

Council Plan 2021-2025 - Year 4 Actions - 2024/25

STRATEGIC
DIRECTION
STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVE
STRATEGIES

ACTIONS

1. Resilient Communities

1.1 To ensure we are welcoming, inclusive, caring and connected

1.1.1 Celebrate the community's vibrant, diverse and creative people

1. Support Community and Council priorities through the delivery of the Annual Community Grants and Sponsorships program.
2. Acknowledge the contribution of Murrindindi Shire volunteers and groups through annual community awards and National Volunteers Week.

1.1.2 Deliver, support and promote opportunities for all people to connect with each other, collaborate and plan for our future

1. Finalise implementation of the Stage 1 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan for Council in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, stakeholders and organisations.
2. Collaborate with partners to implement activities from the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, including:
 - * Healthy eating and activity living including partnering in Grow Well Dindi
 - * Mental health and wellbeing initiatives and participation in the Goulburn Mental Health and Wellbeing Alliance
 - * Family violence prevention via implementation of the Free From Violence project
 - * Reduction in harmful alcohol, drugs, tobacco and vaping behaviours
 - * Resilience to adapt to the health and wellbeing impacts from climate change and when facing natural disasters.
3. Undertake Community Planning with Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Kinglake West, Pheasant Creek, and support communities with existing plans to enable community-led activities.
4. Enhance public participation through objectives and principles contained within the Community Engagement Policy, including:
 - * Online portal 'Dindi in the loop'
 - * Active engagement to support harder to reach groups.
5. Deliver the key actions identified in the 2024/25 Library Strategy and Action Plan, including:
 - * Explore opportunities to increase service delivery in Marysville and Eildon
 - * Conduct a Library Service Community Engagement survey to raise awareness of library programs and services and to tailor these into the future
 - * Conduct demographic and community research to better understand the needs of community and how that may translate to the Library Service.

1.1.3 Advocate for improved access to health and community services

1. Advocate for improved access to health and wellbeing services, including:
 - * Aged and Disability
 - * Maternal and Child Health (MCH)
 - * Early Education and Child Care
 - * Murrindindi Health Network.
2. Implement the recommendations from the Key Worker Accommodation Strategy
 - * Support developers to establish key worker accommodation
 - * Identify opportunities for Council owned land to be used for key worker accommodation.

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	<p>1.1.4 In collaboration with our community, support our children and young people to be happy, healthy and engaged</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide high-quality Children and Maternal Child Health Service programs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Family Day Care * Immunisation and Key Ages and Stages assessments * Supported Playgroups and Parent Early Education Partnership (PEEP) * Library Programs. 2. Provide high quality Youth Service, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensuring that the voices of young people are at the heart of our youth services * Providing diverse participation opportunities for young people * Developing life, leadership and career skills. 3. Maintain compliance with Child Safety across Council's services through objectives and principles contained within the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, and relevant State legislation, by implementing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Internal Training * Review of recruitment policies and procedures * Delivering communication with community. 4. Collaborate with State Government and Murrindindi Early Education Service providers to implement recommendations from the Early Childhood Education and Infrastructure Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Workforce planning priorities for Murrindindi services * Infrastructure priorities for Yea and Alexandra.
	<p>1.1.5 Engage with the community and partner organisations to enable older and vulnerable people to live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support older and vulnerable people to access government services and assist them to navigate those services to support their health and wellbeing, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Undertaking advocacy * Providing linkage through to service providers. 2. Support Access and Inclusion for our diverse communities including: LGBTQIA+, people with disability and positive aging by delivering an engagement program that brings people together and involves them to highlight the significance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Seniors Festival * International Day of Persons with Disabilities * Harmony Day * IDAHOBIT.
	<p>1.1.6 Provide and promote safe, passive and active recreational opportunities that will enhance the health, and wellbeing of residents and visitors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for funding to deliver key infrastructure and open space initiatives, as supported by the Recreation and Open Space Strategy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Kinglake Memorial Reserve Oval upgrade and Accessibility improvements * Yea Recreation Reserve Oval and Cricket net's upgrade * Strath Creek Playspace and Tennis courts review * Alexandra Leckie Park/UT Creek enhancements.

ACTIONS

2. Beautiful townships and rural settings**2.1 To create a better place for our community and visitors to live in harmony with our rural character, natural beauty and heritage****2.1.1 Connect our communities through improved roads, footpaths and public transport**

1. Implement the priorities from the School crossing review:

- * Crossing improvements at Alexandra and Kinglake.
- * Raised pedestrian crossing in Nhill Street Alexandra.

2. Deliver on Road Safety Strategy Action Plan, including:

- * Motorcycle road safety enhancements
- * Local road speed changes
- * Road hierarchy changes (barriers, traffic calming devices).

3. Advocate to Department of Transport and Planning on Public Transport service and infrastructure improvements.

2.1.2 Deliver efficient, sustainable land use planning outcomes to enhance liveability, protect our unique rural character and natural beauty, and to enable growth

1. Continue the implementation of the Planning Scheme review into the Murrindindi Planning scheme, including:

- * Implement policy neutral changes and updates.
- * Seek funding for further strategic planning studies.

2. Continue to facilitate appropriate development to deliver positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.

- * Engage with land owners to develop identified under utilised sites.

3. Advocate for rain and river gauges across the catchment to inform emergency response and inform communities.

2.1.3 Provide fit-for-purpose infrastructure that meets current and future service demands and needs of our community

1. Rebuild damaged assets from October 2022 Floods, January 2024 Floods:

- * Essential infrastructure such as roads, landslips, bridges and culverts
- * Nonessential infrastructure such as path, parks and walking tracks, Boardwalks etc.

2. Progress Regional Study Hub for Yea.

3. Complete stage one of the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment, including:

- * Splash park and playgrounds
- * Skate park
- * Visitor amenities.

4. Ensure the capital works program incorporates 'Access-for-All' principles and caters for the specific needs for older people.

- * Report on progress (Access Audits)
- * Movement and Place strategy for Alexandra.

2.1.4 Provide spaces within our towns that are vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible

1. Deliver on the priorities identifies in the Domestic Animal Management Plan, including:

- * Implement Dog Park / Off leash areas
- * Cat curfew.

2. Seek funding to implement actions of the Eildon Pondage Masterplan

- * Floating pontoon for improved accessibility
- * Walking paths and seating.

ACTIONS

3. Growth and Opportunity

3.1 To prioritise and promote a culture in which the economy, businesses and community can grow and thrive.

3.1.1 Boost local investment and employment opportunities through activities that encourage businesses, social enterprise, and industry sectors to thrive and grow

1. Implement the 2024/25 actions of the Murrindindi Economic Development Strategy 2024 - 2029
 - * Agriculture and Food Production
 - * Business Support
 - * Sustainable Future
 - * Prosperous Communities.
2. Support public and private investment in Murrindindi shire.

3.1.2 Support and promote our tourism and events sector to boost the economy through increased visitation

1. Support the implementation of the High Country Destination Management Plan to drive visitation and visitor spend.
2. Implement the 2024/25 actions of the Murrindindi Economic Development Strategy 2024 - 2029
 - * Visitor Economy
 - * Discover Dindi
 - * Support Visitor Services
 - * Great Victorian Rail Trail.

3.1.3 Partner with community members, businesses, and other organisations affected by the state-government-led transition out of native forest harvesting

1. Finalise the development of the Local Development Strategy through the Entrepreneurial Working Groups.
2. Advocate for the future use and management of State Forests to deliver social, economic and environmental outcomes for the Shire.
3. Explore opportunities to partner with Taungurung Land and Water Council
 - * Yea Wetland improvements and extension
 - * Explore implementation of Wawa Biik tours in the Shire including; Cathedral Ranges and Yea Wetlands.

ACTIONS

4. Our Protected Environment

4.1 To protect and enhance our natural environment, supporting environmental sustainability, community resilience, innovation and adaptation to climate change to achieve net-zero emissions by

4.1.1. Minimise waste and increase recycling to reduce our environmental footprint

1. Finalise the model for a four-bin kerbside waste service
2. Implement new waste education program in parallel with new kerbside services transition project.
3. Establish recycling services for public litter bins.
4. Cap Alexandra landfill to reduce carbon footprint - Stage 1.

4.1.2 In partnership with the community, provide education and training to improve ecologically sustainable outcomes.

1. Work with community and Landcare groups to promote sustainable land use, including conservation for roadside and bushland sites in the municipality.
2. Continue bushland management on key Council sites to manage fire risk, pests, weeds and protect biodiversity, including title survey to define extent of sites.
3. Deliver the actions of the roadside pest animal and weed management plan to mitigate the fire risk of invasive species and strengthen ecosystem resilience.

4.1.3 In partnership with the community, develop and deliver climate adaptation and mitigation programs and practices to reduce our environmental impact

1. Implement Council's Climate Change Action Plan initiatives for 2024/25
2. Implement approaches from 'Naturally Cooler Towns Study' to plan future shade in towns. (grant dependent)
3. Deliver preparatory site works at Council site at Flat Lead Rd for carbon offsets, other regenerative and environmental opportunities (including plant orders).
4. Depending on the outcomes of the 2023/24 feasibility study, apply for funding to assist Yea and Marysville townships to install a neighbourhood battery.
5. Implement the outcomes of the 2023/24 streetlight audit, to upgrade mercury vapour streetlights to LED.
6. Commence the renewables technology bulk buy program (Year 1 of 4 year program).
7. Apply for grants to install additional fast chargers on routes in key tourist travel locations.

4.1.4. Protect our waterways and improve associated human health outcomes

1. Deliver on the priorities identified in the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan.
2. Deliver the Mid Goulburn Flood Study in partnership with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.
3. Seek funding to develop a Municipal Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (IWMP).
4. Implement the flood study, drainage and design for Thornton.
5. Advocate for the Yea flood study to be updated.

ACTIONS

5. Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability

5.1 To ensure our services, people and systems deliver the best possible outcomes for our communities now and in the future.

5.1.1 Put the customer first in everything we do

1. Enhance our customer service systems and processes to improve our management of customer applications, requests and feedback.

5.1.2 Ensure Council remains financially sustainable through sound management, forward planning, innovative service delivery and asset consolidation as appropriate

1. Upgrade the organisation's Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) capability and systems.
2. Continue to work with our neighbouring councils (Mansfield, Strathbogie & Benalla) to implement the CODI Project (Rural Council's Transformation Program).
3. Enhance Council's Geospatial System (GIS) capability to improve efficiency and accuracy in analysis and interpretation of Council data.

5.1.3 Evaluate and pursue new commercial opportunities

1. Explore commercial opportunities through the Key Worker Accommodation Strategy including leasing or partnering with developers.
2. Explore a commercial opportunity for a pyrolizer within the Shire to recycle waste organic material into commercial products.

5.1.4 Provide a workplace that is flexible and inclusive to support the health and wellbeing of our employees

1. Continue to Implement the actions identified in the Workforce Management Strategy and Gender Equality Action Plan, including:
 - * Implement Culture Awareness training as part of the staff induction program
 - * Developing an ideas framework for continuous improvement initiatives
 - * Implement an annual awareness calendar for the promotion of services supporting staff wellbeing.
2. Continue implementation of Council's Employee Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan Year-2, Including:
 - * Mental Health support
 - * Annual skin checks
 - * Social programs to bring people together.

5.1.5 Maintain transparent, inclusive and accountable governance practices

1. Work with the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to promote and facilitate Council elections.
2. Prepare and implement an induction program for the newly elected Council.
3. Develop the 2024-2029 Council plan in consultation with the community by 30 June 2025.

5.1.6 Communicate effectively using multiple methods with our customers and communities about our work and services

1. Continue to optimise Council's communications tools to further improve communication and engagement with our community.

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