in section 6.4.4.1 to 6.4.4.8.

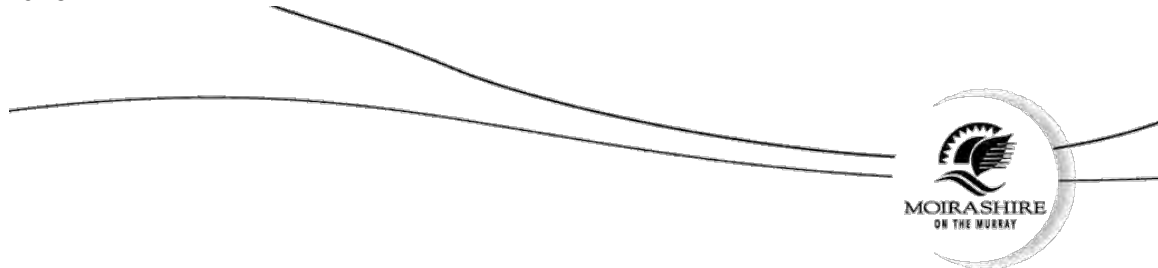
Council will be required to find a solution for how to address the issue of non-RVers using the sites once they are established, such as itinerant workers and homeless people that are not travelling in self-contained vehicles. This may be through a signage or a revision to the local law. Legal advice

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may need to be sought to ensure that this will not be seen as discrimination under the Human Rights Act.

8.5.1 Tungamah

A site has been identified in Tungamah as an ideal location for low cost overnight parking. The community at Tungamah has expressed a keen interest in having the Lions Park on the Broken Creek turned into a destination catering for the RV market.

8.5.2 Yarroweyah

The recreation reserve in Yarroweyah has been identified as an ideal location for low cost overnight parking. The Recreation Reserve is currently being used by the local Footy Club, which is the only club using the facility. There is a lot of space at this site, which could be utilised by RVers for overnight parking of no more than 48 hours.

The site is on the Benalla-Tocumwal Route and near the Murray Valley Highway and would therefore capture both the north/south and east/west travel.

8.5.3 Picola

A site has been identified in Picola as an ideal location for low cost overnight parking. Although off the beaten track, it would capture RV traffic from the Barmah-Shepparton Road and Murray Valley Highway.

The location is on the East side of the Picola Train Park, but in order for this to be offered as a RV facility, a lease with VicTrack would be required. Such a lease would cost around \$250 per annum.

8.5.4 Wunghnu

A site has been identified in Wunghnu as an ideal location for low cost overnight parking.

The Recreation Reserve is managed by a Section 86 Committee. Council would have to liaise with this Section 86 Committee to ensure that they would be happy to provide this location for overnight parking of up to 48 hours.

The location in Wunghnu would capture the north/south travel along the Goulburn-Valley Highway.

8.5.5 Forges Beach

Forges Beach is managed by Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria currently supports the notion to promote Forges Beach No1 & 2 to the RV market, but requires the following challenges and issues to be considered:

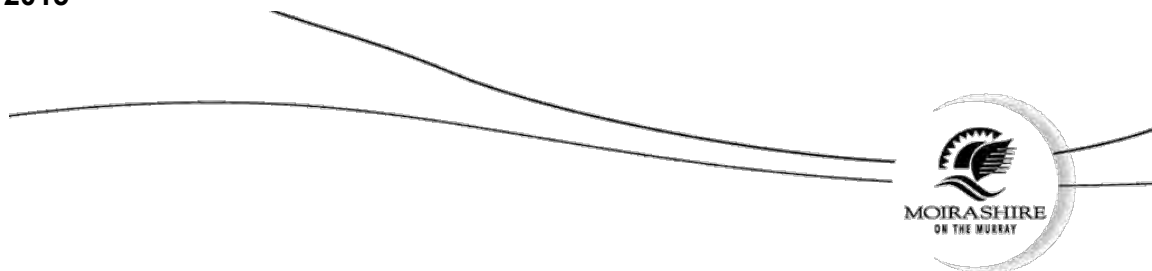
- ❖ **Road maintenance** - Traditionally Parks Victoria has maintained the access road to allow for 2 wheel drives to access Forges No. 1. Nevertheless, there may be some minor constraints with the reliability of funding to maintain the access road to an acceptable standard consistently. For example, Parks Victoria's Road Maintenance budget for the entire road

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network within their reserves managed out of Yarrawonga is \$7,000 for 2015/16. If there was any assistance available from the Moira Shire for road maintenance linking some of our more iconic beaches this would be of assistance.

- ❖ **Toilet infrastructure at capacity-** The promotion of the site to the RV Market would add pressure to the toilet at Forges Beach no. 1, which already is at capacity during peak times. Furthermore, Parks Victoria has experienced issues with RVers dumping waste into the existing toilets. With increased usage of chemical toilets and other systems available to campers the need for a dump disposal point located between Yarrawonga and Cobram could be an option.

8.5.6 Barmah Lakes Camping Area, Barmah National Park

This site is maintained by Parks Victoria. The Barmah Lakes Camping Area has recently been upgraded and is suitable for promotion to the RV Market.

The site offers easy access to the Barmah National Park, the Barmah Lakes, the township of Barmah, local tourism operators and a number of walking tracks. RVers need to be aware of camping under trees as River Red Gums can drop branches or fall over without warning.

8.5.7 The Killawarra Camp, Warby Ovens National Park, Killawarra

This site is maintained by Parks Victoria. The Killawarra Camp in the Warby Ovens National Park is accessed via Camp Rd, off the Boweya Road and is suitable for promotion to the RV Market. RVers need to be aware of camping under trees as River Red Gums can drop branches or fall over without warning.

8.5.8 Lower Ovens Wildlife Reserve at Bundalong

This site is maintained by Parks Victoria. Although technically in the Indigo Shire by 50m, park visitors shop in Bundalong and Yarrawonga and it would be suitable to promote to the RV market. It is located downstream of the River Bend Caravan Park at Bundalong and is recognised as one of the best sites in Northern Victoria. RVers need to be aware of camping under trees as River Red Gums can drop branches or fall over without warning.

8.6 Trial RV Friendly Low Cost Overnight Parking Sites in Major Towns

The provision of low cost overnight parking in towns with caravan parks is somewhat controversial; with RVers claiming it is necessary to attract the RV market and caravan parks arguing it will affect their viability.

Over at least a year Council will trial the provision of low cost overnight parking in the showgrounds of each of its major towns (i.e. Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah and Nathalia).

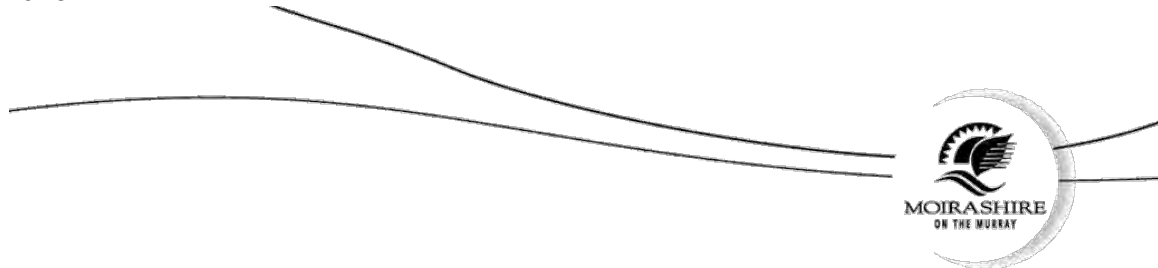
Council will be required to register the following proposed sites with its Environmental Health Department, to follow the fire safety and emergency management standards and to abide by the given standards for services, amenities and maintenance, as outlined in section 6.4.4.1 to 6.4.4.8.

FILE NO: F13/2614
3. BUILD ON OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTHS
IN AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING AND
TOURISM

ITEM NO: 9.1.3
(TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
LOUISE MUNK KLINT)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council - Recreational Vehicle (RV) - Strategy 2015



Council will be required to find a solution for how to address the issue of non-RVers using the sites once they are established, such as itinerant workers and homeless people that are not travelling in self-contained vehicles. This may be through a signage or a revision to the local law. Legal advice may need to be sought to ensure that this will not be seen as discrimination under the Human Rights Act.

After a year Council will undertake an independent review of the provision of low cost overnight parking in showgrounds. Monitoring strategies may include:

- ❖ Enforcement of time limit
- ❖ Enforcement of self-contained vehicles only
- ❖ Economic impact survey and results
- ❖ Impact on caravan parks

8.7 Commit Resources to Enforcement

To ensure that the RV Strategy is successfully implemented, Council must commit the necessary resources to ensure appropriate enforcement of the duration of stay and restricting parking to designated areas and associated activities.

8.8 Encourage Local Businesses to Become CMCA RV Friendly Destinations

With the appropriate Council permits in place, local tourism and tourism support businesses could be encouraged to join the RV Friendly Destination™ scheme, if this aligns with the overarching aim and strategies of the individual business.

8.9 Provide Long-Vehicle Parking Close to Shopping Precincts

Long vehicle parking to be properly line marked or sign-posted where appropriate. Moira Shire Council will provide long-vehicle parking of up to four hours in close proximity to shopping precincts and amenities in the following locations:

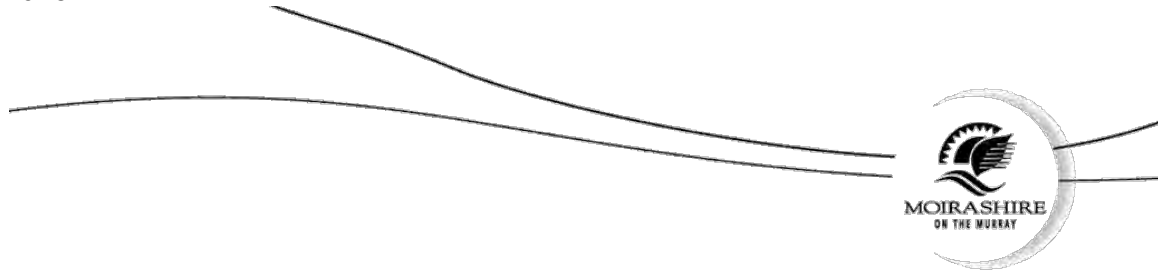
- ❖ Punt Road , Cobram
- ❖ Behind Federation Park, Cobram Railway Station, Cobram
- ❖ Mivo Park, Cobram
- ❖ Blake St, Nathalia
- ❖ Weir Street, Nathalia
- ❖ Irvine Parade, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Hunt Street, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Hume Street, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Hovell Street, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Gilmore Street, Yarrawonga
- ❖ Melville Street Numurkah
- ❖ Knox Street, Numurkah

FILE NO: F13/2614
3. BUILD ON OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTHS
IN AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING AND
TOURISM

ITEM NO: 9.1.3
(TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
LOUISE MUNK KLINT)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council - Recreational Vehicle (RV) - Strategy 2015



- ❖ Lions Park, Tungamah
- ❖ Barr Street, Tungamah
- ❖ Swamp Road, Lake Rowan
- ❖ Hotchin Street, Katamatite
- ❖ Off Murray Valley Highway near Goughs Lane, Bundalong
- ❖ Off Murray Valley Highway, Strathmerton
- ❖ Wunghnu, by the creek
- ❖ Moran Street, Picola

There may be further options for long vehicle parking that could be explored further, including but not limited to:

- Railway land at the end of Lott Street, Yarrawonga – this land is owned by VicTrack and not Council. In other words, this would either require VicTrack's direct consent or the Committee of Management could apply for an extension of their lease of land near the Railway Station to allow Council to promote this location for RV parking.

8.10 Offer Access to Potable Water from Designated Locations

Moirashire Council will offer access to potable water from the following designated locations:

- ❖ Cnr Barr Street and Tungamah Main Road, Tungamah
- ❖ Cnr Benalla - Tocumwal Road and Moore St, Katamatite
- ❖ Benalla-Tocumwal Road, Katamatite
- ❖ Blake Street, Nathalia
- ❖ Weir Street, Nathalia

Access to potable water may also potentially be provided from the same location as the commercial dump points. This will depend on the level of interest from the caravan parks to be part of such a packaged deal (i.e. dump your waste and fill up with potable water) at a minimal set fee.

8.11 Provide New Signage

Signage will be an important component of clearly identifying the RV Facilities and Services. A signage plan is to be developed as part of the Moira Shire Signage Strategy outlining the signage requirements and locations. Signage is to include:

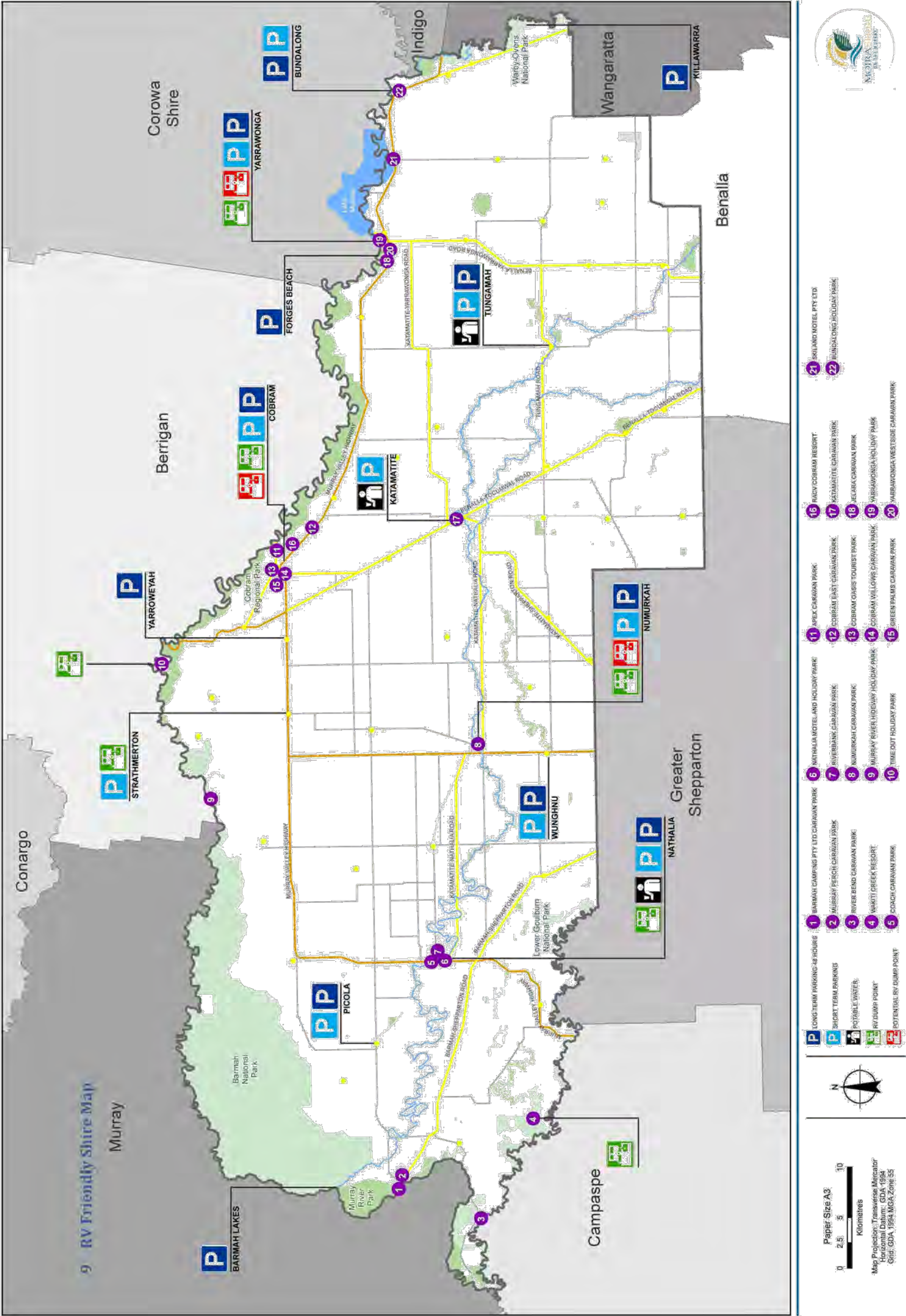
- ❖ Long vehicle parking signage (where appropriate);
- ❖ Overnight parking signage;
- ❖ Promotional signage of key attractions and caravan parks
- ❖ Potable water signage

The provision of signage and any potential line marking would require a budget of approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000.

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ITEM NO: 9.1.3
(TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, LOUISE MUNK KLINT)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK HENDERSON)

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STRATEGY (cont'd)



FILE NO: C055/14
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.1.4
(MANAGER COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DAVID BOOTH)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council note the draft Moira Shire Recreation Strategy 2016 – 2026 and,
2. Place the draft strategy on public display for feedback.

1. Executive Summary

Recreation is a major contributor to the liveability of our municipality. The draft Moira Shire Recreation Strategy 2016 – 2026 (the Strategy) has categorised key challenges and opportunities in the areas of recreation planning, facility management, programing, and infrastructure.

The Strategy is based on six key priority areas namely;

1. Sustainable Provision of sports facilities and services,
2. Active Recreation and Activating Spaces,
3. Parks and Playgrounds,
4. Swimming and Public Pools,
5. Sport and Recreation Tourism and,
6. Governance

In addition to making an overall recommendation for each of these key priority areas, the draft Strategy makes a further 35 recommendations in specific activity areas. These recommendations include the setting implementation priorities for the next 10 years.

This reports seeks Council approval to make the draft strategy available for public feedback until 1 June 2016. Council will consider the community feedback prior to adopting the Strategy.

2. Background and Options

Council's most recent recreation strategy was adopted by Council in 2006. Since its adoption, a number of significant sport and recreation projects have been delivered. These include;

- The \$3M redevelopment of the Numurkah Showgrounds,
- Redevelopment of the Katamatite Recreation Reserve including delivery of a major community building,
- Investment in Councils Indoor and outdoor swimming pools, sports stadium and construction of the Yarrawonga Splashpark.
- Construction of five skate parks in Yarrawonga, Cobram, Strathmerton, Numurkah and Nathalia as well as improvements to many of Council's local parks and playgrounds.
- Delivery of a number of shared pathways and footpath network improvements,
- Improvements to Council's section 86 committee of management model.

When developing the scope for the new Strategy, Council identified a number of key actions. These included;

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2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

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(MANAGER COMMUNITY
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LEANNE MULCAHY)

MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

1. Undertake a review of the existing sporting and recreational assets across the municipality including open space,
2. Review current and future participation trends in a range of activities,
3. Engage with the community to establish levels of service with regard to future sport and recreation participation and infrastructure needs.
4. Use this information to develop a detailed recreational strategy, suitable for adoption by Council, to guide the future strategic planning of sport and recreation both in terms of activity programing as well as sustainable infrastructure needs.

The development of this draft strategy has provided an opportunity for a number of active and passive recreation activities to be considered. There has been a focus on participation and connectivity as well as infrastructure and assets. The strategy is based on six key priority areas namely;

1. Sustainable Provision of sports facilities and services,
2. Active Recreation and Activating Spaces,
3. Parks and Playgrounds,
4. Swimming and Public Pools,
5. Sport and Recreation Tourism and,
6. Governance

In addition to making an overall recommendation for each of these key priority areas, the Strategy makes further recommendations in specific activity areas. These areas include traditional sports such as AFL, Netball, Tennis, Basketball, Swimming, Golf, Soccer, Cricket, Equestrian and Bowls as well as other activities including Gym/Group Fitness/Personal Training, walking, running and cycling, fishing, cycling, canoeing, and playing in the park.

3. Financial Implications

Council received \$30,000 funding from the Victorian Government's Community Facilities Funding Program which was matched by Council.

The 'capacity to pay' of both ratepayers and Council has been taken into account when identifying future projects and priorities over the coming 10 years through implementation.

Council's ability to deliver major project recommendations contained within the strategy will be conditional on securing funding at the appropriate time.

4. Risk Management

This Strategy will enable Council to minimises both reputational and financial risk by responding to the highest priorities in the most appropriate way and so creating an environment that encourages participation in a range of recreational settings

5. Internal and External Consultation

Community consultation included a community survey, public meetings and workshops and direct consultation with the Regional Sports Assembly, 'Valley Sport', state sporting associations, Councillors and department staff.

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

A steering committee has overseen this project. It comprises Council staff, Valley Sport, and a representative from the funding body Sport & Recreation Victoria and a councillor representative.

With Council's support, the strategy will be made available for community feedback with the feedback period concluding 1 June 2016. Council will consider the feedback prior to adopting the Strategy with or without amendment.

6. Regional Context

The Strategy considers neighboring municipalities, their location and access by residents to regionally significant assets such as stadiums and aquatic centres. This access provides an important service

7. Council Plan Strategy

Improving Moira's Liveability – Encourage Healthy and Active Communities - Develop and implement the 2016-2026 Recreation Strategy.

8. Legislative / Policy Implications

There are no legislative or policy implications to consider within this report.

9. Environmental Impact

There are no environment implications associated with this report.

10. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There are no officer conflict of interest issues to consider within this report.

11. Conclusion

The Strategy will guide future investment in sport and recreation over the coming 10 years and beyond. The Strategy has considered current and future trends in participation and the needs both from a programming and infrastructure perspective into the future.

The Strategy has identified recreational opportunities in the areas of planning, facility management, programing, and infrastructure for Moira Shire over the next 10 years and considers these opportunities in the context of both residents and Council's capacity to pay.

It is expected that the proposed community consultation process will allow the community to review and provide feedback on the draft Strategy. The feedback will be considered by Council prior to adopting the final Strategy..

Attachments

- 1 Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

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2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



FILE NO: C055/14
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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Moira Shire Council acknowledges the contributions of many people and organisations in the development of this Recreation Strategy:

- Recreation Strategy Steering Committee
- Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Valley Sport
- Community Consultation Contributors
- Sporting clubs
- Schools
- Include Ross Planning acknowledgment as a researcher

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Vision

Moira Shire's vision is:
Moira on the Murray; with an environmentally,
economically and socially sustainable community; the best
place to be.

2.2 Participation

Recreation is a key factor in the over-all well-being and
liveability of the Moira community.
Around 80% of the community are participating in some
form of sport or recreation activity and there are over
150 active sport and recreation groups, using in excess
of 120 parks, reserves, pools and sporting and recreation
facilities.

Investment

From the current operating budget (2015/16) of some
\$52m Council invests some \$5.6m or 11% into sport and
recreation. This is made up of:

- Sport and Recreation Services expenditure of some
\$1.4m which includes the operation and maintenance
of swimming pools in Yarrawonga, Cobram,
Numurkah, Strathmerton and Nathalia, the waterslide
and splash park on the Yarrawonga foreshore, the
Nathalia Sports and Community Centre, the Cobram
Sports Stadium and the Numurkah Aquatic and
Fitness Centre along with the irrigation and mowing
and general upkeep of Council's 19 recreation
reserves and four showgrounds.
- Parks and Reserves, expenditure of around \$4.2m
to maintain and upgrade Council's parks and
gardens, recreation reserves, town entrances and
open spaces including 80 parks and gardens (open
spaces), 44 playgrounds, 31 public toilet blocks,
public BBQs and irrigation systems. Council also
makes contributions to capital projects for renewal
and upgrade of existing facilities and development of
new facilities.

In addition, hundreds of volunteers put in thousands of
hours of work to present sport and recreation facilities
and provide training and competition opportunities for our
community.

Challenges

The delivery of recreation across the municipality is
resource intense, both through the program delivery and
asset management. In an environment of rate capping and
limited funding opportunities it is necessary to rigorously
review planned expenditure to ensure best value and
sustainability. In some instances this will require the
establishment of multi-use facilities, rationalisation of
existing facilities and service level reviews.

Council's long term financial plan will need to consider the
future use of many of the existing recreational assets
across the municipality.

This strategy seeks to make some key recommendations
around these factors and provides background and
guidance for the consideration of future investment in
recreation opportunities.

Key Priority Areas

Council has identified 35 recommendations to inform the
direction of the delivery of sport and recreation in the
municipality for the next 10 years.

From these recommendations, the following six key
priority areas are identified:

Sustainable Provision of sports facilities and services

Moira Shire has a number of unique characteristics such
as population distribution, geography, age profile and
climate size that make the cost of providing recreational
services higher than average.

Based on facility mapping there appears potential over
supply of some types of facilities and an undersupply of
others.

An informed program of rationalising under-utilised sports
facilities, in particular those that have reached the end of
their useful asset life, and investing in shared use and co-
location in smaller towns and the development of quality,
high use regional facilities in major townships will result in
overall higher quality facilities for the community.

Recommendation 1

*Financial sustainability will be a critical factor in informing
future deliberations in regard to direction linked to service
delivery, infrastructure investment and asset management
and accessibility to services. Council and the community
will need to be innovative and realistic in relation to
capacity to provide major infrastructure projects and
services with limited users.*

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

Active Recreation and Activating Spaces

The health related benefits of physical activity are widely understood and while investment in sport is still an important direction for council, demographic and societal changes are leading to the need to provide more flexible opportunities to engage more people. Utilising existing space for new program and activities is needed in order to maximise opportunities.

Providing an equitable split between investment in traditional sports and emerging activities and encouraging partnerships to facilitate the provision of these facilities and services will ensure Moira is well placed to support sustained high participation into the future.

Recommendation 2

Invest in the ongoing development of walking and cycling paths, active green spaces including outdoor fitness equipment and programs to activate these spaces.

Parks and Playgrounds

There is (as a minimum) a park and playground located in every town in Moira Shire. This strategy refers to the provision of neighbourhood parks, town parks and regional parks/playground.

Moira does not have a significant regional playground facility. The development of this to the appropriate standard would attract regional and tourist visitation and on that basis should be located in one of the townships that supports higher tourist visitor numbers, most likely Yarrawonga.

Recommendation 3

Undertake a well planned park and playground strategy focussed across the municipality to inform the direction of this area where Council has significant resources invested.

Swimming and Public Pools

Council currently invests around \$800,000 per annum to provide aquatic facilities.

The availability, use and cost to provide seasonal swimming pools is a significant issue right across Victoria. There is currently no clear strategy or plan guiding the provision of services linked to the provision of community pools.

Recommendation 4

A seasonal pool strategy be developed to provide clear objectives and direction linked to asset management, cost of future provision and use.

The estimated annual operating cost of a new regional facility within current population levels and in without significant population growth is not considered feasible.

Sport and Recreation Tourism

Tourism contributes around \$95m and 580 jobs to the local economy. Walking and cycling trails, sporting events and conferences, development of the Murray River Adventure Canoe Trail and Golf are identified as key product development opportunities. Sport and active recreation is well placed to capitalise on these.

Recommendation 5

Prioritise projects that support local participation and also facilitate tourism industry growth and development. This includes walking and cycling trail development and strengthening partnerships with active and passive recreation based tourism operators.

Governance

Moira Shire has 35 Section 86 Special Committees of Council, which operate as committees of management.

Sports Clubs said that maintaining suitable numbers of volunteers is one of the most significant threats facing their capacity to function into the future. Section 86 Committee reviews highlight a number of issues including the amount of governance needed to comply with required standards and a number of small, single use facilities managed under this model that may be able to function under much simpler governance models.

Recommendation 6

Council work with Section 86 committees of management and provide support in a shift to more appropriate less cumbersome governance models.

Conclusion

Recreation is an important part of the liveability and well being of residents and visitors to the Moira Shire. The provision of recreational program delivery and asset management can be resource intense and it is necessary to take a smart and efficient approach to the future delivery in order to achieve best value. This will involve working in partnerships, shared use facilities, rationalisation when needed and a strong working relationship with Section 86 Committees, user groups and the wider community. Well informed planning will guide future delivery and difficult decisions will be needed in order to maintain a longer term sustainability, both from a financial and participation perspective.

FILE NO: C055/14
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.1.4
(MANAGER COMMUNITY
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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

INTRODUCTION

Moira Shire Council's Recreation Strategy is developed through community consultation and with consideration of future finance and assets plans.

Within this strategy, the Sustainable Capacity Report is referenced. This is a key research document which identifies that the community's capacity to pay is comparatively low. The Recreation Strategy provides an analysis of the number of recreation facilities throughout the Shire and surrounding municipalities and also assesses current and future needs in accordance with demand.

Planning of recreation facilities across the Shire will include consideration of the range of facilities and the community demand, along with caution around placing an even greater burden on people's capacity to pay. While Council's underlying financial position is stable, there is little buffer to address the financial pressures created through the introduction of rate capping and the continuing decline in Victorian and Commonwealth government grant funding. Further to this, Council faces the ongoing challenge of managing the financial demands of a large, aging mix of community assets

and a more expensive service delivery model relative to other Councils. Both challenges stem from Moira's large geographic area with multiple service locations and a relatively small, slower growing, dispersed and aging population.

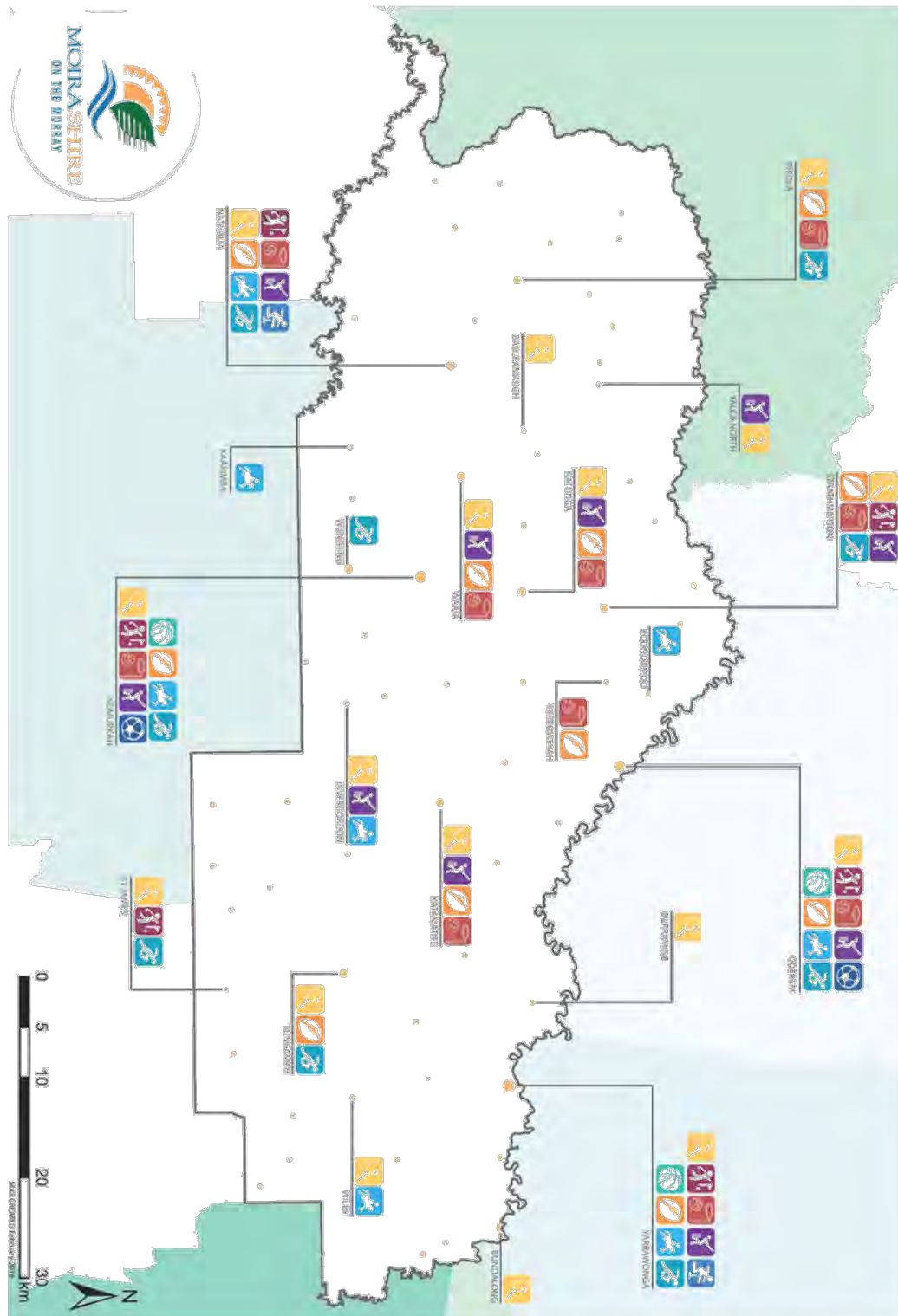
In this environment it is necessary to have a robust assessment process in place for planning and delivering recreational facilities across the municipality. Moira Shire comprises multiple small towns and districts and this can multiply the cost burden and expectations when compared to other municipalities. As part of a larger region, with strong linkages through to surrounding regional centres, it is important to recognise the region's existing and planned facilities which can service our community.

Moira Shire Council has a generous history of providing assets and grants for recreational facilities. This Recreation Strategy is developed to provide smart service delivery and planning in order to meet community requirements in a balanced and responsible manner through the optimisation of existing built and natural assets.



ITEM NO: 9.1.4
(MANAGER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DAVID BOOTH)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE, LEANNE MULCAHY)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report



FILE NO: C055/14
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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

CORPORATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Moira Shire Recreation Strategy has been developed in consideration of Council's broader planning framework (see page 6) including the 2013 – 2017 Council Plan (see below).

A full description of relevant strategies within this framework are detailed in Appendix 3.

Council Plan 2013-2017

Guiding the recommendations of this Recreation Strategy are the three strategic goals of the Council Plan:

1. Strong Regional Partnerships
2. Improve Moira's Liveability
3. Build on our economic strengths in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

Further, the enabling objectives of the Council Plan have been directly applied during the development of this Recreation Strategy and its recommendations. These objectives are:

1. Smarter delivery of existing services and programs
2. Delivering sound financial management
3. Rebalancing the Asset Mix
4. Involving and communicating with our community
5. Demonstrating good governance.

Moira Shire – Corporate Planning Framework



Literature Review

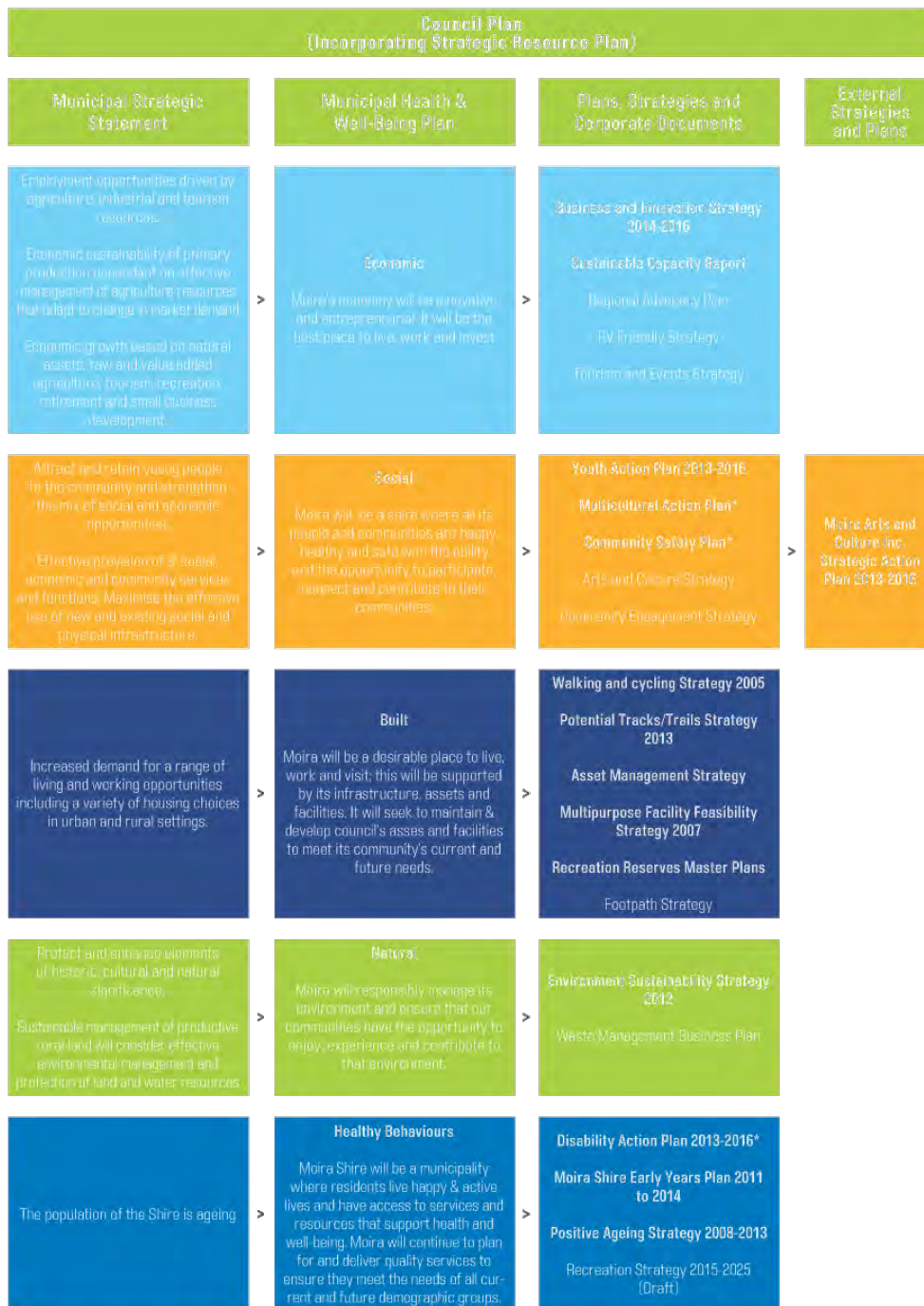
Key strategic documents and influences that directly or indirectly inform the provision of recreation services, facilities and programs have been reviewed to inform this strategy. More detailed information is provided in Appendix 3 – Literature Review.

**FILE NO: C055/14
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY**

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report



The Strategic Framework above describes the range of plans and strategies that are in place within Moira Shire Council. The lead document is the Council Plan (within which is the Strategic Resource Plan). From this flows the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Municipal Health & Well Being Plan. Strategies and plans flow from these key documents. The Recreation Strategy is directly linked to the Healthy Behaviours component of the Municipal Health & Well Being Plan.

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

VISION

Through the development of this strategy, the following vision for the delivery of sport and recreation services to the residents of Moira has been developed:

"Moira will be a Shire where its people are happy, healthy and safe through provision of quality and accessible recreation opportunities that meet the needs of the community now and into the future."

To achieve this vision Council has undertaken a detailed review of recreation in the municipality and considered where recreation sits in the broader operation and function of Council. Council has consulted widely, with the community, schools, sports clubs and the broader industry. Consideration has been given to the current environment and what may occur in to the future.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Council has identified 35 recommendations to inform the direction of the delivery of sport and recreation in the municipality for the next 10 years.

From these recommendations, the following six themes are the top priority areas:

1. Sustainable Provision of sports facilities and services
2. Active Recreation and Activating Spaces
3. Parks and Playgrounds
4. Swimming and Public Pools
5. Sport and Recreation Tourism
6. Governance

CURRENT SITUATION ASSESSMENT

A situation assessment examines the following key areas.

Investment in Recreation

Council currently invests 11 per cent (\$5.6m) of its budget into sport and recreation.

Regional Participation

It is estimated that over 150 sport and recreation groups are active right across the Moira municipality using in excess of 80 parks, reserves and sporting and recreation facilities and that some 80% of the community participate in some form of sport or recreation activities. Netball, tennis AFL, basketball, golf and cricket are the highest level of participation sports. Recreational activities that are most popular include gym, group fitness and personal training, walking, swimming, cycling, running, fishing and playing in the park.

Broader Participation Trends

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a nation-wide study on adult participation in sport and physical recreation in 2011. Overall, 65% of Australians aged 15 years and over participated in some form of sport and/or physical recreation during that year.

Spoilt For Choice

There is now a greater range of formal sport and recreation activities than ever before. From a recreation and fitness perspective, a new wave of classes and circuit training opportunities appear to evolve every few years. These are largely provided for at regional centres or by private operators.

Sports offering a variation of a more traditional sport are beginning to grow in popularity. For instance, touch football is increasing in popularity. Sports once considered extreme (e.g. BMX, skateboarding and scootering) are becoming more mainstream – with BMX debuting at the 2008 Olympics.

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Expectation of Flexible Hours and Programming

With the amount of time available for recreation pursuits decreasing, participants are seeking flexible hours to undertake activities. Walking, running and cycling are likely to continue to be popular forms of activity as participants can be flexible in when, where and how long they undertake the activity.

For additional activities to retain or gain in popularity it is likely that they will need to be able to offer longer and more flexible operating hours (in the case of activities such as aerobics/fitness and pool swimming) or a more flexible approach to training and competition participation (in the case of more traditional team sports such as football).

There are examples of traditional sports in the Moira region already adapting to these challenges such as Friday evening junior and in some instances senior games being played. The length of the season is also something that sports have been and will need to consider into the future to support viability.

Social Profile

With an average age of 44 years, Moira Shire residents are relatively older compared to State and National averages (both 37 years) and the community is ageing.

"As a population ages, demand for passive and informal recreation activities increases. Access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities may not be as important, with older people generally seeking walking, cycling and other low impact physical activities."

Despite the ageing population, just over a quarter (25.8%) of the community is aged under 20 years. A younger population is more likely to seek both structured and unstructured recreation and physical activity pursuits, such as competitive and social sporting competitions and quality walking/cycling paths. The significant proportion of people in these age cohorts will place pressure on Council to improve and maintain their sporting facilities, parks and playgrounds and provide affordable physical activity programs.

Programs that cater for young children and teenagers will also need to be developed, particularly over the school holidays, to keep young people active and entertained.

Moira Shire still prides itself as being a great destination to live with many lifestyle benefits for families. Approximately 69.5% of the households in the community are 'family household', of which 52% have children.

With a large number of families living in the Shire and the desire of younger people to participate in organised sport, recreation and/or physical activity (particularly young children and teenagers), some families may have to pay two or three membership fees, along with uniform costs. If membership costs continue to increase, sports may start to experience a decline in junior membership numbers as families cannot afford to pay the fees.

The average household has a lower weekly income (\$828) than the State average (\$1,216). This, combined with the high proportion of residents aged over 65 years, means any type of activity needs to be affordable to all to ensure equality and encourage lifestyles opportunities.

Population Growth

Moira Shire is relatively self-contained in regard to employment, with approximately 80% of working residents doing so within the Shire. Subsequently, future population changes will be closely linked with employment increases or decreases.

Other sources contributing to population growth evident across the Shire are 'tree changers', employment growth in services, consolidation of agricultural industries and attraction of families to the area.

The projected annual growth rate over the next 10 years is 1.39%, with over 6,900 additional residents expected by 2026.

As a result of the overall projected growth of the Shire, it is expected that the proportion of people looking for flexible recreation will increase.

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In addition to those who work outside the traditional work hours, retirees often seek programs at different times, not just the early morning and evenings.

Community Survey

Broad consultation took place in the development of this strategy and that is detailed in Appendix 5. This includes specific information pertinent to each sport and recreation activity. This consultation included community survey, Local Government Community Satisfaction survey, local sporting clubs and associations, schools, state sporting associations and Council representatives.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES
AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

This section of the report consolidates the findings from the key priority areas, current situation including future projections and industry trends and consultation to provide a framework and recommendations for the strategy.

The Sustainable Capacity Report articulates the challenges facing Moira Shire to provide facilities and services across the municipality in a sustainable manner and this is followed through in the Council Plan via the enabling objectives of:

Enabling Objectives

1. Smarter delivery of existing services and programs
2. Delivering sound financial management
3. Rebalancing the Asset Mix
4. Involving and communicating with our community
5. Demonstrating good governance

While understanding and supporting the many activities people participate in, to be sustainable Council has capacity to focus primarily on those sport and active recreation activities that the majority of the population undertake, while still supporting others where possible.

For Sport this will be the top 10 activities which are all of those that had a significant participation rate in the community survey or there is strong provision of facilities across the municipality and for Active Recreation this will be those activities that around 20% or more of the population participate in. These are based on the combination of community consultation and survey outcomes and the correlation with State and National participation data. These are:

Sport	Active Recreation
Netball	Gym/Group Fitness/Personal Training
Tennis	Walking and Running
AFL	Swimming
Basketball	Cycling
Golf	Fishing
Cricket	Playing in the Park
Soccer	Canoeing and Kayaking
Athletics	
Equestrian	
Bowls	

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Key Priority Areas

Council has identified 35 recommendations to inform the direction of the delivery of sport and recreation in the municipality for the next 10 years.

From these recommendations, the following six key priority areas are identified:

Sustainable Provision of sports facilities and services

Moira Shire has a number of unique characteristics such as population distribution, geography, age profile and climate size that make the cost of providing recreational services higher than average.

Financial sustainability will be a critical factor in informing future deliberations in regard to direction linked to service delivery, infrastructure investment and asset management and accessibility to services. Council and the community will need to be innovative and realistic in relation to capacity to provide major infrastructure projects and services with limited users.

There are a significant number of sport and recreation facilities and assets across the municipality in both small and large towns. While many are located on Council owned or managed land, many others are located on other public or private land but remain accessible to the community.

Based on facility mapping there appears potential over supply of some types of facilities and an undersupply of others.

An informed program of rationalising under-utilised sports facilities, in particular those that have reached the end of their useful asset life, and investing in shared use and co-location in smaller towns and the development of quality, high use regional facilities in major townships will result in overall higher quality facilities for the community.

Working closely with neighbouring municipalities in the provision of facilities will reduce duplication and support fuller use of each and by saving or freeing up resources support better investment in other areas of need.

Active Recreation and Activating Spaces

The health related benefits of physical activity are widely understood and while investment in sport is still an important direction for council, demographic and societal changes are leading to the need to provide more flexible opportunities to engage more people.

Providing an equitable split between investment in traditional sports and emerging activities and encouraging partnerships to facilitate the provision of these facilities and services will ensure Moira is well placed to support sustained high participation into the future. This will include ongoing development of walking and cycling paths, active green spaces including outdoor fitness equipment and programs to activate these spaces.

Parks and Playgrounds

There is (as a minimum) a park and playground located in every town in Moira Shire. This strategy refers to the provision of neighbourhood parks, town parks and regional parks/playground. The density of parks and playgrounds in the Cobram and Yarrawonga townships in particular suggest there may be an over-supply, which may have an impact on service standards and quality. Further to this, while Nathalia and Numurkah appear reasonably serviced, there may be scope for the creation of some additional higher quality play spaces, with Nathalia currently not having a town playground.

The rationalising of some Cobram and Yarrawonga parks and playgrounds, where they are located in close proximity may support the provision of higher quality spaces across the whole municipality.

"The community survey supports the notion of the municipality being well, if not over-serviced for parks and playgrounds, with almost 70% of the respondents rating their quality as either good or very good."

There has been media coverage and submissions to Council highlighting the desire for a significant regional playground facility that may have a high focus on all-ability access. Should such a facility proceed, it could be developed to a standard that would attract regional and tourist visitation and on that basis should be located in one of the townships that supports higher tourist visitor numbers, most likely Yarrawonga.

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"A well planned park and playground strategy focussed across the municipality will be undertaken to inform the direction of this area where Council has significant resources invested."

Swimming and Public Pools

Council currently invests around \$800,000 per annum to provide aquatic facilities, such as indoor and outdoor pools and a splash park in the townships of Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah, Yarrawonga and Strathmerton. The availability, use and cost to provide seasonal swimming pools is a significant issue right across Victoria. Through the community engagement process young people highlighted swimming as a popular activity and Councillors identified a number of opportunities they felt could be explored to enhance the operation and visitation at pools. There is currently no clear strategy or plan guiding the provision of services linked to the provision of community pools.

Further to this, in response to interest in the development of an indoor pool at Yarrawonga, a Multi-Purpose Aquatic and Recreation Facility Feasibility Study was undertaken in 2007. The study estimates of the annual operational cost of the provision of a facility such as that recommended in townships with a population ranging from 5,000 to 15,000 people could be between \$200,000 and \$400,000 per annum.

Based on the current provision and access to aquatic facilities including regional facilities in neighbouring municipalities, the estimated annual operating cost of a new facility within current population levels and in the context of the Council Plan and Sustainable Capacity Report, without significant population growth it is not considered feasible for Council to build and operate a regional facility at this time.

"In addition to this it is recommended a seasonal pool strategy be developed to provide clear objectives and direction linked to asset management, cost of future provision and use."



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Sport and Recreation Tourism

Tourism is amongst the largest economic contributors to Moira Shire and contributes around \$95m and 580 jobs to the local economy. Walking and Cycling trails, sporting events and conferences, development of the Murray River Adventure Canoe Trail and Golf are identified as key product development opportunities to support growth in regional tourism. Sport and active recreation is well placed to capitalise on these opportunities.

Council give priority to projects that not only support local participation but also facilitate tourism industry growth and development. This will include walking and cycling trail development and strengthening partnerships with active and passive recreation based tourism operators.

Governance

Moira Shire has 35 Section 86 Special Committees of Council, which are in-effect committees of management. 25 of these share responsibility for the management of recreation and sporting facilities with Council. Each committee comprises representatives from each user group who use these facilities, community representatives and an appointed councillor.

Sports Clubs said that maintaining suitable numbers of volunteers is one of the most significant threats facing their capacity to function into the future.

Section 86 Committee reviews that have been undertaken have highlighted a number of issues including the amount of governance needed to comply with required standards and a number of small, single use facilities managed under this model that may be able to function under much simpler governance models. Council will work with committees and support them to shift to more appropriate governance models.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council has identified 35 recommendations to inform the direction of the delivery of sport and recreation in the municipality for the next 10 years.

Priority scale

In each of the following tables the priority of projects have been categorised according to High, Medium or Low priority.

This scale also considers the work necessary to plan for and deliver major projects over the 10 year life of this strategy.

It is acknowledged that the delivery of a number of major projects is often dependent on external funding and uncertainty around the availability of these funds can contribute to these timeframes being bought forward or extending out.



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RECREATION RESERVES

There are approximately 10 local sports grounds, nine district and four regional type facilities located within the Moira Shire. These reserves generally cater for the high participation sports of football, netball, cricket, athletics and soccer either all at the one venue or

as a mix. While they may not always host all of these activities, they may have capacity to do so if required.

Level of Service

The Open Space Planning and Design Guide developed by Parks and Leisure Australia provided the basis for the hierarchy of sporting recreation reserves outlined below.

Hierarchy	Description	Example
Local Sports Ground	<p>Local grounds will have formal to semi-formal maintained sports ovals/fields for a mixture of winter and/or summer sports. The facilities would be of a good standard but may not have the required playing surface or ancillary infrastructure of a District level facility nor comply with State regulations for the sport.</p> <p>Informal recreation may be restricted to certain parts of the ground. Toilets, changing facilities and car parking are likely to be available and some reserves may have sports club facilities. Clubs (or Council) may have installed floodlights to enable evening training.</p> <p>Local sports grounds usually consist of one field, basic lighting and minimal amenities. The fields are often used more for training and social purposes than for competition.</p> <p>Local sports grounds generally service a local township and its surrounding localities/villages and are up to 10 hectares in size.</p>	Invergordon Recreation Reserve
District Sports Ground	<p>Are more than a sports ground, rather a facility. They have formally maintained sports field/ovals and courts for a mixture of winter and/or summer sports. The fields/ovals and courts comply and are maintained to State regulations for the sport codes using the grounds. District sports grounds generally include spectator seating, canteen buildings and multiple amenities buildings catering for the range of sports at the ground. Car parking will be extensive and the facility will be suitable to attract competition at a local and regional level and possibly state level.</p> <p>In the case of Moira Shire, and especially in the smaller towns, these facilities are often the hearts of communities, providing a range of sporting, recreation and social opportunities.</p>	<p>Katunga Recreation Reserve</p> <p>Tungamah Recreation Reserve</p>
Regional Sports Precinct	<p>Similar to a District Sports Ground but with higher standard facilities and/or multiple fields that may suit multi-purpose use.</p>	<p>Cobram Sports Precinct if combining Lawn Tennis and Bowls, Show Grounds and Apex Park.</p> <p>Yarrowonga Showgrounds Victoria Park</p>

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In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

- 70% of the population live within the district boundary (as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) of a Local sports ground,
- 90% of the population live within 20kms of the town centre of a town with a District sports ground, and
- 90% of the population live within 40kms of a regional sports facility.

This allows for the highest density of population to be able to reasonably walk or ride a bike to a local sports ground, with those in outlying areas likely to have to drive to any destination and that drive aimed to be kept around 15 to 20 minutes to a district sports ground and the majority being able to drive to a regional sports ground in approximately 30 minutes.

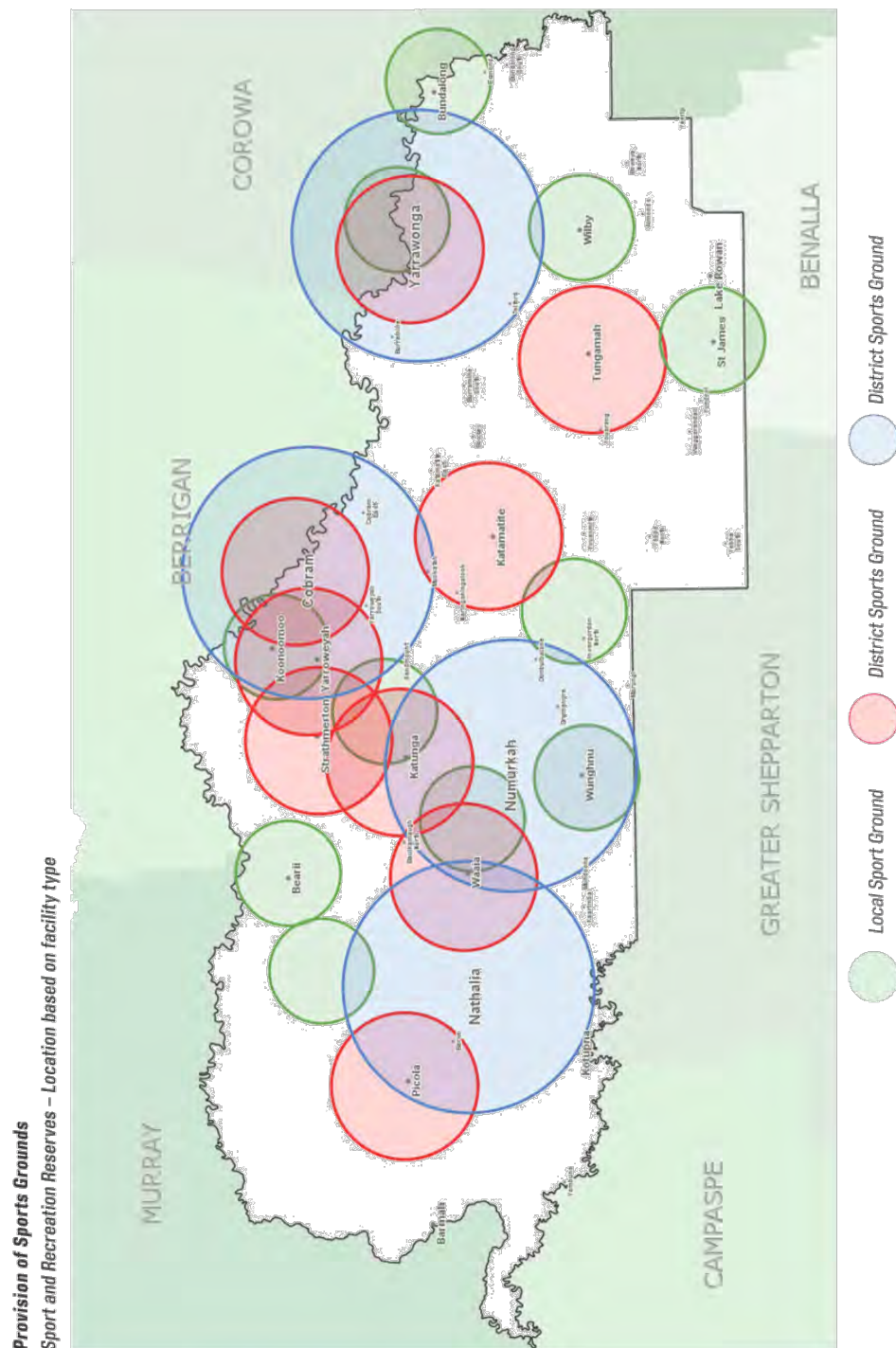


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The Sport and Recreation Reserves – Location based on facility type highlights the provision of sporting recreation reserves across the municipality. Based on the distribution of facilities and population it is concluded that the target access to facilities is easily met.

This is supported by the response to the 2015 Community Satisfaction Survey that indicated that 67% of respondents travelled less than 5km to a recreation reserve or sports stadium and 95% travelled less than 20km.

In addition to this football, netball, soccer and cricket provide guides to facility provision. The table below highlights base level recommended facility provision and Moira's current facility provision.

Sport	Recommended Provision	Recommended Number in Moira – Based on population 28,833	Current Provision
Football	1 field - 4,000 people	7 fields	22 fields
Cricket	1 field - 3,000-5,000 people	6-9 fields	23 fields
Netball	Courts at Football/Netball Facilities with a second court where there are more than 60 players Association Venues – 3 courts to every 10,000 people	Minimum 11 courts at recreation reserves – up to 22	43 courts
Soccer	2 full-sized fields per club		Potential for up to 46 on existing ovals plus additional at venues such as Apex Park in Cobram.
Athletics	No guide yet developed	Not Guide Available	Grass Roots and Junior Capacity at all 23 fields

Based on this information it appears Moira is well catered for in providing base level facilities for football, netball, soccer and cricket.

Importantly, one of the challenges for Moira Shire is the provision of these facilities across a wide area. This explains the current number of sports grounds which is well above the population based recommendation.



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Sports Recreation Reserves Strategic Direction and Recommendations

1. Sports Recreation Reserves

Ref	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High - 1-3 yrs Med - 3-5 yrs Low - 5-10 yrs
1.1	To ensure better connections and coordinated development of complimentary facilities at each site and to avoid unnecessary duplication – creating sporting precincts where possible.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Strategically implement master plans for the following Sports Precincts • Cobram Showgrounds/Apex Reserve • Scott Oval • Yarrawonga Showgrounds/ Victoria Park <i>Note: These are Council adopted master plans however it would be prudent to review resources/ capacity and need based on findings within this strategy before proceeding. It may be that delivery of all these is not feasible and that consolidation of these plans is required. Before any major investment is made a level of service review should be undertaken. Alternate options should focus on shared use and renewal projects over new projects. Rationalising assets should form part of this approach where possible.</i>	Med - High
1.2	Ageing infrastructure and changes to demographics and activity potentially mean that there are council owned facilities that are either under-utilised or coming to the end of their useful life. As highlighted in the Asset Management Strategy where this is occurring, a review of that asset should occur and include alternative methods of provision.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4	Continue the implementation of master plans in smaller towns. In towns such as Katunga, Waaia, Strathmerton, Katamatite and Tungamah, one major venue should be considered the focus for community activities, recreation and other activities. Recreation Reserves generally offer space, amenities, a playground and commonly a major building (They also have the most significant and regular usage of facilities in these towns. As noted in 1.1 before proceeding with major investments a feasibility assessment should be undertaken.)	High
1.3	There appear to be a number of facilities where there are currently no formal lease or management arrangements in place.	Enabling Objectives 5	Undertake a review of all management and leasing arrangements to better understand the current situation and develop a plan to address any gaps.	High
1.4	The S86 Review highlighted that committees are undertaking or being considered for undertaking building asset inspections and several have suggested they do not have the necessary skills or qualifications for this. The Review recommends relevant Council staff undertake building asset inspections.	Enabling Objectives 5	Council maintain direct responsibility for the inspection, audit and reporting linked to building assets. In accordance with the review of S86 Committees that is underway at the time of finalising this strategy relevant Council staff undertake building asset inspections.	High

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Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High - 1-3 yrs Med - 3-5 yrs Low - 5-10 yrs
1.6	The MPHWP recommends the provision of water fountains in public places.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 5	Consider recreation reserves when implementing the recommendations related to the provision of drinking fountains in the MPHWP.	High - Ongoing
1.7	The Disability Action Plan recommends the development of a program for auditing all yet to be audited facilities and to manage action plans for those already audited.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 5	A program for the auditing of Recreation Reserves and implementation of existing audit action plans be developed and undertaken in consideration of available resources.	Med
1.8	The Asset Management Plan dictates that in order to be supported for capital investment all facilities require an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues and for upgrade and expansion to work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Strategic Goal 1 & 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	As stated in 1.1 feasibility needs to be assessed before investing takes place along with consideration of potential funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	High - Ongoing
1.11	The Murray River Events strategy notes the Moira region has no signature event and highlights significant assets that could be used to support further event visitation and includes Lake Mulwala and Yarrawonga. A number of strategies and Plans including the Murray Region Events Strategy state that facility development that provides opportunities for sports tourism should be prioritised.	Strategic Goal 3 Enabling Objectives 1 & 4	Facility development that provides Med opportunities for sports tourism should be identified and developed where possible. (These projects should be supported by a business case and should consider other funding options including private investment).	Med
1.12	Many Recreation Reserve sites are not easily visible.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objective 1	Develop and install consistent and visible directional signage for all Council Recreation Reserves. This could be considered in the context of Council's overall Town Signage/Wayfinding strategy.	Med

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Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High - 1-3 yrs Med - 3-5 yrs Low - 5-10 yrs
1.13	While participation in many organised sports is relatively stable, soccer and women's participation in soccer and football are increasing significantly. This is placing pressure on facilities both with grass spaces but also in relation to the provision of appropriate change facilities.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 3 & 4	When planning for development of sports and facilities, consider current and projected impact of key growth sports and changes to facility requirements. Where possible program appropriate venues and plan for facility upgrades to reflect these changes.	Low
1.14	Based on the recommendations in the State Sporting Association Strategic Plans for football, netball, cricket and soccer Moira appears to provide high levels of access to facilities. While this is overall positive in the context of sustainable service delivery and the Sustainable Capacity Report this high level supply combined with changing demographics, participation trends and ageing facilities suggests the opportunity to prioritise investment in strategically appropriate facilities and encourage shared and multi-use where appropriate.	Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	As the demographics of towns and districts change, along with participation trends, supply of sporting facilities will also need to change. Opportunities for shared use facilities, renewal projects over new and rationalising sporting assets will all be key requirements of this change.	Med - Ongoing



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Tennis

Tennis was identified as the second most participated in activity by the respondents to the community survey, with around 40% of those participating saying they played. It is also in the top 10 sports nationally and at the time of the most recent ABS survey indicated that male and female participation was almost equal.

"Tennis while a strong organised sport also provides opportunities for casual and unstructured participation, which correlates well with trends towards this type of activity."

In Moira tennis is also one of the key sports with events that generate tourism. The Yarrawonga and Cobram tournaments both attract many visitors, with the Yarrawonga event in particular one of the regions primary sports based tourist events.

Level of Service

The Tennis 2020 Strategy hierarchy of facilities provides a solid guide for establishing a hierarchy of facilities for Moira Shire.

Hierarchy Level	No. of Courts	Standard of Competition	Recommended Catchment within a 30km radius - Regional / Country
National Tennis Centre	20+	Inter/National	Not provided
Regional	16+	National/State Based	80,000 – 100,000
Large Centre (sub Regional)	12+	Inter/Intra Club Tournaments	40,000 – 50,000
District	8+	Interclub	5,000+
Local	4+	Interclub	5,000+
Public Access	1+	Tennis Engagement	Not provided

In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

- 70% of the population live within the district boundary (as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) of a public access standard tennis court(s),
- 90% of the population live within 20kms of the town centre of a town with local standard tennis courts, and

- 90% of the population live within 40kms of a large centre (sub regional) tennis facility.

This allows for the highest density of population to be able to reasonably walk or ride a bike to play tennis, with those in outlying areas likely to have to drive to any destination and that drive aimed to be kept around 15 to 20 minutes to a local tennis facility and the majority being able to drive to a large centre (sub regional) facility in around 30 minutes.

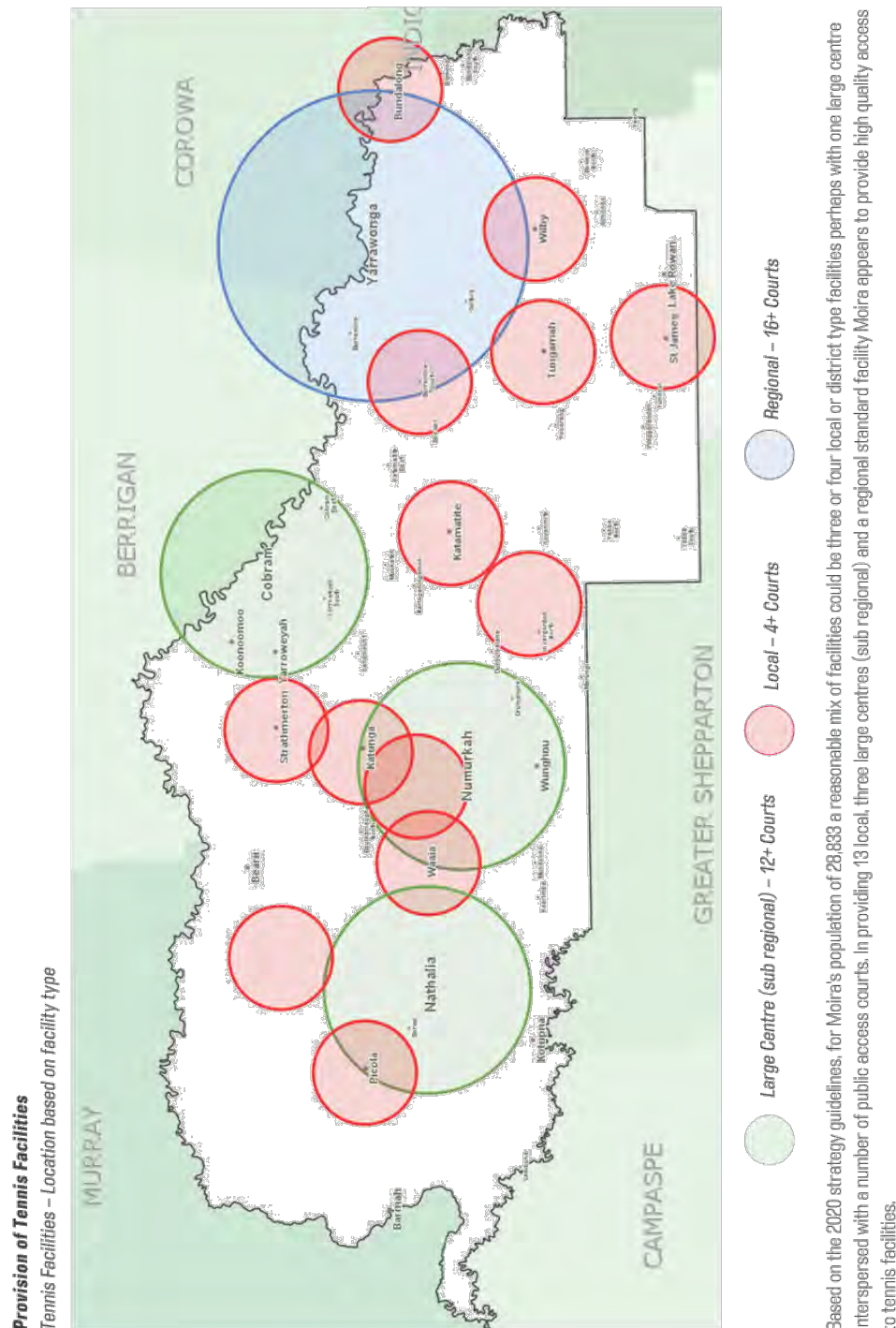


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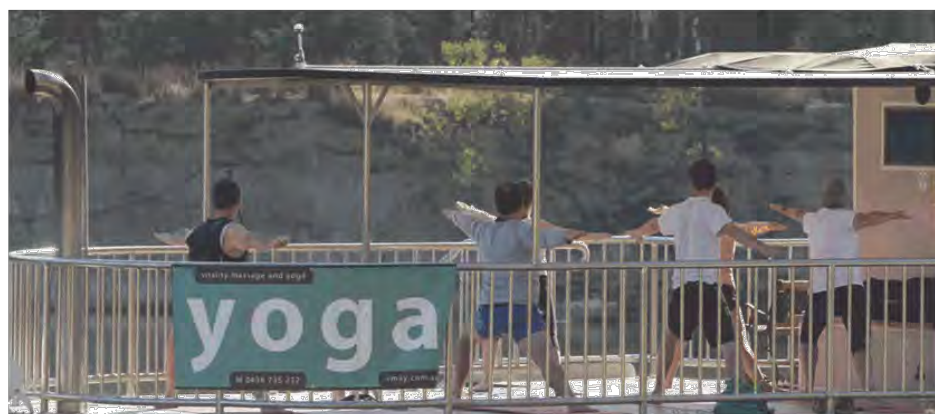
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**Tennis Strategic Direction and
Recommendations**

Tennis

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and En- abling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recom- mendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
2.1	Based on the Tennis Australia 2020 Strategy facility guidelines, Moira appears to provide high levels of access to facilities. While this is overall positive in the context of sustainable service delivery and the Sustainable Capacity Report this high level supply combined with changing demographics, participation trends and ageing facilities suggests the opportunity to prioritise investment in strategically appropriate facilities and encourage shared and multi-use where appropriate.	Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	As the demographics of towns and districts change, along with participation trends, supply of tennis facilities will also need to change. Opportunities for shared use facilities, renewal projects over new and rationalising courts and facilities will all be key requirements of this change.	Med - Ongoing
2.2	Events such as the Yarrowonga Easter tournament and the Cobram Labour Day Long Weekend Tournament are key sports based tourism events for the Shire. This is an important consideration in prioritising and facilitating appropriate facility developments.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 1&2	Consideration should be given to facility development at sites such as Yarrowonga and the Cobram Tennis facilities where it supports the continued growth of their key tourism based tournaments.	Low



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Indoor Sports

Indoor sports provided for in purpose built stadiums often include activities such as basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis as well as capacity for a range of other sports and games. Basketball

rated fourth in the most participated activities on the community survey and netball the highest, with netball also featuring in the top ten nationally.

The table below highlights the sports stadiums currently provided in Moira Shire including the number of courts in each:

Town	Number of courts	Ownership/Management
Nathalia – Community Centre	1 court	Council/External contractor
Numurkah – Secondary College	1 court	Education Department
Cobram	2 courts	Council/External contractor
Yarrawonga – ECA Centre	1 court	Education Department
Yarrawonga – Sacred Heart PS	1 court	Education Department

Note indoor stadiums are also located within the regional catchments of people living in Moira Shire in Shepparton (4 courts), Wangaratta (3 courts) and Echuca (3 courts).

Level of Service

Both basketball and netball provided advice in relation to the provision of indoor facilities for their sports.

Sport	Recommended Provision	Recommended Number (in Moira – Based on population 28,833)	Current Provision
Basketball	1 indoor court – every 300-500 players 4 indoor courts – 35,000 people	4 indoor courts	6 courts
Netball	1 indoor court – 10,000	4 indoor courts	6 courts

In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

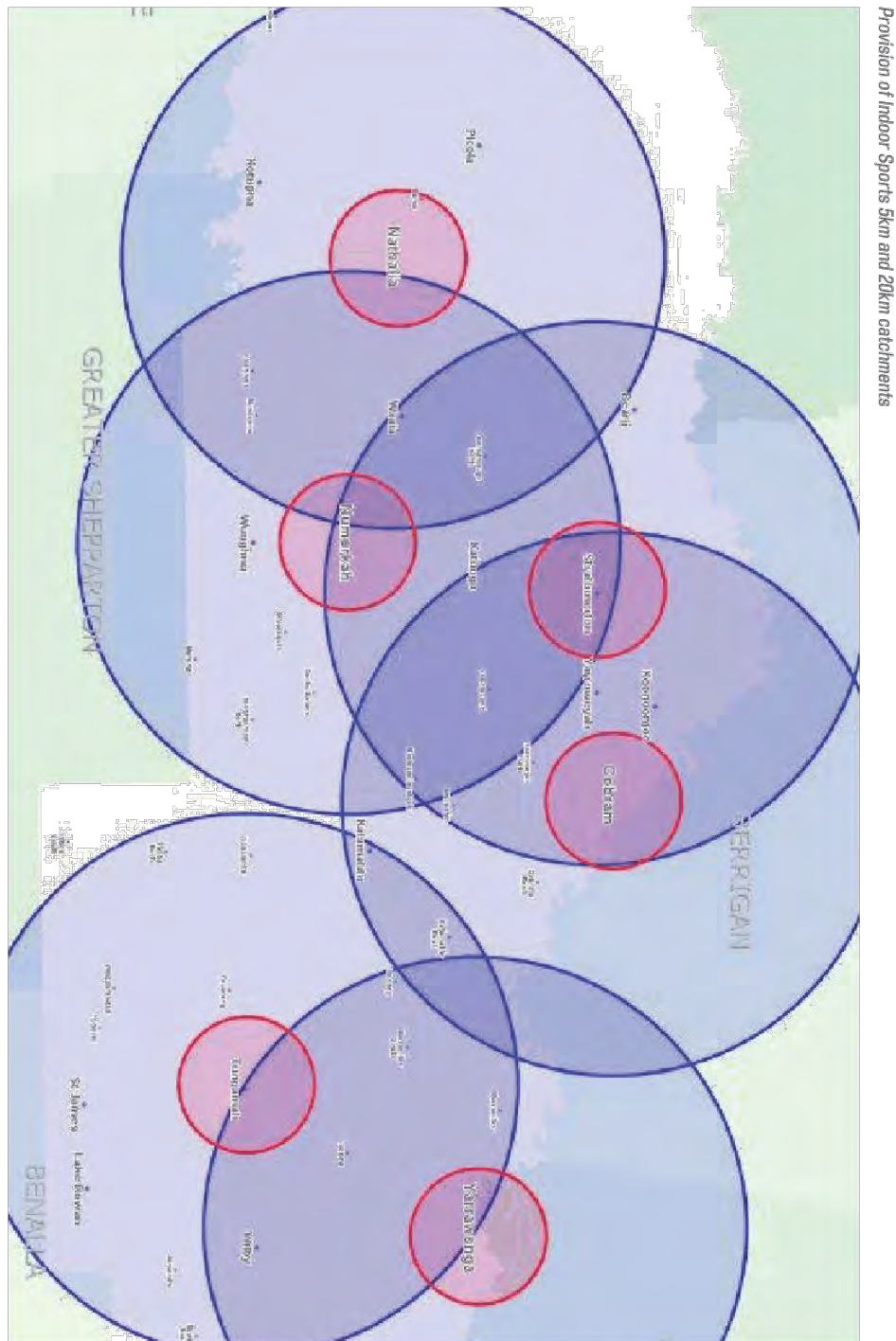
- 70% of the population live within the district boundary (as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) of an indoor sports stadium,
- 90% of the population live within 20kms of the town centre of a town with an indoor sports stadium, and

This allows for the highest density of population to be able to reasonably walk or ride a bike to an indoor sports centre, with those in outlying areas likely to have to drive to any destination and that drive aimed to be kept around 15 to 20 minutes to an indoor sports centre.

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Based on the above assessment it appears the provision of courts meet the targeted level of service. Usage levels are described as some 300 participants for Yarrawonga Basketball Association. Nathalia Basketball operates under the programming of the YMCA and has relatively low numbers that fluctuate and at times are unable to operate due to low numbers in a particular season. Cobram Basketball Association has approximately 80 participants and this is growing with an increase in junior participation. Numurkah Basketball Association has some 30 participants.

Both Numurkah and Yarrawonga indicated access to facilities is a key threat to their competition. Generally, single court facilities limit the capacity of competition

development based on the numbers of players and games able to be played at any one time. Running competitions across a number of days/nights remains an opportunity to increase opportunities for participation and capacity.

Also, while traditionally played indoors, clubs could consider a mix of indoor and outdoor basketball utilising netball courts while growing participation to a point whereby expansion of indoor courts becomes more viable. Another option to improve capacity is for clubs to program activities on additional nights and not limit themselves to traditional days or nights of activity.

Indoor Sports Strategic Direction and Recommendations

3. Indoor Sports

Ref	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/ Actions	Priority High - 1-3 yrs Med - 3-5 yrs Low - 5-10 yrs
3.1	Community survey respondents indicated a high level of desire for new/upgraded indoor sports centres. This has been reinforced through further submissions from interest groups indicating a need for indoor sport Stadium at Yarrawonga. This is supported by basketball competitions in Numurkah and Yarrawonga both site access to facilities as a key threat to their capacity to grow.	Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Continue to work with community and indoor sports competitions to find innovative solutions to court access to support activity growth until they reach a stage whereby provision of additional indoor court space is viable.	Medium

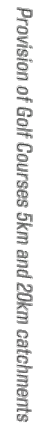
Golf

Golf rated the fifth highest participation activity in the community survey and is in the top 10 nationally. While able to be undertaken as a sport and played as a team, golf also provides high levels of opportunity for unstructured participation.

Golf is traditionally provided for by private or public golf clubs, occasionally on public land with little local government involvement.

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Moira residents appear well catered for with access to golf facilities with 70% of the population living within 5kms and 90% of the population living within 20kms of a golf course.

Golf is also an important tourism support activity, especially to those townships located on or near the

Murray River. The Australian Golf Industry Council, Value of Golf Tourism to Australia report says that golf tourism generates in excess of \$820m and 8.4m visitor nights annually with the Murray River, along with Queensland being the most frequently visited golf destinations by core golf tourists in Australia.

Golf Strategic Direction and Recommendations

4. Golf

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
4.1	Golf is a key tourism product, especially for the townships located on or near the Murray River. Tourism stakeholders including Council should continue to leverage opportunities relating to golf.	Strategic Goal 2 & 3	Given the traditional management of public and private golf clubs in Moira and across the river in NSW council should remain in support of this industry without being a direct investor. Support should be limited to promotion as part of the Murray River Tourism Strategy.	High -Ongoing

Equestrian

Equestrian sports being the combination of a number of activities including endurance training, eventing, horse racing, show jumping, dressage and reining rated as the ninth most participated activity in the community

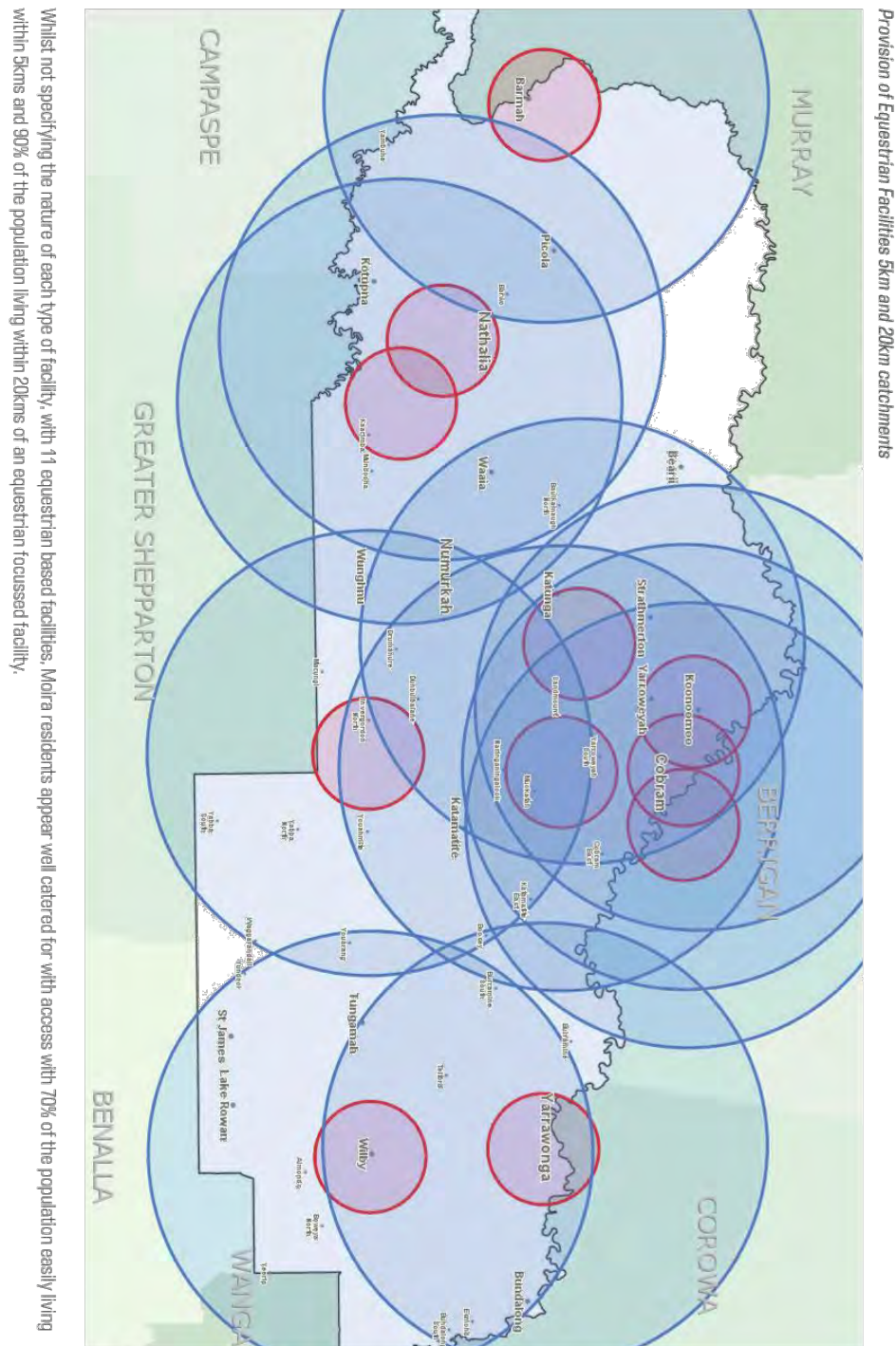
consultation survey. While these sports are not rated in the top ten at state or national level, the significant number of facilities located throughout the Moira Shire supports the notion of high levels of participation.



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Equestrian Strategic Direction and Recommendations

5. Equestrian

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
5.1	The Asset Management Plan dictates that in order to be supported for capital investment all facilities require an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues and for upgrade and expansion to work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Strategic Goal 1 & 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Based on the current number of equestrian facilities located across the municipality, prior to any capital investment, undertake an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues. Work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Low

Bowls

While bowls is not rated in the top 10 activities based on participation at state or national level, the significant number of facilities located throughout the Moira Shire supports the notion of high levels of participation.

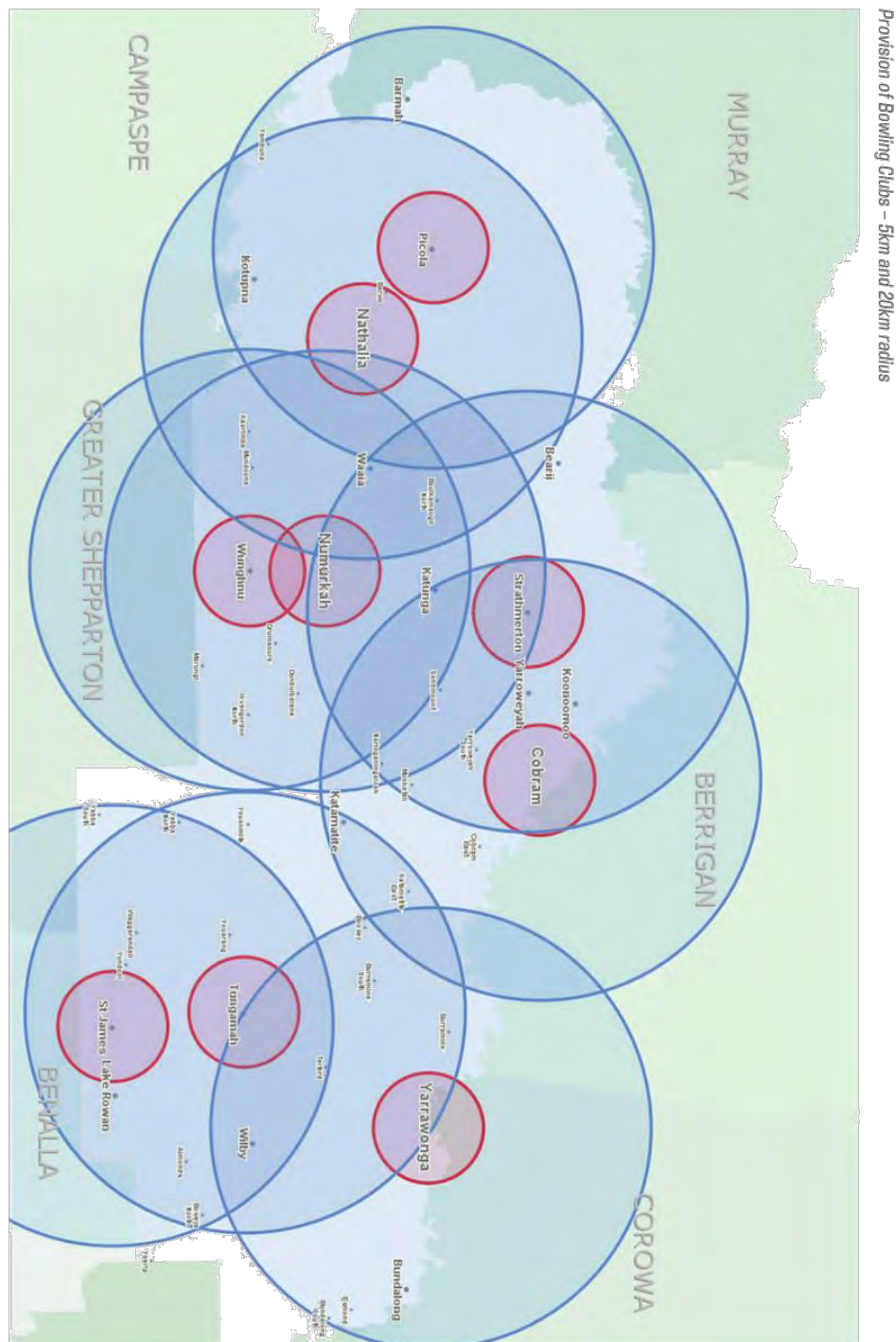


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Whilst not specifying the nature of each type of facility, with nine bowls facilities, Moira residents appear well catered for with access with 70% of the population easily living within 5kms and 90% of the population living within 20kms of a bowls focussed facility. There are also closely located bowling clubs in Katandra West, Tallygaroopna, Barroogie, Mulwala, Benalla and Tongala.

Sustainable Sports Model – Bowls WA

Taken from the Bowls WA – Strategic Facilities Plan, developed in partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation Western Australia the table below provides an indicative hierarchy and facility service level for bowls clubs.

Club Type	Competitions	Focus	Facilities
Regional Club	"premier League", Pennant Competition, Large community bowls competition, Inter and intra club competitions, Large open events and tournaments.	Large catchment area, competition focus, club hosts major events. Able to support other sports and activities. Regional training facility within a development pathway	4-6 Greens (grass and synthetic), Large clubhouse, carpark and spectator capacity, 280+ pennant bowlers, 360+ community bowlers.
Large Club	Pennant competition, Community competition, Inter and Intra club competition, Social bowlers.	Competition and community focus. Competitive teams and leagues. Club serves a larger catchment area. Multi-use and multi-sport facility.	4-5 greens, 200+ pennant bowlers, 160+ community bowlers.
Country; District and Small Club	Pennant competition. Community competition. Social Bowlers	Community and participation focus	1-3 greens, 30+ Pennant Bowlers, 20+ Community Bowlers

Based on the WA model, Moira also appears to provide a strong mix of Large Club and Country facilities to cater for a range of participation.

Bowls Strategic Direction and Recommendations

6. Bowls

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High - 1-3 yrs Med - 3-5 yrs Low - 5-10 yrs
6.1	The Asset Management Plan dictates that in order to be supported for capital investment all facilities require an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues and for upgrade and expansion to work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Strategic Goal 1 & 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Based on the current number of facilities located across and just outside the municipality, prior to any request for capital investment, undertake an assessment of the required level of service and alternate venues and for upgrade and expansion and work in conjunction with funding from the Federal and State governments and community groups.	Low

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Other Sports

It is acknowledged there is a range of other sports activities undertaken throughout Moira Shire, many on council owned and managed facilities and these are supported in a number of ways.

With demographic and societal changes, sports that currently sit outside the top 10 for participation may rise in popularity and vice-versa, an example being the growth in women's soccer over the last decade.

This strategy supports the notion of Council and the community being responsive and adaptive to these changes and providing appropriate levels of support to

both the high participation based activities and those that support variety and choice and are important to enhancing Moira's overall liveability.

Active Recreation

- Gym/Group Fitness and Personal Training
- Walking, Jogging and Cycling
- Swimming
- Parks and Playgrounds
- Open Water Activities including fishing, canoeing, kayaking and water skiing



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Gym/Group Fitness and Personal Training

Gym, Group Fitness and Personal Training rate all as the most participated in active recreation activities across the municipality in the community survey. This correlates with state based participation, where it rates second behind walking and national data, where it is in the top 10. Anecdotally this type of activity has high rates of participation with both females and males, which is also reflected in the national participation data.

These activities are catered for in a number of ways. While regional type aquatic centres often have a 'Dry' area component incorporating many of these, the industry has gone through a paradigm shift with personal training, 24 hour and smaller niche or boutique type gyms, home equipment and web based apps all combining to provide more access to more people.

Level of Service

The Community Consultation Survey, in which over 80% of respondents said they participate in gym/group fitness and personal training related activities and the fact it didn't appear in the top 15 of the identified 'desired sport and recreation projects' in the survey suggests Moira residents have appropriate levels of access, most likely provided via privately owned facilities in local townships, the regional facilities in Shepparton, Echuc and Wangaratta and Sporties Health & Fitness in Barrooga, along with home equipment and the web based opportunities.

Gym, Group Fitness and Personal Training Strategic Direction and Recommendations

7. Gym, Group Fitness and Personal Training

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High - 1-3 yrs Med - 3-5 yrs Low - 5-10 yrs
7.1	Consultation suggested opportunities to consider the provision of outdoor gyms along with a desire for the continued upgrade of areas around lakes, parks and the river. These could be combined to provide some level of outdoor gyms in high profile areas that may support casual use and use by personal trainers and groups.	Strategic Goal 2	Continue the installation of outdoor fitness equipment in the higher used open spaces, in particular along walking tracks in major towns.	High

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Walking, Jogging and Cycling

Walking and running feature highly in the most participated active recreation activities. Walking for exercise is the second highest ranked activity locally, which correlates well with Victoria where it rates number one and nationally it also rates the highest participated activity. Jogging, also in the top 10 locally, was rated fourth at a state level and in the top 10 nationally.

"Cycling also features highly in the most participated active recreation activities. It is the fourth ranked activity locally, which correlates well with Victoria where it rates number three and nationally it also rates in the top 10 highest participated activities."

The flexibility in being able to go for a walk, run or ride when it fits within a person's schedule, low cost, low impact and ability to continue the activity into older age are all attractive facets of these activities.

The provision of safe, well lit tracks with stopping and resting points supports participation.

Level of Service

To ensure a number of options are available for people to walk or jog between 2.5km and up to 5km in loops, that can be repeated for those seeking greater distances.

The recreation reserves and ovals in many towns provide an option for walking and running, and in many smaller towns knowledge of local conditions and quieter local streets and pathways on bigger roads provide sustainable infrastructure.

There are a number of informal cycling groups that ride in most townships using local roads for longer rides. A number of these higher use roads are signed to ensure vehicle drivers are aware cyclists may be present.

The Cycling and Walking Strategy 2005 provided a series of recommendations to develop in the townships of Nathalia, Numurkah, Cobram and Yarrawonga that provide infrastructure to the desired level of service.



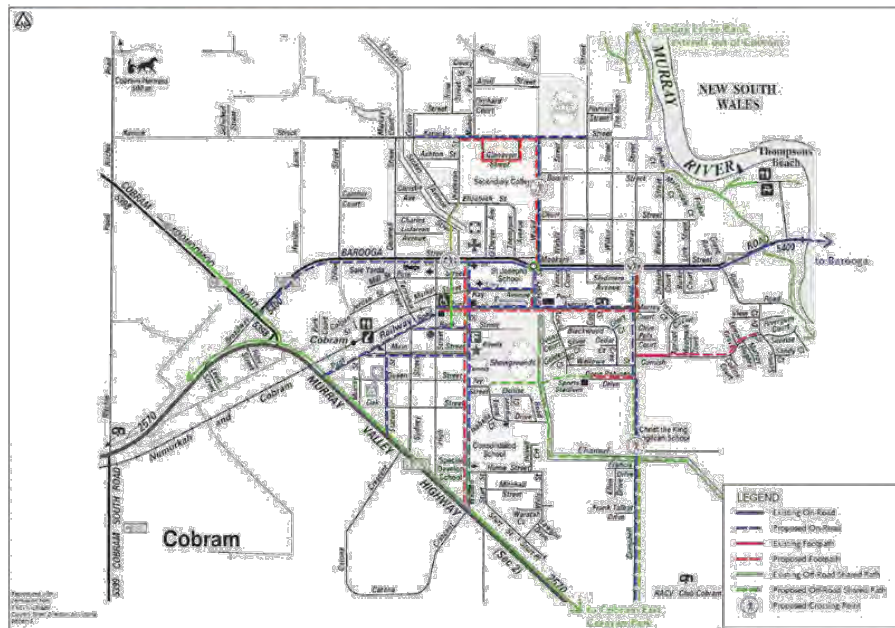
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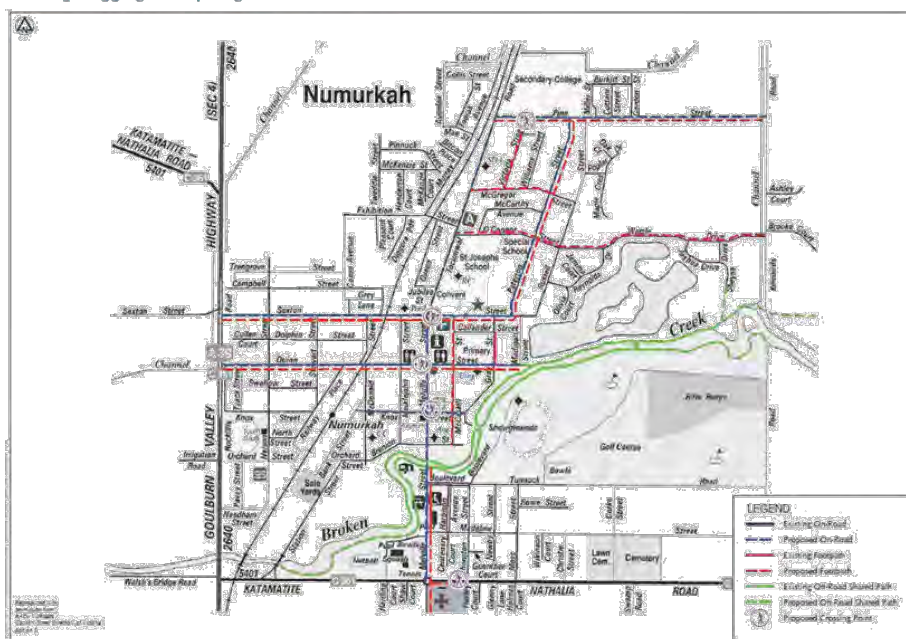
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Walking, Jogging and Cycling Paths - Cobram



Walking, Jogging and Cycling Paths - Numurkah



NUMURKAH
Existing and Proposed
Routes and Facilities

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Moira Bicycle and
Walking Study
ARUP

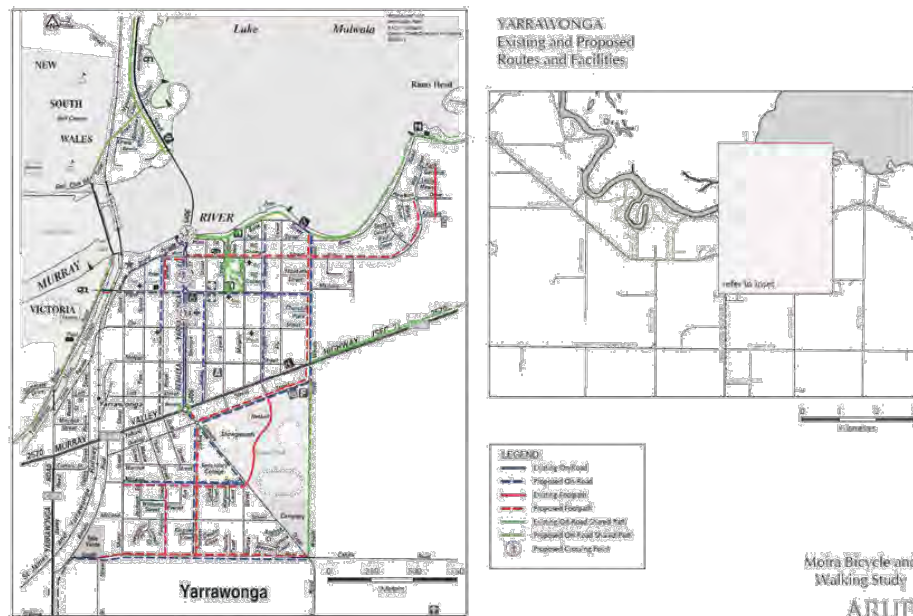
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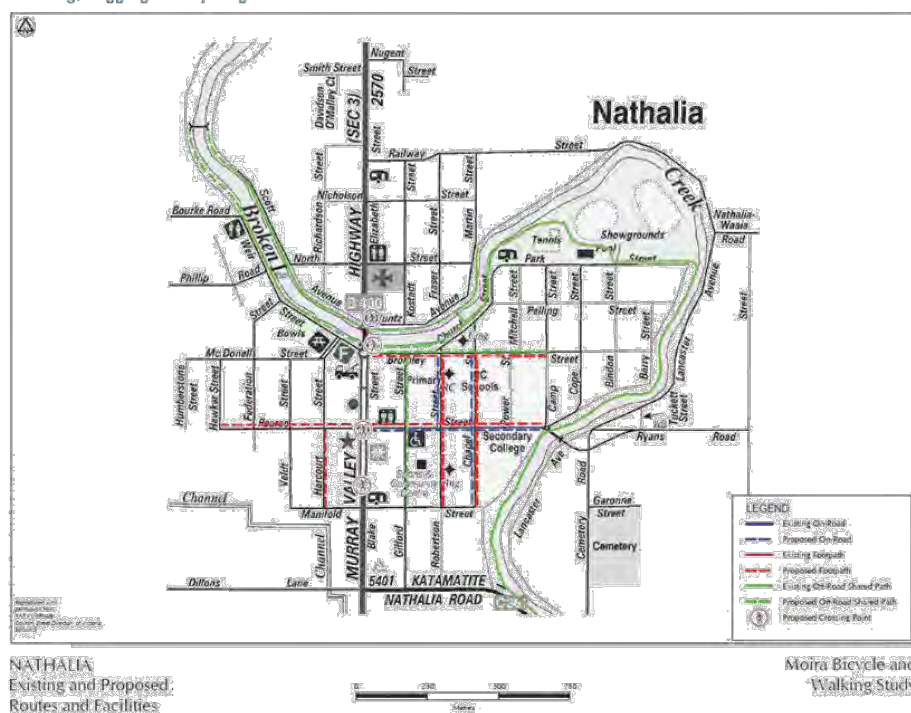
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Walking, Jogging and Cycling Paths - Yarrawonga



Walking, Jogging and Cycling Paths - Nathalia

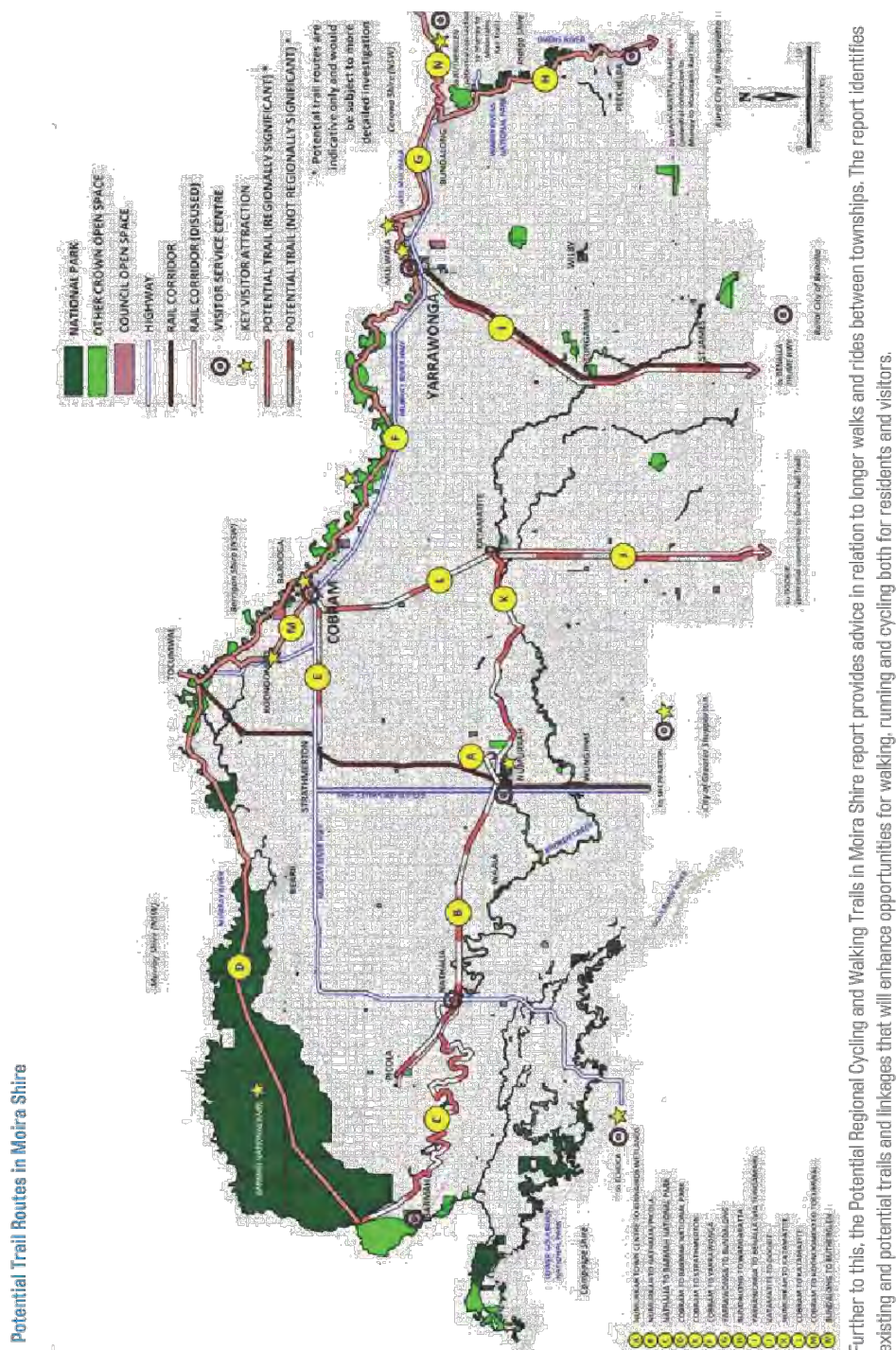


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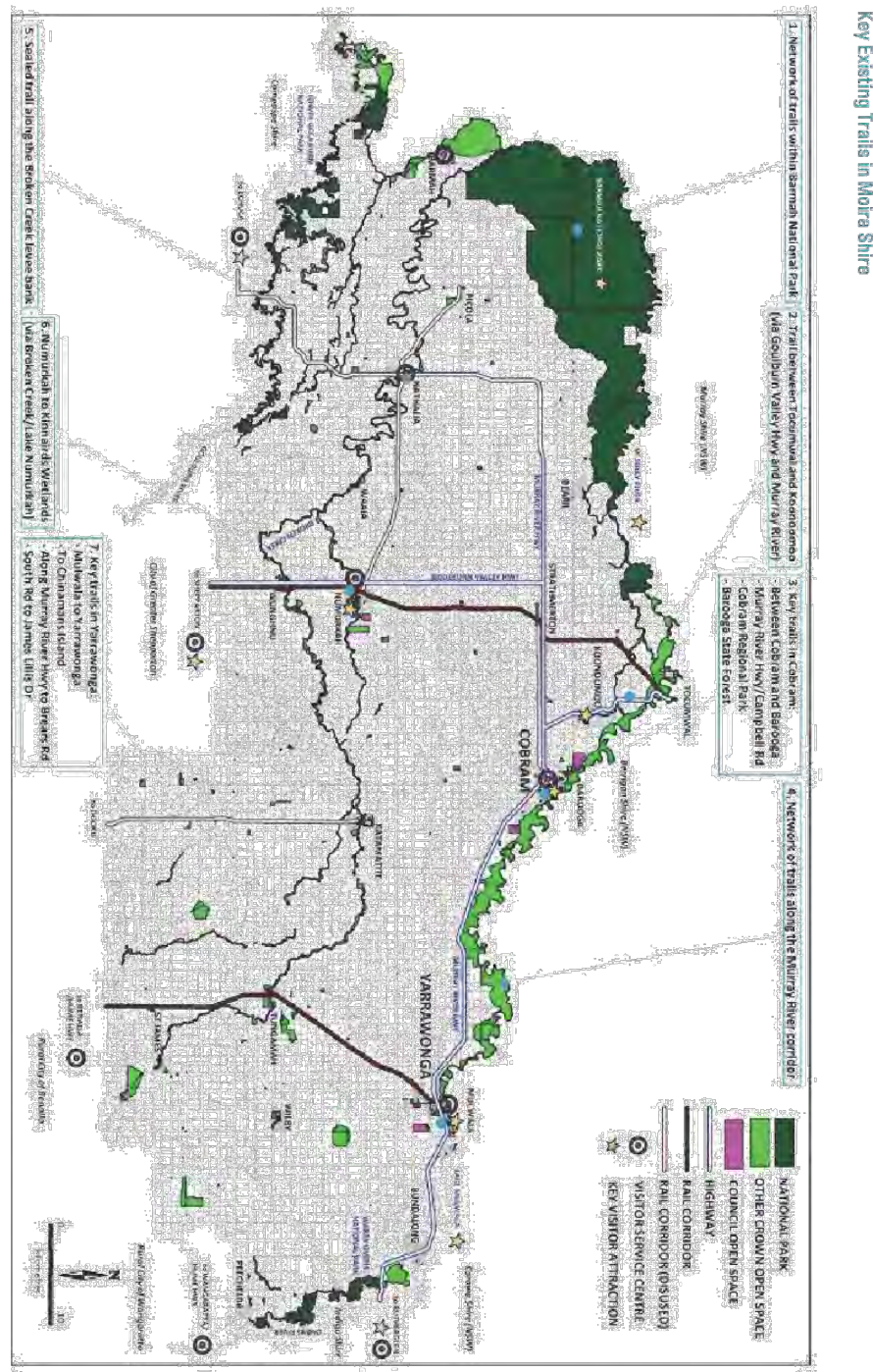


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Walking, Jogging and Cycling Strategic Direction and Recommendations

8. Walking, Jogging and Cycling

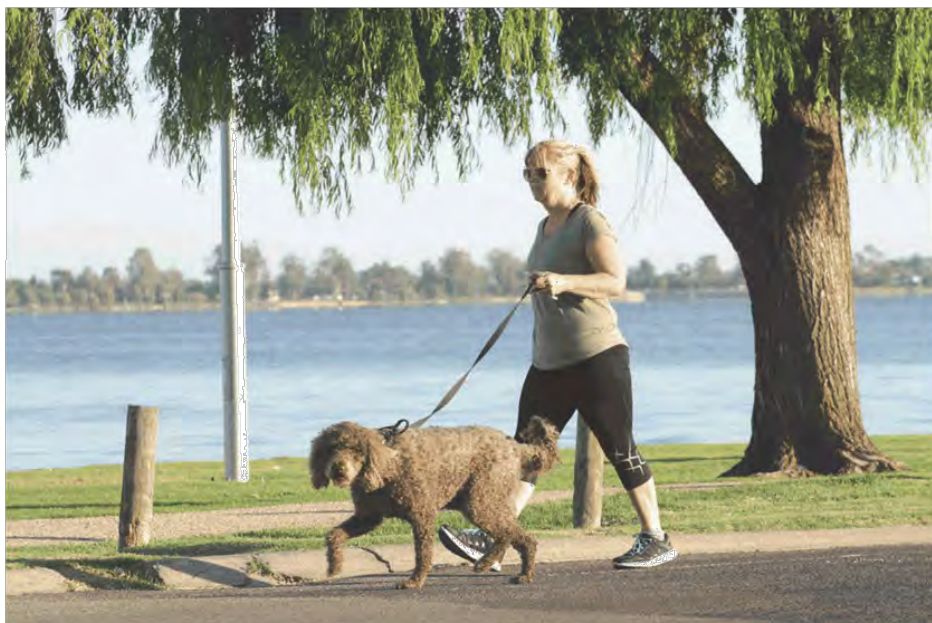
Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High - 1-3 yrs Med - 3-5 yrs Low - 5-10 yrs
8.1	The Moira Shire Council Cycling & Walking Strategy - 2005 Provides a series of recommendations to support the development of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure that will enhance walkability and cycling within the municipality.	Strategic Goal 2	The continued implementation of the Moira Shire Council Cycling & Walking Strategy recommendations including an audit of the current status and review of the strategy if required. Linking existing tracks should be a priority.	High
8.2	The Potential Cycling and Walking Trails in Moira Shire Report and the Murray River Adventure Trail Business Case 2014, provides a series of recommendations to support the development of trails that will enhance walkability and riding within the municipality and support tourism visitation to the region. The Murray River Adventure Trail Business Case specifically identifies Yarrawonga as a 'Primary Destination' and Cobram as a 'Destination'.	Strategic Goal 1, 2 & 3 Enabling Objectives 1, 2 & 4	Implement and assess the potential cycling and walking trails in Moira as priorities and resources allow. Based on Murray River Adventure Trail Business Case priorities the Yarrawonga and Cobram linked sections due to their status as Primary Destination and a Destination.	Med
8.3	The Municipal Public Health & Well-Being Plan 2013-2017 specifically recommends the development of strategies and policies to upgrade walking tracks.	Enabling Objectives 5	Review and prioritise walking and cycling track projects according to operational and capital fund availability including grants.	High
8.4	The Municipal Public Health & Well-Being Plan 2013-2017 and the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2015-2018 specifically recommends to support and collaborate with local community groups to establish additional walking tracks.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 1 & 4	Support and collaborate with local community groups to establish additional walking tracks.	High
8.5	The Municipal Public Health & Well-Being Plan 2013-2017 specifically recommends the investigation of options for cycle paths within close proximity to skate parks.	Strategic Goal 2	In conjunction with recommendation 8.3, investigate options for cycle paths within close proximity to skate parks.	High
8.6	The Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2015-2018 recommends increasing the accessibility of the footpath network across the 4 main towns to promote 'walkability'	Strategic Goal 2	In conjunction with recommendation 8.3 incorporate the recommendation to increase accessibility of the footpath network across the four main towns.	Med

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Swimming

Swimming at over 50% rated the third highest participation activity based on the community survey. This correlates with state and national participation data which suggests it is in the top five activities at both levels. It has been highlighted as an important activity generally, however through the school consultations young people rated it as an activity that's important to them and it also is an activity that can be undertaken by older adults to assist them in remaining physically active.

In Moira Shire swimming is provided for via public swimming pools, open waterways including lakes and rivers and via residential swimming pools. Council

own and operates seasonal outdoor pools in Nathalia, Numurkah, Strathmerton, Cobram, Yarrawonga, and an indoor heated pool at Numurkah. There is also a pool in Tungamah located on the school grounds which is operated by a community committee.

2012-2015 Attendance and Subsidy Average

The following table highlights the average attendance, cost per visit and annual operating cost for the pools operated by Council

	Cobram	Nathalia	Numurkah	Strathmerton	Yarrawonga	Foreshore	Total
Average Attendance	6,996	7,960	9,277	1,780	15,491	12,026	53,529
Average Subsidy per head	\$9.52	\$8.96	\$7.60	\$29.12	\$3.80	\$2.87	\$6.74
Average Facility Subsidy	\$65,625.67	\$71,615.88	\$67,795.89	\$50,415.64	\$57,830.26	\$32,146.17	\$345,429.51

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Provision of Backyard Pools

One of the key societal shifts that the aquatic sector considers in the changing use of community pools is the growth in the provision of backyard pools. Since 2001 Moira Shire Council has approved 984 permits to build private pools in homes. With almost 10% of homes across the municipality having private pools built in the last 15 years, and assuming family and friends would visit and swim in those, it may be estimated up to half of the population may have access to a backyard pool in some capacity and this does not include those with pools built pre 2001. It must be remembered however that the provision of public facilities and services supports accessibility to those that may not have capacity to own or access to private pools.

Level of Service

The following hierarchy has been established to assist in defining the types of facilities available to the community of Moira Shire:

- Local Pool
A seasonal outdoor pool with or without heating.
- Regional Pool
Being a year round facility incorporating indoor heated pools with capacity to cater for the sport of swimming via a minimum of a 25m metre lap pool.

In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

- 70% of the population live within 5kms of a local pool,
- 90% of the population live within 20kms of a local pool, and
- 90% of the population live within 40kms of a regional pool.

This allows for the highest density of population to be able to reasonably walk or ride a bike to a local pool, with those in outlying areas likely to have to drive to any destination and that drive aimed to be kept around 15 to 20 minutes to a local pool and the majority being able to drive to a regional pool in around 30 minutes.

Provision of Local Pools

It is estimated currently that 70% of the population live within 5kms of a local pool (highlighted below with the red circle), 97% live within 20kms of a local pool (highlighted below with the blue circle) and 98% live within 40kms of a regional pool (highlighted on the Regional Map with the blue circle).

This data correlates with the outcomes of the 2015 Community Satisfaction Survey in which 57% of respondents said they travelled less than 5km and 90% said they travelled less than 20km to a swimming pool.

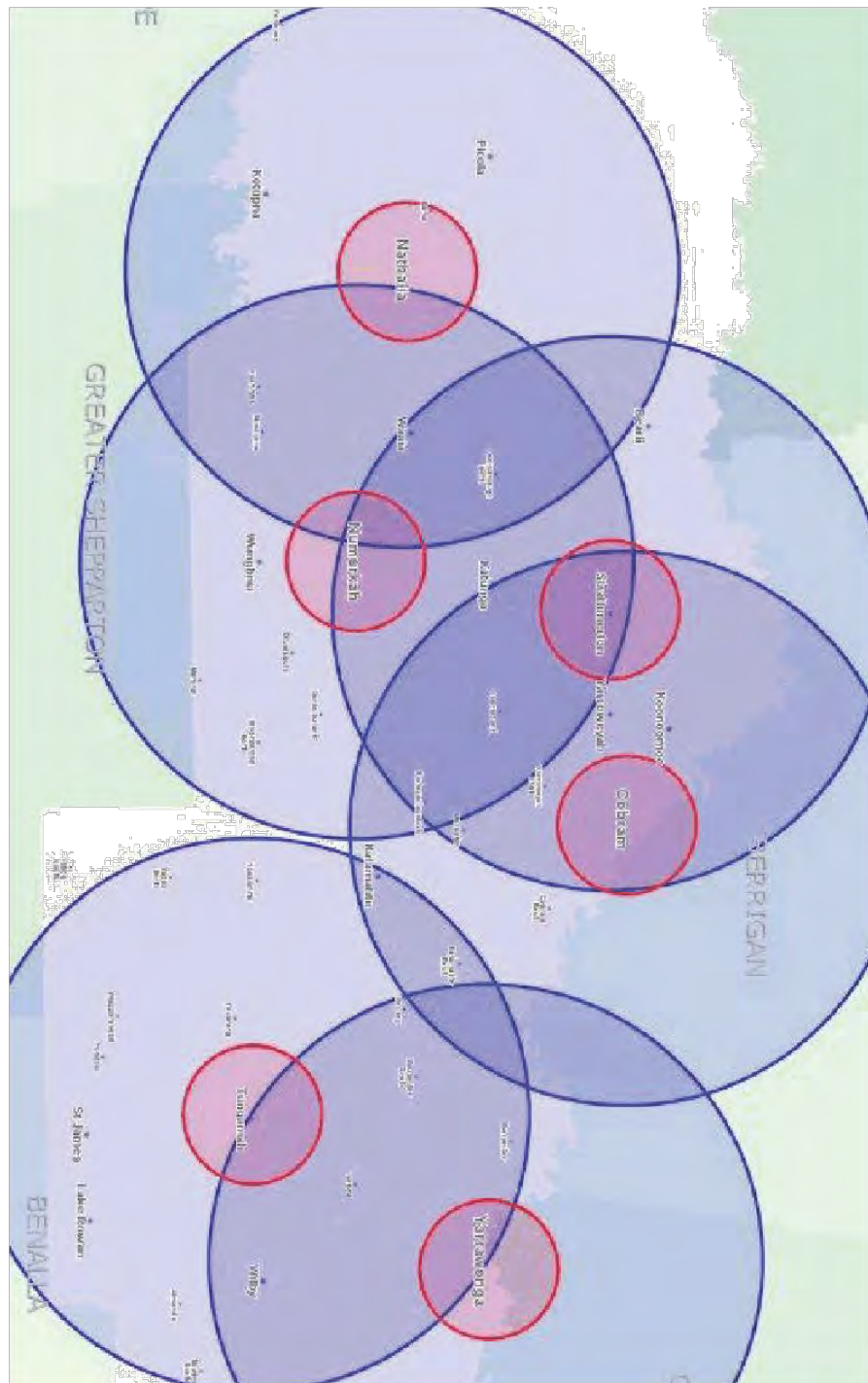


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(MANAGER COMMUNITY
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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report



Provision of Pools - 5km and 20km catchments

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

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Regional pools are located in Barooga, Shepparton, Echuca and Wangaratta. As highlighted these overlap and meet the targeted service level of 90% of the population being able to drive to a year round, indoor heated pool within a 30 minute drive.

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

9 – Swimming Strategic Directions and Recommendations

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
9.1	The availability, use and cost to provide seasonal swimming pools is a significant issue right across Victoria. Through the community engagement process young people highlighted swimming as a popular activity and Councillors identified a number of opportunities they felt could be explored to enhance the operation and visitation at pools. There is currently no clear strategy or plan guiding the provision of services linked to the provision of community pools.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	That a seasonal pool renewal strategy be developed to provide clear objectives and direction linked to asset management, cost of provision and future use. Renewal projects that consider new innovation in aquatics need to be considered. Rationalising some pools should also form part of this renewal program.	High
9.2	The Multi Purpose Aquatic and Recreation Facility Feasibility Study – 2007 recommends supporting of further investigation into the development of a regional facility in Yarrawonga. It estimates the annual operational cost of the provision of such a facility recommended in townships with a population ranging from 5,000 to 15,000 people could be between \$200,000 and \$400,000.	Strategic Goal 1, 2 & 3 Enabling Objectives 1, 2 & 4	Based on the current provision and access to aquatic facilities including regional facilities in neighbouring municipalities, the estimated annual operating cost of a new facility within current population levels and in the context of the council Plan and Sustainable Capacity Report, without significant population growth it is not considered feasible for Council to build and operate a regional facility at this time.	
9.3	The visitation and cost per visit to Strathmerton pool is significantly different to the other pools that have much higher population catchments.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Should the sustainability of providing the current levels of pools become an issue for Council further investigation of the impact of the closure of the Strathmerton pool and the impact on the overall level of service targets should be considered.	Med

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

Parks and Playgrounds

The benefits to both adults and children of access to outdoor green spaces and play has been widely researched, documented and understood. The Beyond Blue to Green: The Health Benefits of Contact with Nature in a Park Context study found that:

"For children, outdoor play has long-term benefits for physical, social, emotional and cognitive development and fosters a sense of identity, feelings of autonomy, psychological resilience and healthy behaviours."

For young people with serious substance abuse issues and/or mental health disorders, horticulture therapy programs have a range of benefits including lower anxiety and depression levels, decreased illegal activity and drug-use and higher self esteem.

Older people are more likely to report a high or very high level of psychological distress than younger people. However, areas with natural landscaping, green neighbourhood meeting places, group nature based activities such as walking, and shared gardens

for the elderly can facilitate social contact, which has been shown to reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases such as depression and cardiovascular disease.

And generally, the range of psychological benefits for people who visit green open spaces is vast and includes improved mood, lower levels of anxiety, lower stress levels, lower levels of depression and increased physical activity.

In Moira, walking the dog, playing in the park and kick-about in the backyard or park are all amongst the most participated in active recreation activities.

There are currently 69 parks with playgrounds of various size and quality situated across the municipality, a full list is provided as Appendix 2 – Parks with Playgrounds – Location by Township.

To support planning, the four primary types of parks provided in Moira will be defined as:



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• **Local Open Space**

An area of open space, with little or no infrastructure on site, usually smaller space, less than 0.5 hectares.

• **Neighbourhood Park**

A Local Open Space, with the additional provision of some playground equipment. May or may not have support infrastructure such as seats and BBQs.

• **Town Park**

Major open space with playground equipment, BBQ and toilets which services the town. Not of a scale to attract regional visitation but does serve the needs of families passing through on their travels.

• **Regional Park and Playground**

A bigger park, larger than 1 hectare with play equipment and support infrastructure such as toilets and BBQs. Has the potential, as a stand alone tourist attraction to attract visitation from the wider region.

- 90% of the population live within 500m of a local open space or neighbourhood park,
- 90% of the population live within 1km of a Town park with a playground, and
- 90% of the population live within 40km of a regional park.

This allows for a large majority of the population to reasonably be able to walk or ride a bike to a local open space or park with a playground, and to be able to walk, ride or make a short drive to a town park. Provision of a larger regional park should remain a priority, most likely to be located in Yarrawonga and/or Cobram.

Provision of Parks and Open Space

There is a park and playground located in every town in Moira Shire.

Level of Service

In defining a level of service that provides reasonable access and facilitates participation, but is financially sustainable it is proposed that:

The mapping below highlights the provision within the 4 major townships. The green areas represent a 500m radius of a local open space, the blue areas 500m of a neighbourhood park with a playground and the red a 1km radius of a town park.



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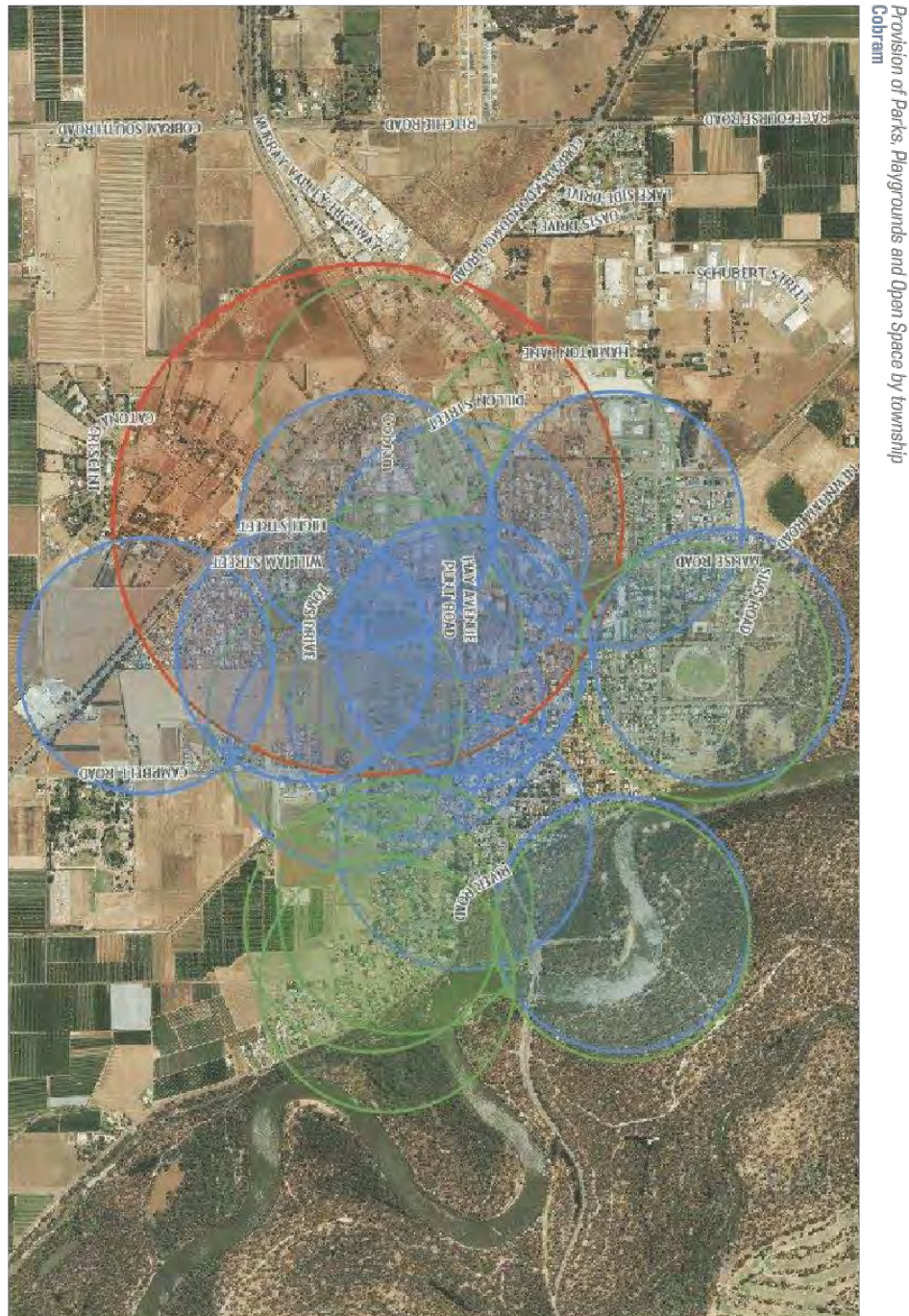
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Nathalia



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Moira is well catered for in provision of neighbourhood and town parks and playgrounds and appears to generally meet the targeted service levels. The density of parks and playgrounds in the Cobram and Yarrawonga townships in particular suggest there may be an over-supply, which may have an impact on service standards and quality. The rationalising of some Cobram and Yarrawonga parks and playgrounds where they are located in close proximity may support the provision of higher quality spaces across the whole municipality. This could include development of a Regional playground.

While Nathalia and Numurkah appear reasonably serviced, there may be scope for the creation of some additional higher quality play spaces, with Nathalia currently not having a town playground.

The community survey supports the notion of the municipality being well, if not over-serviced for parks

and playgrounds, with almost 70% of the respondents rating their quality as either good or very good.

There has been media coverage and submissions to Council highlighting the desire for a significant regional playground facility that may have a high focus on all-ability access. Should such a facility proceed it could be developed to a standard that would attract regional and tourist visitation and on that basis should be located in one of the townships that supports higher tourist visitor numbers, most likely Yarrawonga.

A well planned park and playground strategy focussed across the municipality should be undertaken to inform the direction of this area where Council has significant resources invested.

Note: accessibility is a key theme that should be considered when planning for any new or upgraded parks and or playgrounds.



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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

Parks and Playgrounds Strategic Direction and Recommendations

10 – Parks and Playgrounds Strategic Directions and Recommendations

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
10.1	There appears to be a high concentration and possible over supply of parks and playgrounds in the townships of Cobram and Yarrowonga, while Numurkah and Nathalia, although well serviced may not have comparable quality services, Nathalia does not currently a town playground. Rationalising parks where they are oversupplied may free up and provide additional resources that could support a higher standard of provision across the whole municipality.	Strategic Goal 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4	A detailed audit and strategic plan for the municipal wide provision of town based parks and playgrounds be undertaken and incorporate the development of a hierarchy of facilities, condition and location assessments and 10 year prioritised development plan.	Med
10.2	There appears to be a desire for the construction of a significant regional type playground incorporating access for all abilities. Further investigation of this should occur as part of a broader playground review and strategy.	Strategic Goal 1 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	That the strategy referred to in recommendation 10.1 include the investigation of the provision of a significant regional facility including consideration of its best location.	Med



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Open Water Activities including fishing, canoeing, kayaking and water skiing

Open water activities such as fishing, canoeing, kayaking and water skiing are hugely popular with locals and visitors and important to the Moira municipality. Its perfect location on the Murray River, Broken Creek and Lake Mulwala provide access to some of the best areas for these activities in all of Australia.

The Murray River and Lake Mulwala based tourism is a major industry in the region with people visiting the area to water ski and fish.

Council does not provide any direct service provision relating to these activities via its recreation services, due to national parks, rivers and lakes being located on crown land. Many of the support services are supplied commercially via fishing, camping and boat shops.

Open Water Activities Strategic Direction and Recommendations

11. Open Water Activities

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
11.1	Open Water Activities is a key tourism product, especially for the townships located on or near the Murray River.	Strategic Goal 2 & 3	Encourage tourism stakeholders to continue to identify and leverage opportunities relating to open water based events and tourism.	High - Ongoing

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Sports and Active Recreation Development and Support

The provision of infrastructure and facilities is only one component to supporting strong and viable active communities.

The sports club survey, while noting the importance of maintaining facilities, also strongly highlighted the major issues facing clubs linked to maintaining participation levels, keeping volunteers and raising funds.

Programming and Activity

While the provision of public spaces is important, programming and activating them can be the real difference in connecting communities and encouraging active and healthy lifestyles. It's a given that when a pool or leisure centre is built that it is staffed and programmed, however this is often not the case for many other public spaces.



The VicHealth Activation Program, Active in Parks Program are examples of this and by also supporting programs such as the Greater Shepparton City Council Activities in the Parks and Brimbank Council 'Pop Up Leisure Centre' will achieve the target of getting more people more active more often.

Governance

The Section 86 Committee reviews that have been undertaken have highlighted a number of issues including the amount of governance needed to comply with required standards and a number of small, single use facilities managed under this model that may be able to function under much simpler governance models. There is scope via the on-going reviews to work with committees and support them to shift to more appropriate governance models.

Club Support

The State Government and VicHealth fund the delivery of a range of support to sport and recreation organisations through programs such as Club Support, Access for All Abilities, Regional Sport, Good Sports and Healthy Sporting Environments programs and these are delivered regionally by Valley Sport. Council works in collaboration with and supports Valley Sport and local clubs by promoting their programs throughout the municipality.

"Council directly provides funding through a range of grants to support sports and active recreation development. The table below highlights the 2015-2016 Grants Program."

Category	Grant Amount
Community Major Grants	Up to \$15,000
Community Event Grants	Up to \$500
Community Minor Grants	Up to \$2,500
Health Promotion Grants	Up to \$500
Tourism Events Grants	Up to \$5,000
Arts and culture Small Grants	Up to \$2,000

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Sport and Active Recreation Development and Support Strategic Direction and Recommendations

12. Sport and Active Recreation Development and Support

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High – 1-3 yrs Med – 3-5 yrs Low – 5-10 yrs
12.1	While provision of public spaces is important, activating them is often the key ingredient in ensuring high levels of use and encouraging people to participate.	Strategic Goal 1 & 2 Enabling Objectives 1, 2 & 4	Work closely with community groups and other stakeholders in identifying alternate additional uses for open space. Activities and programs that encourage both active and passive participation should be encouraged. Examples include fishing, walking and art activities.	Med
12.2	Governance requirements linked to Section 86 Committees may place additional strain on volunteers and there may be scope to implement different governance models that are more supportive, especially in the instance of smaller, single use facilities.	Strategic Goal 2 & 3 Enabling Objectives 1, 4 & 5	Work with Section 86 Committees, especially those with small numbers of facility users to implement more appropriate governance models.	High
12.3	Clubs are highlighting development based issues such as participation, volunteers and fundraising as key issues threatening their futures.	Strategic Goal 1 Enabling Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Work with organisations such as Valley Sport to ensure strong presence in the municipality and appropriate programs and support are provided for regional clubs and associations.	High



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ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

Tourism and Sport and Active Recreation

Tourism is amongst the largest economic contributors to Moira Shire and contributes around \$95m and 580 jobs to the local economy.

Events and conferences are identified as key tourism development opportunities. The Murray Region Events Strategy suggests that events visitation to Moira is relatively low when compared with other regions and notes the region lacks a signature event. It highlights significant assets that could be used to support further event visitation and includes Lake Mulwala, Yarrawonga and the quality parklands and sports facilities amongst these. Sports types events appear to make up around 36% of the total event visitation to the region.

A number of events such as tennis at Yarrawonga and Cobram and fishing at Lake Mulwala are examples of sporting and recreation based activities that have been successful in supporting regional tourism.

Sport and active recreation groups are well positioned to capitalise on these opportunities either by creating or hosting events or providing support services to others.

"The Murray River Adventure Trail is identified as a key infrastructure development project to support regional tourism."

Golf is also highlighted as an important tourism support activity, especially to those townships located on or near the Murray River. As previously noted, the Australian Golf Industry Council, Value of Golf Tourism to Australia report says that golf tourism generates in excess of \$820m and 8.4m visitor nights annually with the Murray River, along with Queensland being the most frequently visited golf destinations by core golf tourists in Australia.

Tourism and Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Direction and Recommendations

13. Tourism and Sport and Active Recreation

Ref.	Key Issue	Link to Council Plan Strategic Goals and Enabling Objectives	Strategy Direction Recommendations/Actions	Priority High - 1-3 yrs Med - 3-5 yrs Low - 5-10 yrs
13.1	Events and conferences, development of the Murray River Adventure Trail and Golf are identified as key product development opportunities to support growth in regional tourism. Sport and active recreation is well placed to capitalise on these opportunities.	Strategic Goal 1, 2 & 3	Council should continue to support the endeavours of event organisers such as major aquatic, golf and tennis events in attracting visitors to our region through recreation events. Council's tourism events grant program is central for this support.	High - Ongoing



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APPENDIX 1

SPORTS CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS – COMPLETING SURVEY OR ATTENDING FORUM

ID	Sport	Club	ID	Sport	Club
1	AFL	Katamatite	37	Tennis	Burramine
2	AFL	Tungamah	38	Tennis	Cobram lawn
3	AFL	Yarrowonga	39	Tennis	Katunga
4	AFL	Katunga	40	Tennis	Numurkah
5	AFL	Cobram	41	Tennis	Tungamah
6	Basketball	Numurkah	42	Tennis	Waaia
7	Basketball	Yarrowonga	43	Tennis	Wilby
8	Bowls	Cobram	44	Tennis	Yalca
9	Bowls	Nathalia	45	Tennis	Yarrowonga
10	Bowls	Numurkah golf			
11	Bowls	Numurkah			
12	Bowls	Strathmerton			
13	Bowls	Tungamah			
14	Bowls	Wunghnu			
15	Bowls	Yarrowonga			
16	Cricket	Cobram			
17	Cricket	Cobram united			
18	Cricket	Nathalia			
19	Cricket	Strathmerton			
20	Cricket	Yarrowonga			
21	Equestrian	Numurkah pony club			
22	Golf	Numurkah			
23	Golf	St James			
24	Golf	Nathalia			
25	Little athletics	Nathalia			
26	Little athletics	Yarrowonga			
27	Netball	Tungamah			
28	Netball	Cobram association			
29	Netball	Katamatite			
30	Netball	Numurkah			
31	Netball	Picola			
32	Netball	Yarrowonga association			
33	Netball	Yarrowonga FNC			
34	Netball	Yarroweyah			
35	Soccer	Cobram junior			
36	Soccer	Cobram Roer			

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APPENDIX 2

PARKS WITH PLAYGROUNDS – LOCATION BY TOWNSHIP

Site	Location	Township
Jack Edwards Park	Barmah Lakes Road	Barmah
Barmah Pre School	Schier Street	Barmah
Bearii Recreation Reserve	Williams Street	Bearii
Dan Cronin Recreation Reserve	Pyke Street	Bundalong
Burramine Hall	Cnr Katamatite-Yarrowonga & Lawless Roads	Burramine South
Kennedy Park (Thompsons Beach)	Rockarama Road	Cobram
Sturt Street Park	Sturt Street	Cobram
Levings Park	Cnr High & Queen Streets	Cobram
Cox Park	Toms Drive	Cobram
Mivo Park	Hay Avenue	Cobram
Cobram Memorial Pool	Punt Road	Cobram
H.H. Farrel Park	Punt Road	Cobram
Blackwood Park	Blackwood Crescent	Cobram
Cobram Child Care Centre	Punt Road	Cobram
Punt Road Kindergarten	Punt Road	Cobram
Eileen Taylor Kindergarten	Hay Avenue	Cobram
Cobram Maternal & Child Care Centre	Hay Street	Cobram
Pioneer Park	Stokes Avenue	Cobram
Scott Reserve	Warkil Street	Cobram
Parker Reserve	Burke Court	Cobram
Apex Park/Cobram Sports Stadium	Doug Robinson Drive	Cobram
Gayfer Reserve	Batey Road	Invergordon
Katamatite Recreation Reserve	Moore Street	Katamatite
C.R. Wood Park	Beek Street	Katamatite
Katamatite Museum Park	Beek Street	Katamatite
Katunga Recreation Reserve	Carter Street	Katunga
Kotupna Recreation Reserve	Kotupna - Barmah Road	Kotupna
Uncle Bobs Club Park	Ryans Road	Nathalia
Nathalia Pre School	Pearce Street	Nathalia
Nathalia Apex Park	Weir Street	Nathalia
Riverbank Caravan Park	Park Street	Nathalia
Nathalia Showgrounds	Park Street	Nathalia
McNamara Drive Reserve	McNamara Drive	Numurkah
Numurkah Park	Tunnock Road	Numurkah
Numurkah Pre School	Quinn Street	Numurkah
Bridie Knight Child Care Centre	Quinn Street	Numurkah
Tweddle Street Reserve East	Tweddle Street	Numurkah
Tweddle Street Reserve West	Tweddle Street	Numurkah

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Site	Location	Town
Picola Recreation Reserve	Picola Road North	Picola
J.F. Kelly Reserve	Devenish Road	St James
Strathmerton RSL Park	Patrick Street	Strathmerton
Strathmerton Recreation Reserve	Numurkah Road	Strathmerton
Strathmerton Lions Park	Murray Valley Highway	Strathmerton
Strathmerton Pre School	Butt Street	Strathmerton
Tungamah Recreation Reserve	Devenish Road	Tungamah
Tungamah Tennis Reserve	Bailey Street	Tungamah
Tungamah Park East	Boyd Street	Tungamah
Tungamah Park West	Bailey Street	Tungamah
Boyd Street Reserve	Boyd Street	Tungamah
Tungamah Pre School	Middleton Street	Tungamah
Waaia Recreation Reserve	McDonald Street	Waaia
Wilby Recreation Reserve	Cemetery Road	Wilby
Wunghnu Recreation Reserve	Goulburn Valley Highway	Wunghnu
George Graham Park	Goulburn Valley Highway	Wunghnu
Lions Park	Lansell Close	Yarrawonga
Ferguson Street Park	Ferguson Street	Yarrawonga
Conifer Close Park	Conifer Close	Yarrawonga
Hargrave Park	McLeod Street	Yarrawonga
Yarrawonga Mulwala Swimming Pool Complex	Burley Road	Yarrawonga
J.C. Lowe Oval	G. Oakley Drive	Yarrawonga
Yarrawonga Pre School	Orr Street	Yarrawonga
Lynch Street Park	Lynch Street	Yarrawonga
Frank Keenan Reserve	Hunt Street	Yarrawonga
Yarrawonga Foreshore Reserve	Bank Street	Yarrawonga
Hammon Park	McNally Street	Yarrawonga
Yarrawonga Early Childhood Centre	Orr Street	Yarrawonga
Linthorpe Drive Park	Linthorpe Drive	Yarrawonga
Yarroweyah Recreation Reserve	Kenny Road	Yarroweyah
Yarroweyah Public Hall	Murray Valley Highway	Yarroweyah

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ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

APPENDIX 3

LITERATURE REVIEW

Local

The Sustainable Capacity Report – 2014

In 2014 Council commissioned a report (the Sustainable Capacity Report) to gain a greater understanding of Moira Shire Council's financial position and performance.

The report reveals that the Moira Shire Council has inherently higher costs than average by virtue of such factors as population distribution, geography, age profile and climate. The report also suggests that the communities capacity to pay, linked to things such as discretionary and family income, tourism and shopping expenditure ranks 65th out of the 79 Victorian Council's and is the second lowest of the eight large rural shires with which Moira is officially grouped for comparison purposes.

Based on this combination, the report found that Moira Shire is significantly handicapped by the way it is made up and carries relative and distinct disadvantage

relating to its capacity to be sustainable. The conclusion drawn from the report is that Moira Shire is costing its ratepayers less than it should for a Council, but also that it has very little room to move.

These factors are critical in informing future deliberations in regard to financial sustainability for Council including direction linked to service delivery, infrastructure investment and asset management and accessibility to services.

Moira Shire Council – Cycling and Walking Strategy – April 2005

The Moira Shire Council – Cycling and Walking Strategy – April 2005 was prepared as a 10 year strategy aiming to improve cycling and walking in the Shire. While it was focussed on the towns of Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah and Nathalia, it also considers provision for the smaller towns in the Shire and the routes between the towns.

The Plan highlights a detailed strategy and Action Plan including a number of proposed developments.

A number of the identified projects have been undertaken, however the plan is now due for review.



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Potential Regional Cycling and Walking Trails in Moira Shire – 2013

The Potential Regional Cycling and Walking Trails Report aims to determine the potential for cycling and walking trails in Moira Shire that can enhance the visitor experience to the Shire and provide additional activities for local residents.

The Project:

- Undertook a comprehensive audit of the existing and potential regional trails within Moira Shire including those that intersect other Shire boundaries
- Provides comprehensive mapping of these trails
- Classifies the existing and potential trails throughout the Shire
- Prioritises potential trail tourism, economic and social values
- Considers the implications of regional trails passing through private land
- Provides indicative costs to develop trails

The Report highlights six Priority Regional Trail developments, being:

1. Cobram to Yarrawonga
2. Yarrawonga to Bundalong
3. Cobram to Barmah/Barmah National Park (Dharmya Interpretation Centre) via Tocumwal/Murray River
4. Cobram to Koonoomoo to Tocumwal
5. Bundalong to Rutherglen
6. Bundalong to Wangaratta

The Plan includes a detailed Action Plan incorporating policy and capital works as well high level indicative probable cost estimations.

Municipal Public Health and Well-Being Plan 2013-2017

The Moira Shire Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) reflects Council's commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors and to assist in the co-ordination of a range of services within the municipal district.

Specifically the MPHWP identifies Council's commitment to improving public health via:

- Development of strategies and policies to upgrade walking/cycling tracks, local pools and playgrounds.
- Funding grants to promote cohesion and cultural awareness ranging from community cars to improve access to services or reduce isolation, neighbourhood renewal projects to improve community identity and pride and giving service providers opportunities to up-skill in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) issues.
- Promoting physical activity by maintaining recreation reserves at a high level, while forming agreements with organisations such as the YMCA to encourage participation in physical activity.
- Monitoring and planning for the effects of our changing climate. Documents such as the Environment Sustainability Strategy and Planning for Reduced Water Availability and Climate outline Council's position and inform policy and decisions.

Under the 'Healthy Behaviours' section of the Plan, in addition to highlighting the things Council currently does, it also highlights what it will do to work towards achieving our directions, these include:

- Ensure the provision of drinking water fountains in public spaces
- Ensure all public playgrounds are fitted with 'smoke free' signage
- Support and collaborate with local community groups to establish additional cycling and walking tracks
- Investigate options for cycle paths within close proximity of skate parks.

Multi-Purpose Aquatic and Recreation Facility Feasibility Study - 2007

The Multi-Purpose Aquatic and Recreation Facility Feasibility Study aimed to determine the feasibility of providing an indoor aquatic centre in the township of Yarrawonga.

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The Report Recommends:

1. In the short-term Council observe and support community access to private developments as they are progressed.
2. If Outcome One cannot be achieved, then Council upgrade/expand an existing aquatic facility which would include a program/hydrotherapy pool, an indoor heated pool, an indoor leisure pool primarily for toddlers (inclusive of moving water features), a spa/sauna and a café/kiosk.
3. If Outcomes One and Two cannot be achieved, then Council develop a new multi-purpose

aquatic and recreation facility which would include a program/hydrotherapy pool, an indoor heated eight lane x 25m pool (with capacity for start blocks and a minimum lane width of 2.2m), an indoor leisure pool primarily for toddlers (inclusive of moving water features), a spa/sauna and a café/kiosk.

The report provides an estimate of the annual operational cost of the provision of a facility such as that recommended in townships with a population ranging from 5,000 to 15,000 people. The report suggests the annual cost required to be subsidised via rates could be between \$200,000 and \$400,000.



Moira Shire Early Years Planning

Council is currently in the process of developing an Early Years Plan to continue on from the current plan which targeted 2011 to 2014.

The existing Plan acknowledged the importance of recreation and physical activity in the lives of families and children and specifically highlighted the following objectives, strategies and actions:

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Objectives	Strategies	Actions
To support family engagement in appropriate levels of physical activity in the community	Promote initiatives that highlight the importance of appropriate levels of physical activity	Assist in the promotion of the importance of active play
		Support Shire initiatives in developing cost effective recreation activities and facilities
		Assist in the promotion of Shire facilities for physical activities
To support the community in developing programs and infrastructure to improve community safety	Provide facilities that reduce sun/heat exposure in public areas	Continue to seek funding to provide facilities that reduce sun/heat exposure

Youth Action Plan 2013-2016

The Youth Action Plan reflects Council's commitment to enhancing the quality of life of young people aged 12-25 who live, work and study within the Shire. The Plan links to the Moira Shire Council Plan and Moira Shire Youth Development and Support Policy, with the purpose of "encouraging young people to actively participate

in decision making and being recognised as valued members of their community".

The Plan identifies Recreation and Culture as a key area and has a goal to "Provide a range of inclusive social and cultural activities for young people in Moira Shire".

It highlights the following Strategies, Actions and Outcomes linked to Recreation:

Strategy	Action	Outcome
Develop and promote initiatives to increase the involvement of youth and multi-cultural communities	Provide FreeZA, National Youth Week, Refugee and Harmony Week activities to young people within the Moira Shire	Youth and multicultural community actively participate in relevant activities
Provide opportunities for Youth to actively participate in decision making ideas for potential future capital projects	Provide specific opportunities for youth and cultural leaders to become part of the decision making process regarding both events and capital projects.	Youth and cultural leaders directly contribute to community events and ideas.

Draft Positive Ageing Strategy – 2015-2018

The Moira Shire Council Draft Active Ageing Strategy reflects Council's commitment to addressing the needs of the older residents and visitors.

Active Ageing in Moira is defined in the Strategy as: "...growing older whilst remaining active in one's community, enjoying good physical health through exercising, staying mobile and fit. It is recognised that to maintain a high standard of quality of life it is

important to maintain social connections to ensure good mental health and well-being."

Feedback from older people in the development of the Plan indicated that physical activity and walking is very important to them to remain healthy and active in the community and that they would like more information regarding activities that promote physical activity and more places to rest in the business and shopping precincts in each town and along walking tracks.

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Directions that are clearly linked to Recreation include:

Our Directions	What we will do to achieve our directions	Who will we work with	Council's Role
Promote the volunteering opportunities available within the community	In conjunction with our partners develop a register of volunteering opportunities available across the Shire	Local organisations such as MHA Care, The Act-Belong-Commit Steering Committee and partner organisations	Planning Strengthening Community Capacity
Increase older people's awareness of community activities, events and organisations that offer social connection activities available to them	Develop a database of services, groups and activities that promote social connection	Moira ACE, local community services organisations, local library services	Planning Service Provision Strengthening Community Capacity
Increase the accessibility of the footpath network across the four main towns to promote 'walkability'	Ensure all new pedestrian crossings are accessible Develop and implement a 'Missing Segment' footpath program Develop and implement a 'line ramp' program for inclusion in Council's annual budget to upgrade onramps on footpath network	Council's Infrastructure Department and DAC Council's Infrastructure Department Council's Infrastructure Department	Planning Service Provision
Continue to support and work with local community groups to establish additional walking tracks across the Shire	Plan and budget for the placement of additional seating and walking tracks maintained by Council	Moira ACE Local Library Services Moira Seniors Network Media and Communications Local Community Service Organisations	Planning Advocacy Service Provision Strengthening Community Capacity

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Moira Shire Disability Action Plan 2013-2016

Moira Shire Council's Disability Action Plan has been developed to drive change and highlight the challenges and issues people living with disabilities face.

The Plan identifies the following objectives, goals and actions that are linked to recreation:

- Objective 1 – Reducing barriers to persons with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities;

Goal	Action	Time-Frame	Responsibility
All facilities owned by Moira Shire Council are accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities	Conduct access audits of Council venues	Access audits to be arranged and carried out by December 2013 in all Council facilities	Moira Shire Council – Community Development, Community Services Officer
	Develop an action plan to address audit findings in accordance with Council process and budget requirements	At completion of audit process	Moira Shire Council – Community Development, Community Services Officer
To encourage businesses and community organisations across shire to make accessibility of their business a priority	Offer training on Access to Premises Standards to businesses across the Shire	Training to be offered in four major towns by December 2013	Moira Shire Council – Community Development, Community Services Officer

- Objective 3 – Promoting inclusion and participation in the community of persons with a disability

Goal	Action	Time-Frame	Responsibility
Increase participation and inclusion in Moira Shire Council operated and funded community events by ensuring events are held in accessible venues	Ensure all public funded events funded or sponsored by Moira Shire Council are inclusive and accessible	Ongoing	Moira Shire Council – Events Development Officer, Economic Development, Community Development
	Event venues to be selected for their suitability for all abilities	Ongoing	Moira Shire Council – Events Development Officer, Economic Development, Community Development
	Review event funding and sponsorship form to ensure accessibility requirements are met	Form reviewed by July 2013	Moira Shire Council – Events Development Officer, Economic Development, Community Development
All Moira Shire plans and projects are accessible and inclusive to all members of our community	All Draft policies and plans are presented to the DAC and plans for redevelopment or new buildings are advertised on the Council's website in an accessible manner.	Ongoing	Moira Shire Council – Infrastructure and Planning, Governance, Community Development and DAC.

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Moira Shire Asset Management Plan

The Asset Management Plan provides direction relating to the sustainable provision of Assets within the municipality.

The Plan articulates Council's commitment to maintaining to the current level of service a broad range of buildings which provides a large variety of functions to the community.

The Plan states that studies of the levels of service to be carried out are to be undertaken for groups of public buildings including public halls and clubrooms and sporting complexes.

The Plan also states that Capital funds will only be allocated to buildings after an assessment has been made of the required level of service and alternative venues, and for upgrade and expansion works in conjunction with funding from Federal and State government and community groups.

Moira Shire Council – S86 Committees of Management Review – June 2012

At the time of the Review Moira Shire had 39 section 86 Special Committees of Council, which are in-effect committees of management. Each committee comprises representatives from each user group who use these facilities, community representatives and an appointed councillor.

"The comprehensive review took at critical look at what works well and what causes frustration to committees with the aim of further improving the relationship between committees and council where improvement is measured by community benefit."

The review states the contribution that the community committee members make to the success of the current system is significant with the number of annual individual volunteering hours annually ranging from 6-120+.

Following the review, Council endorsed the following 16 recommendations:

1. Council consider including asset management programs into the annual funding model.

2. Council provide an obvious linkage between the proposed funding criteria and the reporting requirements to ensure transparency and accountability of public monies.
3. Council actively promote annual grant information sessions to committees including the evaluation process undertaken in determining successful applications.
4. Council update the Committee of Management – Operations and Risk Management Manual to include a step by step guide to notifying the community about meetings and why it is important to meet statutory requirements.
5. Council update the Committee of Management - Operations and Risk Management Manual to include the recommendations of this report.
6. Council update the Committee of Management - Operations and Risk Management Manual to expand the opportunity to use Council's trade list when procuring goods and services.
7. Council update the Committee of Management - Operations and Risk Management Manual to require (read only) access to bank accounts.
8. Council provide a Special Committees of Council page on its website to advertise meetings, publish agenda and minutes as required by the Local Government Act 1989.
9. Councillors are appointed to the Community Facility S86 Committees of Management.
10. Councillors be invited to chair the Annual General meetings of Councils Community Facility S86 Committees.
11. A "who to contact first" communique be developed and provided to Committees to ensure that the Community Development team are the first point of contact for committees.
12. Suitably qualified Council officers undertake building inspections and septic tank inspections on a regular basis.
13. Suitably qualified Council officers undertake playground inspections on a regular basis.
14. Council officers actively promote the opportunity to undertake a facilitated strategic planning session with each committee.
15. Cobram Apex Reserve and Cobram Showgrounds amalgamate as recommended in the master plan. Additionally, this change will require more frequent meetings.
16. Undertake the following two stage process in relation to Councils two saleyards: A)

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Consider ways to streamline the operation of both saleyards in the short term (up to three years). This consideration should include efficiencies of operation and internal reporting structures. B) Consider seeking expressions of interest from parties / organisations to discuss with Council how the two saleyards could continue to operate.

Section 86 Committees – 2015 Review

Significant review of the operation and function of Section 86 Committees has commenced in 2015. Among some of the preliminary findings are:

- 161 different community, sport and recreational groups utilise 28 different precincts, halls and recreation reserves. These areas comprise around 288 different assets valued at around \$34.8m
- In 2014/15 Council provided \$383,748 in funding support (\$306,388 operational and \$77,360 in grants) to Section 86 committees, this is reflective of previous years.
- Approximately 2,660 hours at an estimated cost of around \$90,000 of council staff time is invested each year in administering and providing support to section 86 committees.
- Overall this investment equates to around 1% of the total Council 2014/15 operating budget of \$51.595m.
- The committees themselves generate a similar amount of income to that provided by Council. In 2014/15 they generated \$334,214 in income.

- In an exercise breaking down operational funding to committees it was estimated that in 2014/15 around \$70,000 should have been spent on building maintenance. End of years reports from committees suggest that actual expenditure in this area of around \$20,000 which is less than 30% of the estimated allocation.
- At the end of 2014/15 the Section 86 committees had a combined bank balance of \$535,471. These funds may support future facility development or major maintenance.

Recreation Reserve Master Plans

A number of Recreation Reserve Master Plans have been undertaken. These include:

Numurkah Show Grounds	- July 2006
Katamatite Recreation Reserve	- July 2008
Yarrawonga Showgrounds Victoria Park	- November 2009
Cobram Showgrounds and Apex Reserve	- September 2011
Strathmerton Recreation Reserve	- March 2013
Scott Reserve Cobram	- July 2013

Based on timing and programming the implementation of these Master Plans is at a range of stages.



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Regional

Murray Region Events Strategy – August 2015

Murray River Tourism undertook to develop a regional events strategy for the Murray region. The strategy draws on thorough research and consultation into the events sector and provides directions for further development and growth of events in the Murray region.

"Tourism in the Murray Region generates more than \$1 billion per year and employs an estimated 15,500 people."

Moira is located in the Mid-East sub region. The report suggests that events visitation is relatively low when compared with other regions and notes the region lacks a signature event. It highlights significant assets that could be used to support further event visitation and includes Lake Mulwale, Yarrawonga and the quality parklands and sports facilities amongst these. Sports types events appear to make up around 36% of the total event visitation to the region.

Murray River Adventure Trail Business Case – April 2014

The Murray River Adventure Trail is a priority project identified in the Murray Region Destination Management Plan prepared by Urban Enterprise in 2012.

The Business Plan identifies the key benefits, tasks and costings associated with the rollout of the development of the Trail.

The Plan identifies Yarrawonga as a 'Primary Destination' on the Trail and Cobram as a 'Destination'. The Mid-Eastern sub region is expected to attract around 20% of the overall estimated Trail visitation of 105,500 and estimates around 22,000 visitors to the region to utilise the Trails each year, generating around \$2.3m in regional expenditure and creating around 14 regional jobs.

In relation to the Local Government areas that the Trail passes through, it recommends the following:

- Council's general role is to advocate on behalf of the communities to achieve common goals and more strongly represent regional issues for each of the Councils. In this role, it can provide assistance to the Murray River Adventure Trail Management Committee in implementing the trail by supporting, lobbying and promoting the project to its members and to other audiences.
- Provide an active representative member of the Murray River Adventure Trail Management Committee.
- Advocate the trail to other Local Governments through which the trail travels but who are not part of MRTB.
- That Council play a key role in implementation of parts of the trail as relevant to their planning intentions (e.g. Mildura's Trails Strategy envisages connecting all the existing trails along the river in its jurisdiction).

Valley Sport

Valley Sport is a not-for profit community organisation that operates across the Goulburn Valley, incorporating the Moira Shire area that aims to develop healthy, active and connected communities through sport and recreation.

Valley Sport is a vehicle for a number of government funded programs aimed at supporting the operations of local sport and recreation groups. These include programs such as the Regional Sport and Recreation, Access for All Abilities, Healthy Sporting Environments, Good Sports, ClubHelp and School Sports Programs.

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State

Victoria's Trails Strategy 2014-24

Victoria's Trails Strategy 2014-2024 proposes to provide a whole-of-government approach and clear vision regarding planning, management and promotion of trails in Victoria.

The Strategy presents a set of key initiatives to improve the quality of trail experiences, increase awareness and visitation, support complementary tourism and retail businesses and seek improved understanding of trail user markets, their motivations and influences.

The report identifies the Murray River Adventure Trail that moves through the Moira Shire as a State Significant Trail.

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) – Strategic Direction Framework 2013-2015

The SRV Strategic Direction Framework aims to support the delivery of a range of projects and programs to help maximise the health, economic and social benefits provided to all Victorians by the sport and active recreation sector.

The Strategy states that participation in sport and active recreation offers numerous benefits to individuals and community by improving health and well being, increasing social inclusion and shaping

community identity. Sport and recreation also provides opportunities for life-long participation and the development of life skills such as leadership, team work, self confidence and self worth. Making participation fun, safe and accessible will maximise opportunities for all Victorians to gain the benefits of sport and active recreation.

The directions for SRV are:

- Participation
- National/International Performance Systems
- Meeting Broader Objectives of Government
- System Sustainability
- Research and Information Provision

Strategic Directions linked to Participation and System Sustainability in particular are of relevance to Local Government and provide opportunities for Moira to source resources, funding and support from State Government in relation to the provision of sporting and active recreation facilities and programs.

National

Open Space Planning and Design Guide – Parks and Leisure Australia – June 2013

The Open Space Planning and Design Guide was developed by Parks and Leisure Australia to assist in the planning and development of a range of sustainable open spaces that meet the sport, leisure and recreation needs of diverse communities across Victoria.



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The table below is the Guides sample open space planning hierarchy based on a variety of open space documents that can be used by Councils as a tool in determining their own open space hierarchy.

Description	Catchment	Size	Example
Local	Local – up to 300m depending on population density and presence of barriers	Less than 0.5 hectare	Parks, gardens and civic spaces
Neighbourhood	Around 400m	Between 1 and 2 hectares	Parklands and Gardens
Sub-District	3 neighbourhoods* - around 10,500 people	5-8 hectares	Several nodes offering a range of sporting and recreational opportunities. Passive recreation provision is important in either the primary open space provision or in complementing a sporting use.
District	Around 6 neighbourhoods – 15,000 to 25,000 people	Up to 10 hectares	Generally a wide range of recreational activities including facilities for organised sport.
Township	Typically used in rural areas to describe open space that services a local township area and its surrounding localities and villages	Up to 10 hectares	Likely to be home to the towns outdoor sporting and recreation facilities such as playing fields, outdoor courts, pavilion/hall and parkland. Will usually be central in a township and accessible by car for the surrounding community.
Municipal	Open space providing for the needs of the whole municipality. Not necessarily needing to be in safe walking distance therefore would need to provide car parking capability.	Minimum 3 hectares	May be specialised for specific sporting infrastructure.
Regional	Including and beyond the municipality, including neighbouring municipalities.	Generally 10-30 hectares	Also includes significant sites of local or state historic, cultural and/or environmental significance.
State	Intra or Inter State catchment	Usually associated with site specific environmental, landscape or cultural values	Usually managed by state agencies, often in partnership with Council, such as National Parks, State Forests, Forest Parks.

The guidelines estimate a neighbourhood at around 3,500 people.

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APPENDIX 4

CURRENT SITUATION ASSESSMENT

A situation assessment examines the following key areas:

Investment in Recreation

Council currently invests 11 per cent (\$5.6m) of its budget into sport and recreation.

From the current operating budget (2015/16) of around \$52m Council invests around \$5.6m or 11% into sport and recreation. This is made up of:

- Sport and Recreation Services, expenditure of around \$1.4m and includes things like the operation and maintenance of the five swimming pools located in Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah, Strathmerton and Nathalia, the waterslide and splash park on the Yarrawonga foreshore, the Nathalia Sports and Community Centre, the Cobram Sports Stadium and the Numurkah Aquatic and Fitness Centre along with the irrigation and mowing, general upkeep of council's 19 recreation reserves and four showgrounds. This also includes the strategic reviews of services to identify and plan for future requirements.

- Parks and Reserves, expenditure of around \$4.2m to maintain and upgrade Council's parks and gardens, recreation reserves, town entrances and open spaces including 80 parks and gardens (open spaces), 44 playgrounds, 31 public toilet blocks, public BBQs and irrigation systems.

Further to this Council makes contributions to Capital projects to renewal and upgrade of existing facilities and development of new facilities.

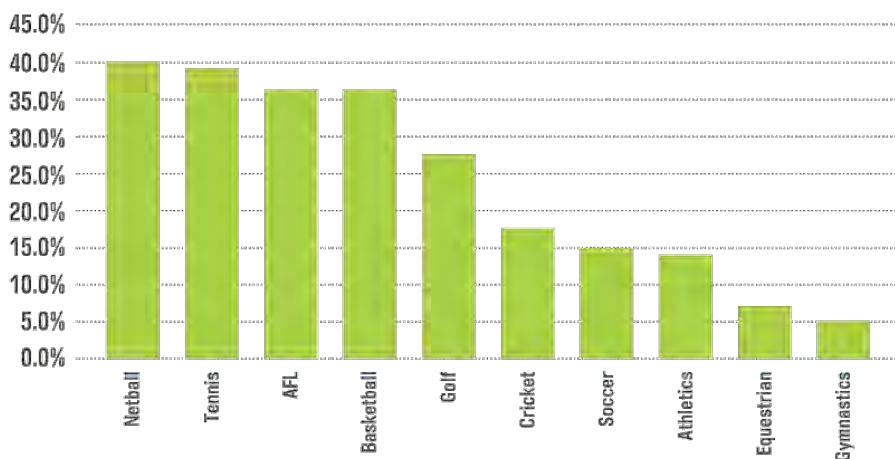
Regional Participation

Following an audit of facilities and groups, it is estimated that over 150 sport and recreation groups are active right across the Moira municipality using in excess of 80 parks, reserves and sporting and recreation facilities.

Further to this, based on the results of the community survey indicate that over 80% of the respondents participate in some form of sport or recreation activities.

The graph's below highlight the activities with the highest rates of participation.

Community Survey Response – Top 10 Sports by Participation

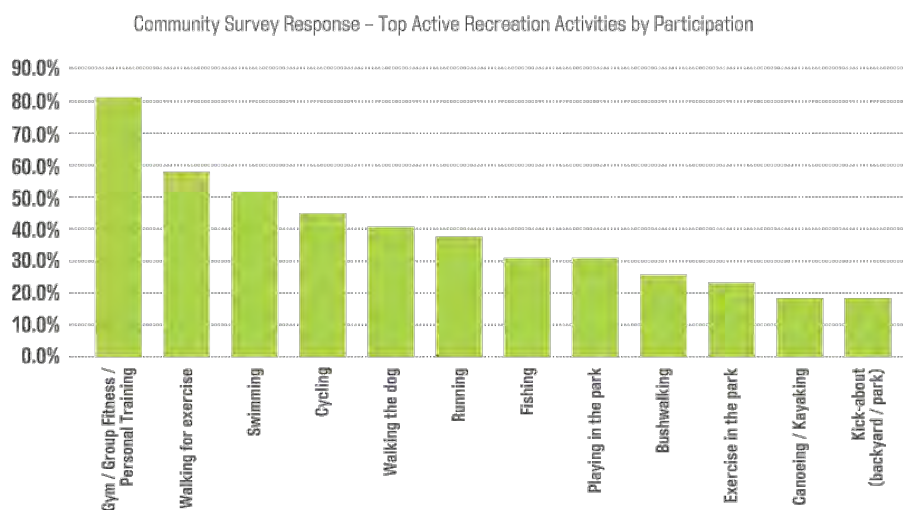


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2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.1.4
(MANAGER COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DAVID BOOTH)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report



BROADER PARTICIPATION TRENDS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a nation-wide study on adult participation in sport and physical recreation in 2011. Overall, 85% of Australians aged 15 years and over participated in some form of sport and/or physical recreation during that year. Understanding participation trends at a national and state level can provide councils with a general overview of how and what types of activities people are choosing to participate in, which can assist in the future planning of programs and facilities.

Types of activities

Walking remains the most popular activity at both a state and national level, with 23.6% of Victorian respondents participating in the activity between 2011 and 2012. Ranking second, fitness/gym experienced the most growth in participation rates between 2005-06 to 2011-12 at 3.4%.

A decrease in participation rates was observed in approximately a third of the activities. On a State level, golf had the greatest decline at -1.3%, however, it is still ranked in the top 10 activities.

Victoria's top 5 activities participated in between 2011-2012 and 2005-2006 by those aged over 15 years of

Rank		Activity	2011-2012	2005-2006	Change (%)
VIC	Aust				
1	1	Walking for exercise	24.3%	24.1%	0.2%
2	2	Fitness/Gym	17.6%	11.8%	5.8%
3	5	Cycling/BMXing	8.8%	6.4%	2.4%
4	4	Jogging/Running	7.8%	4.2%	1.3%
5	3	Swimming/Diving	7.7%	8.0%	-0.3%

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Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicates that at both a national and state level people prefer to participate in non-organised sport and/or physical recreation activities. Women are more likely to participate in 'organised only' activities than men, however, men are more likely to participate in a combination of 'both organised and non-organised' activities.

Overall the results from the community consultation surveys, while only a sample of the broader population correlate and reflect those key participation trends both linked to participation rates and by activity at State and National levels and provide a solid foundation for planning.

Spoilt For Choice

There is now a greater range of formal sport and recreation activities than ever before.

From a recreation and fitness perspective, a new wave of classes and circuit training opportunities appear to evolve every few years. These are largely provided for at Regional centre's or by private operators.

Similarly, sports offering a variation of a more traditional sport are beginning to grow in popularity. For instance, touch football is increasing in popularity. Finally, sports once considered extreme (e.g. BMX, skateboarding and scootering) are becoming more mainstream – with BMX debuting at the 2008 Olympics.

Common to the availability of each of these opportunities is a community group or club who form to deliver these activities.

While participation data for many of these newer activities has yet to be collected at a wide level, there is some potential that participants may choose to participate in only one or two activities each year, spreading thinner the number of participants across each sport.

Expectation of Flexible Hours and Programming

With the amount of time available for recreation pursuits decreasing, participants are seeking flexible

hours to undertake activities. Walking, running and cycling are likely to continue to be popular forms of activity as participants can be flexible in when, where and how long they undertake the activity.

For additional activities to retain or gain in popularity it is likely that they will need to be able to offer longer and more flexible operating hours (in the case of activities such as aerobics/fitness and pool swimming) or a more flexible approach to training and competition participation (in the case of more traditional team sports such as football).

There are examples of traditional sports in the Moira region already adapting to these challenges such as Friday evening junior and in some instances senior games being played. The length of the season is also something that sports have been and will need to consider into the future to support viability.

SOCIAL PROFILE

The way in which a community uses the surrounding open space and participates in recreation and sport activities is largely influenced by age. Understanding the spatial and demographic variations in communities, such as concentrations of older residents or youth, is fundamental to responding to, and planning for, the future provision of recreation and sports facilities and programs.

With an average age of 44 years, Moira Shire residents are relatively older compared to State and National averages (both 37 years). Further, consistent with State trends, the community is ageing.

As a population ages, demand for passive and informal recreation activities increases. Access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities may not be as important, with older people generally seeking walking, cycling and other low impact physical activities.

Despite the ageing population, just over a quarter (25.8%) of the community is aged under 20 years. A younger population is more likely to seek both structured and unstructured recreation and physical activity pursuits, such as competitive and social

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ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

sporting competitions and quality walking/cycling paths. The significant proportion of people in these age cohorts will place pressure on Council to improve and maintain their sporting facilities, parks and playgrounds and provide affordable physical activity programs.

Programs that cater for young children and teenagers will also need to be developed, particularly over the school holidays, to keep young people active and entertained.

Moira Shire still prides itself as being a great destination to live with many lifestyle benefits for families. Approximately 69.5% of the households in the community are 'family household', of which 52% have children.

With a large number of families living in the Shire and the desire of younger people to participate in organised sport, recreation and/or physical activity (particularly young children and teenagers), some families may have to pay two or three membership fees, along with uniform costs. If membership costs continue to increase, sports may start to experience a decline in junior membership numbers as families cannot afford to pay the fees.

It is important to note that the average household in the Shire has a significantly lower weekly income (\$828) than the State average (\$1,216). This, combined with the high proportion of residents aged over 65 years, means that any type of activity needs to be affordable to all to ensure equality and encourage opportunities to improve quality of life.

Population Growth

Moira Shire is relatively self-contained in regard to employment, with approximately 80% of working residents doing so within the Shire. Subsequently, future population changes will be closely linked with employment increases or decreases. The population has grown over the last 30 years, most significantly in Yarrawonga. The Shire, particularly Cobram and Yarrawonga, has the benefits of the natural beauty of the Murray River and good access to services within the towns.

Other sources contributing to population growth evident

across the Shire are 'tree changers' (particularly empty-nesters and retirees) looking for a more relaxed lifestyle and:

- employment growth in services, especially tourism-based industries, retail trade, health and education,
- consolidation of agricultural industries, and
- attraction of families to the area, based on the amenity and beauty.

It should be noted that areas in Moira Shire that are more rural in nature are likely to remain relatively stable in population, as minor residential development should compensate for potential decline due to the overall size of farms becoming larger.

The projected annual growth rate of the Shire over the next 10 years is 1.39%, with over 6,900 additional residents expected by 2026.

As a result of the overall projected growth of the Shire, it is expected that the proportion of people looking for flexible recreation will increase.

In addition to those who work outside the traditional work hours, retirees often seek programs at different times, not just the early morning and evenings.

APPENDIX 5

CONSULTATION

Community Survey

Residents within the Shire were encouraged to complete a community survey where they were asked about the types of sport, recreation and physical activities they participated in, where they participated in the activities, what they would like to participate in, ways to help them participate in desired activities and general questions about Council's programs.

Residents were able to complete the survey online and/or in hard copy at various locations across the Shire. A total of 319 responses were received from the online survey with a further 45 hard copy surveys returned, resulting in a total of 364 responses from the

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ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report

community. Based on 'The National Statistical Service' (the community of government agencies, led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) this sample provides around a 95% confidence level in the level of certainty with which an estimate of the true population value is based.

The high percentages of respondents that participate in a wide range of sports indicate that Moira residents participate more than the average Victorian/Australian in such activities. The sports of tennis, netball, AFL and basketball are particularly high, all with over 30% participation rates.

As for participation on organised sports, responses for this question indicate higher than average participation rates in a range of recreation, exercise and/or physical activity. Walking for exercise, swimming, gardening, cycling and walking the dog all have participation rates of over 30%.

A major advantage of these types of activities is that they are generally available at no cost (apart from swimming) to the participant and can be done at any time and place that suits them.

Consistent with the high participation rates for sport and the attractive natural areas available within the Shire, residents demonstrate a high rate of use of many of the facilities available to them. Along the river, sports grounds, local footpaths and swimming pools all enjoy participation rates of over 30% of respondents.

Consistent with national trends, the three main reasons given for not participating in sport and recreation were:

1. "There are no suitable facilities nearby" - this is a common response and consideration should be given to the fact that people's expectations usually far exceed Council's ability to deliver an all-encompassing range of facilities that will be popular with all residents,
2. "Nothing/I already do enough" - a response that Council is very limited in its ability to address, and
3. "I haven't got the time" - an issue which can be addressed by Council and sports providers (clubs and private providers) through the development of activities that do not require high levels of time commitment. A higher

focus on social sport/recreation that does not require training commitments is an example of how this issue can be addressed. Further, the growing popularity of 24 hour gyms across Australia is evidence that this is a real issue for many people.

A total of 53% respondents felt there is an inadequate supply of sporting facilities within the shire, with 31% saying there was adequate and 18% unsure. The negative responses may seem high, it should be noted that this is almost a 'natural' response, in the hope of being provided additional facilities. Observations during the development of this Strategy indicate that there is not a lack of sporting facilities within the Shire.

Another 50% of respondents indicated either a Very Good or Good response in regard to the quality of sporting facilities across the Shire. This indicates a high acceptance rate and reflects the observed high quality of facilities available to Moira residents.

A further 50% of respondents indicated that there are adequate numbers of parks across the Shire. The quality of existing parks in Moira is viewed favorably by residents with over two thirds of respondents (67%) indicating either a Very Good or Good level of quality. This high quality of parks across the Shire has been reinforced by observations made during the development of this Strategy.

Asked to nominate their top three recreation, sport and/or parks related projects that they would fund over the next 10 years, respondents indicated a high level of desire for new/upgraded indoor sports centres and swimming pools. This has been reinforced through further submissions from interest groups indicating a need for an Indoor Aquatic Centre and an indoor sport Stadium at Yarrowonga and a gymnastics centre at Numurkah.

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – Moira Shire 2015

Each year Local Government Victoria coordinates and auspices a state wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey throughout the local government areas. The main objective of the survey is to assess the performance of Council across a range of measures

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and to seek insight into ways to provide improved or more effective service delivery. In addition to the core areas covered in the survey, Council has included some specific areas of interest linked directly to the provision of sport and recreation.

Moira respondents rated 'recreation facilities' as an important responsibility of Council with almost three quarters (73%) of respondents rating it as important or very important, just above the statewide score of 72%. Yarrawonga, women and 18-34 year old respondents rated it higher at 77%, 76% and 77% respectively.

Recreation facilities are highly utilized with respondents indicating that over the last 12 months either they or a member of their household:

- Around 100% have used a park or garden
- Around 80% have used a recreation reserve or stadium
- Around 68% have used walking tracks
- Around 41% have used a swimming pool
- Around 17% have used a skate park*

* Note in regards to skate parks 85% suggest they haven't or can't say if them or a member of their family has used a skate park and this score may be affected by the demographic of survey respondents unlikely to include those under 15 years of age.

Local Sporting and Recreation Clubs and Associations

Local sporting clubs within the Shire were invited to provide their issues, opportunities and suggestions regarding the future of their club and current facility via a survey and/or attendance at a workshop held across the shire. Overall 45 different sporting clubs and associations provided input into the strategy. A full list of those that provided input is provided as Appendix 1 - Sports Club and Associations – Completing Survey or Attending Forum.

The key themes to come out of the consultation included:

- A total of 60% of the respondents operate on section 86 managed recreation reserves, mostly being those sports that use ovals or larger green spaces such as AFL, cricket, soccer, little athletics and equestrian, while 25% operate on private land, these consisting mainly of a mix of bowls, golf and tennis clubs.
- In relation to senior participation, over a quarter (27%) have experienced a decrease in participation, while 15% have increased participation and 58% have remained stable.

The chart below highlights the estimated distance travelled to access facilities or services:



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All clubs that experienced an increase were in the major townships of Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga while those with a decrease were mixed between the smaller and larger towns, with bowls in particular showing a decrease in senior participation with four of the eight clubs that responded indicating a decline in participation.

- Over half (54%) of those that have junior programs have experienced growth in participation, however of those 11 of the 13 are located in the major townships of Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga. The increases however have been across all sporting activities. Only four of the 24 clubs with junior programs have experienced a decline in participation, with the other seven reporting stability in levels of participation.
- Over 90% of the clubs said that they made contributions to the management and maintenance of their facilities either through in-kind support or provision of cash to facility development and maintenance.
- When asked if they had reasonable access to support services through council or other organizations such as Valley Sport, 41% of respondents said their experiences were good, while 46% rated them fair and 13% were not satisfied.

The three biggest threats identified by the clubs were:

- Maintaining participation (84%). Only three of 40 respondents however indicated an overall current decrease in participation, with most remaining stable or if having a decrease at one level (seniors) may have had an increase at another (juniors).
- Volunteers (68%). While almost 70% indicated that their volunteer numbers remained stable, the comments suggested many were the same volunteers going year after year because they could not recruit new volunteers or they were ageing with no new volunteers coming through. 30% indicated they have been suffering a decline in volunteers, while only two of the 39 respondents indicated an increase in volunteers.
- The cost of operating and maintaining facilities and ability to raise funds (25%).

Junior soccer indicated its biggest issue was space for growth and access to fields and the two basketball competitions both indicated facility access as their biggest threat.

Schools

161 students from four regional schools, Yarrawonga College, St Mary of the Angels Nathalia, Cobram Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School Numurkah from years five 5-10 participated in workshops at the schools. The students generally participated in a broad range of sport and recreation activities with the most participation being in AFL, soccer, cricket, netball, basketball, swimming and tennis.

The students had a range of things they liked linked to recreation, however there was a trend across all to swimming, using skate parks and the river for a range of activities.

Asked what they'd like to see developed from a sport and recreation perspective the answers were varied, however the main priorities appeared linked to swimming, skate and BMX facilities. These were identified at class level rather than individual level so any decisions relating to facility or activity development based on this would certainly need more thorough investigation.

State Sporting Associations

Thirteen State Sporting Associations were either consulted with directly or their strategic planning reviewed. Planning relating to those activities that rate highest for participation in Moira include:

Netball

Netball Victoria are currently developing a Regional Facility Strategy (2016-2025) to update the existing facility hierarchy and preferred facility requirements guide. Preferred facility distribution is;

- netball only indoor: one court:10,000 residents,
- multi lined facilities: three court:10,000 residents, and
- country football/netball to have a second court when there are more than 60 players in a club.

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Tennis

Tennis Australia has developed Tennis 2020 (facility development and management framework). Places to Play State Facility Strategy is currently being developed. The Tennis 2020 Strategy provides the following hierarchy of facilities to guide planning and development:

Hierarchy Level	No. of Courts	Standard of Competition	Recommended Catchment within a 30km radius - Regional/Country
National Tennis Centre	20+	Inter/National	Not provided
Regional	16+	National/State Based	80,000 – 100,000
Large Centre (sub Regional)	12+	Inter/Intra Club Tournaments	40,000 – 50,000
District	8+	Interclub	5,000+
Local	4+	Interclub	5,000+
Public Access	1+	Tennis Engagement	Not provided

AFL

Growing the Heartland (Football Facilities Development Strategy) leads facility development. The preferred facilities guidelines provides for a facility hierarchy with a preferred provision ratio of 1:4,000 residents.

Basketball

Facilities Master Plan leads planning and development. It includes a facility hierarchy, provision models and preferred provision rates. Preferred provision rates are one indoor court per 300-500 players and four indoor courts per 35,000 residents.

Cricket

Common Ground (A Unified Plan for Victorian Cricket Facilities Development) notes the importance of planning for future facilities. State wide facilities guidelines are currently under construction. Preferred provision rate of one field to every 3,000 to 5,000 residents (depending on age profile and demographics).

Soccer

Currently developing a 15 year State Facilities Strategy. Preferred club size is a maximum of 220 players with at least two full-size fields lit. Keen to see additional synthetic pitches. Prefer cricket and football to share field space with wickets designed between football fields.

Athletics

Yet to develop any facility planning documents. Desire for at least one synthetic facility within each metropolitan council.

Swimming

Swimming Victoria has released a strategic plan for 2014-2017 focused on performance, participation and partnerships. The plan highlights the high participation rates and strong well-being outcomes related to swimming and while it does not provide any guidance or direction linked to the provision of facilities it highlights its need to work collaboratively with stakeholders in the provision and management of facilities.

Councillors

A workshop and interviews were held with Elected Members to discuss recreation issues and opportunities in the Moira Shire. Councillors highlighted challenges facing organisations relating to volunteers, opportunities to encourage informal and social activities and participation, the importance of the relationship with neighbouring council's in the provision of facilities, the importance of on-going planning linked to the future use and development of facilities and public spaces and the opportunity to review services linked to public pools that may improve attendances.

Council Staff

A number of interviews were undertaken with the Manager Community Development and the Community Facilities and Recreation Team. Staff highlighted issues and opportunities linked to the structure of staffing and service provision, maintenance and development of facilities and public spaces and programming.

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MOIRA SHIRE RECREATION STRATEGY - 2016 - 2026 DRAFT (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy Report



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FILE NO: XXXX
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.5
(MANAGER GOVERNANCE AND
COMMUNICATIONS, LINDA
NIEUWENHUIZEN)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse that the existing 2013-2017 Council Plan.

1. Executive Summary

Under the Local Government Act at least once in each financial year, a Council must consider whether it's current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan. Moira Shire's current Council Plan has one year before it concludes in July 2017.

Management has reviewed the Council Plan and recommends the existing Plan continue, without adjustment, for this final 12 month period of the Plan.

This report seeks Council's confirmation that the existing Council Plan does not require adjustment for the final 12 month period.

2. Background and Options

The current Council Plan has one final year of operation. Council is required to review the Plan at least once each year to consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan.

Management has reviewed the Council Plan and recommends the existing Plan continue, without adjustment, for this final 12 month period of the Plan.

It is noted that:

- Last year Council comprehensively revised its 2013-2017 Council Plan to more effectively represent the goals and objectives of Council. This process involved significant Councillor and staff input through Council and manager workshops and community feedback on the draft revised Council Plan.
- The annual budget development process is a critical step in operationalising the Council Plan each year. The 2016/17 budget development process has not identified any requirements to adjust the existing Council Plan.
- Development of a new 2017–21 Council Plan will need to commence as soon as possible after the Local Government elections in October 2016 to ensure Council meets the 6 month development deadline prescribed in the Act. This process will require significant community input and feedback to develop a plan for the term of the four-year term of the new Council.

3. Financial Implications

Nil

4. Risk Management

Ensuring Council's Plan consistently reflects Council operations.

5. Internal and External Consultation

Management and Council have been consulted in the development of this report.

FILE NO: XXXX
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.5
(MANAGER GOVERNANCE AND
COMMUNICATIONS, LINDA
NIEUWENHUIZEN)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL PLAN (cont'd)

6. Regional Context

Nil

7. Council Plan Strategy

Demonstrating Good Governance

8. Legislative / Policy Implications

This proposal ensures Council fulfills its obligations under the LGA.

9. Environmental Impact

Nil

10. Conflict of Interest Considerations

Nil

11. Conclusion

The existing Council Plan remains relevant and appropriate to the needs of Council for the 2016/17 year and does not require adjustment.

Attachments

Nil

FILE NO: F13/203
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.6
(CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OFFICER,
LISA DEAYTON)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

**APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS UNDER THE
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the other legislation referred to in the attached instrument of appointment and authorisation (the instrument), resolves that:

1. the members of Council staff referred to in the instrument be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument;
2. the instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it;
3. the instrument be sealed; and
4. on coming into force of the instrument, the instrument of appointment and authorisation to members of Council staff as made by Council on 14 December 2015 is revoked.

1. Executive Summary

Council officers are appointed and authorised directly by Council under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to undertake inspections and carry out enforcement. Council does this through the powers provided by the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The list of Council officers to be appointed and authorised has been reviewed and is included in the attached instrument.

2. Background and Options

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires that Council officers must be appointed and authorised directly by Council rather than by the Chief Executive Officer as there are no powers provided for this to be sub-delegated.

The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation provides the legal basis to undertake inspections and carry out enforcement if required. In the attached instrument appointments are made to the Chief Executive Officer, both General Managers and most officers within the planning, and safety and amenity areas.

Appointments and authorisations differ from delegations. A person who is appointed as an 'authorised officer' has the powers of that position as prescribed by the relevant legislation. With delegations a delegate is acting on behalf of the Council in exercising Council's powers. Appointments are made to individuals by name, whereas delegations are made to position titles.

The attached instrument and resolution are based upon the templates included in the Maddocks Lawyers delegations and authorisation service.

3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

FILE NO: F13/203
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.6
(CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OFFICER,
LISA DEAYTON)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

**APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS UNDER THE
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 (cont'd)**

4. Risk Management

Regularly reviewing the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 is good practice. It ensures that actions taken by Council's authorised officers are made with proper authority.

5. Internal and External Consultation

This report has been informed by the template included in the Maddocks Delegations and Authorisations Service and the Manager Town Planning and Building.

6. Regional Context

Nil.

7. Council Plan Strategy

Demonstrating good governance - Ensure governance and decision making framework meets legislative requirements and community needs.

8. Legislative / Policy Implications

This report is in accordance with section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

224 Authorised officers

- (1) A Council may appoint any person other than a Councillor to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of any Act, regulations or local laws which relate to the functions and powers of the Council.

9. Environmental Impact

Nil.

10. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There are no council officer conflict of interest issues to consider within this report.

11. Conclusion

The updated instrument of appointment and authorisation includes staff that require appointment under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to carry out their duties for Council.

Attachments

- 1 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

FILE NO: F13/203
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.6
(CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OFFICER,
LISA DEAYTON)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

**APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS UNDER THE
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 (cont'd)**

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

S11A - Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation



**Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation
(Planning and Environment Act 1987)**

In this instrument "officer" means –

Mark Henderson, Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Close, General Manager Infrastructure
Leanne Mulcahy, General Manager Corporate
Jorine Bothma, Manager Town Planning and Building
Sally Rice, Manager Safety, Amenity and Environment
Jacob Clements, Town Planner
Martina Foley, Town Planner
Melissa Lotito, Land Use (Native Vegetation) Planner
Peter Stenhouse, Planning Co-ordinator
Jacqueline Miller, Development Compliance Officer
Gary Deayton, Natural Resources Officer
John Shaw, Co-ordinator Safety and Amenity
Christina Kalz, Safety and Amenity Officer
Andrew Christie, Safety and Amenity Officer
Robert l'Anson, Safety and Amenity Officer

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Moira Shire Council –

1. under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* - appoints the officers to be authorised officers for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and
2. under section 232 of the *Local Government Act 1989* authorises the officers generally to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument -

- (a) comes into force immediately upon its execution;
- (b) remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Moira Shire Council made on 26 April 2016.

"The COMMON SEAL of the
MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL
was affixed hereto by authority
of the Council on the day of
April 2016 in presence of:

.....Chief Executive Officer

FILE NO: F13/503
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.7
(GOVERNANCE RECORDS OFFICER,
MARGARET HINCK)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the attached Records of Assembly of Councillors.

1. Executive Summary

The records of the Assembly of Councillors reported during the month of March 2016 are attached to this report.

Inclusion of the attached records of Assembly of Councillors in the Council agenda, and incorporation into the Minutes ensures Council meets its statutory obligations under section 80A of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act).

2. Background and Options

An Assembly of Councillors is defined under Division 1A – Conduct and interests in section 76AA of the Act:

assembly of Councillors (however titled) means a meeting of an advisory committee of the Council, if at least one Councillor is present, or a planned or scheduled meeting of at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff which considers matters that are intended or likely to be -

- (a) the subject of a decision of the Council; or
- (b) subject to the exercise of a function, duty or power of the Council that has been delegated to a person or committee—

but does not include a meeting of the Council, a special committee of the Council, an audit committee established under section 139, a club, association, peak body, political party or other organisation.

Section 80A of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that a written record of an assembly of Councillors is reported to an ordinary meeting of the Council as soon as practicable. The written record must include whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

Section 80A(1) requires that a record is kept of:

- (a) the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending;
- (b) the matters considered;
- (c) any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending under subsection (3);
and
- (d) whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest as required by subsection (3) leaves the assembly.

3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications with this report.

FILE NO: F13/503
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.7
(GOVERNANCE RECORDS OFFICER,
MARGARET HINCK)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS (cont'd)

4. Risk Management

There are no risk implications with this report.

5. Internal and External Consultation

The community are able to access written records of assemblies of Councillors.

6. Regional Context

There are no regional contexts associated with this report.

7. Council Plan Strategy

Demonstrating Good Governance

8. Legislative / Policy Implications

This report complies with the requirements under the *Local Government Act 1989*.

9. Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impacts with this report.

10. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There are no council officer conflict of interest issues to consider within this report.

11. Conclusion

The Assembly of Councillors records attached to this report are a true and accurate record of all assemblies of Councillors reported during March 2016. Their recording into the Council Minutes ensures Council meets its statutory obligations under section 80A of the Act.

Attachments

- 1 Attachment 7 March
- 2 Attachment 8 March
- 3 Attachment 22 March
- 4 Attachment 29 March

FILE NO: F13/503
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.7
(GOVERNANCE RECORDS OFFICER,
MARGARET HINCK)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Attachment 7 March



RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

Date held	7 March 2016
Name of meeting	Councillor Budget workshop
Councillors attending	Councillor Gary Cleveland, Peter Mansfield, Alex Monk, Brian Keenan, Don McPhee, Ed Cox, Kevin Bourke (arrived 11 am)
Council staff attending	Chief Executive Officer, Mark Henderson General Manager Corporate, Leanne Mulcahy General Manager Infrastructure, Andrew Close, Manager Governance and Communications, Linda Nieuwenhuizen Finance Manager, Simon Rennie Team Leader Financial Accountant, Ramki Subramaniam Mark Foord, Manager Strategic Projects
Matters discussed	
2016/17 budget outlook	
2016/17 preliminary capital project outline	
Conflict of Interest Disclosures (indicate below if Nil or complete details)	
Nil	

FILE NO: F13/503
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.7
(GOVERNANCE RECORDS OFFICER,
MARGARET HINCK)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [2] - Attachment 8 March



RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

Date held	8 March 2016
Name of meeting	Moirashire Youth Council
Councillors attending	Councillor Gary Cleveland
Council staff attending	Team Leader Recreation & Youth, Clinton Shand Youth Development Officer, Hollie Barnes Business Support Officer, Sharon Nye
Matters discussed	
	1. Group Activities 2. Town Issues 3. Logo Discussion 4. Photos / Name Badges
Conflict of Interest Disclosures (indicate below if Nil or complete details)	
Nil	

FILE NO: F13/503
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.7
(GOVERNANCE RECORDS OFFICER,
MARGARET HINCK)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [3] - Attachment 22 March



RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

Date held	22 March 2016
Name of meeting	Councillor Briefing
Councillors attending	Councillor Gary Cleveland, Peter Mansfield, Alex Monk, Don McPhee, Wendy Buck, Marie Martin (arrive 10:10 am), Ed Cox, Kevin Bourke (arrive 11 am)
Council staff attending	Chief Executive Officer, Mark Henderson General Manager Corporate, Leanne Mulcahy General Manager Infrastructure, Andrew Close, Manager Governance and Communications, Linda Nieuwenhuizen Manager Finance, Simon Rennie
Matters discussed	1. 2016/17 budget 2. Meeting with Cathy McGowan, Member for Indi 3. Operational updates 4. CEO performance review
Conflict of Interest Disclosures (indicate below if Nil or complete details)	
Nil	

FILE NO: F13/503
5. DEMONSTRATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 9.1.7
(GOVERNANCE RECORDS OFFICER,
MARGARET HINCK)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [4] - Attachment 29 March



RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

Date held	29 March 2016
Name of meeting	Councillor Briefing
Councillors attending	Councillors Gary Cleveland, Peter Mansfield, Alex Monk, Don McPhee, Wendy Buck, Marie Martin (arrive 1.22 pm), Ed Cox, Kevin Bourke
Council staff attending	Chief Executive Officer, Mark Henderson General Manager Corporate, Leanne Mulcahy General Manager Infrastructure, Andrew Close, Manager Governance and Communications, Linda Nieuwenhuizen Manager Economic Development, Jane O'Brien Manager Community Services, David Booth
Matters discussed	
	1. Brand refresh 2. MAC Inc 3. Agenda review
Conflict of Interest Disclosures (indicate below if Nil or complete details)	
Nil	

FILE NO: F13/2513
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.1
(SAFETY AND AMENITY OFFICER,
CHRISTINA KALZ)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014/2015 ANNUAL REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council receive and note the annual review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.
2. publish the annual review of Domestic Animal Plan as part of the 2015/2016 Annual Report; and
3. forward the Review of the Domestic Animal Plan to the Minister of Agriculture.

1. Executive Summary

Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) states that "Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare at 4 year intervals a Domestic Animal Management (DAM) plan".

The Moira Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017 was adopted by Council at its 24 June 2013 meeting.

The Act also states that every Council must:

1. review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan;
2. provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
3. publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Councils Safety and Amenity Officers have reviewed, in accordance with the legislative requirements, the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017. The following report details the 2014-2015 review and recommends the completion of requirements 2 and 3 above.

2. Background and Options

Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 states that:

"Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare at 4 year intervals a domestic animal management plan."

A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must:

- *set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations;*
- *outline programs for the training of authorized officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district;*
- *outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district:*
 - *to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats;*
 - *to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation;*
 - *to minimize the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;*
 - *to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;*

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2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.1
(SAFETY AND AMENITY OFFICER,
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(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014/2015 ANNUAL REVIEW (cont'd)

- *to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;*
 - *to minimize the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and*
 - *to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations;*
- *provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable;*
- *provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and*
- *provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.*

Every Council must:

- *review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan;*
- *provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and*
- *publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report”.*

Moira Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017

The Moira Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017 was adopted by Council at its 24 June 2013 meeting. The key priority areas identified are:

- a. Training of Authorised Officers;
- b. Registration and Identification;
- c. Nuisance Complaints;
- d. Declared Dogs;
- e. Dog Attacks;
- f. Over population and High Euthanasia;
- g. Domestic Animal Businesses; and
- h. Other Matters including Emergency Management and Pound Improvements.

The annual review of the DAM plan followed this structure.

Annual review of Domestic Animal Management Plan for 2014-2015

Councils Safety and Amenity Officers have, in accordance with the legislative requirements, reviewed the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-17 for the 2014-2015 period. The current Domestic Animal Management Plan has not been amended as it remains relevant. The review is described as follows:

a. Officer's Training

Two of the current Safety and Amenity Officers are very experienced and have undergone extensive training throughout their careers. The other Safety and Amenity Officer is new at the role but has previous law enforcement experience and has undergone training in areas including attending a 'Dangerous Dog Assessing and Handling workshop', 'First Aid' and "School Crossing Supervisor training".

b. Registration & Identification

The following activities were undertaken throughout the review period:

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2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

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INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014/2015 ANNUAL REVIEW
(cont'd)

- media releases were published reminding animal owners to register their dogs/cats prior to the registration due date;
- responsible pet ownership booklets were distributed to service centres and media releases targeted responsible pet ownership;
- all animals released from pound have been registered;
- animal registrations have slightly increased however this follows a state wide trend;
- limited animal door knocks occurred;
- pound Register has been updated to meet legislative requirements;
- various media releases about responsible animal ownership were published;
- discount options in the registration fee structure in place;
- information kits for animals were provided with every adopted animal from the pound; and
- all known deceased animals were scanned for microchips.

c. Nuisance Animals

The following activities were undertaken throughout the review period:

- cat trap program implemented;
- various cat brochures were displayed at service centres;
- further signs were erected along with disposal bags displayed at Showgrounds in towns;
- review of dogs in Public Places was conducted with restrictions placed at Nathalia Showgrounds;
- signs at Council Parks were inspected and updated;
- education material about cat enclosures and nuisance issues to cat owners in registration information packs is ongoing; and
- barking dog brochures were obtained and have been distributed to customers.

d. Declared Dogs

The Council website is continually upgraded as required as is a database of declared dogs. There are currently seven declared dogs in Moira Shire.

An education and media strategy to raise awareness of what is a declared dog is ongoing objective.

e. Dog Attacks

Media releases have been conducted to educate the community to report incidents to council. Alleged dog attacks are recorded. There were no prosecutions in relation to dog attacks during the review period.

f. Overpopulation / High Euthanasia

Council has been successful in rehousing both dogs and cats thereby reducing the euthanasia rates of impounded domestic animals.

During the review period 228 dogs and 280 cats were admitted into the Moira Shire Council pound. Of these 25% were reclaimed by their owners. The remaining animals were assessed by Officers for suitability to be rehoused through an adoption program. This adoption program continues to see Moira Shire working in partnership with eight foster care groups.

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2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.1
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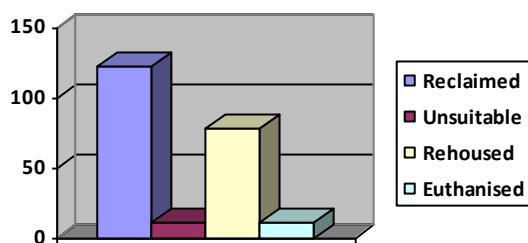
DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014/2015 ANNUAL REVIEW (cont'd)

The percentage of suitable dogs rehoused has increased from 73% to 86% (a total of 79 dogs) and cat adoption has increased from 15% to 34% (a total of 53 cats).

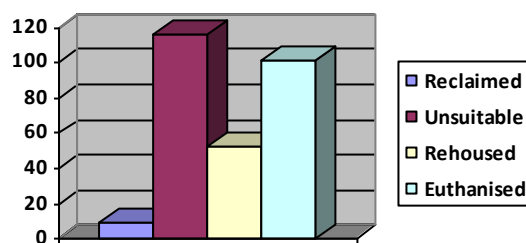
12 dogs were euthanised as they were deemed unsuitable for rehousing due to aggression, injury or sickness. 116 cats were euthanized as they were deemed unsuitable due to being feral, injured or sick.

A further 12 dogs and 102 cats were euthanised.

Number of Impounded dogs

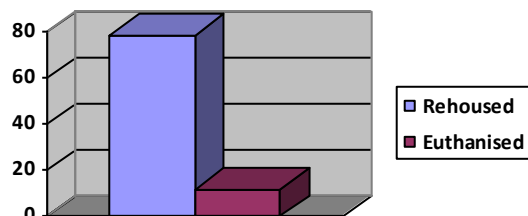


Number of Impounded cats

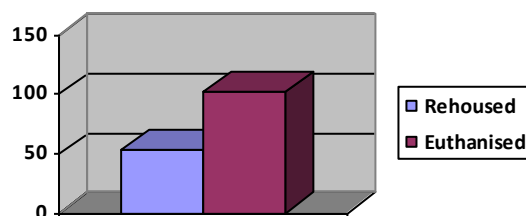


Unsuitable refers to aggressive, injured or sick dogs or feral, injured or sick cats.

Number of suitable dogs rehoused and euthanised



Number of suitable cats rehoused and euthanised



g. Domestic Animal Business

There was one new domestic animal businesses established within the review period. No businesses closed within the review period. Further activities in relation to Domestic Animal Businesses included:

- information packs were developed and distributed to potential and new Domestic Animal Businesses;
- compliance inspections have been undertaken at priority domestic animal businesses (new) and identified shortfalls were rectified in accordance with the Codes;
- a procedure for registering new Domestic Animal Businesses and initial assessment of applications was established;
- a review of current Domestic Animal Business permits and the development of specific conditions to be included in permits were determined within the Code of Practice requirements; and
- information packs were distributed to current registered Domestic Animal Businesses as a part of the annual audit process.

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DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014/2015 ANNUAL REVIEW (cont'd)

h(i). Emergency Management Planning

A draft DAM Plan for Emergency situations has been completed and awaits further review in relation to any requirements that may be needed when the State emergency animal management plan is completed.

Preparation of a media and education strategy regarding domestic pets and emergency management has commenced and is ongoing. This will involve advice, brochures and media releases on including pets in household emergency planning.

h(ii). Pound Improvements

Council has spent the allocated funds in the 2014/15 Capital Works budget on pound improvements. Improvements completed to date focused on Occupational Health and Safety and improving animal welfare and include:

- purchase of 6 cat traps and 12 dog beds;
- new fencing was installed for the secure exercise yards; and
- specifically designed gravel stones were laid for pound exercise yards thus reducing/eliminating weed issues.

Procedures and processes for the pound were developed within the review timeframe. This relates to implementing amendments and additional requirements from the Code of Practice for the Operation of Shelters and Pounds and implementing a new cleaning contract at the pound.

Further upgrades are planned and underway in the 2015/2016 financial year.

3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in conducting the review of the DAM Plan.

4. Risk Management

Implementation of the DAM Plan aims to address or at least reduce many risks associated with animal management through promoting and supporting responsible pet ownership and management of animals and the protection of the environment.

5. Internal and External Consultation

The Safety and Amenity team have contributed to the review of the DAM plan.

6. Regional Context

DAM plans are developed to be consistent where possible with other councils in the region.

7. Council Plan Strategy

The DAM Plan is included in Strategic Goal 2 "Improving Moira's Liveability" in particular Strategic Performance Indicator 2. "Encourage safe and resilient communities".

8. Legislative / Policy Implications

In accordance with section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, the Annual review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan is submitted to Council.

FILE NO: F13/2513
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.1
(SAFETY AND AMENITY OFFICER,
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(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014/2015 ANNUAL REVIEW (cont'd)

Domestic Animals Act 1994

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act), the Domestic Animals Regulations 2005 (the Regulations) and all relevant Codes of Practice aim at promoting animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats and the protection of the environment through the provision of various animal management services.

Animal Management is a rapidly evolving area with various amendments to the Act, the Regulations and Codes of Practice being introduced. The amendments reflect the changing priorities within the community regarding dangerous and restricted breed dogs, animal welfare, domestic animal businesses, euthanasia rates and pound operations.

To improve and promote the importance of the animal management service and to ensure that the legislative amendments are incorporated within every Victorian Council's service, the Government has adopted a formalised approach with Section 68A of the Act requiring that each Council prepare and implement a DAM Plan every four years. Section 68A of the Act also outlines the requirements of the DAM Plan and includes the key issues that must be addressed.

The purpose of the Act is to promote animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats and the protection of the environment by providing for:

- a scheme to protect the community and the environment from feral and nuisance dogs and cats;
- a registration and identification scheme for dogs and cats which recognises and promotes responsible ownership;
- the identification and control of dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs;
- registration scheme for domestic animal businesses which promotes the maintenance of standards of those businesses;
- matters related to the boarding of dogs and cats;
- the regulation of the permanent identification of dogs, cats, horses and other animals;
- payments to the Treasurer from fees received by Councils under this Act; and
- other related matters.

Domestic Animal Regulations 2005

Under Section 100 of the Act, regulations surrounding the management of dogs and cats can be made by the Governor-in-Council including prescribing specifications for declared dogs, including a standard for a restricted breed, permanent identification (micro chipping) requirements and various other matters. The current Regulations came into effect in 2005 and are the Domestic Animals Regulations 2005 (The Regulations).

The above legislative requirements require that a Domestic Animal Management Plan be implemented on a four year cycle with an annual review of the plan.

9. Environmental Impact

The DAM Plan promotes and encourages responsible pet ownership which in turn restricts damage to wildlife and vegetation.

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2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.1
(SAFETY AND AMENITY OFFICER,
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INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014/2015 ANNUAL REVIEW
(cont'd)

10. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There is no conflict of interests for officers implementing the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

11. Conclusion

In 2013 Council adopted the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017. This plan is reviewed annually and reported to the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). This report provides details of the 2014-2015 annual review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan. No amendments are required as the current plan remains relevant. Council's Safety and Amenity Team will continue to implement the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Attachments

Nil

FILE NO: 5/2016/2
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.2
(TOWN PLANNER, MELISSA LOTITO)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

**520162 - USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR A MOTOR REPAIR SHOP
- 72 CARLISLE STREET, WUNGHNU**

RECOMMENDATION

That a Notice of Refusal be issued for Planning Permit Application No. 5/2016/2 on the following grounds:

1. The proposal is not consistent with the Local Planning Policy, in particular Clause 21.04 - Settlement.
2. The proposal does not accord with the *Moira Small Towns and Settlements Strategy Plan, 2013*.

1. Executive Summary

An application was received for 72 Carlisle Street, Wunghnu that seeks approval for the use and development of land for a motor repair shop. The use and development will be located on the south east corner of the subject land. The subject land is located within the Farming Zone and is affected by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, there is an existing dwelling located on the northern adjoining lot.

The use of the land for industry which includes motor repairs is a Section 2 – Permit Required Use within the Farming Zone. Any buildings and works associated with a Section 2 Use triggers a planning permit. Further, the subject land is located within the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, a permit is required to construct a building or to construct or carry out works; this includes a non-habitable building with a floor area of more than 500 square metres. The proposed development will be 604.8 square metres. Therefore there are three triggers for the subject application.

The application was advertised to adjoining landowners and referred internally and externally to the relevant authorities. The Planning Department has received one objection against the proposal on amenity grounds.

It is considered that the proposal does not entirely accord with the provisions of the Farming Zone, the Local Planning Policy and does not accord with the *Small Towns and Settlements Strategy Plan, 2013*. The subject lot is proposed for rezoning as per the adopted strategy. Once the rezoning is finalized the proposed use would then become a prohibited existing use on the lot. It would not be considered orderly planning if Council issued a permit at this present time.

It is therefore recommended that Council refuse the proposed application.

2. Background and Options

Application Details

Applicant:	Noel Rathbone
Owner:	Bruce McGorlick
Land Address:	72 Carlisle Street, Wunghnu
Title Details:	Lot 2 LP98825
Site Area:	0.31ha
File No:	520162
Zone:	Farming Zone

FILE NO: 5/2016/2
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

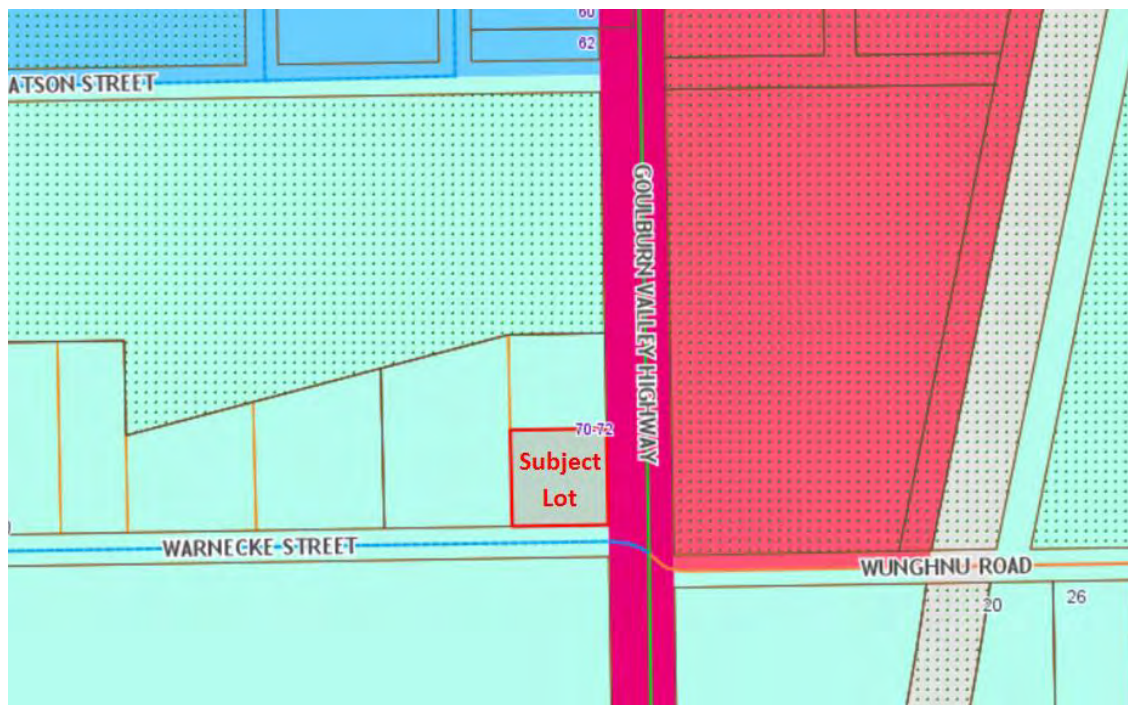
ITEM NO: 9.2.2
(TOWN PLANNER, MELISSA LOTITO)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

**520162 - USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR A MOTOR REPAIR SHOP
- 72 CARLISLE STREET, WUNGHNU (cont'd)**

Overlays: Land Subject to Inundation

Key Issues

- Local Planning Policy
- Zoning requirements
- Adopted Small Town and Settlement Strategy
- Objection



FILE NO: 5/2016/2
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.2
(TOWN PLANNER, MELISSA LOTITO)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

**520162 - USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR A MOTOR REPAIR SHOP
- 72 CARLISLE STREET, WUNGHNU (cont'd)**

The subject lot is located in the Farming Zone on the north west corner of the Goulburn Valley Highway and Warnecke Street.

The subject land (lot 2) is approximately 0.31ha and is entirely located within the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay. The property has access from Warnecke Street and contains vegetation along its south, north and western boundaries. The subject land is vacant.

To the north of the subject land is crown land and directly east is Council managed land (recreation reserve) . The lot adjoining the subject land to the north contains a dwelling. The surrounding area directly west and north west is mainly residential with dwellings contained on most lots. Agricultural lands are located to the south of the subject lot.

Proposal

The proposal is for the use and development of the land for a motor repair shop. The proposed workshop will be 33.6m by 18m with a verandah on the west side, two roller doors on the north side and two roller doors on the south side and an internal toilet.

The initial application did not include any provision for car parking and did not detail where access points would be located or loading/unloading bays.

Request for Further Information

VicRoads supplied a letter to the Planning Department requesting that more information was required before the proposal could be properly considered and assessed. On 15 January 2016 a request for further information was issued requesting:

- More detailed plans, drawn to scale, showing car parking bays, access points and loading/unloading bays
- Current vehicle movements per day and the type of vehicles

Response

The Applicant submitted a new dimensioned site plan that included the items requested. It was considered that the information provided was enough to further assess the application.

Site Visit

A site visit was undertaken discovering that access would need to be improved to required standards. It was noted however that the site was capable of accommodating the use and development with sufficient area for car parking and loading and unloading.

Options

Council has the option to defer its decision for further assessment, issue a notice of refusal or issue a notice of decision to grant a planning permit.

3. Financial Implications

In the event that Council's decision is appealed at VCAT, any cost associated with attending and responding to an appeal is not budgeted for.

FILE NO: 5/2016/2
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.2
(TOWN PLANNER, MELISSA LOTITO)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

**520162 - USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR A MOTOR REPAIR SHOP
- 72 CARLISLE STREET, WUNGHNU (cont'd)**

4. Risk Management

If Council decides to grant a permit and conditions are not fulfilled, it may become a compliance issue.

5. Internal and External Consultation

Pre-Lodgement Consultation

In December, the Applicant's partner phoned the Planning Department about their potential purchase of the subject lot and their proposal for a motor repair shop. A discussion was held with the Planning Coordinator about the proposal because the current zoning of the lot is Farming Zone, where the use and development requires a planning permit, however, the land is proposed to be re-zoned to Rural Living Zone, where the use would then be prohibited. This will be discussed further in this report.

With the Coordinator's advice the potential Applicant was advised of the current zoning and the proposed zoning of the lot and its implications. She was also advised that if she applied for a permit it may not be successful because Council would need to take into account the adopted *Small Town and Settlement Strategy* and the fact that the proposed use would become prohibited in future. Although, she was also told that she was still able to lodge an application since the land is still currently zoned as Farming Zone, however, the approval of a permit was no guarantee and further assessment would be required.

The Applicant decided to proceed with an application and lodged their application on 04 January 2016. At the time of lodgement a discussion occurred with the Applicant about the current and proposed zoning of the site and its implications, and the application process was also explained to the Applicant.

Internal Consultation

The subject application was referred internally to Environmental Health, Infrastructure Planning and the Natural Resources Officer. No objections were raised however a number of conditions have been recommended if any permit is issued. The conditions relate to septic systems, vehicular access, parking, drainage, amenity, waste removal, exposed storage etc.

External Consultation

The application was referred externally to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and VicRoads. DELWP did not object to a permit being granted and did not recommend any conditions. The GBCMA and VicRoads did not object subject to conditions.

Public Notice of the application was given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Letters were sent to adjoining landowners. An objection was received 27 January 2016 (See Attachment 1). The concerns raised, included:

- Exposed storage of old cars and scrap metal
- Amenity of the subject lot and its impacts at the entrance to Wunghnu

The objection received was provided to the Applicant providing an opportunity to respond to the concerns raised.

The Applicant discussed the objection with the Planning officer. The Applicant asked how he should proceed and if he should make contact with the objector. It was advised that it was to his discretion, although in addition to that, the Planning Department would still

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2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.2
(TOWN PLANNER, MELISSA LOTITO)
(GENERAL MANAGER - CORPORATE,
LEANNE MULCAHY)

**520162 - USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR A MOTOR REPAIR SHOP
- 72 CARLISLE STREET, WUNGHNU (cont'd)**

require a written response to be provided that responds to the concerns raised (See Attachment 2). The Applicant decided to liaise with the neighbour and also provided a written response.

The objector contacted the Planning Department about the meeting she had with the Applicant. The objector was told that her amenity concerns could potentially be conditioned as part of a permit, if one was to be issued.

The Applicant's response was forwarded to the Objector with an Objector's Response Form giving them the opportunity to withdraw their objection if they were satisfied with the response provided or have Council proceed to make a decision at the next available council meeting.

At the time of writing this report the response form has not been received.

While the objector's concerns could be addressed in any planning permit that is issued, the concerns highlight that the proposed use may not be an appropriate location at the entry of the town and that uses of this nature generally over time become unsightly, hence the amenity of the area is at risk.

6. Regional Context

There is no regional context associated with this development, given its small scale and location.

7. Council Plan Strategy

Moira Shire's current Council Plan states that it is a strategic goal of the plan to:

Improve Moira's Liveability

It is considered that issuing a permit for the subject application would not accord with Moira's strategic goal to enhance liveability through safe and welcoming communities. If a permit was granted, the development may impact upon the safety and amenity of the community.

8. Legislative / Policy Implications

Zoning

The subject land is located in the Farming Zone (FZ). The purpose of the FZ, amongst others, is:

- *To provide for the use of land for agriculture*
- *To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities*
- *To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision*

It is considered that the proposal generally accords with the purpose of the Farming Zone.

In Clause 35.07-1 the use of the land for Industry is a Section 2 – Permit Required Use. This is the first trigger for the subject application.

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Motor Repairs falls within the broader land use of Industry under the Moira Planning Scheme, Motor Repairs is described as:

Land used to repair or service motor vehicles, and includes the fitting of accessories.

Clause 35.07-4 states that a permit is required for buildings and works associated with a use in Section 2. This is the second trigger for this application.

Clause 35.07-6 sets out the decision guidelines for developments in the FZ. The following guidelines relate to the subject application:

- Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses
- Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production
- The impact of the siting, design, height, bulk, colours and materials to be used, on the natural environment, major roads, vistas and water features and the measures to be undertaken to minimise any adverse impacts

With existing dwellings on adjoining and nearby lots and the residential established pattern of the area it is considered that the site is unsuitable and not compatible with the surrounding.

The use and development will not permanently remove land from agricultural production as the subject lot is small and adjoining lots are set out for residential and not capable for any large scale agricultural activities.

The design, siting and materials of the development could be set out in conditions if a permit was issued.

It is considered that the proposed use and development generally accord with the decision guidelines of the FZ. Although granting a permit for this use and development could potentially create an undesirable planning precedent for similar future proposed developments.

Overlays

The subject lot is located within the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). The purpose of the LSIO, amongst others, is:

- *To identify land in a flood storage or flood fringe area affected by the 1 in 100 year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.*
- *To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.*

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A permit is required to construct a building or to construct or carry out works; this includes a non-habitable building with a floor area of more than 500 square metres. The proposed development will be 604.8 square metres. This is the third trigger for this application. In accordance with the Moira Planning Scheme, the application was referred to the GBCMA.

The Authority did not object to the application and have set out a condition relating to floor levels.

Clause 44.04-6 sets out the decision guidelines for developments in the LSIO. The Responsible Authority must consider the following, amongst others:

- *Any local floodplain development plan.*
- *Any comments from the relevant floodplain management authority.*
- *The existing use and development of the land*
- *Whether the proposed use or development could be located on flood-free land or land with a lesser flood hazard outside this overlay*
- *The potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with the development.*
Flood risk factors to consider include:
 - *The frequency, duration, extent, depth and velocity of flooding of the site and accessway.*
 - *The flood warning time available.*
 - *The danger to the occupants of the development, other flood plain residents and emergency personnel if the site of accessway is flooded.*

It is considered that the proposal generally accords with the purpose and guidelines of the LSIO.

Local Planning Policy and Municipal Strategic Statement

Clause 21.04 – Settlement sets out the key planning issues and challenges facing the Moira Shire relating to settlement. It recognises that facilitating the orderly development of its townships is a key challenge. It also highlights that Council seeks to consolidate residential uses in townships and in identified rural lifestyle areas around townships, where there is no adverse impact on rural activities.

A Settlement Objective, as per Clause 21.04-3 is:

- *To preserve the amenity of current and future residents in residential areas*

A Settlement Strategy, as per Clause 21.04-4 is:

- *Areas of non-conforming and incompatible industrial uses within residential areas are encouraged to relocate to identified industrial/business estates*

It is considered that there is a current pattern of residential type lots adjacent and in the immediate area. The proposed rezoning for the area would rezone the subject lot and lots along Warnecke Street to the Rural Living Zone. The subject application does not accord with the above local policy of the Moira Planning Scheme.

Adopted Council Strategy

In September 2013 Council adopted the *Small Towns and Settlements Strategy*. This strategy will inform a Planning Scheme Amendment in the near future. Council is

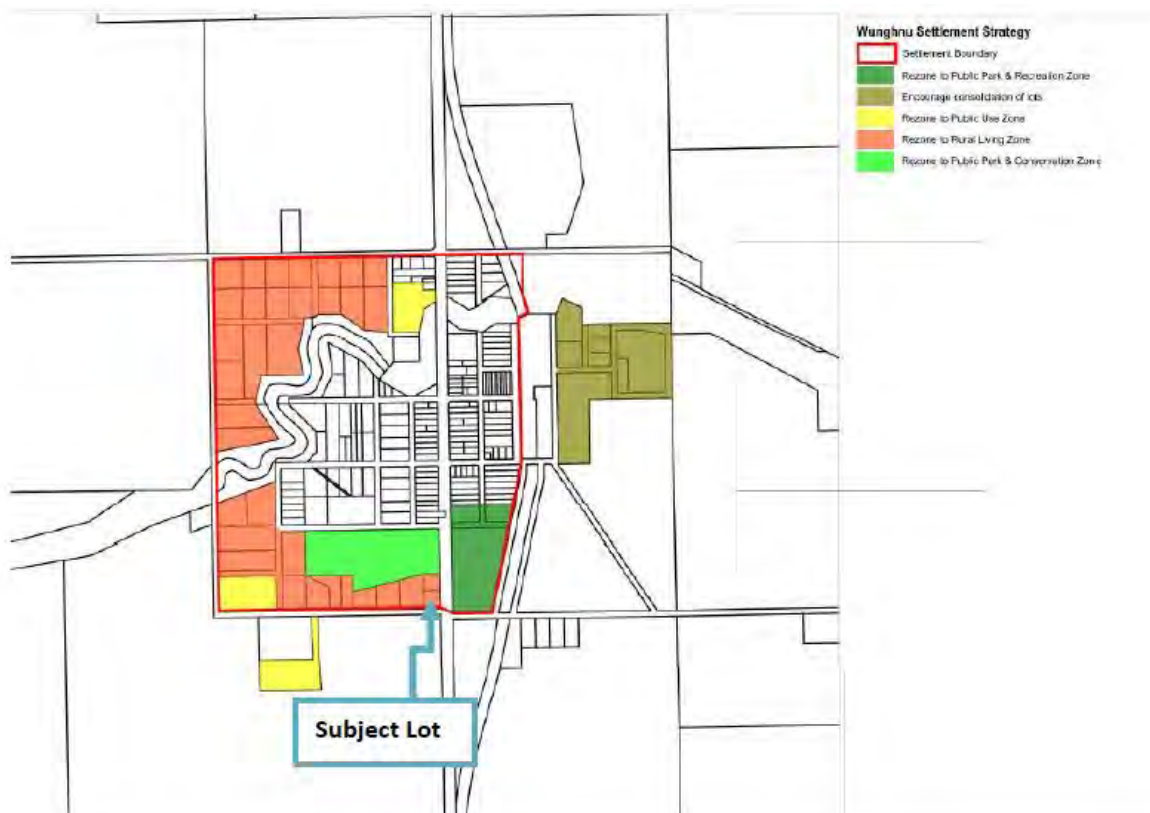
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currently undertaking a Municipal Strategic Statement Review and this adopted strategy will form part of that review process.

The strategy identifies Wunghnu as a small town within the Moira Shire settlement hierarchy. It sets out that the small-medium allotments surrounding the township should be re-zoned from Farming Zone to Rural Living Zone. The subject lot, as indicated in the map below, is within the area that will be rezoned to Rural Living.



In Clause 35.03-1 Rural Living Zone, Industry which includes Motor Repairs will be a Section 3 – Prohibited Use.

Accordingly it is considered, given the pattern of development in the area and the proposed rezoning, that the proposed development should not be permitted. Given that there is a Council adopted strategy, permitting this use and development in advance of a rezoning would not be considered good planning and would not be in the interest of the orderly planning of the area.

9. Environmental Impact

Viewed alone the proposed development may be considered to be sustainable if the proposed development was more appropriately located.

10. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There is no officer conflict of interest issues associated with this report.

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11. Conclusion

The subject application proposes the use and development of land for a motor repair shop. The subject lot is located in the FZ and the LSIO and generally accords with provisions of the zone and overlay. Although the subject lot and lots in the immediate area are within the Farming Zone, there is an established pattern of residential development on small-medium sized lots along Warnecke Street. It would be considered that the area is rural residential in nature.

The application received one objection during the advertising period. The concerns raised are items that potentially could be conditioned if a permit were to be issued.

The subject lot is proposed for rezoning as per the *Small Towns and Settlements Strategy Plan, 2013*. As discussed, the strategy proposes that the subject lot and lots in the surrounding area be rezoned to the Rural Living Zone. The proposed rezoning would create a prohibited use and development on this subject lot in accordance with Clause 35.03-1. If a permit was issued it would not be in keeping with the orderly planning of the area.

Based on the above, it is therefore recommended that the application be refused.

Attachments

- 1 Objection Letter
- 2 Applicant Response to Objection
- 3 Site Plan and Elevations

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**520162 - USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR A MOTOR REPAIR SHOP
- 72 CARLISLE STREET, WUNGHNU (cont'd)**

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Objection Letter

Melissa Lolito, Moira Shire Planning permit Dept.

We wish to put forward our objection to an application by Noel Rathbone, Application Number 5/2016/2 for use and development of a Motor Repair Shop at 70-72 Carlisle St Wunghnu.

Our objection is as follows: whilst we do not object to a neat and tidy business being operated at the above address, we are very concerned with the amount of old cars and scrap that could be stored at the address. At present being stored at his private residence in Warnecke st are stacks upon stacks of scrap metal and old cars, which has been moved from his current business in Carlisle street which is an eye sore. Across the road from us is another junk pile including an old circus truck and numerous other junk, that has never been cleaned up. If the business conducted at 70-72 Carlisle street was to be a stock pile of junk we strongly object!
Wunghnu has become a town full of junk collectors. As this is the entrance to Wunghnu, we feel there should be strict regulations on the presentation of any business conducted on this corner, we are a small town that should reflect the pride that some residents have in their properties and a place we are happy to live.

Regards

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ATTACHMENT No [2] - Applicant Response to Objection

16-02-2016
-Permit Application Number: 5/2016/2

Moirā Shire Planning Dept.

Melissa Lotito,

In response to the letter received by [REDACTED] dated the 27th of January 2016.

I would like to state that while I acknowledge their concerns, it has always been my intention to run a neat and tidy business at 70-72 Carlisle Street, Wunghnu.

The premises will be partially fenced with colorbond fencing at the rear of the property and along Warnecke street.

I intend to have the property landscaped with trees, shrubs, etc.

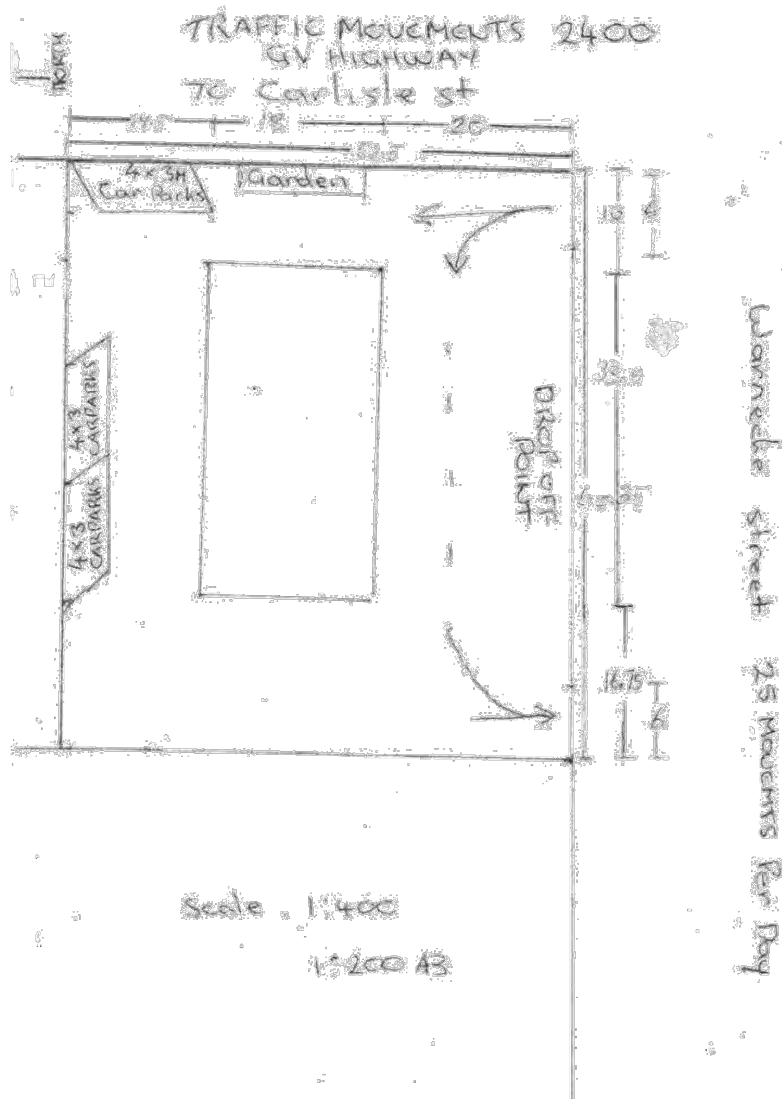
I am also aware that this is the entrance to our beautiful little town of 'Wunghnu' and will make sure that it is an attractive asset and something to be proud of for our 'little' but thriving town.

Kind Regards,

Noel Rathbone.
0407656663

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ATTACHMENT No [3] - Site Plan and Elevations

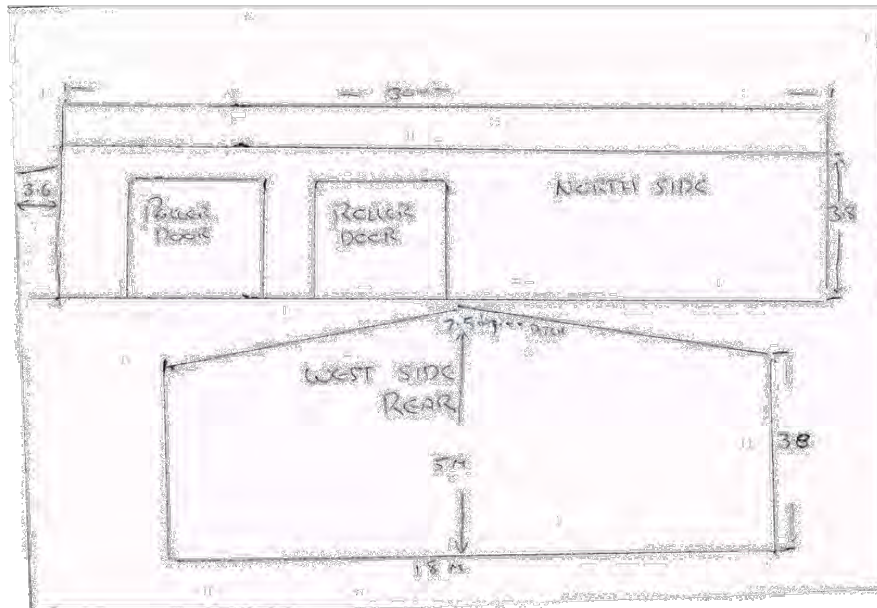


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ATTACHMENT No [3] - Site Plan and Elevations

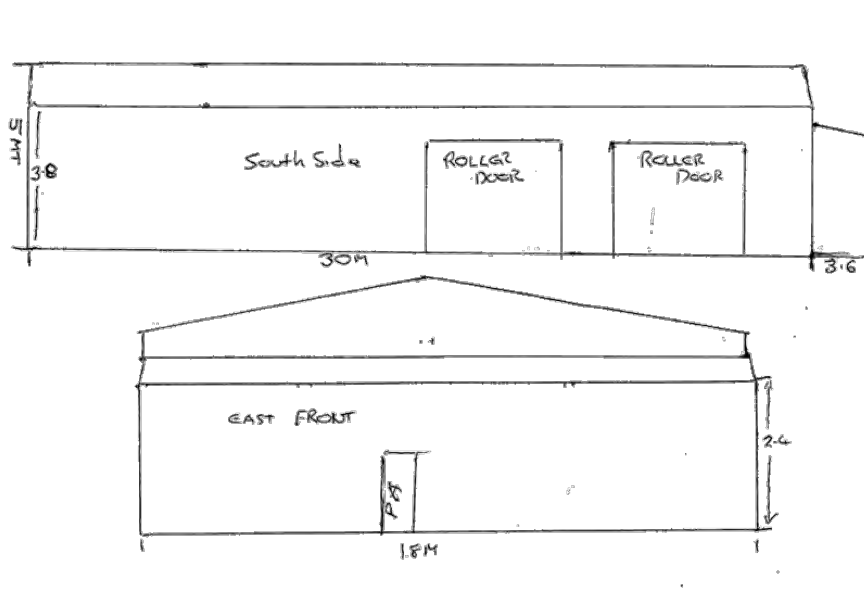


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ATTACHMENT No [3] - Site Plan and Elevations



FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA

RECOMMENDATION

That a Notice of Refusal be issued for an Amendment to Planning Permit No. 52013662 on the following grounds:

1. The proposal is not consistent with Clause 52.06 of the Moira Planning Scheme.
2. The proposal is not in the interest of the orderly planning of the area.

1. Executive Summary

Planning permit amendment application 5/2013/662 relates to a permit for Buildings & Works: Extension to Hotel, Alteration of Liquor Licence & Reduction in Car Parking Requirements at 7-9 Carter Street, Katunga. The subject lot is located in the Township Zone and is not affected by any overlays.

The amendment is to remove Condition 4 from the Permit.

The application was referred internally. The Infrastructure Planning Department are not in favour of the proposed amendment.

It is considered that the Applicants proposal to use the Carter Street Road Reserve is not consistent with Clause 52.06 of the Moira Planning Scheme.

There is space on the subject lot to provide the required car parking spaces but the proponent has indicated that they do not want to provide it on site. This preference does not accord with the orderly planning of the area.

It is therefore recommended that Council refuse the proposed application.

2. Background and Options

Subject Application Details

Applicant: Spiire
Owner: P & M Van Den Goor - Van Lier Pty Ltd
Land Address: 7-9 Carter Street, Katunga
Title Details: Lot 1 LP21639
File No: 52013662
Zone: Township Zone (TZ)
Overlays: None

Key Issues

- Car Parking Requirements
- Orderly Development

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This report relates to 7-9 Carter Street, Katunga; a property known as Clydesdale Hotel. It is located on the southern side of the main street in Katunga. The western boundary is Crown Allotment 1G Section E, which is in the ownership of VicTrack. Currently the customers of the Clydesdale Hotel park their cars on this property but there is no formal agreement or lease arrangement governing its use.



On 16 June 2014 permit 52013662 was issued for Buildings & Works – extension to hotel, alteration to liquor license and reduction in car parking requirement. A copy of the permit is attached here as Attachment 1.

In assessing the application, the Planning Scheme requires that the car parking requirements for the extension be considered. The proposed increase in patrons by 50 people triggers a requirement for car 20 parking spaces in addition to the 6 no. spaces required by Permit TP00/142, a total requirement of 26 spaces. Accordingly the permit required that the proponent enter into a Section 173 Agreement with VicTrack and Moira Shire Council to formalise the car parking arrangement.

On 23 August 2014 an application to amend the permit was received. The application form stated as follows:

The amendment seeks to amend a current condition. It is requested Condition 4 be amended to allow additional time for the required S173 Agreement to be prepared and entered into.

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This application was withdrawn on 19 February 2015 and a second application for amendment was submitted on the same day. This is the Subject Application and is attached here as Attachment 2. The form states that the application is to:

Remove condition 4 from the planning permit.

Condition 4 states:

Before the development starts, the owner must enter into an agreement with the Responsible Authority and adjoining owners Vic Track, made pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to provide that:

- car parking and access associated with the hotel will be provided on Crown Allotment 1G, Section C, Parish of Katunga, except with the written consent of the Responsible Authority, in accordance with the plans endorsed as part of Planning Permit 5/2013/662, and*
- car parking and access area will be properly constructed and maintained in accordance with the endorsed plans.*

The Agreement must be prepared by the developer at the developers cost unless Council has been requested in writing to prepare it in which case all costs associated with the preparation and registration of the agreement must be borne by the applicant. All fees associated with the documentation must be fully paid prior to execution and registration of the document by Council.

3. Financial Implications

In the event that Council's decision is appealed at VCAT, any cost associated with attending and responding to an appeal will need to be funded.

4. Risk Management

If Council decides to grant a permit and conditions are not fulfilled, it may become a compliance issue.

5. Internal and External Consultation

Pre-Lodgement Consultation

Prior to lodging this Amendment Application the Applicant discussed their intention to lodge with Council's Town Planner and Manager of Town Planning and Building as part of a withdrawal of a previous Application to Amend the same condition.

Internal Consultation

The proposed amendment was referred internally to the Infrastructure Planning Department who are not in favor of the proposed amendment.

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Consultation with Applicant

On 10 March 2015 a request for further information was issued requesting a site plan to show how car parking is to be provided. The Applicant requested a number of extensions to the response timeframe.

A revised site plan was submitted on 9 July 2015, showing 6 car parking spaces on the site, along with a cover letter stating that all other required parking being in the "overflow" on the Carter Street Road Reserve (attached here as attachment 3 & 4). The plan was referred to our Infrastructure Planning Department who stated that there is not enough parking available in Carter Street to provide the required spaces without displacing spaces currently used by residents.

A number of discussions were held with the Applicant. At one point they indicated the spaces would be provided on the subject lot, to the south east of the hotel. The Applicant later advised that the proponent did not want to provide the spaces here.

At another point they indicated that the proponent was close to entering into agreement with VicTrack in accordance with Condition 4. No agreement with VicTrack was forthcoming.

On 3 February 2016 Council issued a letter requesting withdrawal of the application. Again the Applicant indicated in an email on 16 February that they were close to agreement with VicTrack. On 4 March 2016 an email from the Applicant however stated a lease with VicTrack will not be delivered within the required timeframes.

6. Regional Context

There is no regional context associated with this application.

7. Council Plan Strategy

It is considered that the subject development is inconsistent with the following strategies set out in the Council Plan:

- Environment – that Moira will responsibly manage its environment, and
- Infrastructure – that Moira will be a 'best practice' environment.

8. Legislative / Policy Implications

Moira Planning Scheme: Clause 52.06 – Car Parking

The purpose of this clause, amongst others, is:

To ensure the provision of an appropriate number of car parking spaces having regard to the demand likely to be generated, the activities on the land and the nature of the locality.

To ensure that car parking does not adversely affect the amenity of the locality.

To ensure that the design and location of car parking is of a high standard, creates a safe environment for users and enables easy and efficient use.

Clause 52.06 set out Moira Shire's Car Parking policy and requirements. It states that before:

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- *a new use commences; or*
 - *the floor area or site area of an existing use is increased; or*
 - *an existing use is increased by the measure specified in Column C of Table 1 in Clause 52.06-5 for that use,*
- the number of car parking spaces required under Clause 52.06-5 or in a schedule to the Parking Overlay must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority (our emphasis).*

It is considered that allowing the development to occur before the car parking issue is resolved is not in the interest of the orderly planning of the area.

The decision guidelines of Clause 65

Before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider, among other guidelines:

- *The orderly planning of the area.*
- *The effect on the amenity of the area.*
- *The proximity of the land to any public land.*

The matters set out in Clause 65 have been considered. In this instance particular emphasis must be placed upon the orderly planning of the area which in this case is best served through a refusal.

9. Conflict of Interest Considerations

There are no officer conflict of interest issues to consider within this report.

10. Conclusion

It is recommended that this application to amend Permit 5/2013/662 be refused as it would be contrary to the orderly planning and development of the area.

No agreement has been reached with VicTrack since the permit was issued in 2014. The Applicant has indicated that an agreement will not be achieved with the requested timeframe.

It is considered that there is space on the subject lot to provide parking. If this formed part of the rationale supporting the Amendment Application it may have been favorably considered.

To approve the amendment would allow development to occur in the absence of any certainty that the car parking requirements can be met. In effect this would allow the proponent to continue to utilise a Shire road to the detriment of other road users when space is available on the subject lot.

Attachments


- 1 Planning Permit 5/2013/662
- 2 Subject Application to Amend
- 3 Response to Further Information Request
- 4 Response to Further Information Request - Site Plan

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ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
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ATTACHMENT No [1] - Planning Permit 5/2013/662



PLANNING PERMIT
Planning Permit No: 5/2013/662

Moirā Planning Scheme
Responsible Authority: Moirā Shire Council

ADDRESS OF THE LAND: 7-9 Carter Street KATUNGA

LAND TITLE PARTICULARS: Lot: 1 LP21639

THE PERMIT ALLOWS: Buildings & Works - Extension to Hotel, Alteration of Liquor Licence and reduction in car parking requirement

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY TO THIS PERMIT

(1) Before the development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plans must be generally in accordance with *the plans submitted with the application* but modified to show:

- (a) A site Plan showing car parking arrangements in accordance with Condition 5, and
- (b) Drainage plan and computations are required by Condition 7.

(2) The development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered *without the written consent of the Responsible Authority*.


(3) The use may operate only between the hours of:

Sunday	Between 10 a.m. and 11 p.m.
Good Friday & Anzac Day	Between 12 noon and 11 p.m.
Monday to Saturday	Between 7 a.m. and 1 a.m. (the following morning)

(4) Before the development starts, the owner must enter into an agreement with the Responsible Authority and adjoining owners Vic Track, made pursuant to Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to provide that:

- car parking and access associated with the hotel will be provided on Crown Allotment 1G, Section C, Parish of Katunga, except with the written consent of the Responsible Authority, in accordance with the plans endorsed as part of Planning Permit 5/2013/662, and

Date issued: 16 June 2014

Signature for the Responsible Authority: 
Peter Stenhouse
(Statutory Planning Co-ordinator)


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ATTACHMENT No [1] - Planning Permit 5/2013/662



• Car parking and access area will be properly constructed and maintained in accordance with the endorsed plans.

The Agreement must be prepared by the developer at the developers cost unless Council has been requested in writing to prepare it in which case all costs associated with the preparation and registration of the agreement must be borne by the applicant. All fees associated with the documentation must be fully paid prior to execution and registration of the document by Council.

(5) Prior to the issuing of a certificate of final inspection the area(s) set-aside for the parking of vehicles and access lanes as shown on the endorsed plans must be:

- (a) constructed,
- (b) properly formed to such levels that they can be used in accordance with the plans,
- (c) surfaced with an all-weather surface,
- (d) drained, and
- (e) marked to indicate each car space and all access lanes

to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

The car parking area must include the 6 spaces permitted as part of Planning Permit TP00/142 and additional spaces to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. Car spaces, access lanes and driveways must be kept available for these purposes at all times.

(6) All stormwater and surface water discharging from the site, buildings and works, including the subject lot and the car parking area on Crown Allotment 1G, Section C, Parish of Katunga, must be independently drained with all stormwater and surface water conveyed to two separate the legal points of discharge, by underground pipe drains to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

No effluent, polluted or domestic waste water of any type may be allowed to enter the Council's stormwater drainage system or any road, stream, river or other waterway reserve.


All waste water must be contained within each allotment.

No stormwater, surface water or irrigation water must be directed or caused to be directed into a roadside drainage system, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Responsible Authority.

(7) Before any of the works allowed by this permit can be started, a properly prepared drainage plan with computations, showing how each lot will be independently drained, must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The stormwater drainage system for the development must incorporate measures to enhance stormwater discharge quality from the site and protect downstream waterways.

(8) Prior to the issuing of a certificate of final inspection the drainage detailed in the approved Drainage Discharge Plan must be constructed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Date issued: 16 June 2014

Signature for the Responsible Authority: 

Peter Stenhouse
(Statutory Planning Co-ordinator)


Page 2 of 3

FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Planning Permit 5/2013/662



(9) Not more than 150 patrons may be present on the premises at any one time without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

(10) Noise levels emanating from the premises must not exceed those required to be met under State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Music Noise from Public Premises), No. N-2.

(11) This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- The development is not started within two years of the date of this permit.
- The development is not completed within two years of the date of commencement.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within three months afterwards.

Permit Notes


(1) Unless no permit is required under the planning scheme, no sign must be constructed or displayed without a further permit.

(2) This permit does not authorise the commencement of any building construction works. Before any such development may commence, the applicant must apply for and obtain appropriate building approval.

(3) Extension must comply with the Food Act and Tobacco Act legislation.

Date issued: 16 June 2014

Signature for the Responsible Authority:



Peter Stenhouse
(Statutory Planning Co-ordinator)


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FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Planning Permit 5/2013/662



PLANNING PERMIT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLANNING PERMIT

What has been decided?

The Responsible Authority has issued a permit.
(Note: This is not a permit granted under Division 5 or 6 of Part 4 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.)

When does a permit begin?
A permit operates:

- from the date specified in the permit; or
- if no date is specified, from—
 - (i) the date of the decision of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, if the permit was issued at the direction of the Tribunal; or
 - (ii) the date on which it was issued, in any other case.

When does a permit expire?

1. A permit for the development of land expires if—
 - a) the development, or any stage of it, does not start within the time specified in the permit;
 - b) the development requires the certification of a plan of subdivision or consolidation under the **Subdivision Act 1988** and the plan is not certified within two years of the issue of the permit, unless the permit contains a different provision; or
 - c) the development, or any stage of it, is not completed within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit, or, in the case of a subdivision or consolidation, within 5 years of the certification of the plan of subdivision or consolidation under the **Subdivision Act 1988**.
2. A permit for the use of land expires if—
 - a) the use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit; or
 - b) the use is discontinued for a period of two years.
3. A permit for the development and use of land expires if—
 - a) the development or any stage of it does not start within the time specified in the permit; or
 - b) the development or any stage of it is not completed within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit; or
 - c) the use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the completion of the development; or
 - d) the use is discontinued for a period of two years.
4. If a permit for the use of land or the development and use of land or relating to any of the circumstances mentioned in section 6A(2) of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**, or to any combination of use, development or any of those circumstances requires the certification of a plan under the **Subdivision Act 1988**, unless the permit contains a different provision—
 - a) the use or development of any stage is to be taken to have started when the plan is certified; and
 - b) the permit expires if the plan is not certified within two years of the issue of the permit.
5. The expiry of a permit does not affect the validity of anything done under that permit before the expiry.

What about appeals?

- The person who applied for the permit may apply for a review of any condition in the permit unless it was granted at the direction of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, in which case no right of review exists.
- An application for review must be lodged within 60 days after the permit was issued, unless a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit has been issued previously, in which case the appeal must be lodged within 60 days after the giving of that notice.
- An application for review is lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- An application for review must be made on an Application for Review form, which can be obtained from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and be accompanied by the applicable fee.
- An application for review must state the grounds upon which it is based.
- An application for review must also be served on the Responsible Authority.
- Details about applications for review and the fees payable can be obtained from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [2] - Subject Application to Amend



Our Reference 138247 PL04
Your Reference Planning Permit No. 5/2013/662

19 February 2015

Ms Jorine Bothma
Manager Planning
Moirā Shire Council
PO Box 578
Cobram VIC 3643

Dear Jorine

**7-9 Carter Street, Katunga
Application to Amend Planning Permit No. 5/2013/662**

As you are aware, Spiire acts on behalf of P & M Van Den Goor Van Lier Pty Ltd in regard to the above mentioned planning permit.

In June 2014 Planning Permit No. 5/2013/662 was issued for the extension to hotel, alteration of liquor license and reduction in car parking requirement at the existing hotel at 7-9 Carter Street, Katunga.

In August 2014 Spiire requested an amendment to Condition 4 of this permit. It is understood that Council is unlikely to support this request. It is further understood this amendment request is scheduled for discussion at the upcoming Council meeting and has been included on the Meeting Agenda. On behalf of our client, Spiire requests this item be removed from the Meeting Agenda for the following reasons:

- The land adjoining the Clydesdale Hotel to the west is owned by VicTrack and leased to V-Line. It is not privately owned.
- Any use of this land will need VicTrack and V-Line consent. This is proving very time consuming and complex to seek.
- The provision of car parking associated with the hotel has been reviewed by Spiire, SMR Legal and the proponent with many options explored.
- The preferred option is to provide the car parking on-site.
- It is likely the majority of the car parking required can be provided on-site, with the overflow being provided in Carter Street, as previously agreed to by Council.

As such, it is now proposed to amend the original amendment request to seek the deletion of Condition 4 from the Permit No. 5/2013/662, as the car parking can be provided on-site, with overflow parking provided in Carter Street (as previously agreed to by Council).

The on-site car parking will be provided alongside the western boundary, and to the south east corner of the site which has recently been cleared. It will be accessed via the existing driveway located alongside the eastern boundary of the site.

Spiire Australia Pty Ltd ABN 55 050 029 635 T 61 3 5849 1000 spiire.com.au
144 Welford Street PO Box 926 Shepparton Victoria 3632 Australia

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Page 1

FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [2] - Subject Application to Amend



The land to the east of the site is occupied by Telstra telecommunications infrastructure and does not contain sensitive land uses. This facility is long established on the site and is unlikely to change.

The property to the south of the hotel site is a residential property and consent from these owners/occupiers will be sought for the location of the car park.

The dwelling on the site is owned by the proponent and leased privately.

Essentially, the amended amendment request is made as the inclusion of car parking on-site negates the need to involve any external parties in an agreement for the provision of car parking and access.

We trust Council will support this approach and look forward to Council's confirmation the matter will be withdrawn from the Council Meeting Agenda.

A plan to accord with Condition 5 (car parking) and Condition 7 (drainage) is currently being prepared and will be submitted to Council shortly.

It is also respectfully requested the \$102 application to amend a permit fee stand for this amended request.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 5849 1007.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Macey".

Jane Macey
Principal - Planning

Enclosure Application to Amend Planning Permit form

Copy to Ms Kelli Ritchie, SMR Legal, Shepparton (via email)
 P & M Van Den Goor Van Lier Pty Ltd (via email)

FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [3] - Response to Further Information Request



Our Reference 138247
Your Reference 5/2013/662

9 July 2015

Martina Foley
Moirā Shire Council
PO Box 578
Cobram, Vic, 3643

Dear Martina

**Planning Permit 5/2013/662
Response to request for further information**

As you are aware Spiire Australia acts for P & M Van Den Goor Van Lier Pty Ltd in regard to the proposed amendment to Planning Permit 5/2013/662.

Following receipt of Planning Permit No. 5/2013/662 and in response to Condition 4, the proponent's solicitor contacted VicTrack in regard to the use of their land for car parking. As you are also aware, this was difficult to formalise, with agreements taking considerable time to move through the relevant ranks at VicTrack.

Spiire then proposed to amend Condition 4 to allow additional time for the agreement to be entered into with VicTrack. This amendment was subsequently withdrawn as parking was proposed to be provided on site.

Spiire prepared a plan showing the provision of 37 spaces located on site, with access to the car park from Carter Street to the east of the hotel and egress to Carter Street to the immediate west of the site. The proponent showed this plan to his neighbours to the south who expressed concerns in regard to the noise associated with car doors closing as patrons left the hotel during the evening. Given this concern, the proponent did not wish to proceed with the proposed car parking layout.

Following discussions on this issue with Council offices, Spiire looked into the option of reducing the number of patrons allowed at the hotel under the liquor licence. The Clydesdale Hotel currently holds a General Liquor Licence (Licence No. 31951042) for a maximum capacity of 100 people. Spiire obtained advice from a property valuer from Herron Todd White who specialises in hospitality and leisure establishments. This advice indicated there may be potential for the value of the hotel business to be decreased if the number of patrons was reduced (it is already quite a low number compared to many other similar hotels). Based on this advice it is not proposed to alter the current liquor licence in any way.

Following from the above, and in response to Council's request for information, a response is detailed below:

Site Plan, incorporating Car Parking Proposal

A copy of the proposed site plan, including provision for 6 car parking spaces as required by the original planning permit (TP 00/142), is attached with this correspondence.

Spiire Australia Pty Ltd ABN 55 050 029 635 T 61 3 5849 1000 spiire.com.au
144 Welsford Street PO Box 926 Shepparton Victoria 3632 Australia

FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [3] - Response to Further Information Request



Detail of extent of overflow to Carter Street

Of the 40 car parking spaces required, 6 spaces will be accommodated on site, with Carter Street road reserve being suitable to accommodate the overflow. Some spaces in Carter Street are indicated on the attached plan.

Car Parking Demand Assessment

In summary, and as you are aware, the original planning permit application sought a small extension of 130m² to the existing Clydesdale Hotel to provide a dining/bistro area separate from the main bar.

As such, while the floor area of the hotel will increase with the proposed extension, it is not proposed to allow any more than 100 patrons into the hotel at any one time. The car parking demand assessment is therefore based on the maximum capacity of 100 patrons. According to the requirements of Clause 52.06 of the Moira Planning Scheme, the hotel must therefore provide 40 car parking spaces (0.4 spaces to each patron permitted).

The six spaces required by the original planning permit for the hotel (TP00/142) can be provided on site, as shown on the plan attached to this correspondence.

On behalf of our client, Spiire therefore seeks a reduction in the number of car parking spaces to be provided on site for the following reasons:

Recently the publican has provided Spiire with the following updates in regard to patronage:

- Current liquor licence allows 100 people.
- On average, approximately 8-15 patrons use the hotel each weekday evening between 5:00pm and 8:00pm.
- Sunday evenings usually host 30-50 people due to the discounted roasts on offer.
- Every 6 - 8 weeks there is an event where there may be 60+ people.
- The publican has never received complaint about car parking availability as there are usually 3-4 people per car driving to the hotel, or patrons live in town and walk to the venue.

Based on Spiire's observations and anecdotal evidence, the existing hotel car park, which incorporates Vic Track land, is under-utilised and it is only occasionally the hotel is at capacity.

As per the provisions of Clause 52.06-6 of the Moira Planning Scheme, the Car Parking Demand Assessment must, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, address the following matters:

- The likelihood of multi-purpose trips within the locality which are likely to be combined with a trip to the land in connection with the proposed use.
- The variation of car parking demand likely to be generated by the proposed use over time.
- The short-stay and long-stay car parking demand likely to be generated by the proposed use.
- The availability of public transport in the locality of the land.
- The convenience of pedestrian and cyclist access to the land.
- The provision of bicycle parking and end of trip facilities for cyclists in the locality of the land.
- The anticipated car ownership rates of likely or proposed visitors to or occupant (residents or employees) of the land.
- Any empirical assessment or case study.

FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [3] - Response to Further Information Request



Currently there is informal parking available on-site and many parking spaces available in Carter Street in the immediate vicinity of the hotel. The on-site spaces are accessed via the adjoining land which is owned by Vic Track. The attached plan shows how the car parking space on site can be accessed directly from Carter Street.

On the whole, the car parking arrangement as described above is satisfactory to the operating of the hotel. In the rare event the car parking spaces on the site were occupied, car parking can comfortably be provided in the Carter Street, and with very few, if any, other facilities in the town generating demand for car parking at the same time as the hotel.

Given its location in the centre of Katunga, the majority of patrons either access the hotel via vehicle (driving their own or car-pooling) or walking from areas within the town. It is unlikely patrons will access the hotel via public transport, although the V-Line bus does stop in Katunga. Length of stay varies depending on the day/night of the week and whether patrons are attending a function at the hotel.

Other commercial uses within proximity to the hotel include rural supply stores which operate during day time hours only. The general store is located further to the east in Katunga North Road and also generally operates during day time hours. Therefore there are few, if any, other commercial uses which operate within Katunga during the evening and night time which would create competition for on-street car parking spaces.

Carter Street has a wide road reservation of 20 metres, capable of accommodating a vehicle parked on either side and at the same time allowing two vehicles to pass each other while travelling in opposite directions.

While each of the matters listed in Clause 52.06-6 have varying degrees of relevance to the proposed extension to the Clydesdale Hotel and the associated variation of liquor licence and reduction in car parking requirements, they are individually addressed below.

1. The likelihood of multi-purpose trips within the locality which are likely to be combined with a trip to the land in connection with the proposed use.
 - It is expected patronage of the hotel will be a single purpose trip to the hotel to utilise its facilities over varying lengths of time. Given the small size of the town, it is expected those attending the facility for extended periods of time will walk or car pool, therefore reducing the demands on car parking spaces. Notwithstanding the issues associated with the legal access into the on-site car parking spaces, the existing car park is underutilised and is considered capable of accommodating likely demand.
2. The variation of car parking demand likely to be generated by the proposed use over time.
 - The proposed extension to the Clydesdale Hotel is not expected to generate the need for additional car parking. Currently, the hotel has approval for 100 patrons on the site at any particular time. The car parking spaces available are currently underutilised, and although the proposed extension to the hotel will provide for an extra 50 patrons the liquor licence will not permit more than 100 patrons on the site at any one time. In an event where there is insufficient parking available on site, on street parking around the hotel is sufficient.
3. The short-stay and long-stay car parking demand likely to be generated by the proposed use.
 - Similar to the response to Point 1 above, it is expected that patronage of the hotel will be a single purpose trip to the hotel to utilise its facilities over varying lengths of time. Given the small size of Katunga, it is expected that those attending the facility for extended periods will walk and will not be requiring the car parking facilities.

FILE NO: 5/2013/662
2. IMPROVING MOIRA'S LIVEABILITY

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER
INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [3] - Response to Further Information Request



4. The availability of public transport in the locality of the land.
 - It is considered highly unlikely that people will utilise public transport to utilise the facilities of the Clydesdale Hotel. Access to the site will be primarily from pedestrian, vehicular and some cycle traffic.
5. The convenience of pedestrian and cyclist access to the land.
 - It is generally expected that the majority of customers will come to the hotel either on foot or by car, with little cycle traffic. However, the hotel is located within an existing township area and as such, is accessible by forms of transport other than motor vehicles.
6. The provision of bicycle parking and end of trip facilities for cyclists in the locality of the land.
 - No end of trip facilities are provided on site for pedestrians or cyclists as it is not considered that these are necessary for the existing hotel or its proposed extension. Patrons will either drive to the site or walk a short distance generally from within the town.
7. The anticipated car ownership rates of likely or proposed visitors to or occupants (residents or employees) of the land.
 - As Katunga is a small town, a majority of residents own cars. It is considered for the relatively low patronage of the hotel, the existing car parking facilities located on the site, as well as on street are capable of managing the demand for parking.
8. Any empirical assessment or case study.
 - Approximately 12 months ago, Spiire assessed the actual utilisation of the car parking facilities on the site on three occasions, and these concur with the more recent advice provided by the publican outlined earlier in this correspondence.
 - This demonstrates the demand for car parking is not only low, but also consistent.
 - In an event where demand for car spaces exceeds the number of on-site spaces, street car parking is satisfactory.

In summary the Clydesdale Hotel is a country hotel, offering the relatively small town of Katunga an important community facility as a venue to meet, socialise and purchase a meal. It has low liquor licence maximum and observations over the last 12 months indicates for the majority of the time only a few people frequent the hotel at any one time. The main aim of the extension is to provide a dining/bistro area away from the main bar, similar to that found in many hotels.

Carter Street has a wide reservation and without other competing night time uses, can readily accommodate any overflow car parking should the need arise.

The proponent has also demonstrated respect for his neighbour's concerns, and would prefer to explore alternative parking options rather than on site parking adjacent to the hotel's southern boundary.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons listed above, a waiver of the car parking requirements for the Clydesdale Hotel be considered favourably by Council.

Yours sincerely

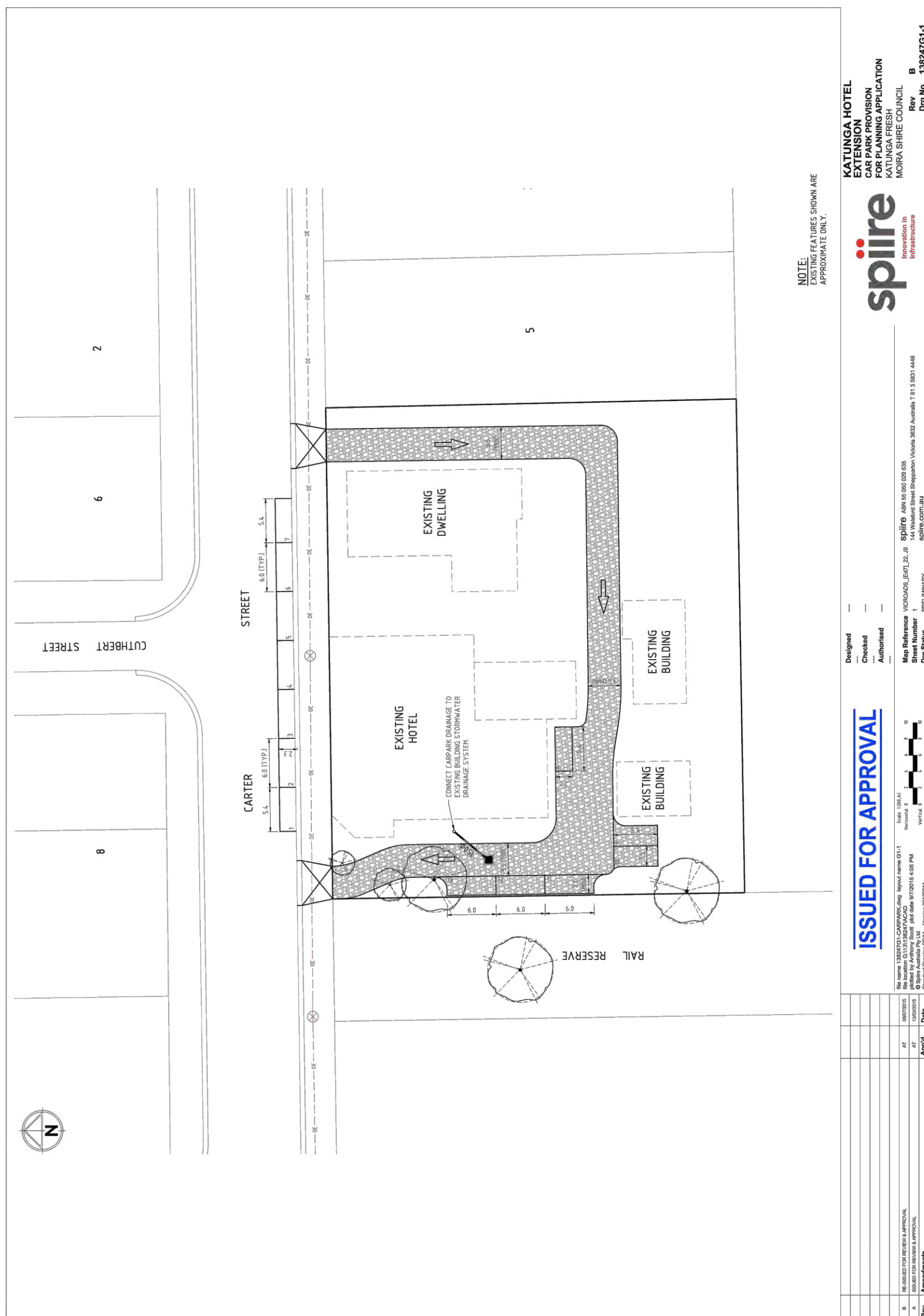
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Macey".

Jane Macey
Principal (Planning)

ITEM NO: 9.2.3
(TOWN PLANNER, MARTINA FOLEY)
(GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE, ANDREW CLOSE)

APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITION ON PERMIT 52013662 - BUILDINGS & WORKS: EXTENSION TO HOTEL, ALTERATION OF LIQUOR LICENCE & REDUCTION IN CAR PARKING REQUIREMENTS AT 7-9 CARTER STREET, KATUNGA (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [4] - Response to Further Information Request - Site Plan



FILE NO: 11.1
6. GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 10.1
(EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CEO,
ROBYN BONADDIO)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

ACTION OFFICERS LIST

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Action Officers' List.

Executive Summary

The attached Action Officers' List provides an update on the status of actions from previous Council meetings. It is provided to Councillors in order to keep them informed of progress.

Attachments

- 1 Action Officer's List

FILE NO: 11.1
6. GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 10.1
(EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CEO,
ROBYN BONADDIO)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

ACTION OFFICERS LIST (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Action Officer's List

Action Officers List – April 2016

Meeting: 29 March 2016
Subject – Notice of Motion
MOTION CRS PETER MANSFIELD / DON MCPHEE 1. Moira Shire Council's licence of the Numurkah Courthouse not be renewed when the current term expires. 2. DELWP be advised the Moira Shire Council no longer wishes to be the Committee of Management of the Tungamah Court House. (CARRIED)
Activity DELWP advised verbally on 5/4/16 of Council resolution. Planning meeting scheduled 7/4/16.
Meeting: 29 March 2016
Subject – General Business
MOTION CRS KEVIN BOURKE / MARIE MARTIN That Council write to Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning outlining concerns regarding the North East Victoria firewood and home heating project. (CARRIED)
Activity The letter has been sent.
Meeting: 29 March 2016
Subject – General Business
MOTION CRS KEVIN BOURKE / MARIE MARTIN That Moira Shire Council Officers not abandon legislative or statutory requirements however seek to work with the contractor that is under taking the natural gas rollout in Nathalia and to keep the community informed with the process and timelines. (CARRIED)
Activity Officers to continue to provide assistance to the gas proponent.

FILE NO: 11.1
6. GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 10.1
(EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CEO,
ROBYN BONADDIO)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

ACTION OFFICERS LIST (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Action Officer's List

Action Officers List – April 2016

Meeting: 14 December 2015
Subject: Recreation Vehicle Strategy
<p>MOTION</p> <p>CRS BRIAN KEENAN / KEVIN BOURKE</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotes Moira Shire in partnership with the tourism industry as a destination that welcomes tourists travelling with Recreational Vehicles (RVs) and highlights the relevant facilities and experiences encouraging visitation and increased length of stay. 2. Release the draft Recreational Vehicle (RV) Strategy for stakeholder feedback. 3. Thank the RV Friendly Working Group for its development of the draft strategy <p>(CARRIED)</p>
<p>Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report going to the April meeting for Council's consideration
Meeting: Ordinary Council Meeting 23 November 2015
Subject – General Business
<p>MOTION</p> <p>CRS PETER MANSFIELD / BRIAN KEENAN</p> <p>That Council staff prepare a submission to the Planning Minister championing the green option for the Yarrowonga Mulwala Bridge to be presented when appropriate.</p> <p>(CARRIED)</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>The draft budget includes funding to support Councils submission to the planning process that Vicroads will establish through DEWP. It's important to note that the planning scheme amendment required to facilitate a new bridge will not be considering alternate alignment options. It is expected to only consider the grey route alignment.</p>

FILE NO: 11.1
6. GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 10.1
(EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CEO,
ROBYN BONADDIO)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

ACTION OFFICERS LIST (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Action Officer's List

Action Officers List – April 2016

Meeting: Ordinary Council Meeting 23 November 2015
Subject – General Business
MOTION CRS PETER MANSFIELD / DON MCPHEE That Council establish a steering committee of stakeholders on the future options for the Yarrowonga Library to be considered during the budget process for 2016/2017. (CARRIED)
Activity Steering committee established with an initial assessment of possible siting options completed. More detailed assessment to commence.
Meeting: Ordinary Council Meeting 26 October 2015
Subject – Moira Shire Community Safety Plan
MOTION CRS KEVIN BOURKE / ALEX MONK That the report to be deferred to such time that the information from the Community Safety Forum is considered. (CARRIED)
Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant has drafted plan from forum information • Draft plan has been sent out to committee along with a survey to determine priorities contained within action plan • Survey results to be collated by consultant • Next Local Safety Committee meeting to be held in Cobram April 29. •

FILE NO: 11.1
6. GOVERNANCE

ITEM NO: 10.1
(EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CEO,
ROBYN BONADDIO)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

ACTION OFFICERS LIST (cont'd)

ATTACHMENT No [1] - Action Officer's List

Action Officers List – April 2016

Meeting: Ordinary Council Meeting 27 July 2015
Subject: Lott Street Yarrawonga
<p>MOTION</p> <p>CRS WENDY BUCK / BRIAN KEENAN</p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council consult with the Yarrawonga community about the Lott Street residents proposal to remove semi mature spotted gum trees from Lott Street, Yarrawonga and replant the street with Griffith Pink Brachychiton trees, and that consultation be done in conjunction with seeking a Town Planning Permit to undertake the works. 2. Council consider the project as part of future budget reviews and capital programs, subject to the outcome of a wider consultation program to be done as part of the Town Planning process. 3. Council thank the residents who participated in the consultation program, and advise them of Council's decision. <p style="text-align: right;">(CARRIED)</p>
<p>COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has decided to remove the trees and has referred funding to its next budget review.
Meeting: Ordinary Council Meeting 27 July 2015
Subject: General Business
<p>CRS KEVIN BOURKE / BRIAN KEENAN</p> <p>That Council work with St Mary's of the Angels and Nathalia Secondary College to erect a school crossing in Pearce Street Nathalia.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(CARRIED)</p>
<p>ACTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal and Vicroads comments of 2016-02-02 discussed, and clarified, at Traffic Liaison Committee meeting on 2016-03-10 • Design and Construction to issue drawings/set out details of childrens crossing to the operations department for installation.

FILE NO: 100.03.066
6. INVOLVING AND COMMUNICATING WITH
OUR COMMUNITY

ITEM NO: 11.1
(EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CEO,
ROBYN BONADDIO)
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MARK
HENDERSON)

NOTICE OF MOTION - CR PETER MANSFIELD

TAKE NOTICE that at the Council Meeting to be held on 26 April 2016, it is my intention to move the following motion:

That Council again initiates Grant Application Workshops at Nathalia, Numurkah, Cobram and Yarrawonga prior to the next round of community grants for interested groups.

Cr Peter Mansfield

Date: 26 April 2016

FILE NO: VARIOUS

ITEM NO: 14

GENERAL BUSINESS**Clause 62 of Council's "Meeting Procedures Local Law 2007 (No 1 of 2007) states:****62. Urgent or general business**

1. Business which has not been listed on a meeting agenda may only be raised as urgent or general business if the majority of Councillors are present and it is agreed to by a resolution of the Council.
2. Notwithstanding sub-clause (1), if all Councillors are not present, the Chairperson may rule the matter is of urgency and accept an urgency motion to deal with the business which has not been listed on the meeting agenda.
3. An urgency motion can be moved without notice.
4. Only the mover of an urgency motion may speak to the motion before it is put

FILE NO: VARIOUS

ITEM NO: 15

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY

Clause 63 of Council's "Meeting Procedures Local Law 2007 (No. 1 of 2007) states:

63. Question Time

1. At every ordinary meeting of the Council a maximum of 30 minutes may be allocated to enable members of the public to submit questions to Council.
2. The time allocated may be extended by unanimous resolution of Council.
3. Sub-clause (1) does not apply during any period when the Council has resolved to close a meeting in respect of a matter under section 89 (2) of the Act.
4. To assist the accurate recording of minutes and addressing any questions that may require written response or follow up, the Chief Executive Officer may require questions to be submitted in writing on a form approved or permitted by Council.
No person may submit more than two (2) questions at any one (1) meeting.
The Chairperson or member of Council staff nominated by the Chairperson may read a question to those present.

No question must be so read unless:

- (a) the person asking the same is in the gallery at the time it is due to be read;
and
- (b) the person asking the question reads the same when called upon by the Chairperson to do so.

A question may be disallowed by the Chairperson if it:

- (a) relates to a matter outside the duties, functions and powers of Council;
- (b) is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- (c) deals with a subject matter already answered;
- (d) is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- (e) relates to personnel matters;
- (f) relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- (g) relates to industrial matters;
- (h) relates to contractual matters;
- (i) relates to proposed developments;
- (j) relates to legal advice;
- (k) relates to matters affecting the security of Council property; or
- (l) relates to any other matter which Council considers would prejudice Council or any person.

All questions and answers must be as brief as possible, and no discussion may be allowed other than for the purposes of clarification.

The Chairperson may request a Councillor or member of Council staff to respond, if possible, to the question.

A Councillor or member of Council staff may require a question to be put on notice until the next Ordinary meeting, at which time the question must be answered, or elect to submit a written answer to the person asking the question.

A Councillor or member of Council staff may advise Council that it is his or her opinion that the reply to a question should be given in a meeting closed to members of the public. The Councillor or member of Council staff must state briefly the reason why to reply should be so given and, unless Council resolves to the contrary the reply to such question must be so given.

FILE NO: VARIOUS

ITEM NO: 16

MEETING ADJOURNMENT**RECOMMENDATION**

That the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes.

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be resumed.

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to Sections 89(2) (b) (d) and (h) of the Local Government Act, 1989, this meeting of Council be closed to members of the public in order for Council to discuss personnel and contractual matters which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person..

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolve to continue in open session.

RECOMMENDATION

That the recommendations of the "Closed" Meeting of Council be adopted and the award of tenders disclosed in the open minutes.