



## **Council Meeting Agenda**

**Meeting to be held at**

**Port of Sale Business Centre**

**Foster Street, Sale**

**Tuesday 3 October 2017, commencing at 3pm**

**or join Wellington on the Web:  
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# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 3 OCTOBER 2017

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*Members of the public who are not in attendance at the Council meeting but who wish to communicate with the Council via the webcasting chat room should lodge their questions or comments early in the meeting to ensure that their submissions can be dealt with at the end of the meeting.*

*Please could gallery visitors and Councillors ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.*



## **A - PROCEDURAL**



### **STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

***“We acknowledge the traditional custodians  
of this land the Gunaikurnai people,  
and pay respects to their elders past and present”***



### **PRAYER**

***“Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon the Wellington  
Shire Council, its Councillors, officers, staff and their families.***

***We pray for your guidance in our decisions so that the  
true good of the Wellington Shire Council may result to  
the benefit of all residents and community groups.”***

***Amen***



## A - PROCEDURAL

### A4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

**ITEM A4****ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING/S**

ACTION OFFICER:

GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

DATE:

3 OCTOBER 2017

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**OBJECTIVE**

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 19 September 2017.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY****RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 19 September 2017.*

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest.



## **A - PROCEDURAL**

### **A5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING/S**





## **A - PROCEDURAL**

### **A6 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**



## **A - PROCEDURAL**

### **A7 NOTICE/S OF MOTION**

**ITEM A7(1)**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – ANIMAL WELFARE AND  
BIOSECURITY**

OFFICER: COUNCILLOR KEITH MILLS

DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2017

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I, Councillor Keith Mills, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council of 3 October 2017.

***That-***

- 1. Wellington Shire Council staff and officers utilising the “*Impounding of Livestock Act 1994*” take all actions permissible under the Act to avoid negative animal welfare and biosecurity impacts; *and***
- 2. Where the owner of straying stock is known, all possible steps are taken in a timely manner to return the animals to a secure area on the property of origin or to a secure place on other property nominated by the owner of those animals; *and***
- 3. Any handling and transport of the animals, in particular heavily pregnant cows or ewes, complies with the “Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, Land Transport of Livestock”.; *and***
- 4. Where fencing on the subject property has been rendered ineffective by either natural or man-made influences there be consideration given as per section 22-3 (a) and (b) of the *Impounding of Livestock Act*; *and***
- 5. Any negotiation between Council officers and a livestock owner/manager focus on a workable way of achieving the desired biosecurity and animal welfare outcomes; *and***
- 6. The C.E.O. investigate the most appropriate and effective methods of informing and training Local Laws staff on matters pertaining to animal welfare and biosecurity with the aim of keeping them abreast of on-going changes and in alignment with the expectations of the farming community.**



**COUNCILLOR KEITH MILLS**

**DATED: 22 September 2017**



## **A - PROCEDURAL**

### **A8 RECEIVING OF PETITIONS OR JOINT LETTERS**

**ITEM A8(1)****OUTSTANDING PETITIONS**

ACTION OFFICER

GOVERNANCE

DATE:

3 OCTOBER 2017

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ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			



## **A - PROCEDURAL**

### **A9 INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**



## **A - PROCEDURAL**

### **A10 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**



## **B –REPORT**

# **DELEGATES**





## C1 - REPORT

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## **C2 - REPORT**

# **GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES**

**ITEM C2.1****ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**

DIVISION: CORPORATE SERVICES

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2017

IMPACTS									
Financial	Communication	Legislative	Council Policy	Council Plan	Resources & Staff	Community	Environmental	Consultation	Risk Management

**OBJECTIVE**

To report on all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 12 September 2017 to 26 September 2017.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY****RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 12 September 2017 to 26 September 2017.***

**BACKGROUND**

Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires a written record be kept of all assemblies of Councillors, stating the names of all Councillors and Council staff attending, the matters considered and any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor. These records must be reported, as soon as practicable, at an ordinary meeting of the Council and recorded in the minutes.

Below is a summary of all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 12 September 2017 to 26 September 2017.

**Assembly of Councillors summary of reports received for the period 12 September 2017 to 26 September 2017.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Matters considered</b>	<b>Councillors and officers in attendance</b>
19 September 2017	IT / Diary Meeting	Councillor Bye, Councillor Crossley, Councillor Hall, Councillor Hole, Councillor Maher, Councillor Mills David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer Sharon Willison, Mayoral & Councillor Support Officer Damian Norkus, ICT Operations Officer
19 September 2017	Sale of Properties – Recovery of unpaid rates & charges Healthy Wellington Plan 2017-2021 Gippsland Regional Livestock Exchange Update Amendment C84 Wurruk Growth Area Panel Recommendations Review of Mowing Services Vantage Point Development – Sale Golf Course (Longford) Development Division Update – Planning, Building & Business Development Proposed Alberton Windfarm – Synergy Wind Wellington Regional Tourism Year Annual Report Outdoor Pool Operating Model Season 2017/18 Yarram Pool Heating Community Conversations	Councillor Bye, Councillor Crossley, Councillor Hall, Councillor Hole, Councillor McCubbin, Councillor Maher, Councillor Mills, Councillor Rossetti, Councillor Stephens David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services Chris Hastie, General Manager Built & Natural Environment John Websdale, General Manager Development Sharon Houlihan, Acting General Manager Community & Culture Karen McLennan, Manager Community Wellbeing (Item 2) Catherine Vassiliou, Coordinator Social Planning & Policy (Item 2) Joshua Clydesdale, Manager Land Use Planning (Item 4, 6, 7 & 8) Paul Johnson, Manager Business Development (Item 3 & 7) Nic Hall, Manager Leisure Services (Item 10 & 11) Tim Rowe, Manager Natural Environment & Parks (Item 5) Darren Randle, Coordinator Parks Services (Item 5) Chris Nock, Parks Asset Officer (Item 5) Barry Hearsey, Coordinator Strategic Planning (Item 4 & 6) John Traa, Coordinator Statutory Planning (Item 7) Vanessa Ebsworth, Manager Municipal Services (Item 7) Daniel Gall, Coordinator Commercial Facilities Management (Item 3) Allison Norfolk, Visitor, Economy & Events Coordinator (Item 9) Ben Proctor, Strategic Planner (Item 4) Sabine Provily, Strategic Planner (Item 4)

## **OPTIONS**

Council has the following options:

1. Note and receive the attached assembly of Councillors records; or
2. Not receive the attached assembly of Councillors records.

## **PROPOSAL**

That Council note and receive the attached assembly of Councillors records received during the period 12 September 2017 to 26 September 2017.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest.

## **LEGISLATIVE IMPACT**

The reporting of written records of assemblies of Councillors to the Council in the prescribed format complies with Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

## **COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT**

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 6 Organisational states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

### Strategic Objective 6.3

*"Maintain a well governed, transparent, high performing, ethical and accountable organisation."*

### Strategy 6.3.3

*"Ensure sound governance processes that result in responsive, ethical, transparent and accountable decision making."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

### 1. DATE OF MEETING:

19 September 2017

### 2. ATTENDEES:

#### Councillors:

Name	In attendance (tick)		Name	In attendance (tick)	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Cr Crossley	✓		Cr McCubbin		✓
Cr Hall	✓		Cr Bye	✓	
Cr Maher	✓		Cr Rossetti		✓
Cr Stephens		✓	Cr Hole	✓	
Cr Mills	✓				

#### Officers In Attendance:

Name	In attendance (tick)		Name	In attendance (tick)	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
D Morcom, CEO	✓		S Houlihan, A/GMCC		✓
C Hastie, GMB&NE		✓	J Websdale, GMD		✓
A Skipitaris, GMCS		✓			

#### Others in attendance: (list names and item in attendance for)

Name	Item No.
Sharon Willison	1
Damian Norkus	1

### 3. Matters/Items considered at the meeting (list):

1. IT/Diary Meeting - Councillors

### 4. Conflict of Interest disclosures made by Councillors:

## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

### 1. DATE OF MEETING:

19 September 2017

### 2. ATTENDEES:

Councillor Names	In attendance (tick)		Name	In attendance (tick)	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Cr Bye	✓		Cr Maher	✓	
Cr Crossley	✓		Cr Mills	✓	
Cr Hall	✓		Cr Rossetti	✓	
Cr Hole	✓		Cr Stephens		✓
Cr McCubbin <i>(Item 4 onwards)</i>	✓				

Officer Names	In attendance (tick)		Name	In attendance (tick)	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
D Morcom, CEO	✓		G Butler, GMCC		✓
A Skipitaris, GMCS	✓		John Websdale, GMD	✓	
C Hastie, GMBNE	✓		Sharon Houlihan <i>(Actg. GMCC)</i>	✓	

Others in Attendance (list names and item in attendance for):	Item No.
Arthur Skipitaris	1
Karen McLennan, Catherine Vassiliou	2
Paul Johnson, Daniel Gall, Denis Murphy	3
Joshua Clydesdale, Barry Hearsey, Ben Proctor, Sabine Provily	4
Tim Rowe, Chris Nock, Darren Randle	5
Joshua Clydesdale, Barry Hearsey	6
Joshua Clydesdale, John Traa, Vanessa Ebsworth, Paul Johnson	7
Joshua Clydesdale, Bernard Stewart <i>(Beveridge Williams Consultants)</i>	8
Alison Norfolk, Kellie Willis <i>(President Wellington Regional Tourism)</i>	9
Sharon Houlihan, Nic Hall	10
Sharon Houlihan, Nic Hall	11

### 3. Matters / Items considered at the meeting (list):

1. Sale of Properties – For Unpaid Rates & Charges
2. Healthy Wellington Plan 2017/21
3. Gippsland Regional Livestock Exchange Lease Arrangements
4. Amendment C84 Wurruk Growth Area Panel Recommendations
5. Review of Mowing Services
6. Vantage Point Development – Sale Golf Course
7. Development Division Update – Planning, Building & Business Development (Verbal Update)
8. Proposed Alberton Windfarm – Synergy Wind
9. Wellington Regional Tourism Year Annual Report
10. Outdoor Pool Operating Model Season 2017/18
11. Yarram Pool Heating Community Conversations

### 4. Conflict of Interest disclosures made by Councillors:

Nil

**ITEM C2.2****SALE OF PROPERTIES FOR UNPAID RATES AND CHARGES**

DIVISION: CORPORATE SERVICES  
 ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE  
 DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2017

IMPACTS									
Financial	Communication	Legislative	Council Policy	Council Plan	Resources & Staff	Community	Environmental	Consultation	Risk Management
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

**OBJECTIVE**

For Council to enact *Section 181 of the Local Government Act 1989* and sell the rateable properties, as listed in the attached confidential report, to recover unpaid rates and charges.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY****RECOMMENDATION**

- That Council resolve to enact Section 181 of the Local Government Act 1989 and sell the rateable properties as listed in the attached confidential report, to recover unpaid rates and charges.***
- The information contained in the confidential document Item F1.1- Sale of properties for unpaid rates and charges of this Council Meeting and designated under Section 77 Clause (2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1989 as confidential by the General Manager Corporate Services on 13 September 2017 because it relates to the following grounds under Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989: b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer be designated confidential information under Section 77 Clause (2) (b) of the Local Government Act 1989.***

**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with Section 181(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) Council may sell rateable property to recover unpaid rates or charges where:

- any amount due to a Council for, or in respect of, rates or charges (including enforcement costs and interest) in respect of any rateable property is more than 3 years overdue; and
- no current arrangement exists for the payment of the amount to the Council; and
- the Council has a Court order requiring the payment of the amount (or part of the amount).

All properties listed in the attached confidential report, meet the requirements of Section 181(1) of the Act. All avenues for recovery of unpaid rates and charges have been exhausted.



## OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. Resolve to enact Section 181 of the *Local Government Act* and sell the rateable properties, as listed in the attached confidential report, to recover unpaid rates and charges owed to Council; or
2. Take no further action and continue to carry the existing debt and future rates and charges, until such time, as the property is sold.

## PROPOSAL

If Council proceeds to recover unpaid rates and charges for the attached confidential list of properties, in accordance with Section 181 of the Act then all properties will have the following action taken.

- A Notice of Intention to Sell will be issued to all parties listed on the title which may result in the mortgagee making payment on behalf of the rateable owners.
- For owner/occupied properties the matter will be referred to the Sheriff's Office for the issue of a Warrant of Seizure and Sale as they have the power to evict where Council does not under Section 181 of the Act.
- An advertisement will also be placed in the public notice section of The Age and local newspapers.
- A current market valuation will be undertaken.
- An agent will be appointed for the property auction/sale and auction date set, in accordance with the requirements of *Section 181 of the Act*.
- All parties who were issued a Notice of Intention to Sell will be advised of the auction and when and where the auction will be held.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

Proceeding with sale of these properties will ensure that outstanding rates, charges and other property related debts, will be cleared upon settlement.

## COMMUNICATION IMPACT

All parties involved with each of these transactions has been and will continue to be individually notified.

## LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

All action will be in accordance with the requirements of Section 181 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

## **COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT**

The proposed action is in accordance with the existing Debt Collection and Interest Charging – Rates, Charges and Fire Service Property Levy Policy No 2.2.3.

## **COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT**

The Council Plan 2017–21 Theme Organisational states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

### Strategic Objective 6.3

*Maintain a well governed, transparent, high performing, ethical and accountable organisation.*

### Strategy 6.3.1

*Maintain processes and systems to ensure sound financial management.*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

## **RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT**

Matter will be managed by Coordinator Rates and Valuations.



## C3 - REPORT

# GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

**ITEM C3.1****ADOPTION OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017 - 2021**

DIVISION: DEVELOPMENT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER MUNICIPAL SERVICES

DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2017

IMPACTS									
Financial	Communication	Legislative	Council Policy	Council Plan	Resources & Staff	Community	Environmental	Consultation	Risk Management
	✓	✓		✓				✓	

**OBJECTIVE**

For Council to consider all written submissions received to the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 -2021.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY****RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council, having considered all written submissions received, resolve to adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 -2017.***

**BACKGROUND**

The production of a Domestic Animal Management (DAM) Plan (refer **Attachment 1**) is a Key Strategic Action for this year and a legislative requirement, with the DAM Plan due to be forwarded to the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) by 3 November 2017.

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), requires that Council has a DAM Plan which:

1. provides a method for evaluation whether the animal control services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and the regulations;
2. outlines programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Act; and
3. outlines programs, services and strategies which Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to:
  - a. promote and encourage the responsible ownership for dogs and cats;
  - b. ensure that people comply with the Act;
  - c. minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
  - d. address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
  - e. encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;
  - f. minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance;
  - g. effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs, and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the Act and the regulations;
  - h. review existing orders made under the Act and local laws with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats are desirable;
  - i. review any other matters relating to the management of dogs and cats; and
  - j. the periodic evaluation of any program, service strategy or review outlined under the plan.

In addition, Section 68A (3) of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994* requires every Council to:

- a. review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate amend the DAM Plan;
- b. provide the Secretary with a copy of the DAM Plan with any amendments; and
- c. publish and evaluation of its implementation of the DAM Plan in its annual report.

On 19 July 2017, Council formally released the draft DAM Plan for public comment. As part of the consultation process, the DAM Plan was sent to:

- 105 community committees;
- 23 domestic animal businesses within Wellington Shire;
- RSPCA;
- Victorian Animal Aid Trust;
- Dogs Victoria; and
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Training and Resources.

A total of 11 submissions were received, all of which were carefully considered and acknowledged. The submitters raised the following issues:

Submitter Number	Issues Raised	Wellington Shire Council Response
1	A very comprehensive and well written document, Section 7.3: include Animal Aid lost and found register. Section 6: request to partner in TAFE talks.	Suggestion supported. Will include lost/found register in DAM Plan, and will liaise directly with Pound staff when planning future TAFE talks.
2	Suggest on-lead areas in built up areas.	Not practicable to enforce. See explanation under 'Further Response to Submissions' below.
3	Bring cat regulations in line with dog regulations.	Covered in the Domestic Animals Act.
4	Loch Sport requires someone permanently on site to respond to wandering dogs.	Unable to justify additional staff member to be permanently based in Loch Sport.
5	Off-lead rather than on-lead areas, subsidy to encourage desexing, better identification for declared dogs, 24/7 cat curfew, don't rehome feral cats, responsible ownership education program, harsher fines for wandering dogs, prioritise farm animals during emergencies.	The following suggestions are recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of registration fees for desexed dogs</li> <li>• Better identification for declared dogs. Suggestion will be forwarded to DEDJTR</li> <li>• Cat curfew not practicable to enforce</li> <li>• Feral cats are not rehomed if untameable</li> <li>• Responsible ownership program managed by DEDJTR</li> <li>• Fines set by Government</li> <li>• Livestock in emergencies managed by Department Environment Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).</li> </ul>
6	Modify dog on-lead times around schools to align with VicRoads speed restriction times.	Suggestion supported during peak times around schools.
7	Encouraging collaboration between organisations, delighted with Council's efforts to increase registration.	Suggestion supported regarding multi-agency approach to domestic animal management
8	Include cyclist safety around dogs, transition from off-lead shire to on-lead shire, name change to Macalister Wetlands (as opposed to Macalister Swamp).	The following suggestions were supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macalister Wetlands name updated</li> <li>• DAM Plan amended to explain distinction between 'wandering dogs' and 'dogs on-lead' to eliminate confusion.</li> </ul>
9	Cyclist safety: dogs need to be controlled at all times, whether on a property or not. Staff availability to act on domestic animal issues on weekends. Cat containment overnight.	Covered in the Domestic Animal Act. On-call officer available on weekends. Cat curfew difficult to monitor and enforce (night-time).
11	Applaud decision to not adopt compulsory desexing.	No response required.

It is proposed to adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 -2021 in **Attachment 1** to this report.

### **Further response to submissions**

The feedback to the DAM Plan also includes other recommendations of note. There appeared to be a misconception amongst some submitters that the introduction of a blanket on-lead area throughout the Shire would reduce dog attacks. Studies show that 80% of dog attacks involving people occur within 50 metres of the dog's property and that the dog had escaped, rather than being exercised off-lead. A new paragraph has been inserted in section 5 of the DAM Plan hoping to dispel this misconception, as follows:

*'Most attacks involving people and/or their pets were caused by wandering dogs and occurred within 50 metres of the dog's property.'*

Cyclist safety is obviously a concern and as such, a new objective has been added to Section 5 of the DAM Plan, as follows:

*'Work closely with community interest groups, such as cycle groups, park users, neighbourhood watch groups and dog obedience clubs to promote dog safety awareness.'*

Both the RSPCA and Victorian Animal Aid Trust supported the draft DAM Plan and both offered to work more collaboratively towards the ultimate goal of responsible pet ownership. Both submissions are acknowledged in paragraph 1.6 of the DAM Plan as follows:

*'Developing collaborative relationships with partner organisations, such as - RSPCA, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Victoria Animal Aid, Veterinary Clinics and other stakeholders, with a view to maintaining a multi-agency approach to animal management.'*

A suggestion to alter the proposed dog on-lead times around schools during school operating hours to align with the high-risk times as children come to and leave the schools was accepted.

### **OPTIONS**

Council has the following options:

1. To consider the submissions and adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021; or
2. to consider the submissions and not adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021; or
3. to seek further information for consideration at a future Council meeting.

### **PROPOSAL**

That Council having considered submissions received, resolve to adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 – 2021 (**Attachment 1**).

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No Staff and/or Contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest.

## COMMUNICATION IMPACT

The community consultation program will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Communication Engagement Strategy – Council Plan (2017- 2021)

## CONSULTATION IMPACT

As part of the public consultation process the following processes were undertaken:

- Requests for submissions were advertised in the Gippsland Times and Council's website.
- Consultation meetings were held at the Maffra Neighbourhood Watch Group and the Wellington Access and Inclusion Advisory group.
- Request for submissions were sent to 105 community committees; 23 domestic animal businesses; the RSPCA; Victorian Animal Aid Trust; Dogs Victoria and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Training and Resources.
- The draft DAM Plan and proposed Dog on-lead areas was published on Council's website. Hard copies were made available at Council's services centres at Yarram and Sale.
- ABC Radio (Gippsland) interview with Coordinator Local Laws.

In the event that Council resolves to adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017–2021, members of the public will be notified via media release and an update of the Council website.

## LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The Domestic Animal Management Plan is a requirement under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

## COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2017-2021 Theme 6 Organisational states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective

*'Community engagement and customer service excellence is central to Council's decision making process.'*

Strategy 6.2.3

*'Ensure sound processes are in place to facilitate input into Council's deliberations and decision making.'*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

# Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 21

July 2017





## CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Training of Authorised Officers
3. Registration and Identification
4. Nuisance Pets
5. Dog Attacks
6. Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs
7. Overpopulation and High Euthanasia Rates
8. Domestic Animal Businesses
9. Animals in Emergency
10. Review of Domestic Animal Management Plan

# 1

## Introduction



3 | Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 - 21

## 1.1 Executive Summary

Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership per household. Approximately 38% of households in Victoria own cats or dogs<sup>1</sup>

Wellington Shire Council (Council) recognises that pet ownership has positive benefits for the community. Responsible pet ownership makes a valuable contribution towards our community's wellbeing and adds to social connectivity. This is more pronounced with children and the elderly where pets play a more prominent part in their lives. They provide opportunities for active pursuits, companionship to those who may feel lonely or isolated and independence for those with a disability or illness.

The issue of balancing pet ownership and the rights of the individual to enjoy the environment is a challenge. The adequate control of animals can often be a source of conflict between neighbours, particularly in urban areas.

*The Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act) regulates domestic animal management within Victoria and requires every Council in the State to have in place a plan to manage domestic animals (Domestic Animal Management or DAM Plan)

## 1.2 Purpose and Primary Objective of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAM Plan).

Balancing pet ownership and the numerous benefits that it brings with the rights of the individual to enjoy the environment is a constant challenge. Consideration has been given to both pet owners and those who do not own pets when developing this plan.

The primary objective is to provide a strategic plan to guide the community towards the goal of responsible pet ownership and to assist Wellington Shire to achieve a professional, consistent and proactive approach to domestic animal management practices.

The plan identifies current activities and future actions to address the following issues as required by s68A of the Act:

- Identify a method for evaluating whether the animal control services are effective;
- Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership;
- Ensure compliance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and relevant regulations;
- Outline programs for the training of authorised officers;
- Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue;
- Minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
- Address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
- Encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;
- Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance;
- Effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs;
- Review of existing orders and local laws that relate to cats and dogs;
- Ensure compliance by all registered Domestic Animal Businesses;
- Provide periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

<sup>1</sup> Roy Morgan, January – December 2016

### 1.3 Process applied in Developing the DAM Plan

The Wellington Shire Council Local Laws team developed the DAM Plan. The following activities were undertaken in the development and implementation of the plan.

Outcome	Actioned By	Date
Evaluate effectiveness of Plan using available data	Coordinator Local Laws	June 2017
Release Document for Comment	Council	July 2017
Community engagement undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise and issue press releases seeking submissions to draft document</li> <li>• Conduct community Round Table sessions</li> <li>• Send draft documents to Reserve Committees of Management and to Domestic Animal Businesses</li> </ul> Hold consultative meeting with Domestic Animal Businesses	Manager Municipal Services	July 2017
Results of community engagement compiled	Manager Municipal Services	August 2017
Draft Domestic Animal Plan - Updated to reflect and incorporate feedback	Manager Municipal Services	August 2017
Final Document reviewed	General Manager Development /Corporate Management Team	September 2017
Domestic Animal Management Plan presented to Council for adoption	Council	October 2017
Domestic Animal Management Plan forward to the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) for review and placed on the website	Manager Municipal Services	November 2017 Key Strategic Action delivered

### 1.4 Wellington Shire Council Demographic Snapshot

Wellington Shire is the third largest Shire in Victoria by land area (10,924 square kilometres). It has a mixture of urban and rural areas, with a population around 43,000.

It is a unique environment which encompasses coastal areas, the Gippsland Lakes region, agricultural land, undeveloped land and urban areas. The largest towns in the region are Sale, Maffra, Yarram, Stratford and Heyfield.

With 22,110 households in the Shire<sup>2</sup> it is estimated that 38% of households own one or more dogs at an average of 1.44 dogs per household and 26% of households own one or more cats at an average of 1.47 cats per household<sup>3</sup>.

With those figures in mind, it is estimated that there are 12,098 dogs and 8,064 cats in the Shire. The number of registered cats in the Shire is significantly less than the estimated population.

The Shire has a high number of domestic animal businesses (23), reflecting the unique environment and the attraction of these businesses to this area.



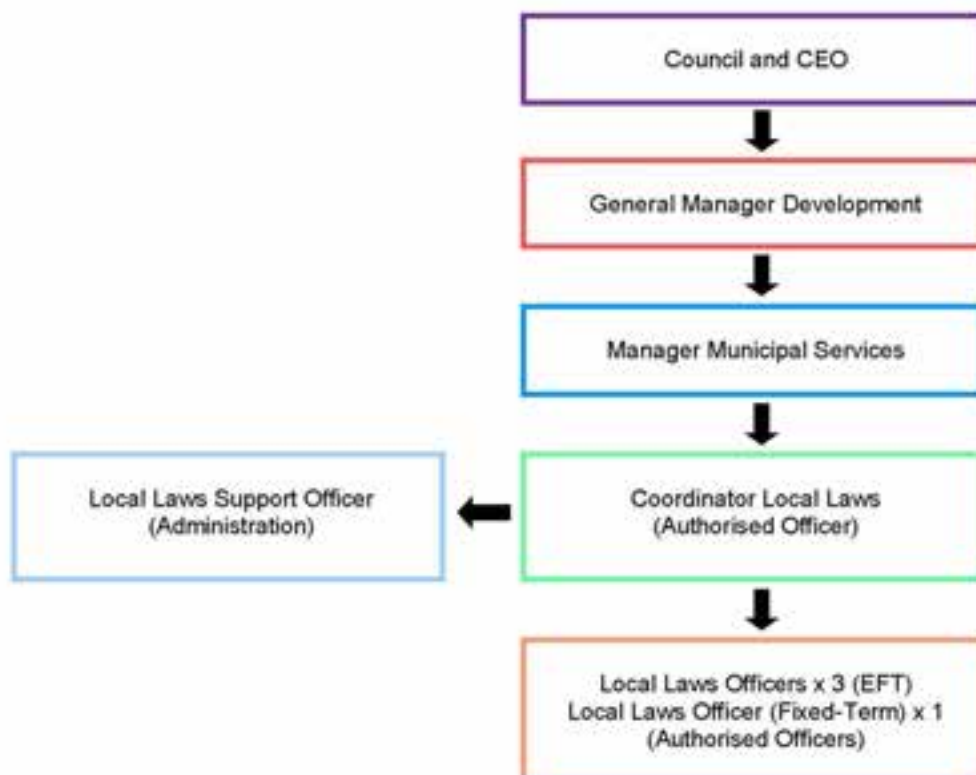
<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016

<sup>3</sup> Roy Morgan, Jan – Dec 2014



## 1.5 Wellington Shire Council Animal Management Operational Structure and Staffing

In order to meet legislative requirements, the Council employs Local Laws Officers who are designated "Authorised Officers" under the relevant legislation and are part of the Municipal Services Business Unit



## 1.6 Current programs and services levels

Wellington Shire Council provides a broad range of services to ensure that it meets its legislative responsibilities relating to animal management. They include but are not limited to:

- Providing advice on domestic animal matters
- Responding to and investigating customer requests/complaints
- Educating residents and promoting responsible pet ownership
- Managing the provision of the Wellington Shire Pound facility
- Maintaining the domestic animal, restricted breed and the declared dangerous dog registers
- Impounding of wandering, unwanted/surrendered dogs and cats
- Managing the feral cat population
- Undertaking door knock registration checks
- Investigation of dog attacks
- Registration and inspection of Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs)
- Inspection and compliance checks on restricted breeds and declared dangerous dogs
- Developing collaborative relationships with partner organisations, such as - RSPCA, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Victoria Animal Aid, Veterinary Clinics and other stakeholders, with a view to maintaining a multi-agency approach to animal management
- Provision of a 52-week 24/7 emergency service
- Provision of suitably trained and qualified Authorised Officers

A summary of the key services is outlined in the table below:

Current Programs	Service Levels				
<b>Identification and Registration</b>	<p>All dogs and cats are required to be registered annually by 10 April each year. Currently (2017) the number of animals registered in the Shire is: 9407.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Dogs</td><td>7655</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cats</td><td>1752</td></tr> </table>	Dogs	7655	Cats	1752
Dogs	7655				
Cats	1752				
<b>Wellington Shire Pound</b>	<p>Consists of a facility that can accommodate 38 dogs, 36 cats, and up to 100 head of livestock. The facility is located at Fulham, approximately 5km west of Sale off the Princes Highway. It is managed under contract and provides the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agents for registration of dogs and cats within the Shire.</li> <li>○ Receive dogs and cats, contact known owners, place photographs on the website, house animals until released, rehouse or euthanize, and disposal of animals due to ill health, welfare issues or where there is failure to rehouse.</li> <li>○ Provide respite care for animals whose owners are temporarily unable to care for them due to illness, relationship issues etc.</li> <li>○ Provide monthly statistics to the Shire.</li> <li>○ Provide secure housing of seized dogs, pending prosecution</li> </ul>				
<b>Registration of Domestic Animal Businesses</b>	<p>Wellington Shire Council currently has twenty-three (23) registered domestic animal businesses (DABs). We manage the renewal process each year and undertake an inspection regime to ensure compliance with the codes of practice.</p>				
<b>Domestic Animal Complaints</b>	<p>Authorised Officers respond within the customer service charter to animal complaints. They will also accept dogs and cats surrendered by their owners who can no longer care for them for whatever reason.</p> <p>Authorised Officers will attend and attempt to contain or capture any dog or cat that is reported to be causing a serious nuisance or presenting as a danger to people or other animals during and after normal operating hours.</p>				
<b>Restricted Breeds/Dangerous Dogs/Menacing Dogs</b>	<p>Wellington Shire Council will manage Menacing Dogs in accordance with the Act. Any dog that causes a non-serious bite injury to a person or animal or rushes at, or chases a person may be declared a menacing dog. The owners will be required to show that they can be a responsible dog owner and ensure action is taken to prevent the dog from attacking again.</p> <p>Restricted Breeds and Dangerous Dogs will be managed in accordance with the Act.</p> <p>Any dog that is declared a menacing dog and is subject to two further infringements or involved in an attack which results in serious injury or death of an animal or person will be declared a dangerous dog. Unless there are extenuating circumstances the dog will be seized and the matter will proceed to the Magistrates' Court.</p>				
<b>Education / Media</b>	<p>Wellington Shire Council uses media releases and standing articles in its publications "Wellington Matters" and "Wellington News" in an effort to educate members of the public on responsible pet ownership and animal management matters.</p> <p>The automatic telephone call waiting service includes key animal management messages such as registration of cats and dogs.</p>				

## 1.7 Access to Animal Management Services

Wellington Shire Council has adopted a Customer Service Charter which documents required response timeframes to the community. The Local Laws team works within the context of the Customer Service Charter and offers a seven day, twenty-four-hour emergency response service for urgent domestic animal related matters, such as dog attacks, aggressive/dangerous dogs at large and serious animal welfare concerns.



## 1.8 Mandatory Requirements/Corresponding actions

This plan has been developed in accordance with section 68A of the Act and sets out a formalised approach to increasing the effectiveness and awareness of domestic animal management within Council.

This section outlines the strategic direction for Council's animal management function.

The table below identifies the specific requirements of the Act which Council are required to address against the contents of the plan.

	Specific Requirement	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10
S68A (2)(a)	Method on monitoring performance and evaluating effectiveness of services	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
S68A (2)(b)	Training of Authorised Officers	x				x		x		
S68A (2)(c)(i)	Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership		x	x	x	x	x			
S68A (2)(c)(ii)	Ensure compliance with Act & Regulations		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
S68A (2)(c)(iii)	Minimise risk of dog attacks				x	x				
S68A (2)(c)(iv)	Over population and high euthanasia rate						x			
S68A (2)(c)(v)	Encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats		x							
S68A (2)(c)(vi)	Minimise potential for nuisance			x						
S68A (2)(c)(vii)	Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs				x	x				
S68A (2)(d)	Review of orders and local laws		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
S68A (2)(e)	Any other matters							x	x	x
S68A (2)(f)	Periodic evaluation of programs, services and strategies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
S68A (3)(a)	Review of Domestic Animal Management Plan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x

# 2

## Training of Authorised Officers





## 2.1 Current Situation

Wellington Shire Council currently employs 5 full-time and 1 fixed-term Local Laws Officers, authorised under:

- section 72 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*;
- section 18 of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*; and
- section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

For the purpose of this plan, three full-time equivalent positions are dedicated to domestic animal management, however additional staff are utilised for planned operations such as annual

and unannounced DAB inspections, pet registration checks, animal welfare investigations and emergency situations.

Wellington Shire Council recognises the importance of skilled and qualified staff, and as such individual training plans are developed for each staff member as part of the performance appraisal and development process. A dedicated Staff Development Officer is employed by Council to ensure staff are provided with initial and ongoing training in addition to targeted professional development opportunities.

## 2.2 Current Training

Subject	Frequency	Officer 1	Officer 2	Officer 3	Officer 4	Officer 5	Officer 6 (Fixed-Term)
Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation	As Required	Enrolled	8 Yrs Experience	27 Yrs Experience	9 Yrs Experience	5 Yrs Experience	15 Yrs Experience
Initial Induction	As Required	X	X	X	X	X	X
DPI AMO Seminar	Annually		X	X	X	X	
DPI Canine Anatomy	Annually		X	X		X	
Restricted Breed Dogs Seminar	Annually			X	X	X	
Nuisance Dogs	Annually		X	X	X		X
Anatomy of Affidavits	As Required	X	X	X	X	X	X
Presenting Evidence	As Required	X	X	X	X	X	X
Preparing Correspondence	As Required		X	X	X	X	X
Acting on Non-Compliance	As Required	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cautions and Rights	As Required	X	X	X	X	X	
First Aid Level II	Biannually			X			
Prosecutions and Enforcement	As Required		X	X		X	X
Notes and Notebooks	As Required		X	X	X	X	
Gathering Evidence	As Required		X	X		X	X
Preparing Briefs	As Required	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ethics and Professional Conduct	As Required		X	X	X	X	X
EEO, Anti Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination	Annually	X	X	X	X	X	X
Emergency Management	Annually	X	X	X	X	X	X
4x4 Operation & Recovery	As Required		X	X		X	X
Domestic Violence and Local Laws	Annually			X	X	X	X
Statements of Evidence	As Required	X	X	X	X	X	
Organisation Specific Training	As Required	X	X	X	X	X	X
Firearms Training	As Required	X	X		X		

## 2.3 Planned Training

Wellington Shire Council is committed to providing ongoing training and professional development opportunities for Local Laws staff. A staff development and training plan is developed annually, in consultation with individual staff, their supervisor, and the Organisation's Staff Development Officer.

## 2.4 Our Plans

### Objective 1:

To maintain a trained and experienced workforce by developing and maintaining individual training, professional development and performance plans for all Local Laws Officers.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Conduct individual performance and development plans, identifying any training or development requirements	Twelve monthly with six monthly reviews	Completion of individual performance and development plans, submitted to Manager Municipal Services
2) Develop and maintain the annual Local Laws Staff training and development plan	Twelve monthly	Plan developed and submitted to Staff Development Officer
3) Hold regular Local Laws team meetings in order to encourage a consistent and professional approach to animal management matters	Fortnightly	Minutes recorded and forwarded to Local Laws team
4) Investigate further communication, conflict resolution and professional development training opportunities	Twelve monthly	Increased training activities as recorded in Council's training plan



# 3

## Registration and Identification





### 3.1 Current Situation

Domestic animal registrations and registration renewals are conducted by Council in accordance with Part 2 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Our data indicates an estimated compliance rate with dog registration of (63%) compared with the estimated number of dogs throughout the Shire. Of particular concern is the low number of cats registered (22%) against the estimated number throughout the Shire.

Estimated number of cats:	8,064
Registered cats:	1,752

Estimated number of dogs:	12,098
Registered dogs:	7,655

### 3.2 Policies/Procedures

Legislative:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994, Part 2</i></li><li>• <i>Domestic Animals Regulations 2005</i></li></ul>
Local Law:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.1: Keeping of Animals</li></ul>
Strategies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council Plan 2013-2017 Part 7: Community Wellbeing</li></ul>
Procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Domestic Animal Registration/Re-registration Procedure</li><li>• Impounding of Unregistered Cats and Dogs Procedure</li><li>• Release of Impounded Animals to Identified Owners Procedure</li><li>• Wellington Shire Council Offence Management Guideline, section 3: Options for Council Local Laws Officers</li><li>• Wellington Shire Council Municipal Animal Emergency Plan</li></ul>
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Service delivery contract between Wellington Shire Council and Victoria Animal Aid Trust (requirement that all animals are registered before leaving pound)</li><li>• Maintenance of Council animal registration database</li></ul>

### 3.3 Current Educational/Promotional Activities

- Microchipping and Registration information promoted on Council website
- Animal registration notices sent to registered pet owners early March each year
- Regular media releases regarding the importance of registration
- Good news stories about owners reunited with their pets due to registration
- Responsible pet ownership pamphlet drops in identified areas of concern
- Local Laws Officer presentations at schools and TAFEs



### 3.4 Current Compliance Activities

- Annual registration process
- Follow-up on pets not re-registered and registration documents returned to sender
- Follow-up on notifications of pets sold/rehoused
- Door knocks in areas identified via the customer complaint system
- Joint operations with Police, Sheriff's Office and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in areas known for non-compliance
- Impounding of unregistered and wandering cats and dogs
- No impounded animal leaves the pound unregistered
- Registration checkpoints in popular dog walking areas
- Seven day notices to comply (NTC) for minor breaches
- Infringement notices issued where NTC is ignored or for serious breaches (more than one pet unregistered)
- Prosecution in Magistrates Court for unpaid infringements
- Unannounced inspections of Domestic Animal Businesses to ensure compliance with registration and code of practice requirements.

### 3.5 Summary of Current Situation



Wellington Shire Council recognises the gap between estimated and registered domestic animals within the Shire, particularly cats and as such is committed to increasing educational and enforcement activities in an effort to close the gap.

Council will work with local media outlets to increase awareness of registration requirements and increase compliance activities such as door knocks, registration checks and follow ups on lapsed registrations and changes of ownership.

### 3.6 Our Plans

#### Objective 2:

To increase the number of pet registrations within Wellington Shire each year for the duration of this plan, with a particular emphasis on increasing compliance amongst cat owners.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Continue to promote responsible pet ownership through the media, with an emphasis on microchipping/registering cats	Three monthly	At least one responsible pet ownership article released to media quarterly, as indicated in media plan
2) Conduct targeted door knocks and letter drops in areas where high levels of non-compliance are noted	As required, commencing mid-April each year	Door knocks and letter drops completed and recorded
3) Follow up on lapsed registrations	From mid-April, each year	Follow ups completed and recorded
4) Follow up on change of ownership notifications	As required	Follow ups completed and recorded
5) Discourage owners from not registering their animals by adopting a consistent enforcement program	As required	Number of notices to comply and infringements issued for unregistered animals
6) Ensure no unregistered animal is released from the Pound	As required	All animals reunited with their owners are registered prior to release.

# 4

## Nuisance Pets



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#### 4.1 Current Situation

During 2016, Local Laws Officers responded to 1,339 domestic animal complaints, with an average initial response time of 1.4 days.

Complaints can be broadly categorised as follows:

- wandering/stray dogs/cats
- excess pets kept on premises
- barking dogs
- dogs walked without leads
- dog excrement
- abandoned dogs
- aggressive dogs
- unregistered cats/dogs



#### 4.2 Policies/Procedures

Legislative:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Animals Act 1994, Part 3</li> <li>• Domestic Animals Regulations 2005</li> <li>• Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986</li> </ul>
Local Law:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.1: Keeping of Animals</li> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.2: Litters of Animals</li> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.3: Animal Shelters</li> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.4: Animal Excrement</li> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.5: Control of Noise</li> </ul>
Orders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellington Shire Council Dog on Lead Areas (<i>available on Council's website</i>)</li> </ul>
Strategies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Plan 2013-2017 Part 7: Community Wellbeing</li> </ul>
Procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impounding of Stray Animals Procedure</li> <li>• Nuisance (Barking) Dog Procedure</li> <li>• Feral Cat Trap Hire Procedure</li> <li>• Responding to After Hours Animal Complaints Procedure</li> <li>• Wellington Shire Council Offence Management Guidelines, Section 3: Options for Council Local Laws Officers</li> </ul>
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service delivery contract between Wellington Shire Council and Victoria Animal Aid Trust (requirement to care for and release impounded and seized animals in accordance with legislation)</li> </ul>

#### 4.3 Current Educational/Promotional Activities

- Dog on lead/doggy poo signage in popular dog walking areas/parks
- Dog poo bag dispensers in parks and popular areas
- "Doggy doo" and "Barking Dog" media releases
- Responsible pet ownership brochures sent with registration reminder notices
- Provision of advice/assistance to barking dog owners by Local Laws staff
- Use of the website as an education and information medium



#### 4.4 Current Compliance Activities

- All nuisance complaints recorded and investigated
- Feral/trespassing cat trapping program available to residents
- Wandering cats/dogs collected by Local Laws staff and impounded if necessary

#### 4.5 Summary of Current Situation

Wellington Shire Council recognises that nuisance dogs have the potential to cause friction between neighbours, particularly if not responded to in a timely and effective manner.

In early 2016, Local Laws staff developed a new process for dealing with barking dog complaints. The new process is designed to deliver a consistent approach to the issue by encouraging the complainant to assist Council by providing detailed information relating to the problem and issuing dog owners with advisory letters, notices and educational material.

A review of the process has indicated an approximate 75% resolution rate at the first point of contact with the dog owner. If the matter is not resolved after initial contact, WSC has monitoring and prosecution processes available if required.

In early 2017, WSC successfully prosecuted two dog owners for allowing their dogs to cause a

- Infringement notices issued to owners of repeatedly wandering pets
- Unannounced inspections of properties that have been identified as having numerous and ongoing barking complaints
- Follow-up visits with owners who have been identified as struggling to manage their pets

nuisance over a prolonged period.

Local Laws staff have adopted a three-stage approach to wandering/at large cats/dogs, in an effort to engage, educate and if necessary enforce responsible pet ownership.

1. If the animal is registered and has no previous history of being at large, the animal will be returned to the owner where possible.
2. If the animal is registered and there is one previous incident of being at large, the animal will be returned to the owner where possible, and a verbal or written warning will be issued.
3. If the animal is registered and there is a history of being at large more than twice previously, the animal will be taken directly to the pound and an infringement notice will be served on the owner.

#### 4.6 Our Plans

##### Objective 3:

To encourage responsible pet ownership compliance throughout the Shire by responding to, investigating and acting on animal nuisance and noise complaints in a timely and effective manner.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Continue to work closely with owners of nuisance/barking dogs to ensure a lasting solution to issues	As required	Review on a case-by-case basis
2) Publish quarterly media articles regarding responsible pet ownership	Three monthly	At least one responsible pet ownership article released to media quarterly as indicated in media plan
3) Ensure 'doggy doo' bag dispensers are maintained and stocked	As required	Regular inspections to ensure dispensers are serviceable and stocked with plastic bags
4) Explore the option of introducing a cat curfew in accordance with section 25 of the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i>	Year 2 of Plan	Cat curfew proposal submitted to Council for consideration
5) Responsible pet ownership brochures are readily available and provided when required	Twelve monthly	Ensure sufficient stock is ordered from DEDJTR annually
6) Review and update dog on lead areas	Four yearly	Dog on lead areas are reviewed as scheduled and published on Council's website



# 5

## Dog Attacks

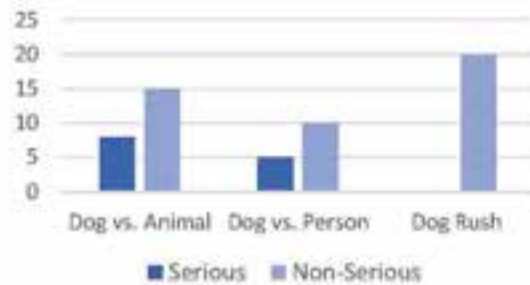


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## 5.1 Current Situation

During 2016, there were 58 dog attack complaints received and investigated, as follows;

Dog vs. Animal	8 serious	15 non-serious
Dog vs. Person	5 serious	10 non-serious
Dog Rush	0 serious	20 non-serious



## 5.2 Policies/Procedures

Legislative:	• Domestic Animals Act 1994, Division 2
Local Law:	• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.1: Keeping of Animals
Orders:	• Wellington Shire Council Dog on Lead Areas (available on Council's website)
Strategies:	• Council Plan 2013-2017 Part 7: Community Wellbeing
Procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to After Hours Animal Complaints Procedure</li> <li>• Wellington Shire Council Offence Management Guidelines, Section 3: Options for Council Local Laws Officers</li> <li>• Dangerous/Menacing Dog Declaration Procedure</li> <li>• Search Warrants and Seizure Procedure</li> </ul>
Other:	• Service delivery contract between Wellington Shire Council and Victoria Animal Aid Trust (requirement to care for seized dogs)

## 5.3 Current Educational/Promotional Activities

- Regular media articles relating to responsible pet ownership
- Media releases of successful prosecutions
- Responsible pet ownership booklets issued to new pet owners who adopt from the pound
- Reduced registration fees for dogs that have undergone approved obedience training
- Deliver presentations to TAFE students regarding safety around dogs
- Signage prominently displayed in dogs on leash areas
- DEDJTR pamphlets 'How to Prevent Dog Attacks in the Home' and 'Safety with Children' distributed via letter drops to high risk areas
- Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) program in schools



## 5.4 Current Compliance Activities

- Provision of a 24-hour response to dog attack complaints
- Dogs involved in serious attacks seized, if necessary with a search warrant
- All reported attacks thoroughly investigated and if necessary prosecuted
- Temperament testing of all impounded dogs prior to rehoming
- Regular patrols of areas identified as having a high incidence of wandering dogs

## 5.5 Summary of Current Situation

Wellington Shire Council responds to dog attack complaints as a matter of priority. Most complaints received, were responded to and investigations commenced within 1½ days.

The predominately rural nature of the Shire has contributed the number of serious attacks on animals, as most incidents involved livestock.

Most attacks involving people and/or their pets were caused by wandering dogs and occurred within 50 metres of the dog's property.

There were 14 matters that were successfully prosecuted. (10 serious attacks, 2 non-serious attacks, 2 rush incidents). The majority of non-serious matters were dealt with by way of infringement notices.

Most dogs involved in attacks were voluntary surrendered to Council Officers, or euthanised by a Vet at their owner's request<sup>4</sup>.

## 5.6 Our Plans

### Objective 4:

Reduce the number of serious and non-serious dog attack incidents on both people and other animals by encouraging responsible pet ownership, increasing safety awareness around dogs and enforcing legislation.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Continue to thoroughly investigate and if necessary prosecute reports of dog attacks	As required	Outcomes of all investigations recorded on Council's information system
2) Promote safety around dogs on the Council website	Ongoing	Safety around dogs and how to report dog attack information published on website
3) Utilise DEDJTR Declared Dog Registry to identify menacing/dangerous/restricted breed dogs	As required	Details regularly audited and updated as required
4) Media releases after successful dog attack prosecutions	Ongoing	Media articles published in local newspapers
5) In partnership with Victorian Animal Aid Trust, continue to provide presentations regarding dog safety with TAFE students undertaking animal management studies	Twelve monthly	Staff member presents safety around dogs talk annually
6) Work closely with other agencies such as VicPol and RSPCA to identify and respond to reports of neglected/aggressive dogs, which could lead to more serious incidents, such as attacks	As required	Combined operations with RSPCA and VicPol conducted

<sup>4</sup> Surrendering or euthanising dogs involved in attacks does not grant dog owners automatic immunity from prosecution

7)	Work closely with community interest groups, such as cycle groups, park users, neighbourhood watch groups and dog obedience clubs to promote safety around dogs	Ongoing	Regular meetings with community groups, supported by media articles promoting safety around dogs and responsible pet ownership.
8)	Promote 'Pet Town' learning tool for pre-school and primary school children on Council's website	Ongoing	Permission gained from DEDJTR to promote Pet Town on Council's website



# 6

## Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs



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## 6.1 Current Situation

Wellington Shire Council actively identifies and manages declared dogs, in accordance with Division 3, 3A and 3B of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

A register of declared dogs is maintained on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry. Annual and unannounced visits are conducted by Authorised Officers to ensure compliance with legislated requirements for the keeping of declared dogs. Non-compliance is dealt with swiftly. If necessary, the dogs are seized and the appropriate legal action is taken.

### DECLARED DOGS IN WELLINGTON SHIRE:

Dangerous (Guard Dog):	2
Declared Dangerous:	2
Declared Menacing:	4
Restricted Breed: (listed as missing)	1

## 6.2 Policies/Procedures

Legislative:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i>, Division 3, 3A, 3B</li> <li>• <i>Domestic Animals Regulations 2005</i></li> </ul>
Local Law:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.1: Keeping of Animals</li> </ul>
Strategies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Plan 2013-2017 Part 7: Community Wellbeing</li> </ul>
Procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to After Hours Animal Complaints Procedure</li> <li>• Wellington Shire Council Offence Management Guidelines, Section 3: Options for Council Local Laws Officers</li> <li>• Dangerous/Menacing Dog Declaration Procedure</li> <li>• Search Warrants and Seizure Procedure</li> </ul>
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service delivery contract between Wellington Shire Council and Victoria Animal Aid Trust (requirement to care for seized dogs)</li> <li>• Maintenance of Council animal registration database</li> <li>• DEDJTR Vic BARK mobile phone application</li> <li>• Standard for Restricted Breed Dogs in Victoria (as amended)</li> </ul>

## 6.3 Current Educational/Promotional Activities

- All owners of declared menacing or dangerous dogs are provided information on their legislative obligations.
- Information on reporting or identifying dangerous dogs is available at Council service centres and on Council's website.
- Owners of guard dogs are identified and advised of their legislative responsibilities.



## 6.4 Current Compliance Activities

- Respond to complaints of dangerous/aggressive/attacking dogs, and if necessary initiate declaration process.
- Follow up inspections and advice to owners of dogs that have been declared dangerous in order to ensure legislative compliance.
- Ensure all declared dog's details are accurately recorded on the Victorian Dangerous Dog Register
- Ensure all declared dog details are accurately recorded on the Council's domestic animal database.



## 6.5 Summary of Current Situation

In each instance where Council considers declaring a dog either dangerous or menacing, consultation occurs between the owner of the dog, the Local Laws Officer involved and the Manager Municipal Services to ensure procedural fairness. A comprehensive report is compiled and reviewed prior to any decision being made. The report will include, but is not limited to:

- summarise the incident;
- calculates the nature and seriousness of the threat to public safety;
- summarises any previous history of offences by the dog (or owner);

- notes the outcome of a Vet assessment of the dog's temperament (aggression test);
- lists any other relevant information;

The relatively small number of declared dogs within the Shire ensures a high level of oversight by Local Laws staff. All declared dogs are inspected at least annually. In 2016, Council increased registration fees for declared dogs to (except for guard dogs) to \$200 to cover Council's increased monitoring and enforcement costs. Unannounced inspections occur if there is any concern that legislative responsibilities are not being complied with

## 6.6 Our Plans

### Objective 5:

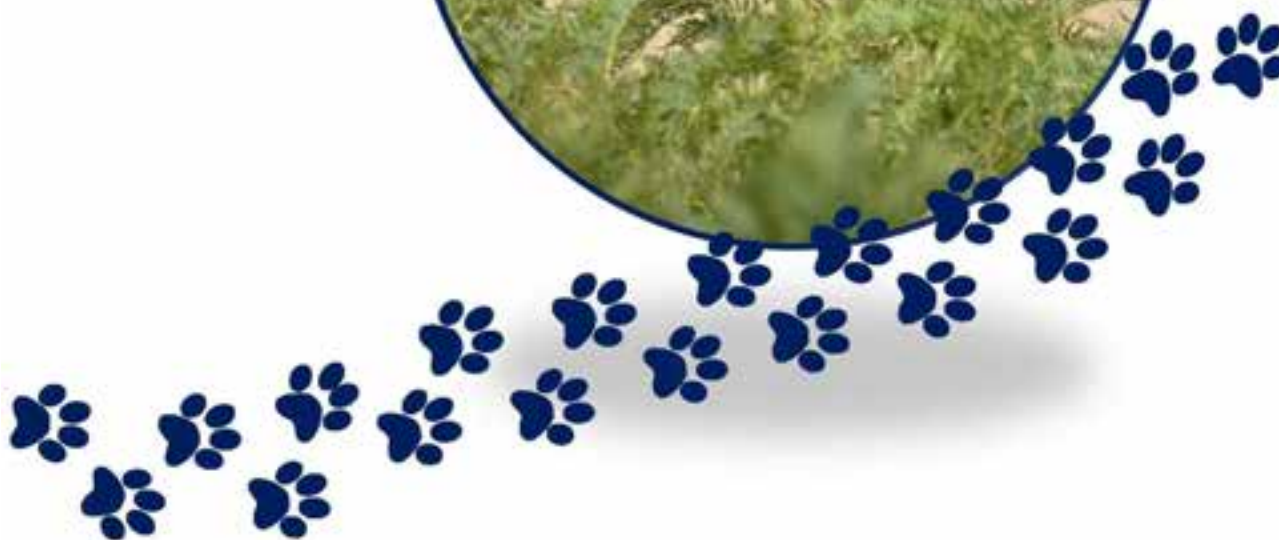
Maintain continued compliance with legislation relating to declared and restricted breed dogs.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Continue to inspect properties where declared dangerous/guard dogs are housed	Twelve monthly	Reported annually in DAM Plan
2) Continue to attend industry information sessions on restricted breed/dangerous dogs	As available	Recorded in individual staff training records
3) Maintain the Victorian Declared Dogs Registry by providing timely and accurate information	As required	Regular audits of information contained in the registry by Coordinator Local Laws.



# 7

## Overpopulation and High Euthanasia Rates



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## 7.1 Current Situation

On 1 July 2015, Council entered into an agreement with Victorian Animal Aid Trust (Animal Aid) for the provision of its pound and animal shelter services.

The agreement requires Animal Aid to comply with the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds. Six monthly audits are conducted by Council staff to ensure compliance with the service specification audit and to ensure all animals are treated humanely, and health and welfare matters are suitably addressed.



## 7.2 Policies/Procedures

Legislative:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i></li><li>• <i>Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds</i></li></ul>
Local Law:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.1: Keeping of Animals</li><li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.2: Litters of Animals</li></ul>
Strategies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council Plan 2013-2017 Part 7: Community Wellbeing</li></ul>
Procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impounding of Unregistered Cats and Dogs Procedure</li><li>• Pet Surrender Process</li><li>• Feral Cat Trap Hire Procedure</li><li>• Responding to After Hours Animal Complaints Procedure</li></ul>
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Service delivery contract between Wellington Shire Council and Victoria Animal Aid Trust dated 2 June 2015 (requirement to care for/rehouse impounded animals)</li></ul>

## 7.3 Current Educational/Promotional Activities

- Weekly 'Pet of the Week' advertisement placed in local newspapers
- Responsible pet ownership material provided to new pet owners
- Feral cat trapping program
- Cats/dogs for adoption are placed on the WSC website and Animal Aid website.
- A rolling slideshow of impounded animals that are available for adoption is displayed at the front counter at the Sale Service Centre
- Victorian Animal Aid keep a register at the pound, where residents can report lost and found animals. The register is actively followed up by staff.
- All unclaimed/surrendered animals desexed before adoption.



## 7.4 Current Compliance Activities

- Respond to and investigate complaints of excessive animals on properties
- Investigate reports of unregistered cat/dog breeders
- Work closely with social agencies to assist cat 'hoarders'
- Facilitate feral cat trapping programs in identified areas
- Impound wandering cats/dogs with a view to rehoming if owners not located

## 7.5 Summary of Current Situation

Through Animal Aid's local presence and their Coldstream animal shelter, unclaimed impounded and surrendered pets have an increased opportunity of successful rehoming.

Of the 738 pets impounded in 2016, 70% were successfully returned to their owners. 85% of pets not reclaimed or were surrendered to Council were successfully rehoused. These figures indicate a successful partnership between Animal Aid and Wellington Shire Council, however, both parties recognise there is still work to do.

In 2016, Council officers met with local veterinarians and Animal Aid to discuss a request from the Threatened Species Commissioner to assist with the fight against extinction by feral cats.

It was decided a multi-party approach was required:

- Wellington Shire Council staff would identify feral cat colonies and implement a trapping program.
- Trapped cats were delivered and assessed by qualified veterinary staff to establish whether they were suitable for rehoming. Those deemed unsuitable would be euthanized.
- Animal Aid would accept any cat identified as suitable for rehoming and include then in the pet adoption program after sterilisation.

Over the past twelve months, 668 cats have been trapped as part of the program. 412 were deemed suitable for rehoming

## 7.6 Our Plans

### Objective 6:

Reduce the feral cat population and euthanasia rates of unwanted cats and dogs by raising public awareness of the associated issues.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Continue to actively promote Animal Aid pet adoption program through council website and local media	Weekly	Pet of the week published weekly in Wellington News
2) Promote responsible pet ownership, particularly the importance of desexing and keeping pets at home at night	Three monthly	At least one responsible pet ownership article released to media quarterly, as indicated in media plan
3) Continue to audit service specification requirement of contract between Animal Aid and Council	Six monthly	Audit completed and submitted to Manager Municipal Services
4) Continue with feral cat trap program in identified problem areas	As required	Reduced number of complaints in affected areas
5) Investigate introduction of cat curfew during night-time hours	Ongoing	Completed review of Local Law 4 Environment
6) Maintain feral/trespassing cat trap service to residents	Ongoing	Adequate stock of traps Booking system maintained Program advertised on website

# 8

## Domestic Animal Businesses



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## 8.1 Current Situation

Wellington Shire Council currently has 23 Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB's) registered within the Shire.

All registered DABs are inspected annually for compliance with the relevant Code of Practice. Continued registration as a DAB is conditional on compliance with the relevant Code. Breaches of the Code are dealt with by way of notices to comply and work schedules. Continued major breaches are dealt with by way of prosecution and/or refusal by Council to re-register.

### DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES IN WELLINGTON SHIRE:

Boarding Establishment:	9
Pound/Shelter:	1
Breeding/Rearing:	12
Pet Shop:	1

## 8.2 Policies/Procedures

Legislative:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Animals Act 1994</li> <li>• Planning and Environment Act 1987</li> <li>• Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds</li> <li>• Code of Practice for the Operation of Boarding Establishments</li> <li>• Code of Practice for the Operation of Pet Shops</li> <li>• Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Establishments</li> <li>• Application Organisations</li> </ul>
Local Law:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.1: Keeping of Animals</li> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.2: Litters of Animals</li> <li>• Local Law 4: 2011, Environment 7.3: Animal Shelters</li> </ul>
Strategies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Plan 2013-2017 Part 7: Community Wellbeing</li> </ul>
Procedures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual DAB Inspection Program</li> <li>• Wellington Shire Council Offence Management Guideline, Section 3: Options for Council Local Laws Officers</li> </ul>

## 8.3 Current Educational/Promotional Activities

- Inclusion of all DAB proprietors in the consultation process for this plan
- Regular interaction and communication with DAB proprietors in order to obtain/maintain positive working relationships
- Promotion of DEDJTR and DAB publications and website resources
- Provision of advice relating to legislative requirements to DAB proprietors



## 8.4 Current Compliance Activities

- Initial and annual registration processes
- Annual and if necessary unannounced inspections of all DAB's, to determine compliance with the relevant Code of Practice
- Follow-up of identified instances of noncompliance, including notices to comply and if necessary suspension of registration and prosecution
- Regular monitoring of internet pet for sale sites (such as dogzonline and facebook) to identify any unregistered DAB's that may be operating within the Shire
- Combined operations with RSPCA, Dogs Victoria and Victoria Police where illegal activities are reported/suspected

## 8.5 Summary of Current Situation

A priority of Local Laws staff is to achieve compliance and ensure the welfare of the animals in their care. This is achieved through maintaining a positive relationship with DAB proprietors, in an effort to ensure open and transparent communications and interactions.

All complaints relating to DAB's are investigated, regardless of the source. Apart from anonymous complaints, all complainants are contacted and advised of any action taken in response to their concerns.

In 2015, in response to significant changes to the Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding

and Rearing Businesses, Council reviewed DAB (Breeder) registration fees, with a view to recovering costs associated with the increased monitoring and compliance activities the amended Code required.

In consultation with DAB proprietors, annual registration fees were raised from \$250 annually to \$2500 (plus \$15 per fertile bitch) annually.

The increased fees allowed Council to employ an additional Local Laws Officer, to assist with DAB monitoring and compliance at no additional cost to the ratepayers.

## 8.6 Our Plans

### Objective 7:

To ensure Domestic Animal Businesses within the Shire are identified and regulated in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and relevant Codes of Practice.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Attend DEDJTR animal management seminars in order to remain conversant with updated legislation relating to DAB's	As required	Seminars attended by Local Laws staff and recorded in individual training records
2) Investigate all complaints of illegal pet breeding establishments	Ongoing	All complaints and responses recorded on Council's electronic record management system
3) Maintain an accurate register of all DAB's within the Shire	Ongoing	DAB Register (LL25) periodically audited to ensure accuracy
4) Maintain an inspection schedule to ensure all registered DAB's are inspected at least annually	Ongoing	Inspection schedules and subsequent audits recorded on Council's electronic record management system
5) Conduct unannounced inspections of premises in response to complaints/concerns from members of the public	As required	All complaints and responses recorded on Council's electronic record management system
6) Draft business case in increase Authorised Officer staffing by one EFT to assist with increased monitoring of the Code of Practice	Year one of Plan	Business case approved and additional staff member employed

# 9

## Animals In Emergency



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## 9.1 Current Situation

Wellington Shire Council has historically been impacted by major floods and fires, which have had a devastating effect on the environment, property, the wellbeing of residents and their animals.

The welfare of animals can be a deciding factor for people in making decisions about their personal welfare, including evacuating a threatened property or seeking emergency shelter.

Animal owners and carers have the ultimate 'duty of care' to plan and provide for the needs of

animals in their care. However as recently witnessed, several organisations and groups share animal welfare responsibility and together have an enormous capacity and willingness to assist affected people and attend to the needs of impacted animals.

Wellington Shire Council is responsible for the coordination, provision, and operation of emergency relief centres and by doing so is also responsible for the coordination and provision of safe refuges for affected animals and the management of animal welfare at its relief centres.

## 9.2 Policies/Procedures

Legislative:	• <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i>
Strategies:	• Council Plan 2013-2017 Part 7: Community Wellbeing
Procedures:	• Wellington Shire Council Municipal Emergency Management Plan • Wellington Shire Council Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
Other	• Emergency Management Manual Victoria • Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (DEDJTR) • Guidelines for Managing Animals at Emergency Relief Centres, Assembly Area or Other Places of Emergency Shelter (DEDJTR)

## 9.3 Current Educational/Promotional Activities

- Emergency information available on Council's website
- Copies of Emergency Animal Welfare Plan issued to DEDJTR and Animal Aid Gippsland
- Annual emergency management refresher training to Local Laws staff

## 9.4 Current Compliance Activities

- Annual review of Wellington Shire Council Emergency Management Plan ensuring information and contact details are current
- Equipment for identified safe refuges available for deployment at short notice, such as cages, bedding, food, bowls, logs, identification tags etc.



## 9.5 Summary of Current Situation

In January 2013 Council experienced a devastating bush fire which affected a large number of pet, bird, horse and livestock owners.

Providing safe refuge for animals allowed the owners to cope with the incident, knowing their animals were safe and cared for. Although well managed at the time, the incident was the catalyst for the formal development of the Wellington Shire Council Emergency Animal Welfare Plan. The plan continues to be reviewed annually to ensure currency.



## 9.6 Our Plans

### Objective 8:

To remain in a state of constant readiness in order to respond rapidly and appropriately to any emergency involving people, their pets and animals.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Continue to conduct annual audits of the Emergency Animal Welfare Plan in order to ensure information and contact details are current	Twelve monthly	Wellington Shire Council Emergency Animal Welfare Plan is current and correct
2) Ensure sufficient emergency response equipment is available for short notice deployment	Six monthly	Stock take of equipment is conducted and recorded
3) Conduct annual inspections of safe refuges to ensure they are suitable for temporary accommodation of pets/animals	Twelve monthly	Refuges are inspected and the results recorded



# 10

## Review of Domestic Animal Management Plan



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## 10.1 Current Situation

Section 68A (1) of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994* requires every Council to prepare a domestic animal management plan every four years.

The current plan was adopted by Council on (*To Be Advised*), prior to submission to DEDJTR.

Section 68A (3) of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994* requires every Council to:

- (a) Review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate amend the plan;
- (b) Provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan;
- (c) Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

The annual review of the plan is due to be submitted to the DEDJTR by 3 November 2017.

## 10.2 Policies/Procedures

Legislative: • *Domestic Animals Act 1994, Section 68A*

## 10.3 Our Plans

### Objective 9:

To maintain compliance with the requirements of section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* by conducting annual and four yearly reviews of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
1) Prepare a domestic animal management plan every four years	Four yearly	Compliance with section 68A (1) of the DAA 1994. Plan submitted to Secretary DEDJTR
2) Conduct annual reviews of the domestic animal management plan	Twelve monthly	Compliance with section 68A (3) of the DAA 1994. Review submitted to Secretary DEDJTR
3) Publish an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in Council's annual report	Twelve monthly	Compliance with section 68A (3) of the DAA 1994. Evaluation published in annual report.



**Port of Sale Civic Centre**  
18 Desailly Street (PO Box 506), Sale Victoria 3850  
Tel 1300 366 244  
Fax 03 5142 3501

**Yarram Service Centre**  
156 Grant Street, Yarram Victoria 3971  
Tel 03 5182 5100

**Web** [www.wellington.vic.gov.au](http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au)  
**Email** [enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au)

## DOGS ON LEAD

**All dogs are required to be placed on a lead at all times in the following areas, unless otherwise specified**

Map	Area	Maintain	New
	Within 100 meters of Preschool, Primary or Secondary School entrances between 8.00am and 9.30am mornings and 2.30pm and 4.00pm afternoons, during school days.		√
	<b>Sale</b>		
1.	Sale Pedestrian Mall	√	
2.	Raymond Street (between Stawell & Foster Streets)	√	
3.	Cunninghame Street (between Reeve & York Streets)	√	
4.	Macarthur Street (between Reeve & York Streets)	√	
5.	Macalister Street (between Reeve & York Streets)	√	
6.	York Street (between Foster & Stawell Streets)	√	
7.	Adventure Playground/Fauna Park Area (Guthridge Parade)	√	
8.	Little Athletics Ground/Playground Area, McLachlan Street	√	
9a.	Market Area, Port of Sale (During Market operational times only)	√	
9b.*	Port of Sale Precinct (Bordered by Foster St, Park St, Canal Rd, Desailly St South)	√	
10.	Lake Guthridge & Guyatt Walking Tracks (Flora & fauna risk)	√	
	<b>Maffra</b>		
11.	Johnson Street (between Foster & McMillan Streets)	√	
12.	Fred Drury Park (Carpenter Street)	√	
13.	Lions Park Playground Area (Johnson Street road reserve)	√	
14.	Macalister Wetland Reserve Area (Flora & fauna risk)	√	
15.	Island Reserve/Port of Maffra, Macalister River Regional Park (McMahon Drive)		√
	<b>Stratford</b>		
16.	Apex Park (Princes Highway)	√	
17.	Memorial Park (Princes Highway)	√	
	<b>Heyfield</b>		
18.	George Street	√	
19.	Temple Street	√	
20.	Apex Park (George Street)	√	
21.	Lions Park	√	
22.	Rotary Park	√	
	<b>Cowwarr</b>		
23.	Lions Park (Cricket Street)	√	
	<b>Yarram</b>		
24.	Commercial Road (between James St and Church Rd)	√	
25.	Yarram North Recreation Reserve	√	
26.	Devon North Recreation Reserve	√	
27.	Yarram Memorial Playground	√	
28.	Playground Area (James Street)	√	

Map	Area	Maintain	New
29.	Playground Area (Walpole Court)	√	
30.	Wet Lands Reserve	√	
	<b>Port Albert</b>		
31.	Rutter Park	√	
	<b>Woodside Beach</b>		
32.	Playground Area	√	
	<b>Seaspray</b>		
33.	Seaspray Foreshore Playground (Northwest below the Surf Life Saving Club)	√	
34.	Children's Playground (area between Buckley, Bearup, Lyons & Buchan Streets)	√	
	<b>Rosedale</b>		
35.	Prince Street	√	
36.	Prince Street Reserve, Rosedale	√	
37.	Edward Crooke Reserve, Rosedale (west of Neighbourhood House)	√	
	<b>Loch Sport</b>		
38.	Foreshore Lions Park and Playground Area	√	
	<b>Golden Beach</b>		
39.	Golden Beach/Paradise Beach Community Centre Playground Area	√	
	<b>Briagolong</b>		
40.	Recreational Reserve (during market operational times)	√	

\* Extended to reflect the expected increase in public use of the area once Port of Sale precinct development completed.

**ITEM C3.2****AMENDMENT C96 - HEYFIELD LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

DIVISION: DEVELOPMENT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER LAND USE PLANNING

DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2017

IMPACTS									
Financial	Communication	Legislative	Council Policy	Council Plan	Resources & Staff	Community	Environmental	Consultation	Risk Management
✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	

**OBJECTIVE**

For Council to:

- consider all written submissions made to Amendment C96 – Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas;
- adopt Amendment C96; and
- request the Minister for Planning to approve Amendment C96

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY****RECOMMENDATION***That:*

1. Pursuant to Section 22 and 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council consider all written submissions made to Amendment 96 - Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas.
2. Pursuant to Section 29 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council resolve to adopt Amendment 96 – Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas with minor changes (refer to Attachment 2).
3. Pursuant to Section 31 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council resolve to request the Minister for Planning to approve Amendment 96 – Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas.

**BACKGROUND**

The Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study ('Heyfield Study') was adopted by Council on 18 April 2017. The Heyfield Study identifies suitable and viable locations in Heyfield to provide for low density residential land (one acre lots), which can be developed in the short term (0 – 5 years).



In accordance with the recommendations of the Heyfield Study, Amendment C96 proposes to implement the recommendations into the Wellington Planning Scheme as follows:

- Rezone land at Burnett Court, Heyfield (identified in the Heyfield Study as Area 3) from General Residential Zone 1 to Low Density Residential Zone and remove the Development Plan Overlay - Schedule 1.



- Rezone land at Draper Road, Heyfield (identified in the Heyfield Study as part of Area 2B) from Rural Living Zone 2 to Low Density Residential Zone and apply a new Schedule 11 to the Development Plan Overlay. The requirement for a Development Plan will ensure that the land use outcome is both coordinated and in line with best-practice planning.



- Amend the Heyfield Strategic Framework (included in the Local Planning Policy Framework) to reflect the short and long-term aspirations of the Heyfield Study and make some minor policy neutral textual corrections.



- Include the Heyfield Study as a reference document within the Wellington Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Amendment C96 was authorised by the Minister for Planning on 8 May 2017. The exhibition period for Amendment C96 took place between 6 July 2017 and 7 August 2017. At the close of the exhibition period a total of seven (7) submissions were received. A late submission was also received on 6 September 2017 from the CFA. All submissions have been placed on the Councillor Homepage and can be inspected by the public at Council's Desailly Street, Sale office. A table providing a summary of each submission with an officer response is included in **Attachment 1** to this Report. In short it can be noted that:

- Two (2) supporting letters were received from community members.
- One (1) submission from a community member was received raising concerns about the potential traffic impacts on the quiet and peaceful area of Burnett Court. Officers met with the submitter on 17 August 2017 to explain that a lesser lot yield/traffic impact would result from the proposed Low Density Residential Zone compared to the General Residential Zone 1 and that traffic issues could be further considered at the time of subdivision. Following the meeting, email correspondence has also been exchanged, confirming that the submitter has no objection to the rezoning.
- Five (5) submissions were received from statutory authorities, including: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; EPA; Transport Group; Gippsland Water and CFA. The authorities have no objection to the proposed Amendment.

However, in response to the submission of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, it is proposed to add an additional requirement within the provisions of the Development Plan Overlay 11 in relation to native vegetation on the roadside as follows (proposed addition shown in bold):



‘Provide an overall scheme for landscape planting and the preservation of existing indigenous vegetation and individual trees wherever possible, including avoiding and minimising impacts to roadside vegetation from subdivision design.’

On the basis that there are no objections to the Amendment, it is recommended that Amendment C96 be adopted including the proposed change to the Development Plan Overlay - Schedule 11. The Planning Scheme Amendment recommended for adoption is included in **Attachment 2** to this Report.

## OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. To consider all written submissions, adopt Amendment C96- Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas with changes and request the Minister for Planning to approve Amendment C96 pursuant to Sections 22, 23, 29 and 31 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*;
2. To consider all written submissions and abandon Amendment C96 – Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas (in full or in part), pursuant to Sections 22, 23 and 28 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*; or
3. To seek further information for consideration at a future Council Meeting.

## PROPOSAL

That Council:

1. Pursuant to Section 22 and 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, consider all written submissions made to Amendment C96- Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas.
2. Pursuant to Section 29 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolve to adopt Amendment C96 – Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas with changes (refer to **Attachment 2**).
3. Pursuant to Section 31 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolve to request the Minister for Planning to approve Amendment C96 – Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

The resources associated with this Amendment have been accounted for in the Strategic Planning budget.

## LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Amendment C96- Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas has been prepared having regard to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the provisions of the Wellington Planning Scheme - including the relevant state and local planning policies.

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human

Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and the proposed Amendment to the Wellington Planning Scheme is in accordance with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.

## **COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT**

The Council Plan 2017–21 states the following strategic objectives and related strategies:

### Strategic Objective 2.3

*'Wellington Shire is well planned, considering long term growth and sustainability.'*

### Strategy 2.3.2

*'Ensure sufficient land supply to provide for a range of lifestyle options which support housing diversity including affordable housing.'*

Amendment C96 supports the above Council Plan strategic objectives and strategies.

## **PLANNING POLICY IMPACT**

Amendment C96 is consistent with the State and Local Planning Policy Frameworks within the Wellington Planning Scheme, the Gippsland Regional Growth Plan (2014) and the relevant State Government Planning Practice Notes.

Clause 21.08 - Heyfield Strategic Framework (Wellington Planning Scheme) will be updated to reflect the approach to the provision of low density residential land in accordance with the recommendations of the Heyfield Study.

## **CONSULTATION IMPACT**

The exhibition of Amendment C96 took place between Thursday 6 July 2017 and Monday 7 August 2017 and included:

- Fifty-five (55) notification letters with information sheets sent to all land owners/occupiers.
- Twelve (12) notification letters sent to the relevant Statutory Authorities.
- Notification in the Gippsland Times (27 June 2017), Latrobe Valley Express (28 June 2017) and Government Gazette (6 July 2017).

Information regarding Amendment C96 is also provided at the following locations:

- Hard copies of the Amendment documents and information sheets are available for viewing in the Heyfield Library and the Council Service Centres in Sale and Yarram.
- Council and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Websites.

Should Amendment C96 be adopted by Council and subsequently approved by the Minister for Planning, notice of the approval will appear in the Government Gazette and will be published in the local newspaper.

All submitters to Amendment C96 will receive final correspondence after the decision by the Minister for Planning. The Council website will also be updated accordingly.

# RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

Amendment C96- Heyfield Low Density Residential Areas 10 August 2017

Attachment 1



## Submissions received from Authorities (4)

Submission No	Authority	Key issues raised	Officer response
2	EPA	No objection, notes however the closeness of the sawmill to the proposed rezoning on Draper Road, but identifies that proposed separation buffers are sufficient.	Comment noted.
3	DELWP (Environment)	Supports the Amendment, suggests minor word changes (in bold) to DPO11: 'Provide an overall scheme for landscape planting and the preservation of existing indigenous vegetation and individual trees wherever possible, <b>including avoiding and minimising impacts to roadside vegetation from subdivision design.</b> '	Comment noted, the DPO11 will be updated as per request.
6	Gippsland Water	No objection, notes that for both sites reticulated sewerage is very costly and not viable. Both areas are within the water district.	Comment noted.
7	DEDTJR (Transport Group)	No objection to amendment, supports approach to Development Plan Overlay.	Comment noted.
9 (late submission)	CFA	Supports the amendment in its current iteration.	Comment noted.

### Submissions received from the community (3)

Submission No	Key issues raised	Officer response
1	Supports amendment as exhibited, Heyfield lacks this type of land.	Comment noted.
4	Strongly supports the low density land rezoning as there is a strong demand for one acre sized blocks.	Comment noted.
5	<p>Has concerns in relation to traffic impact on Burnett Court once developed. If land is developed street will see an increase in traffic.</p> <p>Drainage work will also be required.</p> <p>Likes to preserve the quiet and peaceful residential area.</p> <p>Would like to have the right to raise further issues about this development.</p>	<p>The land proposed for rezoning is currently zoned General Residential Zone which provides a lot yield of approximately 31. If the land is rezoned to Low Density Residential Zone the lot yield is reduced to approximately 11 lots.</p> <p>Prior to subdivision, a planning permit application will be required. Public advertising will be undertaken and nearby landowners will be able to provide comments on the subdivision design. The concerns raised in relation to traffic are more relevant to this subdivision process.</p> <p>Council officers met with the submitter on-site and explained the issues outlined above. The submitter was satisfied that concerns about traffic could be further considered at the time of subdivision. Following the meeting, email correspondence has also been exchanged confirming that the submitter has no objection to the rezoning.</p>

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

## WELLINGTON PLANNING SCHEME

### AMENDMENT C96

### EXPLANATORY REPORT

#### Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by the Wellington Shire Council, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

The Amendment has been made at the request of the Wellington Shire Council.

#### Land affected by the Amendment

The Amendment **applies** to land in Heyfield. Specific land parcels affected by a change to the zones are highlighted in Figure 1 below.



*Figure 1: Land to be rezoned to LDRZ (red areas)*

#### What the amendment does

The Amendment implements the recommendations of the *Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study (March 2017)*.

The Amendment:

- Amends Clause 21.08 – Heyfield Strategic framework to reflect the aspirations of the Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study (March 2017).
- Amends Clause 21.20 – Reference Documents to include the Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study (March 2017) as a reference document.
- Rezones land at Burnett Court Heyfield, being CA188B1 from General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 to Low Density Residential Zone.



- Rezones land at 3,21,21A, 29,31 and 39 Draper Road, Heyfield being Lots 1,2 and 3 PS 344819Y, PTL 2 PS 344819Y, Lots 4 and 5 310433 from Rural Living Zone -Schedule 2 to Low Density Residential Zone.
- Deletes Clause 43.04 - Development Plan Overlay - Schedule 1 from Burnett Court Heyfield, being CA188B1.
- Inserts a new Schedule 11 to Clause 43.04 – Development Plan Overlay for land at 3,21,21A, 29,31 and 39 Draper Road, Heyfield being Lots 1,2 and 3 PS 344819Y, PTL 2 PS 344819Y, Lots 4 and 5 310433.
- Amends Planning Scheme Maps 45, 45DPO, 68, 68DPO, 70 and 70DPO.

#### **Strategic assessment of the Amendment**

##### **Why is the Amendment required?**

The amendment is required to enable the development of one acre lots on different growth fronts in Heyfield and to provide for more diversity in residential development, all of which is supported by the Heyfield Low Density Land Supply Study (March 2017).

The amendment proposes the following revisions to the Wellington Planning Scheme:

- Rezone land to Low Density Residential Zone to provide for development of one acre lots in Heyfield, based on the recommendations included in the Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study (March 2017). The Study has identified a gap in the supply for one acre lots in Heyfield in the short-term.
  - Land at the end of Burnett Court, Heyfield is proposed to be rezoned from the General Residential Zone - Schedule 1 to Low Density Residential Zone. The subject land is believed to be economically unviable for general residential development as a pumping station is required to provide reticulated sewerage. The land has a limited yield of approximately 20 residential lots. As the adjacent land is included within the Macalister Irrigation District and is therefore classed as high quality agricultural land, further residential development beyond Burnett Court is highly unlikely to occur.
  - The land on Draper Road is proposed to be rezoned from Rural Living Zone Schedule 2 to Low Density Residential Zone due to its location and its opportunity to provide a diversity of housing in that area of Heyfield.
- Apply a new Schedule to the Development Plan Overlay to land proposed to be rezoned to Low Density Residential Zone on Draper Road, Heyfield. The proposed area is in multiple land ownership but requires a coordinated approach to drainage solutions and subsequent subdivision layout. The requirement for a Development Plan will ensure that the land use outcome is both coordinated and in line with best practice planning.
- Update Clause 21.08 - Heyfield Strategic Framework to update the Heyfield Strategy Plan to reflect the short and long-term land use planning aspirations. The Strategy Plan will identify the long-term search areas for low density residential land and will also include an update to the township boundary. The proposed changes to the township boundary are consistent with the approach in the recently updated Clause 21.10 - Rosedale Strategic Framework and are proposed to include the rural living zones and all long-term growth areas. The text in Clause 21.08 is proposed to be updated to reflect the changes. Some policy neutral changes are also proposed to keep Clause 21.08 aligned with the most up-to-date layout format.
- The Heyfield Low Density Residential Lot Supply Study (March 2017) is proposed to be included in Clause 21.20 as a reference document.

##### **How does the Amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?**



The amendment is consistent with and implements the objectives of planning in Victoria specified in Section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. In particular, the amendment implements:

- Objective 4(1) (a) – by providing for the fair and orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of the land.
- Objective 4(1) (c) – by securing a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria.
- Objective 4(1) (g) – by balancing the present and future interests of all Victorians.

The rezoning of the identified land will provide for one acre residential lot development on appropriately located land within Heyfield.

**How does the Amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?**

As part of the Heyfield Low Density Land Supply Study a viability assessment was undertaken, which considered community and market needs; land constraints; impact on the environment and economic viability of the land.

Overall, it is expected that the provision of suitable land for one acre residential development will provide a net community benefit for Heyfield as it will provide opportunities for diverse housing, which has the potential to attract new residents.

**Does the Amendment address relevant bushfire risk?**

The land identified for rezoning is currently not affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO). Although the subject site is not recognized as having any bushfire risk through the Wellington Planning Scheme, it is located within a Designated Bushfire Prone Area, therefore all buildings will be required to be constructed to a minimum standard to provide protection from bushfire events.

The CFA was consulted as part of the preparation of the Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study and did not object to development in the areas proposed for rezoning. The CFA was consulted during the public exhibition stage of the amendment process and provided support for the amendment.

**Does the Amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?**

The amendment complies with the requirements of the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Scheme pursuant to s7(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

Pursuant to section 12 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the amendment complies with the following applicable Ministerial Directions:

- Ministerial Direction No. 11 - Strategic Assessment of Amendments; and
- Ministerial Direction No. 15 - The Planning Scheme Amendment Process.

This planning scheme amendment is accompanied by all the required information.

**How does the Amendment support or implement the State Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?**

The amendment supports the State Planning Policy Framework as follows:

Clause 11 - Settlement: The proposed amendment supports the growth and development of Heyfield in an efficient and sustainable manner while ensuring potential land for future expansion is not compromised; limiting urban sprawl, responding to community needs.

Clause 16 - Housing: The provision of additional low density residential land will provide for more housing diversity opportunities and in doing so will support this Clause.

**How does the Amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?**

The amendment supports and implements the Local Planning Policy Framework and Municipal Strategic Statement in a number of different ways.

Clause 21.04- Settlement: The land most suited for low density residential development was selected to be rezoned based on a viability assessment. The assessment considered strategies and objectives as outlined in Clause 21.04 being the impact on productive agriculture land; environmental features and constraints; potential provision of adequate, cost-effective infrastructure and distance from the existing facilities in Heyfield.

Clause 21.08- Heyfield Strategic Framework: This amendment supports a diversity of housing choice and protection of high quality agricultural land as outlined in the Heyfield Strategic Framework. Aspects of the Heyfield Strategic Framework will be updated to reflect the long term low density residential growth options as identified in the Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study (March 2017).

Clause 21.14- Environmental Risk: Potential bushfire and flooding impacts were considered in the development of the Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study. The areas selected for potential low density residential development are not impacted by bushfire or flooding.

**Does the Amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?**

The amendment uses the most appropriate Victorian Planning Provision tools to achieve the strategic objectives of the Wellington Planning Scheme.

This proposed amendment seeks to utilise existing zones and apply them to appropriate areas within Heyfield to enable the development of one acre lots. A Development Plan Overlay is proposed to the area on the corner of Draper Road and Seaton Heyfield Road, which requires a more coordinated approach (especially to drainage issues) due to a number of landowners.

**How does the Amendment address the views of any relevant agency?**

The views of Gippsland Water, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, VicRoads, CFA have been sought and were incorporated into the Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study.

Further views of the relevant agencies were sought as part of the public exhibition process. The EPA, Department for Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Gippsland Water, Transport Group and CFA which all had no objection to the amendment.

**Does the Amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?**

The amendment is not likely to have a significant impact on the transport system, as defined in Section 3 of the *Transport Integration Act 2010*.

There are no applicable statements of policy principles under section 22 of the *Transport Integration Act 2010* which are applicable to this amendment.

**Resource and administrative costs**

- What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?

The proposal will be followed by an application for a Development Plan under the provisions of the Development Plan Overlay and applications for planning permits for subdivision and development on all rezoned parcels of land. However, the development is not likely to result in significant impacts on Council's resource and administrative costs.

**Where you may inspect this Amendment**

The Amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

Heyfield Library  
42 Macfarlane Street  
Heyfield VIC 3858

Sale Service Centre  
18 Desailly Street  
Sale VIC 3850

Yarram Service Centre  
156 Grant Street  
Yarram VIC 3971

The Amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/public-inspection](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/public-inspection).

## 21.08 HEYFIELD STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

04/12/2014  
Proposed  
Provision

### 21.08-1 Vision

04/12/2014  
C72

Manage the future development of Heyfield in accordance with the following vision:

"Heyfield will develop in a manner that embraces its three-fold role as a 'timber town', a tourist 'gateway' to the Alpine National Park and Lake Glenmaggie and a healthy, sustainable and enjoyable place for all residents and visitors. The town will come to be characterised by diversity in housing choice, inclusive neighbourhoods, accessible employment, high quality sporting and recreation facilities, community and social infrastructure and a town that reflects a genuine sense of community pride."

### 21.08-2 Diversity of housing choice

04/12/2014  
Proposed  
C72

#### Objective

To facilitate housing choice that is strategically located, well designed, sustainable, inclusive and affordable.

#### Strategies

Encourage medium density residential development within a 400m radius of the Heyfield town centre.

Ensure that all urban development occurs within the ~~Township~~ ~~Urban~~ Boundary before considering extensions to the boundary in the future.

Provide for appropriate rezoning of land and enable more intensive residential development within the ~~Township~~ ~~Urban~~ Boundary where adjoining land uses have changed.

Prioritise the development of strategic infill sites (19 Weir Road, 3 Pearson Street, 9 Harbeck Street, ~~Burnett Court land~~, south of River Street and land within the ~~Township~~ ~~Urban~~ Boundary along Nicola Road and Tyson Road).

Provide for residential development within the Special Use Zone 4 where it falls outside the threshold distance from the mill at 63 – 97 Firebrace Road.

Provide for well-designed and appropriately located workers accommodation within the Special Use Zone 5 and provide for residential and tourism development where it falls outside the threshold distance from the mill at 63 – 97 Firebrace Road.

Encourage opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing, both within the private sector and in the form of social housing. Discourage clustering of social housing.

Encourage residential development, as part of a mixed use redevelopment on the west side of Temple Street, to link the two commercial centres between George Street and Harbeck Street. Residential components should be located either above or at the rear of new shops fronting Temple Street.

Encourage a range of lot sizes within new subdivisions to provide for a variety of dwelling sizes.

Ensure new development achieves high standards of urban design, architecture and landscape architecture.

Ensure holistic and considered development plans are prepared (where a development plan is required by a DPO). They should ensure that new development achieves a high level of integration with surrounding areas, constitutes a well orientated subdivision pattern,



provides adequate open space and neighbourhood facilities, retains native vegetation, creates/links to key movement corridors (for cars, buses, pedestrians and cyclists), and makes holistically considered provision for drainage and other infrastructure.

Encourage environmentally sustainable development measures to be integrated into new buildings or when existing buildings are substantially retrofitted. Future development should build on the sustainability efforts that secured the 2011 United Nations World Environment Day Award.

Ensure that new residential development protects existing environmental features, including large stands of trees, native vegetation, native animal habitat and movement corridors, watercourses and drainage lines.

Encourage new subdivisions to adopt best practice in relation to walkable neighbourhoods, provision for bus routes, water sensitive urban design and other energy efficient / sustainability initiatives.

Encourage new development areas to connect with existing movement corridors where possible.

Ensure that further subdivision and development within the Lake Glenmaggie Water Supply Catchment does not detrimentally impact water quality.

Discourage the development of new residential dwellings which disrupt or restrict existing or future viable agricultural, industrial or rural activities.

Ensure that appropriate remediation investigations and procedures are undertaken as part of the development of strategic infill sites for residential purposes.

Discourage development in flood and fire prone areas.

#### 21.08-3

04/12/2014  
Strategic  
Policy

#### High quality agricultural land

##### Objective

To protect high quality agricultural land and agricultural practices from urban encroachment.

##### Strategies

Ensure that sufficient land is zoned for residential purposes within the [Township of Heyfield](#) Boundary.

Investigate suitable industrial expansion options on the eastern side of Heyfield to prevent expansion into high-quality agricultural land.

Ensure that the Macalister Irrigation District is protected from inappropriate residential development.

#### 21.08-4

04/12/2014  
C72

#### Environmental assets and values

##### Objective

To maintain and enhance the natural environmental assets and values.

##### Strategies

Ensure that development standards reduce environmental impacts associated with stormwater run-off and habitat loss and destruction.

Ensure the retention of native animal habitat areas.

**21.08-5**

04/12/2014  
Proposed  
Changes

**Retail, commercial and tourism uses**

**Objective**

To provide a sustainable business environment for existing and future retail, commercial, and tourism based uses.

**Strategies**

Facilitate the consolidation of the George and Temple Street commercial areas into a single commercial area.

Encourage retail expansion and some ancillary office and residential uses on the eastern side of Temple Street.

Encourage the long term expansion of the existing supermarket.

Facilitate improved signage and town entry treatments.

Encourage the development of high quality, short term workers accommodation.

Encourage development that will promote Heyfield as a "RV Friendly" location.

Promote Heyfield as the 'tourist gateway' to the Alpine National Park and Lake Glenmaggie.

Ensure that sufficient parking is available within the town centre to support businesses and tourism.

Ensure that land in close proximity to the [Gippsland Plains](#) Rail Trail is utilised, where appropriate, for tourist accommodation to support the use of the [Gippsland Plains](#) Rail Trail.

**21.08-6**

04/12/2014  
C72

**Town centre character**

**Objective**

To provide a visually attractive and safe town centre that enhances the image and identity of Heyfield.

**Strategies**

Support high quality design that enhances the street life, vibrancy and appearance of the centre.

Encourage the development of core retail activity at the ground level of buildings within George and Temple Streets, with office and residential uses at upper levels.

Encourage the redevelopment of underutilised land for mixed use development.

Encourage active frontages and passive surveillance at ground level within Temple Street.

Ensure that future development within the town centre is designed to provide weather protection for pedestrians.

Support the retention of older buildings that contribute to the character of the town centre.

Discourage driveway entrances on building frontages along George and Temple Street. Access from rear and side laneways should be provided where possible.



Encourage new development on Temple Street to be designed at zero setback with the street.

Facilitate the development of a signage strategy for the town centre that will provide a suite of co-ordinated signs for information, direction and promotion.

Encourage and support streetscape improvement works in Temple Street.

**21.08-7**  
04/12/2014  
C72

#### **Industrial development**

##### **Objective**

To facilitate high quality industrial development that is appropriate in terms of location, scale, appearance and nature of industry.

##### **Strategies**

Encourage the retention and expansion of timber processing industries within Heyfield.

Encourage any new large-scale industries and industries with adverse amenity potential to locate east of Weir Road in the Industrial Activity Precinct.

Provide and maintain appropriate buffer treatment to land identified for future growth.

Encourage light industrial uses to remain on industrial land in Firebrace Road closest to the Heyfield town centre.

Encourage the provision of natural gas infrastructure to support business and industry.

Encourage the development of further value-adding timber industries and service industries in the town.

Protect timber processing industries by requiring sensitive activities in close proximity to provide suitable noise attenuation measures.

**21.08-8**  
04/12/2014  
C72

#### **Community facilities**

##### **Objective**

Ensure that all members of the Heyfield community have access to a range of conveniently located community facilities including; health, education, social, civic, cultural, recreation, sporting and leisure.

##### **Strategies**

Encourage the consolidation of health services within the vicinity of the existing Heyfield Hospital.

Encourage the development of retirement and aged care housing within walking distance to the Heyfield Hospital and town centre.

Facilitate opportunities throughout the township for informal social interaction, including both internal and external places.

Facilitate the consolidation of the use of Gordon Street Recreation Reserve for formal sporting activities.

Encourage the enhancement of the Heyfield Wetlands to provide passive recreation opportunities, walking, cycling and meeting places, along with tourist information for the Alpine National Park.

Facilitate the refurbishment of the Heyfield Pool in accordance with Council leisure and aquatic strategies.

Support the ongoing role of the Heyfield Golf Course in providing sport and recreational opportunities.

**21.08-9**

04/12/2014  
Proposed  
CDS

**Access and Movement**

**Objective**

To provide an efficient access and movement network for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

**Strategies**

Ensure future roads and access ways meet the requirements of the Infrastructure Design Manual and endeavour to achieve best practice standards in catering for disabled and impaired persons.

Require new subdivisions to provide safe and convenient access links and facilities for car, bus, pedestrian and cyclist movements.

Ensure that the [Gippsland Plains](#) Rail Trail is accessible, safe and designed to be well connected to the existing movement network.

**21.08-10**

04/12/2014  
CDS

**Infrastructure**

**Objective**

To ensure the provision of infrastructure services to meet current and future needs.

**Strategies**

Encourage the sequential provision of sewerage and water infrastructure in connection with new urban areas.

Facilitate the upgrading of street lighting within the Heyfield urban area.

**21.08-11**

04/12/2014  
Proposed  
CDS

**Implementation**

The strategies for Heyfield will be implemented by:

**Policy Guidelines**

Planning must consider as relevant:

Heyfield Structure Plan, December 2011, including update; Strategic Justification Firebrace Road August 2013.

Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study, March 2017

Current Flood Data available from West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Healthy by Design guidelines

Infrastructure Design Manual

Public Transport Guidelines for Land Use and Development, 2008

*Wellington Open Space Strategy 2014-24*

*Wellington Heritage Study: Stage 1, May 2003*

**Application of policy, zones and overlays** ~~Using zones, overlays, policy and the exercise of discretion~~

- Apply appropriate zones.
- Apply *Clause 22.01 Special Water Supply Catchment Areas Policy* in considering an application in an proclaimed water supply catchment or irrigation area.
- Apply *Clause 22.02 Rural Policy* in considering an application in the Farming Zone, Rural Conservation Zone and Rural Activity Zone to protect agriculture and agricultural land.
- Apply *Clause 22.03 Heritage Policy* in considering an application covered by the Heritage Overlay or places included in the Victoria Heritage Inventory for direction as the most appropriate manner to undertake works in heritage places.
- Apply *Clause 22.04 Car Parking Policy* in considering a permit to reduce the number of parking spaces required to be provided under Clause 52.06.
- Apply *Clause 43.02 Design and Development Schedule 1* to industrial areas to provide well planned industrial estates.
- Apply *Clause 43.02 Design and Development Schedule 8* to encourage well-designed, residential development in close proximity to industrial operations to mitigate potentially adverse off-site effects.
- Apply *Clause 43.04 Development Plan Overlay Schedule 1 and 11* to "greenfield" areas to develop a physical framework plan which outlines the desired development approach including but not limited to; location of open space and necessary community facilities; access; drainage solutions based on Water Sensitive Urban Design principles; location power, water and sewerage; proposed neighbourhood character; and connections for pedestrians, cyclists and cars within the development area, to adjacent areas and key nodes in Heyfield prior to subdivision.
- Apply *Clause 44.03 Floodway Overlay* and *Clause 44.04 Land Subject to Inundation Overlay* on land identified by West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority as being flood prone to ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters.
- Apply *Clause 45.01 Public Acquisition Overlay Schedule 2* to ensure that changes to the use or development of the land do not prejudice the purpose (a road) for which the land is to be acquired.
- Apply *Clause 45.03 Environmental Audit Overlay* to land identified as having a potential for contamination to ensure that the land is suitable for a use which could be significantly adversely affected by any contamination.

**Undertaking further strategic work**

Prepare an urban design framework (the Temple Street Master Plan) to support and guide public realm treatments in the town centre.

Prepare a Heritage Review and provide appropriate statutory protection for places of heritage significance.

Support investigations for more intensive residential development within the [Township of Linton](#) Boundary - especially in the areas highlighted as "Future Urban Residential Intensification" on the Heyfield Strategy Plan.

**Other actions**

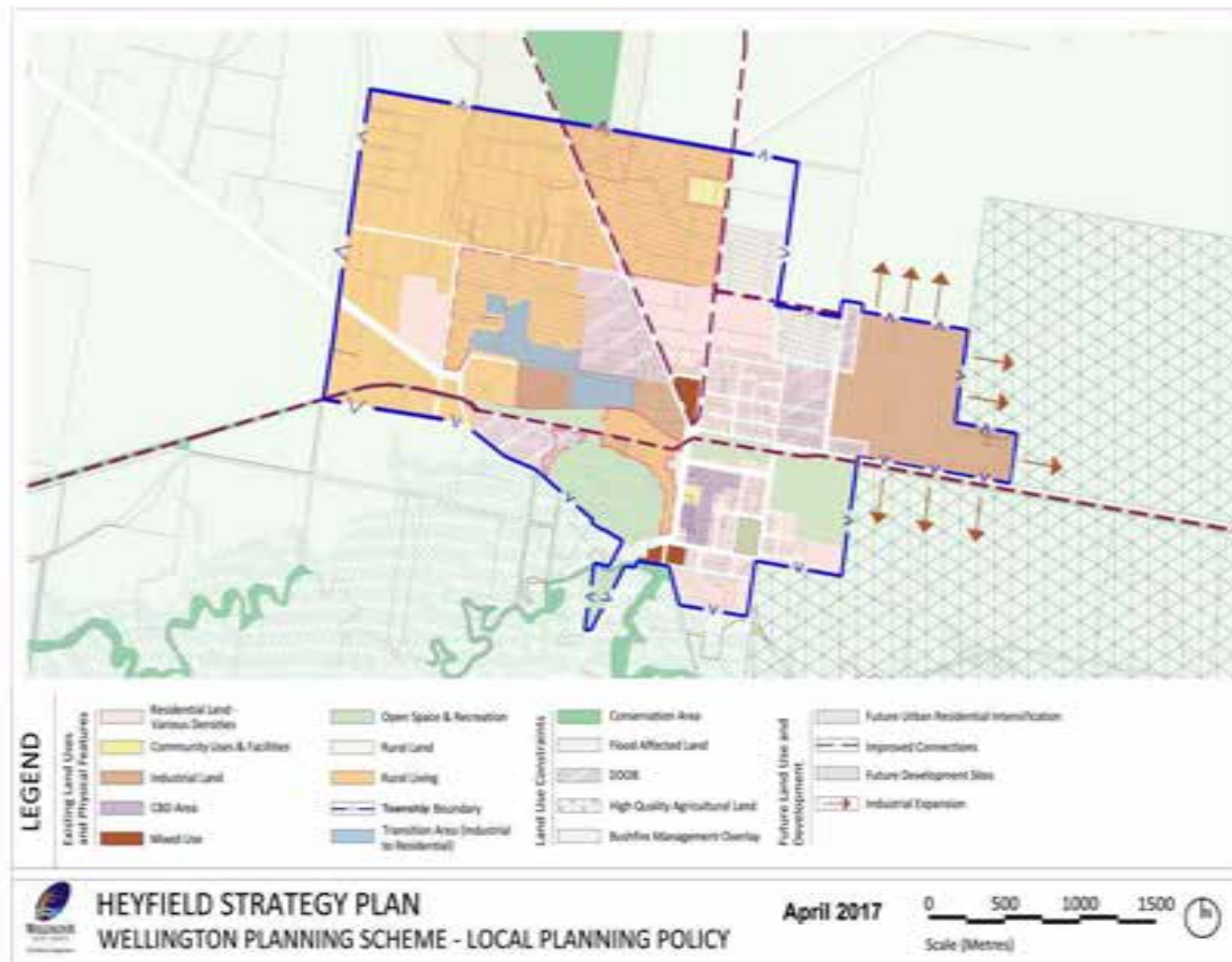
Liaise with landholders and government agencies to support the redevelopment of strategic infill sites to provide for housing opportunities.

Support investigations for the provision of drainage infrastructure in connection with land that is to be rezoned for further development.

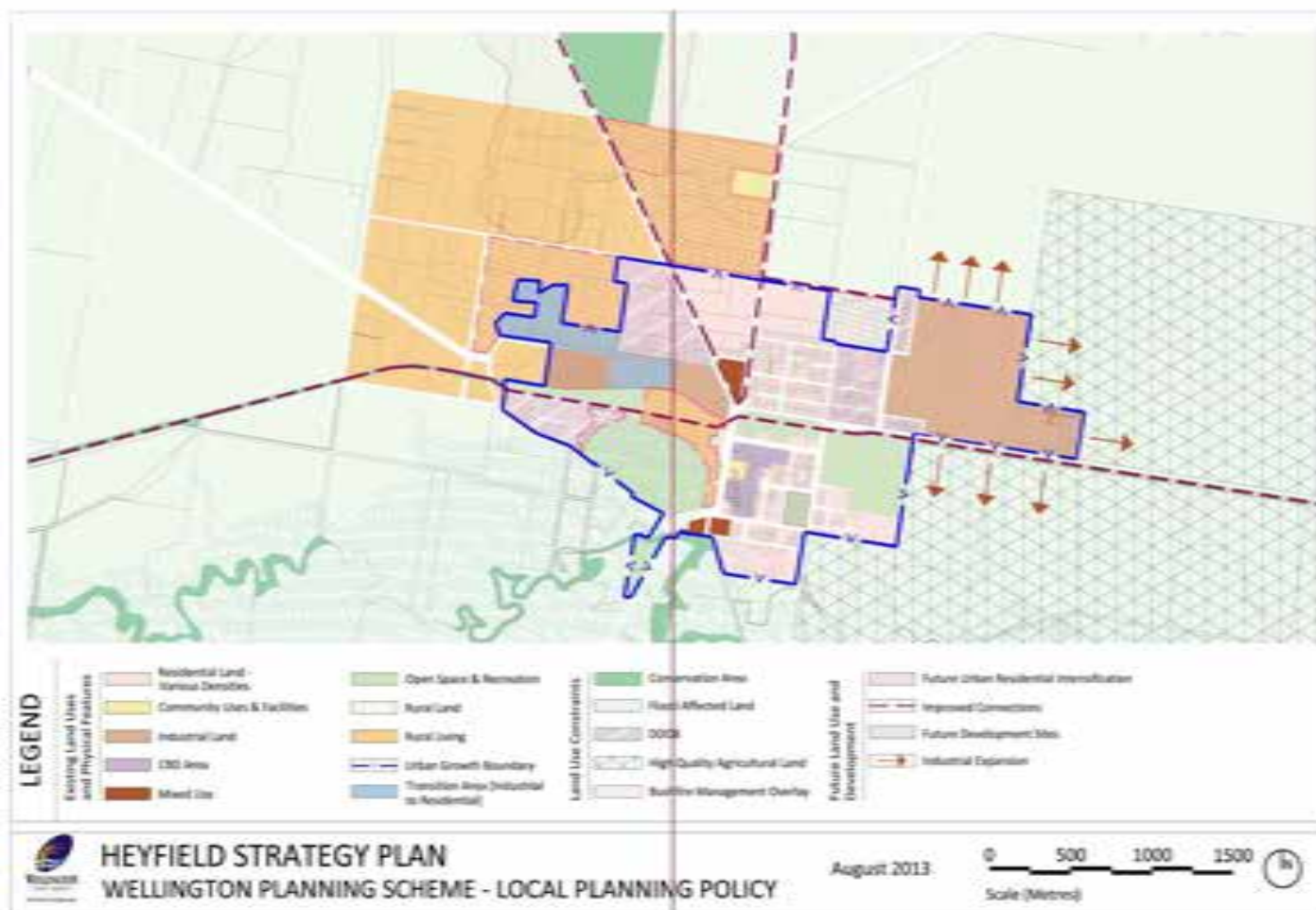
Work with Parks Victoria and other stakeholders to determine the feasibility of the Heyfield Wetlands to provide a Visitor Interpretation Centre to service the Alpine National Park.

Investigate the use of Middle Oval for alternate uses (for example residential, aged care facility), as the oval is surplus to current and future community recreation needs.

Investigate the redevelopment of the saleyards site to upgrade the entrance route into Heyfield.









**21.20**1366.0016  
Proposed  
CPSA**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The following strategic studies have informed the preparation of this planning scheme. All relevant material has been included in the Scheme. Decision makers should use these for background research only. Material in these documents that potentially provides policy guidance on decision making but which is not specifically referenced to by the Scheme, should not be given any weight.

- *Assessment of Agricultural Quality of Land in Gippsland, Swan and Vohm, 1984*
- *City of Sale Restoration and Conservation Guidelines, May 1983*
- *City of Sale Heritage Study, March 1994*
- *East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy*
- *Gippsland Lakes Coastal Action Plan, 1999*
- *Gippsland Lakes Future Directions and Action Plans, 2002*
- *Gippsland Lakes Shore Erosion and Revegetation Strategy, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Gippsland Coastal Board, 2002*
- *Group accommodation and Safety guidelines, Country Fire Authority, February 1997*
- *Guidelines for the Assessment of Heritage Planning Applications – Port Albert and District, 2002*
- *Healthy by Design: A planners' guide to environments for active living, National Heart Foundation of Australia, 2004*
- *Heyfield Structure Plan, December 2011, including update; Strategic Justification Firebrace Road August 2013*
- *Heyfield Low Density Residential Land Supply Study, March 2017*
- *Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM)*
- *Integrated Coastal Planning for Gippsland – Coastal Action Plan, Gippsland Coastal Board*
- *Longford Development Plan, November 2015*
- *Mapped Salinity Discharge and Potential for Recharge within the Wellington Shire and showing Domestic Water Supply Catchments, Department of Natural Resources and Environment*
- *Municipal Reference Document, Wellington Shire, Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study, 2006*
- *Planning conditions and guidelines for subdivisions, Country Fire Authority, September 1991*
- *Port Albert Conservation Study, 1982*
- *Port Albert Masterplan, 2002*
- *Port Albert & Palmerston Urban Design Guidelines, 2007*
- *Recreational accommodation and Safety Guidelines, Country Fire Authority, February 1997*
- *Rosedale Structure Plan, 7 August 2012*
- *Sale and Region Business Opportunities Study, 2003*
- *Sale, Warruk and Longford Structure Plan, 2010 and updates; Relocation of Sale Greyhound Racing Club Strategic Justification (NBA Group, 2014)*

WELLINGTON PLANNING SCHEME

- *Sale CBD Precinct Plan, 2010*
- *Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast, 1998*
- *State Overview Report, Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study, 2006*
- *Stratford Townscape Study, 1993*
- *Victorian Coastal Strategy, 2014*
- *Wellington Coast Subdivision Strategy: The Honeysuckles to Paradise Beach, February 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Council, Golden Beach/Paradise Beach Urban Design Framework, Coastal Towns Design Framework, Volume 3, March 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Council, Loch Sport Urban Design Framework, Coastal Towns Design Framework, Volume 3, March 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Council, Manns Beach Urban Design Framework, Coastal Towns Design Framework, Volume 3, March 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Council, McLoughlins Beach Urban Design Framework, Coastal Towns Design Framework, Volume 3, March 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Council, Robertsons Beach Urban Design Framework, Coastal Towns Design Framework, Volume 3, March 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Council, Seaspray Urban Design Framework, Coastal Towns Design Framework, Volume 3, March 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Council, The Honeysuckles Urban Design Framework, Coastal Towns Design Framework, Volume 3, March 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Council, Woodside Beach Urban Design Framework, Coastal Towns Design Framework, Volume 3, March 2007*
- *Wellington Shire Heritage Study: Stage 1, May 2005*
- *Wellington Shire Stormwater Management Plan, 2002*
- *West Sale Aerodrome Master Plan, November 2002 (or any superseding documents)*
- *West Sale Aerodrome Public Authority Management Agreement, June 2003 (or any superseding documents)*
- *West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy 2013 (or any superseding document)*
- *Wellington Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2011 15 (or any superseding document)*

—4—00—  
Proposed  
C96

## SCHEDULE 11 TO CLAUSE 43.04 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **DPO11**

### LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS

#### 1.0 Requirement before a permit is granted

—4—00—  
Proposed C96

A permit may be granted to construct or carry out minor works to existing buildings or works prior to the approval of a development plan if the responsible authority is satisfied that the granting of a permit does not prejudice the intended outcomes of future low density residential development.

#### 2.0 Conditions and requirements for permits

—4—00—  
Proposed C96

The following requirements apply to permits:

- A permit for subdivision and development must include conditions which reflect the urban design principles, requirements and conditions as stated in the approved development plan.
- A permit for subdivision, which includes land with native vegetation must:
  - contain a condition demonstrating how any retained native vegetation will be protected; and
  - must be in accordance with the requirements of Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation when clearing of native vegetation is unavoidable.
- A permit for subdivision regarding land containing a designated waterway must contain a condition requiring a Water Management Plan.
- A permit for subdivision must include an Agreement under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* between the landowners and the responsible authority to acknowledge the arrangements (e.g. payments or works-in-lieu) for infrastructure contributions identified in the Development Plan. If an Agreement requiring infrastructure contributions already exists, the landowner(s) are not required to enter into a new Agreement. The Agreement will lapse once all specified requirements have been satisfied.

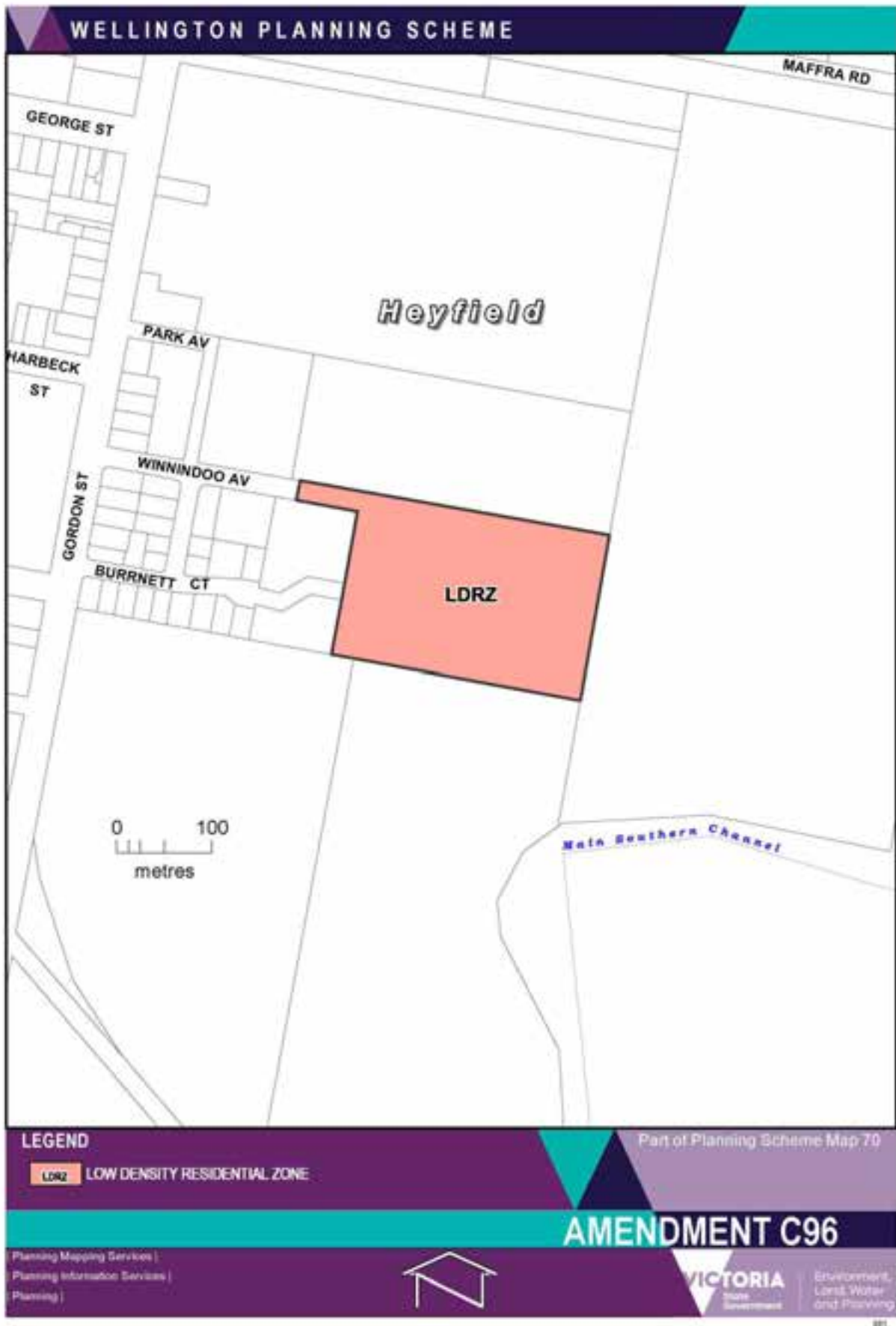
#### 3.0 Requirements for development plan

—4—00—  
Proposed C96

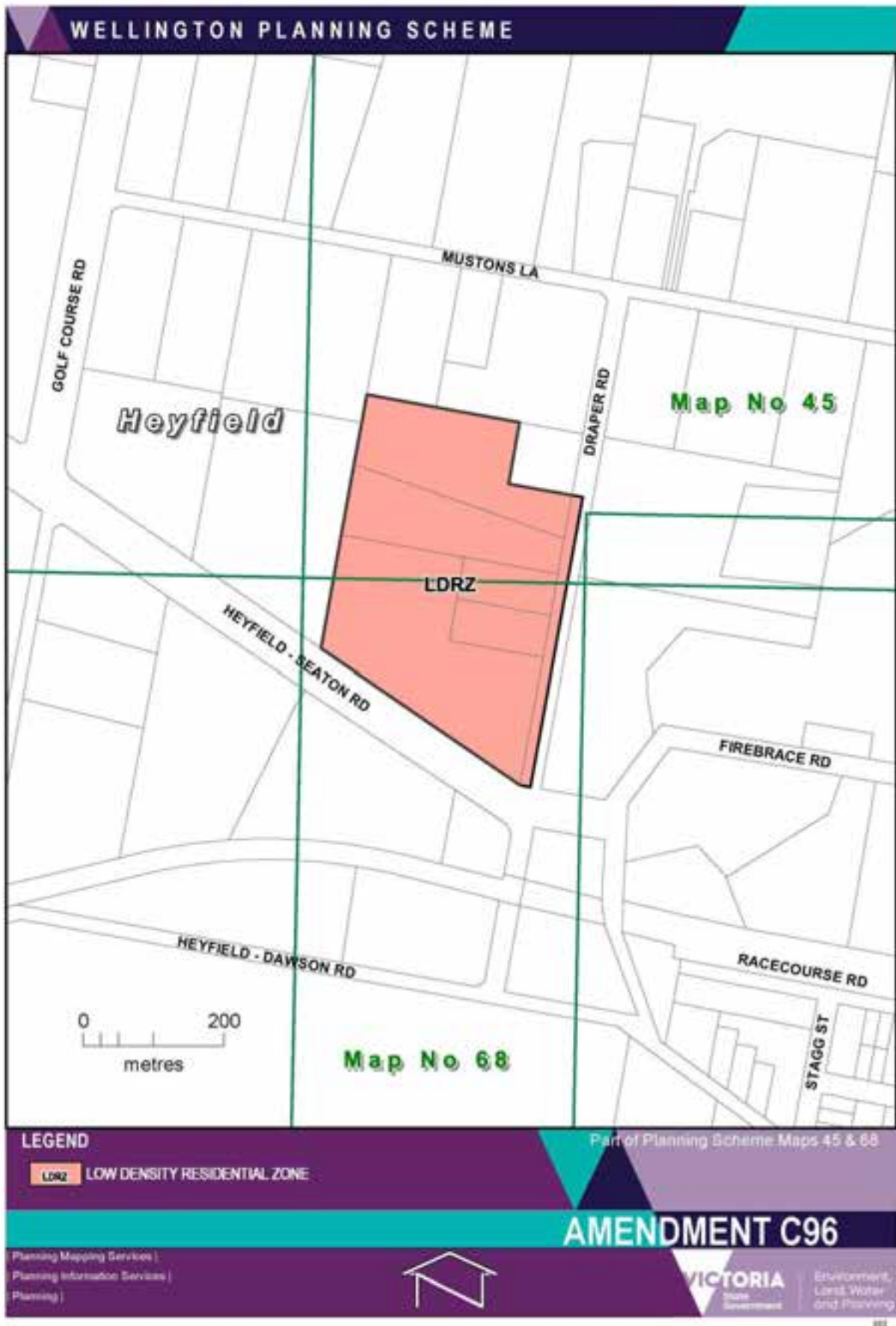
A development plan must include the following requirements:

- A single development plan must be prepared for each contiguous development area of land to which this schedule applies.
- A site analysis plan must be prepared and identify the topography of the land; the location of any existing vegetation; drainage lines, water features, retarding basins and flood ways; sites of biological, heritage or archaeological significance; sites that are potentially contaminated; areas affected by easements; and any other relevant features.
- A drainage plan must be prepared and show:
  - An integrated drainage scheme for the area that incorporates Water Sensitive Urban Design principles and Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines for improved sustainability and flood mitigation.
  - Provisions for landscaping within any drainage depressions that integrate with the site.
- A traffic plan must be prepared and show:
  - A sealed road network design that minimises access points onto designated Category 1 or 2 roads; is based on a practical hierarchy of roads including safe intersections and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure connecting with the existing movement network; and uses existing roads or road reserves when available.

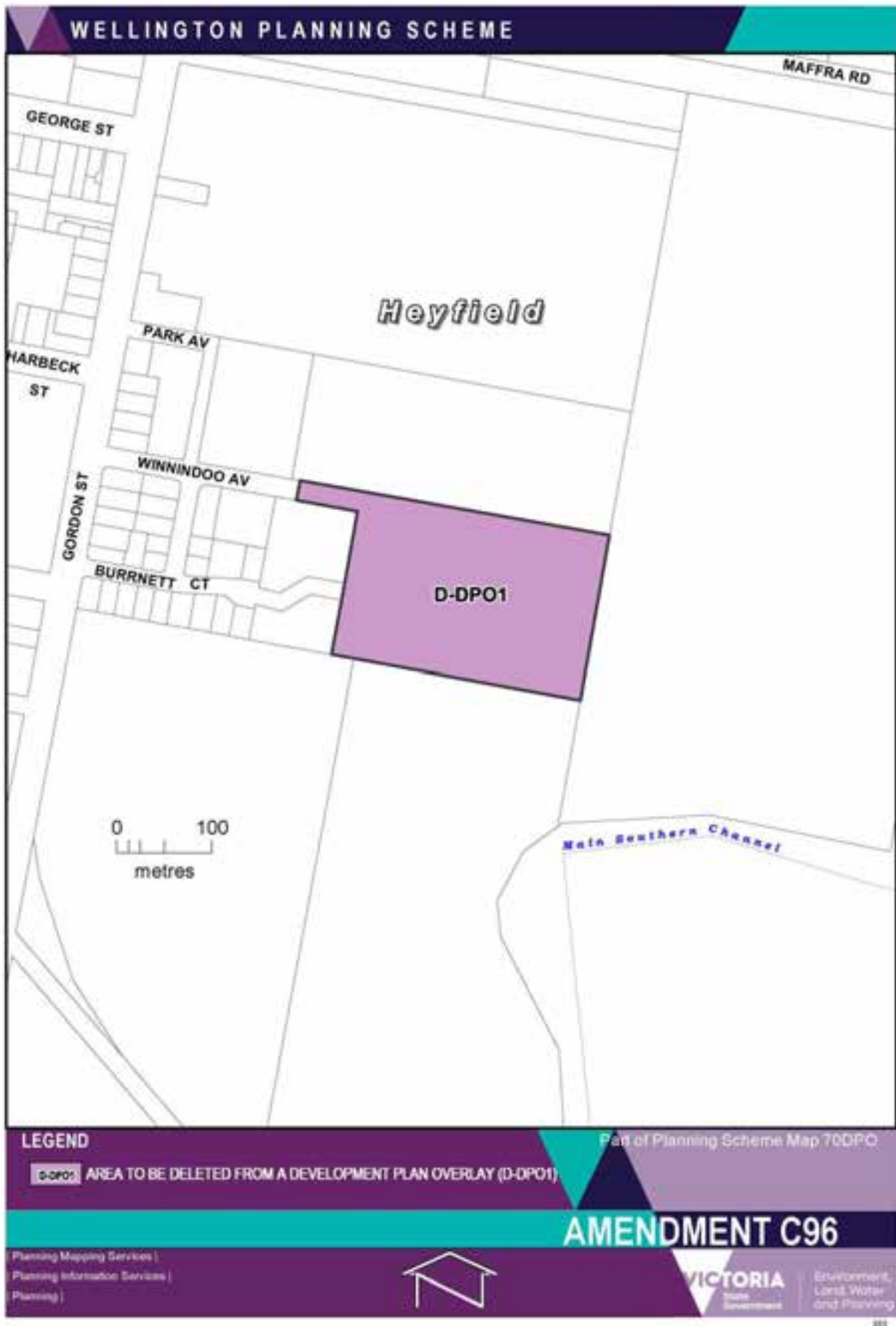
- Details on any required upgrades to the road network being road widening, sealing, intersections, access points and other upgrades.
- A development plan must:
  - Respond to the issues and recommendations identified in the site analysis, the drainage plan and the traffic plan.
  - Demonstrate how the proposed subdivision design will conserve and contribute to the overall character of the area.
  - Ensure that allotments have only one boundary adjoining a road reserve unless the allotment is on a corner.
  - Demonstrate how the overall pattern of development integrates with the immediate surrounding area and how a degree of natural surveillance is created.
  - Provide an overall scheme for landscape planting and the preservation of existing indigenous vegetation and individual trees wherever possible, including avoiding and minimising impacts to roadside vegetation from subdivision design.
  - Demonstrate how all necessary infrastructure and services will be provided.
  - Include a staging plan showing the timing and sequence of development and infrastructure delivery (construction or upgrade), and
  - Include a public infrastructure plan for the delivery and funding of infrastructure items associated with the proposed development, including any potential interim and ultimate infrastructure requirements.
- In assessing or amending a development plan, the responsible authority must be satisfied that it is:
  - Achieving the objectives as set out in relevant structure plans, policy, strategy or guidelines relating to the development area.
  - Meeting the requirements of Clause 56 as specified in the zone.
  - Meeting any requirements of the Country Fire Authority, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources- Transport Group, VicRoads, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Gippsland Water, Aboriginal Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and other relevant service authorities.
  - Developed with the appropriate level of stakeholder participation.
  - In accordance with any relevant Agreement prepared under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
  - Implementing the requirements of the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM), relevant Austroads publications, Australian Standards.
  - Supporting design and development principles as set out in Supportive Environments for Physical Activity (SEPA) principles of healthy urban design - refer to Healthy by Design guidelines, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), including recycling infrastructure and use of treated water; Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines; and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

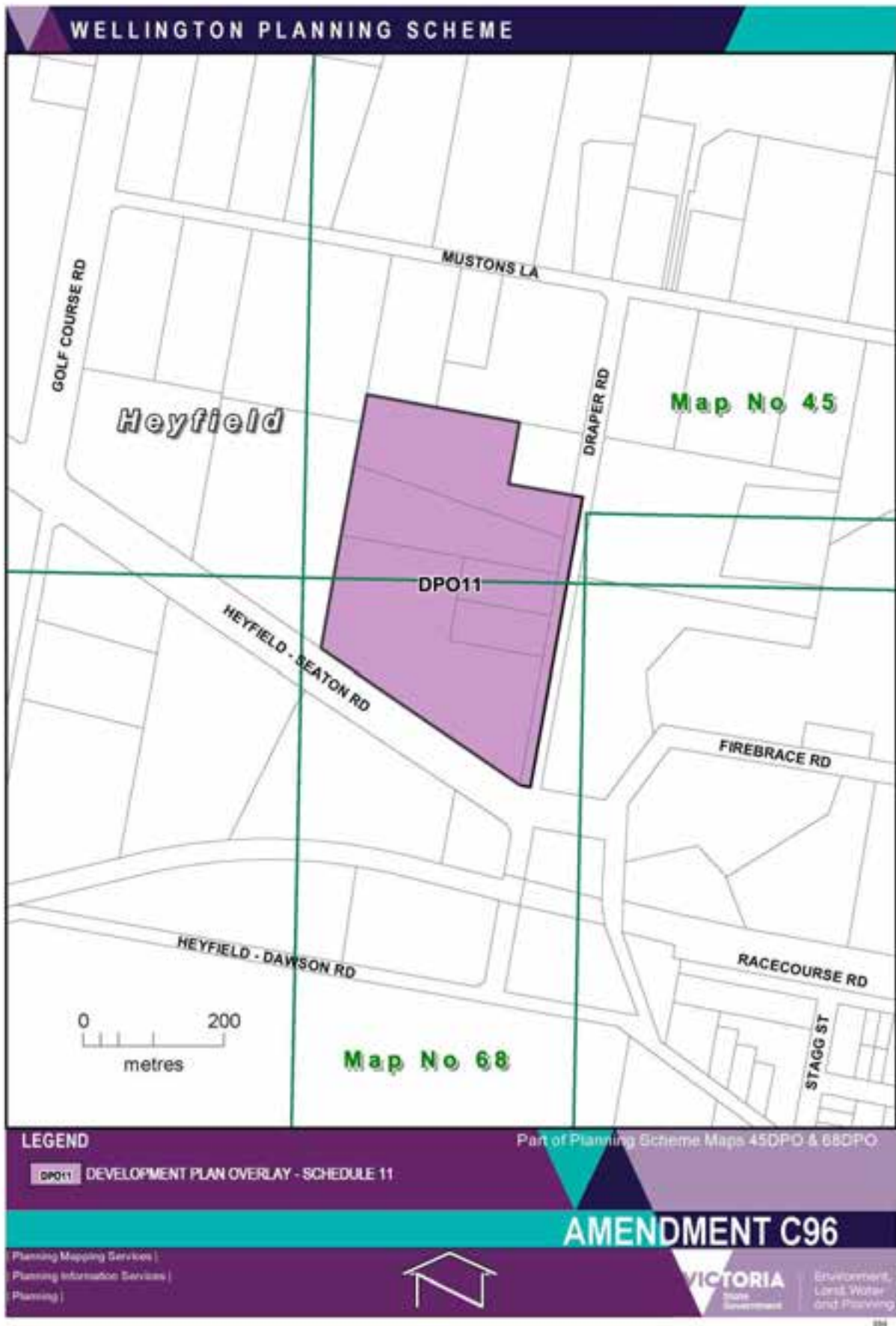












*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

**WELLINGTON PLANNING SCHEME**

**AMENDMENT C96**

**INSTRUCTION SHEET**

The planning authority for this amendment is the Wellington Shire Council.

The Wellington Planning Scheme is amended as follows:

**Planning Scheme Maps**

The Planning Scheme Maps are amended by a total of 4 attached maps sheets.

***Zoning Maps***

1. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. 45,68 and 70 in the manner shown on the 2 attached maps marked "Wellington Planning Scheme, Amendment C96".

***Overlay Maps***

2. Amend Planning Scheme Map Nos. DPO45, DPO68 and DPO70 in the manner shown on the 2 attached maps marked "Wellington Planning Scheme, Amendment C96".

**Planning Scheme Ordinance**

The Planning Scheme Ordinance is amended as follows:

3. In Local Planning Policy Framework – replace Clause 21.08 with a new Clause 21.08 in the form of the attached document.
4. In Local Planning Policy Framework – replace Clause 21.20 with a new Clause 21.20 in the form of the attached document.
5. In Overlays – Clause 43.04, insert a new Schedule 11 in the form of the attached document.

End of document



## **C4 - REPORT**

# **GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

**ITEM C4.1****PORT ALBERT BOAT RAMP UPGRADE CONTRACT 2018-012**

DIVISION: BUILT & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT  
ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS & PROJECTS  
DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2017

IMPACTS								
Financial	Legislative	Council Policy	Planning Policy	Resources & Staff	Community	Environmental	Consultation	Risk Management
✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this report is for Council to consider entering into a contract for the upgrade of the Port Albert Boat Ramp. The upgrade consists of removal and disposal of the existing northern jetty, construction of an additional ramp and construction of new floating pontoons complete with laybys and pedestrian access

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY****RECOMMENDATION*****That:***

- 1. Council adopt the recommendations contained in the attached confidential Tender Evaluation Report at Item F1.2 Contract 2018-012 Port Albert Boat Ramp Upgrade; and***
- 2. The information contained in the confidential attachment Item F1.2 Contract 2018-012 Port Albert Boat Ramp Upgrade of this Council meeting agenda and designated under Section 77 Clause (2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1989 as confidential by the General Manager Built & Natural Environment on 12 September 2017 because it relates to the following grounds under Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989: d) Contractual matters be designated confidential information under Section 77 Clause (2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989, except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful tenderer can be made public.***

**BACKGROUND**

Port Albert has been designated as a Regional Boating Facility in the Wellington Shire Council Boating Facilities Strategic Plan. Port Albert is one of Victoria's oldest sea ports and is adjacent to the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park.

The facility currently has a two lane boat ramp, a fixed jetty and a floating pontoon.

The upgrade works include the demolition of the fixed jetty, which is nearing the end of its useful life and replacing it with a floating pontoon configured with a layby angled away from the ramp to increase the boat parking area, which will allow better access to the ramp while boats are tied up when vehicles are parked or retrieved. Works will also include improved pedestrian access to the existing floating pontoon and the addition of an angled layby as described above. Improvements will also be made to the public lighting in the area of the ramp, fish cleaning tables and the boat wash down area.

The tenders have been evaluated and a contract has been prepared for Council's consideration.

## **OPTIONS**

Council have the following options available:

1. Adopt the recommendations contained in the attached confidential Tender Evaluation Report for contract 2018-012 Port Albert Boat Ramp Upgrade; or
2. Not enter into a contract and not proceed with these works at this time.

## **PROPOSAL**

That Council adopt the recommendations contained in the attached confidential Tender Evaluation Report for contract 2018-012 Port Albert Boat Ramp Upgrade.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The proposed boat ramp construction works are budgeted for in the 2017/18 Capital Works Program, however additional funds will need to be transferred from within the capital works program to fund this project.

## **LEGISLATIVE IMPACT**

Wellington Shire Council is committed to ensuring the Contract tendering process complies with the *Victorian Local Government Act 1989* and the Victorian Local Government Code of Tendering.

## **RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT**

This project will be administered using the resources of the Assets & Projects unit.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

The construction of these works will produce a positive community impact with improved access and serviceability at this facility.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The proposed works will have minimal environmental impact, with the contractors providing an Environmental Management Plan which will be strictly monitored.

## **CONSULTATION IMPACT**

Council's standard consultation practices will be implemented on this project.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT**

It is considered that the proposed contract works will not expose Wellington Shire Council to any significant risks. All OH&S risks will be discussed with the contractor and allocated to the party in the best position to manage each risk.

**ITEM C4.2****INDUSTRIAL ROAD SPECIAL CHARGE STREET  
CONSTRUCTION SCHEME – INTENTION TO DECLARE SCHEME**

DIVISION: BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT  
 ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS  
 DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2017

IMPACTS								
Financial	Legislative	Council Policy	Planning Policy	Resources and Staff	Community	Environmental	Consultation	Risk Management
✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**OBJECTIVE**

To consider the proposed Industrial Road Special Charge Street Construction Scheme Number 1701 for declaration as a Special Charge Scheme for the section from CH500 to CH630 Industrial Road in Stratford.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY****RECOMMENDATION**

*That:*

- 1. Council commences the statutory process under the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) to declare a Special Charge Scheme for the purposes of constructing the section of Industrial Road, Stratford, from CH500 to CH630 and providing any ancillary works including drainage.***
- 2. Council in accordance with sections 163(1A) and 163B(3) of the Act, directs that a public notice be given in the Gippsland Times newspaper of the intention of Council to declare the scheme at its ordinary meeting to be held on 5 September 2017 in accordance with the proposed declaration of Special Charge Scheme Number 1701 in the form of this resolution for the full construction of the section of Industrial Road, Stratford, from CH500 to CH630.***
- 3. Council directs that in accordance with section 163(1C) of the Act, separate letters enclosing a copy of the public notice be sent to the owners of the properties referred to and set out in the schedule of properties forming a part of the Proposed Declaration of a Special Charge, advising of the intention of Council to declare the Special Charge at its ordinary meeting to be held on 5 September 2017, the basis of the calculation and distribution of the Special Charge and notifying such persons that submissions and/or objections in writing in relation to the Proposed Declaration of Special Charge will be considered and/or taken into account by Council in accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act.***
- 4. Council appoints three Councillors plus an alternative representative to form the 'Industrial Road Special Charge Scheme Submissions Committee' that is established by Council under section 223(1)(b)(i) of the Act, to consider written submissions/objections and to hear any persons who in their written submissions under Section 223 of the Act have requested that they are heard in support of their submissions.***

5. *That Scheme Number 1701 for construction of this section of Industrial Road, Stratford, from CH500 to CH630 as presented to this meeting be adopted and a Special Charge for the scheme commences 5 September 2017 and remain in force for a period of ten years.*
6. *The Special Charge be declared for the purpose of defraying costs associated with street construction (including drainage) which Council considers will be of benefit to those property owners required to pay the special charge.*
7. *The following be specified as the land in relation to which the special charges is so declared: All properties abutting the section of Industrial Road from CH500 to CH630 within the township of Stratford intended to be included in the scheme as defined on the plan attached to this report. (Attachment 1)*
8. *The following be specified as the criteria which forms the basis of the Special Charge so declared:-*
  - *Properties will derive special benefit due to construction of the roads and streets by:-*
    - *Reduction in dust*
    - *Enhance the amenity and character of the land and local area*
    - *Creation of improved riding surfaces for the street*
    - *Improved access and egress from properties*
    - *Improved road drainage*
    - *Improved road safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians*
9. *That pursuant to Clause (2) of Section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolves:-*
  - (a) *The total amount of the special charge to be levied is \$120,000*
  - (b) *The criteria used as a basis for declaring the special charge are:*
    - *Improved amenity for properties in the area defined by the scheme boundary.*
    - *Improved road safety for properties and the community in the area defined by the scheme boundary.*
  - *That for the purposes of Clause (2A) of Section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989 the total amount of the special charge to be levied will not exceed the amount calculated in accordance with the formula  $S = R \times C$* 

*Where S = The maximum total amount that may be levied from all persons who are liable to pay the special charges.*

*R = The Benefit Ratio pursuant to Clause (2B) of Section 163 of the Act*

*and C = The cost of the scheme*
  - *That for the purposes of Clause (2B) of Section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989, the Benefit Ratio R shall have a value of 0.60.*
  - (c) *The cost is to be apportioned to properties included in the scheme on the basis of each property having a frontage abuttal to the street to be constructed under the scheme will be apportioned one (1) Access Benefit Unit (ABU). Properties with a side abuttal to the street to be constructed under the scheme will be apportioned one third (0.5) Access Benefit Unit (ABU).*

**10. Having regard to the preceding parts of this resolution, it be recorded that:**

**a) The owners of the properties described in the scheme document entitled “Industrial Road – Stratford - Special Charge Street Construction Scheme Number 1701” are liable for the respective amounts set out in the scheme document. Council will be contributing 60% of the scheme costs.**

**b) Such owners may subject to any further resolution by Council, pay the special charge per property/title in accordance with the following:**

- (i) the full amount within 45 days of invoice or**
- (ii) payment may be made over 40 quarterly instalments (10 years) including interest**

**11. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of this declaration in accordance with Sections 163 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.**

**12. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 163A and sections 163(1A), (1B) and (1C) and sections 163B and 223 of the Act.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Industrial Road, Stratford is located parallel to the Princes Highway, providing access for a range of commercial and industrial business's. The road is approximately 630m in length with the majority being constructed and sealed, however 130m at the eastern end is currently unsealed. The full length is managed and maintained by Wellington Shire Council.

The 130m length of unsealed road serves a large transportable home construction and retail centre, in addition to a Crown allotment licensed to Wellington Shire Council. The road frontage to the south is undeveloped Crown road reserve which separates Industrial Road from the Princes Highway.

This 130m section of unsealed road provides for the sole access to a large and vibrant commercial business specializing in transportable homes. The business provides employment for a large number of staff and contractors, adding significantly to the local economy.

There is a frequent use of the road by heavy and over dimensional vehicles, contractors and customers. The high level of utilization results in a quick rate of deterioration and higher demand for road maintenance activities. The sealing of this section of road would reduce Councils need for maintenance intervention, while providing a higher level of service to the adjacent properties.

Council officers received enquiry from the commercial business located at the east end of Industrial Road, to consider options to upgrade and seal the 130m section of Industrial Road which is presently unsealed. Following this expression of interest, potential options to progress the project were investigated by Council officers and presented during initial discussions.

It is considered that the properties which about this section of Industrial Road will derive a special benefit by the proposed upgrade works, as a result of:

- Reduction in dust
- Enhance the amenity of the area
- Creation of improved riding surfaces
- Improved access and egress from properties

- Improved road drainage
- Improved road safety for all road users

Following further investigation of potential methods to facilitate construction of the unsealed section of Industrial Road, it was concluded that a Special Charge Scheme, in line with the Residential Road and Street Construction Plan, was the preferred approach.

The second property which benefits from the works is Crown land licensed to Wellington Shire Council. The proposed works add to the future potential of this lot. Under the framework set out within the Residential Road and Street Construction scheme and operational procedures for apportionment of costs in Special Charge Schemes, the transportable home business and Wellington Shire Council are the only participants in the Special Charge Scheme.

A concept plan and construction estimate were prepared, in addition to a draft apportionment schedule to determine the estimated amount that would be recovered from each property within the scheme. There would be three separate properties identified within the scheme, being a single private property and two lots of Crown land.

The estimated apportionment cost was provided to the single private property owner within the proposed special charge scheme, in addition to an overview of the relevant process. A positive written response to proceed for the construction of unsealed section of Industrial Road under a special charge scheme was subsequently received.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Progress the proposed scheme by advertising the intention to declare the special charge scheme.
2. To not advertise the intention to declare the Special Charge Scheme.

## **PROPOSAL**

That Council advertise its intention to declare a Special Charge Scheme for the full construction of the section of Industrial Road, Stratford, from CH500 to CH630.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No Staff and/or Contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest in this section.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Total costs applicable to the special charge scheme are estimated to be \$120,000. The amount to be recovered under the scheme does not include GST.

Based on the funding framework within the Residential Road and Street Construction Plan, 60% of costs are to be apportioned to properties within the Special Charge Scheme, with 40% funded by Council.

Amount apportioned to properties within scheme (60%): \$72,000.

Portion of cost to be recovered from Council as direct costs (40%): \$48,000.

Total estimated cost of scheme: \$120,000.



Of the \$72,000 apportioned to property owners, \$24,000 is to be recovered from the single private property owner. As the other two identified properties are Crown land, costs related to these properties will be incurred by Council (\$48,000).

The resultant financial impact is a cost to Council of \$96,000.

The method of apportioning the costs for this scheme is uniform and based on access benefit only.

Property owners liable to pay under the Special Charge Scheme will be invoiced following completion of works. Options for payment include full payment within 45 days or 40 quarterly instalments (10 years), including an interest component aligned to Councils cost of finance.

## LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

This scheme has been prepared in accordance with Section 163, 163A, 163B of the Local Government Act 1989. Public notification will be in accordance with Sections 163 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Submissions and objections to the scheme will be considered in accordance with Sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

## LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Clause (2) of Section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989 requires Council to determine:

- (a) The total amount of the special charge to be levied; and
- (b) The criteria to be used as the basis for declaring the special charge.

Clause (2A) of Section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989 provides that for the purpose of Section (2) (a) the total amount of the special charge to be levied must not exceed the amount "S" where  $S = R \times C$  and;

S = is the maximum total amount that may be levied from all the persons who are liable to pay the special rates or special charges.

R = is the benefit ratio determined by the Council in accordance with sub-section (2B).

C = is the total cost of the performance of the function or the exercise of the power under sub-section (1).

The Benefit Ratio "R" is calculated by:

$$\frac{TSB(in)}{TSB(in)+TSB(out)+TCB} = R$$

- **TSB(in)** is the estimated total special benefit of those properties that the council has decided to include in the scheme.
- **TSB(out)** is the estimated total special benefit of those properties with an identified special benefit that the Council does not propose to include in the scheme.
- **TCB** is the estimated total community benefit.
- **R** is the benefit ratio.

For the purposes of this scheme:

$$\text{TSB(in)} = 3 \text{ (no. of properties in scheme)}$$

$$\text{TSB(out)} = 0$$

$$\text{TCB} = 9$$

$$\text{Therefore:- } R = \frac{3}{3+0+2} = 0.60$$

and

$$S = R \times C$$

$$S = 0.60 \times \$120,000$$

$$\text{Therefore:- } S = \$72,000$$

### **COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT**

The scheme has been prepared in accordance with Council's Special Charge Schemes – Roads, Street and Drainage Development Policy 4.2.4 and 2014 Residential Road and Street Construction Plan.

### **PLANNING POLICY IMPACT**

The proposal has no impact on Planning Policy.

### **RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT**

Implementation of the scheme can be undertaken within the resources of the Assets and Projects unit with the assistance of external contract engineering support for the survey and design of the scheme. In the event the scheme is adopted by Council, construction will be carried out by an approved contractor via a tender process.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Implementation of this scheme will have a general community impact as it will result in Industrial Road, Stratford being fully sealed, in line with current service standards. Community benefit is reflected in Council contribution toward the works outcome.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Implementation of this scheme will have a positive environmental impact arising from the reduction of dust generated by vehicles as well as improved quality of storm water runoff.

### **CONSULTATION IMPACT**

A consultation process has been undertaken with the single affected property owner by way of a meetings and correspondence outlining the proposal.

Further consultation will be through recommendation 2 and 3 of this report. The recommendation is for the notification by public notice of the opportunity to lodge submissions/objections to the proposed Special Charge Street Construction Scheme.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT**

Implementation of the scheme will produce a substantial reduction in risk to motorists, cyclists and other road users through improved visibility (reduction of dust), properly identified through lanes and new signage and markings.

**Attachment 1**

**INDUSTRIAL ROAD – STRATFORD - SPECIAL CHARGE STREET CONSTRUCTION SCHEME  
No 1701**

**PLAN OF SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME AREA.**

**Scheme Boundary** ———





## **C5 - REPORT**

# **GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY AND CULTURE**

**ITEM C5.1****MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2017 - 2021**

DIVISION: COMMUNITY AND CULTURE  
ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER COMMUNITY WELLBEING  
DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2017

IMPACTS									
Financial	Communication	Legislative	Council Policy	Council Plan	Resources & Staff	Community	Environmental	Consultation	Risk Management
		✓		✓	✓	✓			

**OBJECTIVE**

For Council to approve Healthy Wellington 2017 - 2021 (Attachment A).

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY****RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council approves Healthy Wellington Plan 2017 – 2021 (Attachment A).*

**BACKGROUND**

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) is a legislative requirement of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. It is a high-level document which sets a broad mission and goals for maximising health and wellbeing in the municipality.

Wellington's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been integrated with the Wellington health-promotion funded agency's Health Promotion Strategic Plans. This integrated plan is known as Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021.

Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 consist of a suite of four documents:

- Part 1: Strategic plan
- Part 2: Theory, research and references
- Part 3: Municipal scan
- Part 4: Annual action plan (in development)

Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 is an important strategic plan that promotes collaborative action to improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

Healthy Wellington 2017 - 2021 has been developed through a process of reviewing our population data, local policies, and consulting with our community. Wellington Shire Council and Wellington Primary Care Partnership have led the process, engaging with our community and local organisations.

**OPTIONS**

Council has the following options:

1. Approve Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021; or



2. Request changes to Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 and present to a future Council meeting.

## PROPOSAL

That Council approve Healthy Wellington Plan 2017 – 2021.

## CONSULTATION IMPACT

Over 150 staff representatives from Council, State Government, non-government, health, and community services attended stakeholder workshops to identify the strategic direction for the identified health priority areas.

A draft Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan was developed in June 2017. For a period of 8 weeks from July to September 2017, a community engagement process was undertaken to receive feedback on the draft plan, and suggestions for the action plans.

Engagement activities included:

- A community survey, approximately 500 were completed.
- Social media campaign on Wellington Primary Care Partnership and Wellington Shire Council Facebook page.
- 'Pop up' stalls at existing community events and community network meetings (such as U3A, Carers Groups and Sale Park Run).
- Community lunch and workshop at Yarram.
- 'Pop up' Survey boxes at Libraries, Neighbourhood Houses and Health and Community Services.
- Public Submission process.

Overall the feedback provided from the community was positive with strong support for the priority and focus areas chosen. The feedback received will be used to develop the annual action plans.

Central to the success of Healthy Wellington 2017-2021 will be ongoing community participation and involvement in activities. The delivery of Healthy Wellington 2017-2021 will include regular media and communication to ensure that the community is kept informed of progress and options for involvement.

## COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017–21 Theme 1 Communities states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

### Strategic Objective 1.1

*"Maintain friendly, safe communities providing opportunities for residents to lead healthy and active lifestyles."*

### Strategy 1.1.1

*"Continue to deliver services and programs that encourage and foster community wellness and the prevention of disease."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

## **RESOURCES AND STAFF**

The Healthy Wellington Action Group meetings occur every two months and members monitor progress in the Healthy Wellington 2017 - 2021 Action Plan.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest.

# HEALTHY WELLINGTON 2017 – 2021

## Part 1: Strategic plan

Integrated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and  
Health Promotion Funded Agencies Health Promotion Plan



DRAFT Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 Part 1. Strategic plan  
Page 1 of 53

Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 consist of a suite of four documents:

- Part 1: Strategic plan (this document)
- Part 2: Theory, research and references
- Part 3: Municipal scan
- Part 4: Annual action plan (in development)

*We are pleased to introduce the Integrated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan & Health Promotion Funded Agencies Health Promotion Plan, referred to as Healthy Wellington 2017 - 2021.*

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## Introduction

The Wellington Shire Council and Wellington Primary Care Partnership, through the Healthy Wellington Action Group, have developed Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021.

Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 is both:

- Wellington Shire Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- The Health Promotion Strategic Plan for health promotion funded agencies in Wellington. These include:
  - Central Gippsland Health
  - Gippsland Women's Health
  - Wellington Primary Care Partnership
  - Yarram and District Health Service

Table 1 Healthy Wellington 2017-2021 partnership structure



While Healthy Wellington Plan 2017 – 2021 meets the strategic planning requirements of the above organisations, the plan is owned and driven by members of the Healthy Wellington Action Group.

***Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 is an important strategic plan that promotes collaborative action towards improving the health and wellbeing of our community.***



Healthy Wellington 2017 - 2021 has been developed through a process of reviewing our population data, local policies, and consulting with our community. Wellington Shire Council and Wellington Primary Care Partnership have led the process, engaging with our community and local organisations.

With our community and partners, we identified the following health priorities in Wellington Shire:

**Priority area 1: Improve mental wellbeing with a focus on:**

- 1a. Increase resilience
- 1b. Improve social connection and inclusion
- 1c. Decrease harm from alcohol and other drugs
- 1d. Decrease harm from gambling

**Priority area 2: Improve gender equality with a focus on:**

- 2a. Improve gender equity
- 2b. Decrease violence against women and their children
- 2c. Increase sexual and reproductive health

**Priority area 3: Improve healthy living with a focus on:**

- 3a. Increase physical activity & healthy eating
- 3b. Decrease smoking

**Priority area 4: Address climate change with a focus on:**

- 4a. Increase capacity for climate change adaptation
- 4b. Improve community resilience and municipal relief and recovery planning in the event of extreme weather and or a natural disaster

As a collective we will prioritise activities in these priority and focus areas over the next 4 years. Each focus area will have an annual action plan, aligned with resource allocations, emerging directions and funding opportunities.

***Our work is not limited to health agencies, and by collaborating with a range of organisations and communities, we are able to work towards shared health and wellbeing outcomes for all.***

This strategic document provides the framework for an integrated approach to addressing the public health and wellbeing needs within Wellington Shire.

Our integration is characterised by:

- Shared outcomes and measures
- Shared resources and expertise
- Reduced duplication
- Building organisational and resource capacity.

Healthy Wellington 2017 - 2021 will consist of four key documents;

**1. Strategic plan**

- Improve mental wellbeing
- Improve gender equality
- Improve healthy living
- Address climate change.

This document includes how we plan to evaluate and report on progress on the strategic document and annual action plans.

All numbered footnotes in this strategy document are referenced in Healthy Wellington 2017-2021 Part 2: Theory, research and references, page 10 and onwards.

**2. Theory research and references**

This document includes all the relevant information that was used to develop the Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plans, such as guiding theory for public health planning, research and references.

**3. Municipal scan**

This document includes a report on the population health data for Wellington Shire. Data was collated from several government databases. Decisions on priority and focus areas was influenced by this data report.

**4. Annual action plans**

Each focus area will have an action plan that will be reviewed annually. The plan will list the strategies that we will work on that year to meet the overall goal or outcomes.

For each of the focus areas, the action plans will detail;

- Reporting responsibilities (annual and quarterly).
- Which agencies and groups will be working in this focus area.
- What support may be provided through the Healthy Wellington Partnership to assist in the facilitation of any project or working groups.
- What support may be provided through the Healthy Wellington Partnership to ensure evaluation measures are in place to determine the impact of initiatives completed.
- Whether there is a key agency leading collective work.

Action plan development will be completed with consideration to resource allocations and funding opportunities, and will include any new and emerging issues related to the focus areas that are identified with partner organisations and or community.

## Partnership

Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 acknowledges that effective public health planning cannot be done by local government or the health sector alone. It requires a collaborative approach by all concerned. Working in partnership will ensure our work is aligned and we share the same goals in improving the health and wellbeing of people in Wellington Shire. Partners of Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 include (but are not limited to):

### Local Government:

- Wellington Shire Council
- Partnership with the 5 Councils within Gippsland

### Government Departments:

- Department Education and Training
- Department Health and Human Services
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Victoria Police
- VicRoads

### Health Sector:

- Central Gippsland Health
- Gippsland Primary Health Network
- Gippsland Women's Health
- Latrobe Community Health Service
- Latrobe Regional Hospital
- Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation
- Wellington Primary Care Partnership
- Yarram and District Health Service

### Community Sector:

- GippSport
- Quantum Support Services
- Uniting
- The Salvation Army

### Community – Individuals, community and special interest groups:

- Community Planning Groups
- Early Learning Centres
- Faith Based Groups
- Neighbourhood Houses
- Primary and Secondary Schools
- Service Clubs
- Sporting Groups
- Wellington Access and Inclusion Advisory Group
- Wellington Early Years Network
- Wellington Liquor Accord
- Workplaces

## Delivery of Healthy Wellington 2017-2021:

A successful Healthy Wellington 2017-2021 will be based upon appropriate support structures and resources being put in place by the integrated partnership.

The Healthy Wellington Action Group currently exists as a governance group and has members from Wellington Shire Council, and organisations in the health and community sector. Its role is to govern the implementation of Healthy Wellington 2017 - 2021. Working groups will be formed to lead initiatives and individuals will be involved to provide expertise.

The Healthy Wellington Action Group has identified that the success of the partnership at the end of the four-year period will be characterised by:

- Retention and growth in the number and variety of partners
- Awareness within the community of the work of Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021
- An engaged community that is driving planning and actions
- Strong collaboration having occurred

The Healthy Wellington partnership will allocate staff resources to the following roles / responsibilities to ensure the delivery of outcomes through the integrated partnership;

- Partnership facilitation - including Healthy Wellington Action Group and relevant working groups.
- Evaluation plans - ensuring the collection of impact and outcome measures for the work that is completed.
- Delivery of direct projects / initiatives where gaps are identified.
- Reporting to funding bodies and the community.
- Marketing - promoting what is being done, progress and success.

## Action areas

Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 will have five 'Action Areas' within each of the focus areas. These action areas were identified by members of Healthy Wellington Action Group as areas where we can influence. We are also using several theories and concepts to guide the work that we undertake. Refer to 'Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 Part 2. Theory, Research and References' for more information about our guiding theories and concepts.

Action area 1: Building healthy public policy	
Definition:	Policy is a formal statement, made by a person or organisation with power to do so. Having formal policies can guide practice for a group, workplace and broader community.
What will Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 do?	We will identify opportunities to establish or influence policy, at the municipal level as well as within settings that address health and wellbeing.
Theory that will guide our work:	Public health model Policies developed should have either a large scale reach (impact on the broader population) and or be focussed on target/ priority populations.  Policy development can also be informed through a tertiary intervention approach.
Action area 2: Create supportive physical environments	
Definition:	Research has shown that the physical environment made up of natural and built structures where people interact can have a significant impact on health and wellbeing.
What will Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 do?	We will strive to make changes to the physical environment to remove barriers, promote and support the health of the community.
Theory that will guide our work:	Placed based focus Identify townships where there are gaps in the physical environment to enhance health and wellbeing outcomes (including gaps in accessibility).  Settings focus Utilise a settings based approach by changing the physical environment within the places that we live, work and play.



Action area 3: Achieve capacity building within environments	
Definition:	Creating supportive and health promoting environments can have a major impact on health and wellbeing.
What will Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 do?	We will endeavour to build the capacity of individuals within our settings to positively alter the social environment and norms.
Theory that will guide our work:	<p><b>Settings focus</b> Identify priority settings most impacted by the health issue and or settings where there is already work happening around particular health issues. Utilise a settings based approach by changing the culture and norms within the places that we live, work and play.</p> <p><b>Public health model</b> Build capacity in settings where there is large scale reach and or settings where people are most at risk of the health issue.</p> <p><b>Social determinants of health</b> Ensure that the social determinants of health are considered in capacity building initiatives.</p> <p><b>Systems thinking approach</b> Help to identify the barriers to healthy behaviour.</p>
Action area 4: Community voice and advocacy	
Definition:	Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group which aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems.
What will Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 do?	We will work to raise the profile of our health priorities, promoting community action and advocacy within Wellington.
Theory that will guide our work:	<p><b>Public health model</b> Awareness and education to focus on large scale population reach with varying messages to target those most at risk.</p> <p><b>Social determinants of health</b> This will be a focus when striving to create community led voice to change the culture and norms towards health issues.</p>

Action area 5: Programs and events	
Definition:	<p>Programs are interventions for individuals or groups which focus on promoting health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Events are activities which connect the community, promoting key health and wellbeing messages.</p>
What will Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 do?	We will support program and service delivery to address those at risk or experiencing ill health. Events will promote and celebrate our priority areas to the community.
Theory that will guide our work:	<p>Social determinants of health Ensure that the social determinants of health are considered in the development and delivery of all programs and events.</p> <p>Public health model Focus on supporting a universal intervention approach to program development within Wellington.</p> <p>Systems thinking approach / mapping Identify of how the social determinants of health impact on program participation and access.</p> <p>Settings focus Programs delivered to focus on people developing protective behaviours.</p>

Wellington Shire Council and Wellington Primary Care Partnership will take the lead in facilitating the Healthy Wellington Action Group, as well as relevant working groups responsible for implementing particular action plans.

## Shared outcomes and measures

Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 defines an outcome as a 'result' or 'what we want to achieve'. As part of Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021, we will have shared outcomes, ensuring all involved are working towards the same goal.

As much as possible we will also work towards having shared outcome measures. These outcome measures have been taken from the 'Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework', and will be used to measure change in the community's health and wellbeing over time.

Results of some of the data shows Wellington Shire is performing well compared with the state average. However, within the plan we still want to work on improving on these figures to achieve our shared outcomes.

We have aligned our targets with those set in the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework*. Where no target has been set in the framework document, we have determined targets based on desired improvement.

The shared measures will be shown in the below format within each priority area:

Priority area	Focus area	Shared outcome	Shared measure	Current measure	Target for 2021
What do we want to achieve?	To achieve our priority, what do we need to focus on?	What shared outcome/s are we working towards achieving?	What shared measures/s are we working towards achieving?	What is the current data of the measure telling us?	What are we aiming for?

**Targets are calculated as an increase or decrease of the current measure.**

**For example, a 5% increase of a current measure of 30 equates to a target of 31.5.**

## Lenses

Population health work can impact and affect people of different demographics in different ways. The diversity of our community means that many considerations need to be applied to our work. Organisational systems, including policies, plans, programs, services and communication, can cause or lead to discriminatory effects and inequity in access, or may reinforce harmful stereotypes. To ensure our work is not further causing inequities in health, it is important to look through certain lenses. When looking through a lens, this can mean involving people from particular population groups to determine how their experience of health and health services can vary.

The lenses which will be applied throughout the work of Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 include:

- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)
- Age – Early Years, Youth and Older adults
- Disability
- Gender
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Queer (LGBTIQ)

## Roles and functions of agencies

Organisations and groups associated with Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 will have different roles and responsibilities when it comes to implementing the Plan. Below is a summary of the roles and responsibilities. An organisation or group's role in a priority or focus area may change over time. Changes will be reflected in the annual action plans.

<b>Provider</b>	Delivering services
<b>Funder</b>	Funding other organisations to deliver services
<b>Regulator</b>	Regulate activities through legislation
<b>Partner</b>	Forming partnerships and strategic alliances with other parties in the interests of the community
<b>Facilitator</b>	Assisting others to be involved in activities by bringing groups and interested parties together
<b>Advocate</b>	Promoting the interests of the community to decision makers and influencers.

## Wellington Shire demographics

Wellington Shire is situated in the Gippsland region, approximately 212 kilometres east of Melbourne. Wellington is Victoria's third largest municipality, covering 10,817 square kilometres, with a population of more than 40,000 residents. Our population is growing slower than the Victorian average, and is projected to increase by 0.7% in 2014-2024 (2015).

In the Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), which is a measure of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage across Australia, Wellington Shire has a score of 974. Scores less than 1000 indicate greater disadvantage and lack of advantage in general. Towns within the shire vary in SEIFA, with Yarram (918) and Warruk (954) scoring lower than Sale (974) and East Sale (1070), highlighting pockets of greater disadvantage within our shire. Wellington scores similarly in other SEIFA indexes which measure access to economic resources (eg. housing) and education and occupation (eg. skilled vs. unskilled occupations, high qualifications etc.). Wellington is neither one of the most advantaged or disadvantaged regions in Australia (2017).

\*\*\*\*\*Compared to other municipalities in Victoria, Wellington has a large percentage of the population identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander, but little cultural diversity. 19.4% of residents were born overseas. 13.1% of residents speak a language other than English at home, compared to the Victorian average of 32.1%. People aged over 45 are overrepresented in the community, and people aged 15-44 years old are underrepresented. Individuals in Wellington with income less than \$400 per week (44.0%) is higher than the state average (39.9%). There are more people with disability in Wellington, who require care and/or financial support compared to the Victorian average, and fewer care options for aged residents. Educational attainment is lower in Wellington, with less people (25.5%) completing a higher education qualification compared with the Victorian average (45.7%) (2015) :

\*\*\*This will be turned into an info graphic.

*Wellington is facing a range of health and wellbeing challenges. In planning for Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021, consideration has been made for promoting health at every stage of life, and promoting health for Wellington's most disadvantaged groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people living with disability and women. All of these groups experience poorer social outcomes associated with inequity and discrimination.*

For more information and further details on Wellington Shire population health data, please refer to 'Healthy Wellington 2017-2021 Part 3. Municipal scan'.



## Feedback from community and stakeholders:

Community engagement for Healthy Wellington 2017- 2021 commenced in early 2016 with engagement activities for the development of Council Strategies incorporating health and wellbeing as a focus. The strategies include:

- Wellington 2030 Community Vision
- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Wellington Community Early Years Plan 2017-2021
- Wellington Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy 2017-2020
- Wellington Shire Council Access and Inclusion Plan 2017-2022
- Wellington Youth Strategy 2017 - 2020

During the various engagement activities, the community identified a range of health and wellbeing priorities such as:

*...support our community to be safe, resilient, healthy, active, connected, accepting of diversity and having access to appropriate and sustainable services and facilities.*

This feedback was used to assist in choosing the priority and focus areas for Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021.

A draft Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 Strategic plan was developed in June 2017. For a period of 8 weeks from July to September 2017, a community engagement process was undertaken to receive feedback on the draft plan, and suggestions for the action plans.

Engagement activities included:

- A community survey, approximately 500 were completed.
- 'Pop up' stalls at existing community events and community network meetings (such as U3A, Carers Groups and Sale Park Run).
- Community lunch and workshop at Yarram.
- 'Pop up' Survey boxes at Libraries, Neighbourhood Houses and Health and Community Services.
- Public Submission process.

Overall the feedback provided from the community was positive with strong support for the priority and focus areas chosen with key themes in the comments being:

- Focus on developing skills in our children and youth, and creating more partnerships with schools.
- Community identified and valued 'resilience' and 'social connection and inclusion' as a protective factor for the other focus areas in mental wellbeing.
- Community safety was important in relation to the community issues of 'alcohol and drugs' and 'gambling'.
- Community felt equality needed to be in the community, workplace, sporting clubs and schools.
- Accessibility and inclusion was critical in all priority areas.
- Community recognised the links between mental wellbeing and healthy living, and how addressing one will also benefit the other.

Overall the feedback received will continued to be used to further develop the annual action plans.



## Priority area 1: Improve mental wellbeing

Good mental health is defined as more than just the absence of mental illness. It is a positive state of wellbeing which includes feeling good and functioning well. According to the World Health Organisation, mental health is a state of wellbeing in which a person can:

- Cope with the normal stresses of life
- Work productively
- Realise their potential
- Contribute to the community

Feeling connected to and valued by others, being able to cope with the usual stresses of life, having the opportunity and capacity to contribute to community and being productive are all critical to mental health. Mental health is an essential ingredient of individual and community wellbeing and significantly contributes to the social, cultural and economic life of Victoria.

Building healthy and resilient communities that promote social inclusion and economic participation is the fundamental building block of social and emotional wellbeing. Good mental health is also important to a thriving community. As all people experience varying levels of need related to mental health at different times during their lives, the protective factors for good mental health need to be enhanced and supported.

Improving mental wellbeing in Wellington encompasses addressing risk factors for mental health including social isolation and exclusion, natural disasters, lack of access to education and employment, insecure employment, alcohol and other drugs misuse, and harm from gambling.

Within the priority area of mental wellbeing, we acknowledge the complexity and interconnection between several focus areas. However, for clear strategic direction for Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 we have chosen the following focus areas:

- 1a. Increase resilience
- 1b. Improve social connection and inclusion
- 1c. Decrease harm from alcohol and other drugs
- 1d. Decrease harm from gambling

## Focus area 1a. Increase resilience

### What is resilience?

Resilience is the ability to cope or 'bounce back' after negative events, difficult situations, challenging or hard times and return to almost the same level of wellbeing. It is also the ability to respond to difficult situations and still thrive.

### Why do we need to focus on resilience?

Wellington Shire has a higher percentage of residents who experience anxiety and depression, compared to the state average. By focusing on building individual resilience, including people who experience mental health issues, we can empower people in our community to bounce back from difficult situations.

Wellington residents have experienced various natural disasters over recent years including flooding (Avon River 8.8m) and bush fires (Aberfeldy 85,193ha, Jack River 2,870ha)<sup>7</sup>. The need to be resilient to cope after natural disasters was a high priority in the feedback provided to develop the Wellington 2030 Community Vision, Version 2.0.

Changes to employment and income in local industries (Dairy, Hazelwood Power Station, ASH Timber Mill) are also resulting in pressure on local communities. These pressures support the need to improve community resilience in the Wellington population. Individuals in our community are also affected by economic pressures which are leading to higher levels of family stress and lower levels of household income.

The table below identifies the key statistics that have also influenced the selection of the focus area of resilience.

Resilience strengths in Wellington	Resilience gaps in Wellington
Perceptions of Neighbourhood – people willing to help each other 84.3% (Vic 74.1%) (2015) <sup>8</sup>	Proportion of adults who definitely feel there are opportunities to have a real say on important matters 31.0% (Vic 35.2%)(2014) <sup>9</sup>
Proportion of adults able to get help from friends 86.3% (Vic 79.7%) (2014) <sup>8</sup>	Proportion of children who report being bullied Year 7 to 9, 22.4% (Vic 18.0%) (2015) <sup>10</sup>
Percentage of persons with adequate work life balance 57.8 (Vic 53.1%, 11 in LGA)(2014) <sup>2</sup>	Proportion of adults able to get help from family 76.9% (Vic 81.6%) (2014) <sup>9</sup>
Perceptions of Neighbourhood – people can be trusted (% agree) 80.5% (Vic 71.9%) (2015) <sup>8</sup>	Prevalence of depression and anxiety 27.1% (Vic 24.2%)(2014) <sup>11</sup>

What do we want to achieve?

Priority area	Focus area	Shared outcome	Shared measure	Current measure	Target for 2021
1. Improve mental wellbeing	1a. Increase resilience	Increase mental wellbeing	Proportion of adults and adolescence in Wellington with high/very high psychological distress	Wellington Shire 11.7% (2014)  Vic 12.6% <sup>11</sup>	Decrease by 15% (9.95%)
			Proportion of children in Wellington at school entry whose parents report high levels of family stress in the past month	Wellington Shire 11% (2014)  Vic 9.9% <sup>12</sup>	Decrease by 15% (9.35%)

What else is influencing our work?

**State:**

VicHealth's direction is to build partnerships between young people, sports, arts, workplaces, education and government to increase resilience and social connection. VicHealth have a particular focus on building resilience in young people.

Government policies and tools focusing on these priorities include National Mental Health Policy 2008, School-wide Positive Behaviour Support Framework, The Education State and Child Safe Standards.

**Local:**

The Wellington Shire Council Plan 2017 - 2021, specifically:

- Enhance resilience in our towns and our communities. (community theme)

Action areas:	Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 future direction
Policy:	Support the development and implementation of policies that build resilience in our community.
Physical environment:	Influence the development of our settings that increase likelihood of community resilience.
Capacity building within environments:	Strengthen and support capacity building within our settings to increase the likelihood of resilience.  Support lead agencies as they up skill their workforce to deliver resilience activities and support services to individuals and families in our community.

Community voice and advocacy:	Continue to engage with the community to promote messages on how to build resilience in individuals and community.
Programs and events:	Support the development and implementation of programs, events and resources that promote building resilience.

## Focus area 1b. Improve social connection and inclusion

### What is social connection and inclusion?

A socially inclusive society is one where all people feel valued, their differences are respected, and their basic needs are met so they can live with dignity. Social networks can provide social support, social influence, opportunities for social engagement and meaningful social roles as well as providing access to resources and intimate one-on-one contact. <sup>12</sup>

### Why do we need to focus on social connection and inclusion?

In Wellington, there is a high population of residents;

- Living with high levels of psychological distress
- Living with severe and profound disability
- Experiencing social isolation
- Requiring assistance with core daily activity.

Few people live near public transport which reduces their access to services and opportunities to engage with others.

The need to recognise and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural values is a priority of Wellington 2030 Community Vision Version 2.0 <sup>13</sup>. The Council Plan 2017-2021 sets Council actions to enhance social connection and inclusion including to;

- ensure our facilities, services and events promote inclusivity, social connectedness and accessibility
- support and encourage community groups to deliver a diverse range of programs and events,
- develop strategic partnerships to support young people and the Aboriginal community.

The table below identifies the key statistics that have also influenced the selection of the focus area of social connection and inclusion.

Social connection and inclusion strengths in Wellington	Social connection and inclusion gaps in Wellington
Perceptions of Neighbourhood – people can be trusted (% agree) 80.5% (Vic 71.9%) (2015) <sup>14</sup>	People with high/very high level of social isolation 18.5% (Vic 17.3%)(2014) <sup>15</sup>
People who help as a volunteer 26.4% (Vic 19.4%, 33 in LGA) (2014) <sup>16</sup>	People who live near public transport 26.6% (Vic 73.9%) (2014) <sup>17</sup>
Proportion of children who report feeling connected to school Year 7 to 9, 66.5% (Vic 62.3%) <sup>14</sup>	People aged over 75 years who live alone 41.2%(Vic 35.9%, 16 in LGA) (2014) <sup>18</sup>



What do we want to achieve?

Priority area	Focus area	Shared outcome	Shared measure	Current measure	Target for 2021
1. Improve mental wellbeing	1b. Increase social connection and inclusion	Increase connection to culture and communities	Proportion of adults who belong to an organised group - Sport	Wellington Shire 30.5% (2014) Vic 25.6% <sup>11</sup>	Increase by 5% (32.03%)
			Proportion of adults who belong to an organised group - School	Wellington Shire 25.7% (2014) Vic 13.6% <sup>11</sup>	Increase by 5% (26.99%)
			Proportion of adults who attended a local community event	Wellington Shire 75.2% (2014) Vic 58.9% <sup>11</sup>	Increase by 5% (61.85%)
		Increase access to social support	Life satisfaction of adults	Wellington Shire 91.9% (2014) Vic 92.4% <sup>11</sup>	Increase by 1% (92.81%)
			Proportion of adults who feel valued by society	Wellington Shire 47.8% (2014) Vic 35.5% <sup>11</sup>	Increase by 5% (50.19%)
		Increase educational attainment	Proportion of year 9 students at the highest level of achievements in math and reading	Wellington Shire TBD – awaiting data Vic TBD	
		Increase labour market participation	Unemployment rate	Wellington Shire 5.2% (2011) Vic 6.3% <sup>2</sup>	Reduce by 5% (4.94%)

What else is influencing our work?

State:

The state-wide direction from the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan includes promoting acceptance of diversity and social inclusion to build resilient and connected communities.



**Local:**

The Wellington Shire Council Plan 2017 - 2021, specifically:

- Celebrate, recognise and acknowledge our diverse community and improve social connections among youth, aboriginal and aged communities. (community theme)

Action areas:	<i>Healthy Wellington 2017 -2021 future direction</i>
<b>Policy:</b>	<i>Support the implementation of plans and policies that guide practice in social connection and inclusion within our environments.</i>  <i>Provide strategic direction to communities to assist them in facility planning to enable growth in participation in activities which enable social connection and inclusion.</i>
<b>Physical environment:</b>	<i>Influence the development of environments, such as community facilities and community spaces that are designed to promote accessibility, connection and inclusion.</i>
<b>Capacity building within environments:</b>	<i>Strengthen and support capacity building within individuals, groups and communities to be more socially inclusive.</i>  <i>Improve people's access to educational and employment opportunities which provide a broad choice of local training, education and holistic learning and development options.</i>
<b>Community voice &amp; advocacy:</b>	<i>Actively empower the community by delivering messages which promote a better understanding of social connection and inclusion.</i>
<b>Programs and events:</b>	<i>Support the development and implementation of programs, events and resources in the community that promote the importance of social connection and inclusion.</i>

## Focus area 1c. Prevent harm from alcohol and other drugs

### What is harm from alcohol and other drugs?

Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to an increase in risk of alcohol-related harm including cardiovascular disease, decreased life expectancy, anxiety and depression, reduced productivity in the workforce and absenteeism, accidents, and violence. <sup>16</sup>

VicHealth defines alcohol culture as the way people drink including the formal rules, social norms, attitudes and beliefs around what is and what is not socially acceptable for a group of people before, during and after drinking. <sup>17</sup>

Harm from drugs occurs when an individual develops a pattern of misuse which causes damage to their physical and/or mental health and some drugs can trigger the onset of a pre-existing mental illness. <sup>18</sup>

### Why do we need to focus on preventing harm from alcohol and other drugs?

In Wellington, data shows significantly higher drug use and possession offences than the rest of Victoria. This may reflect increased drug use in the community. Alcohol measures clearly show increased alcohol consumption and increased short and long term alcohol related harm in Wellington.

- Drug usage and possession offences per 1000 population 5.6 (Vic 5.1; 23 in LGA) (2014) <sup>2</sup>
- Proportion of the adult population with increased lifetime risk of alcohol related harm 76.0% (Vic 59.2%) (2014) <sup>11</sup>
- Clients that received Alcohol & drug Treatment Services per 1,000 population 6.8% (Vic 5.0%, 19 in LGA) (2014) <sup>2</sup>

### What do we want to achieve?

Priority area	Focus area	Shared outcome	Shared measure	Current measure	Target for 2021
1. Improve mental wellbeing	1c. Prevent harm from alcohol and other drugs	Reduce harmful alcohol and drug use	Proportion of our community at risk of short-term harm each month	Wellington Shire 34% (2015)  Vic 29.4% <sup>a</sup>	Decrease by 5% (32.3%)
			Proportion of our community at very high risk of short-term harm each month	Wellington Shire 15.5% (2015)  Vic 9.2% <sup>a</sup>	Decrease by 5% (14.73%)

		Change Alcohol culture	Proportion of our community who believe getting drunk every now and then is okay	Wellington Shire 30.9% (2015)  Vic 27.9% <sup>5</sup>	Decrease by 5% (29.36%)
			Proportion of adults and adolescents who consume alcohol at lifetime risk of harm	Wellington Shire 76.0% (2014)  Vic 59.2% <sup>11</sup>	Decrease by 5% (72.2%)
		Reduce illicit drug use	Rate of illicit drug-related ambulance attendances	Wellington Shire Waiting on data requested  Vic* <sup>12</sup>	Decrease by %

Action areas:	<i>Healthy Wellington 2017 -2021 future direction</i>
Policy:	<i>Develop and implement policies, within our community, which address minimising impacts of harmful alcohol and drug use and support those directly affected.</i>
Physical environment:	<i>Provide community facilities which support socially inclusive activities. These community facilities will be an alternative to licenced alcohol venues or are venues which are proactive in addressing alcohol and drug related issues.</i>
Capacity building within environments:	<i>Work in partnership with settings to address alcohol and drug misuse. Settings will be supported to identify appropriate harm minimisation interventions that best meet the needs of their participants.</i>
Community voice and advocacy:	<i>Advocate for cultural change in attitudes towards excess alcohol use and drug use.</i>  <i>Actively empower the community by delivering messages which promote a better understanding of harm from drug and alcohol misuse.</i>

Programs and events:	<i>Support the development and implementation of programs, events and resources in the community that educate and inform on the impacts of harmful alcohol and drug misuse.</i>
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#### What else is influencing our work?

The state-wide direction from the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan includes:

- Developing strategies across government to reduce the risk of short-term harms due to the misuse of alcohol, and minimise the chronic health problems associated with long term unhealthy drinking patterns.
- Improve alcohol and drug education in schools and access to early intervention services for people with alcohol and drug use issues.

The direction of VicHealth has a strong focus on alcohol culture, including de-normalising risky drinking in high-risk groups, settings and subcultures.

Within Wellington Shire there are two liquor accords in place to reduce harm from alcohol.



## Focus area 1d. Decrease harm from gambling

### What is harm from gambling?

Most Australians find gambling to be a harmless pastime. However, some people are unable to limit the time or money spent on gambling.<sup>20</sup> Harm from gambling can occur when a person's gambling activity leads to harm to family functioning and intimate relationships, emotional and financial difficulties, and can be associated with family violence.<sup>21</sup> Harm from gambling is not just about losing money. Gambling can affect a person's whole life.<sup>22</sup>

Gambling harms are a social issue of similar significance to major depressive disorder and alcohol misuse and dependence. Studies suggest that this burden of harm is mainly due to damage to relationships, emotional/psychological distress, health, and financial impacts.<sup>23</sup> Gambling related harm can occur in low and moderate risk gamblers.

### Why do we need to focus on harm from gambling?

In the 2015-16 financial year in Wellington, more than \$21.74 million was lost through electronic gaming machines in Sale, Maffra and Yarram. The average adult in Wellington spends \$669.45 on electronic gaming machines each year, nearly \$100 more than the average Victorian. In addition to this, only a small section of our community uses electronic gaming machines, which means the financial burden is not shared equally across the community.<sup>2</sup>

The burden of gambling is made greater by other gambling options such as online gaming and wagering which are reported to be equally popular in Wellington, but have no formal measurement or data available.

### What do we want to achieve?

Evidence of people experiencing harm from gambling is not available at a local government level other than for losses to electronic gaming machines (EGM). The losses to EGMs is not an accurate measure for harm from gambling as it does not take into account other forms of gambling, including keno, sports betting and wagering. Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 acknowledges the limitation of only focusing on this measure, and will advocate for more data to be collected.

Priority area	Focus area	Shared outcome	Shared measure	Current measure	Target for 2021
1. Increase Mental Wellbeing	1d. Decrease harm from gambling	Decrease harm from gambling	Gaming machine loss per adult (annual)	Wellington Shire \$669.45 (2016) <sup>24</sup>  Vic \$553	Decrease by 5% (\$635.98)

Action areas:	Healthy Wellington 2017 -2021 future direction
Policy:	<p><i>Ensure policies support a reduction in harm from gambling.</i></p> <p><i>Promote policies which provide support to those directly impacted by harm caused by gambling.</i></p>
Physical environment:	<p><i>Provide community facilities which support socially inclusive activities. These community facilities will be an alternative to licenced gaming venues or are venues which are proactive in minimising harm caused by gambling.</i></p>
Capacity building within environments:	<p><i>Work in partnership with settings to address harm from gambling.</i></p> <p><i>Settings will be supported to identify appropriate harm minimisation interventions that best meet the needs of their participants.</i></p>
Community voice and advocacy:	<p><i>Advocate for cultural change in attitudes towards gambling and sports betting.</i></p> <p><i>Advocate for environments that support alternatives to gambling.</i></p> <p><i>Actively empower the community by delivering messages which promote a better understanding of gambling harm.</i></p>
Programs and events:	<p><i>Provide community education (particularly to those vulnerable to harm from gambling) about the impacts of gambling and wagering.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure appropriate support is accessible to all within our community.</i></p>



### What else is influencing our work?

State-wide direction comes from the work of Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation <sup>25</sup>, which includes:

- Increase engagement of parents and young people on the topic of gambling to better educate them on the risks of gambling and ways to prevent harm.
- Interrupt the normalisation of gambling, particularly within sport and through new online technologies.
- Enable earlier intervention and engagement with Gambler's Help services and improve the effectiveness of treatment programs.
- Increase/ continue engagement with industry and other stakeholders to foster responsible gambling environments.

## Priority area 2: Gender equality

### What is equity and equality?

Equity is giving everyone what they need to be successful.

Equality is treating everyone the same or providing the same help to everyone.

Equity and equality are two strategies that are used to produce fairness. But fairness can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same help <sup>26</sup>.

In regard to gender equity and gender equality – in order for women to have gender equality (or be treated equal to men), we need to make sure they start from the same place as men.

Therefore we need to work towards achieving equity for women before we can achieve gender equality.

Within the priority area of gender equality, we acknowledge the complexity and interconnection between several focus areas. However, for clear strategic direction for Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 we have chosen the following focus areas:

- 2 a. Improve gender equity
- 2 b. Decrease violence against women and their children
- 2 c. Increase sexual and reproductive health

## Focus area 2a. Improve gender equity

### What is gender equity?

The World Health Organisation recognises gender equity as “more than formal equality of opportunity, gender equity refers to the different needs, preferences and interests of women and men. This may mean that different treatment is needed to ensure equality of opportunity.

Gender equity is often used interchangeably with gender equality, but the two refer to different, complementary strategies that are needed to reduce gender-based health inequities”. It often requires women-specific programs and policies to end existing inequalities <sup>25</sup>.

Healthy Wellington 2017 – 2021 acknowledges the gap in current data collected to measure gender equity.

### Why do we need to focus on gender equity?

In Wellington, gender inequality is evident in higher rates of family and sexual violence, and disparate social outcomes in education and employment between women and men, particularly for people not working as managers or professionals.

28.5% of the Wellington community held low levels of support for equal relationships between males and females (represented by a low gender equality in relationships score). This is lower than Victorian estimate of 35.7%. VicHealth based this measure on the Gender Inequality in Relationships Scale, which asks respondents about their level of agreement with the following statements, “Men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household” and “Women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship”.

### What do we want to achieve?

Priority area	Focus area	Shared outcome	Shared measure	Current measure	Target for 2021
2. Increase gender equality	2a. Increase gender equity	Increase gender equity	Low gender equality score (defined by VicHealth as low level of support for equal relationships)	Wellington Shire 28.5% (2015)  Vic 35.7% <sup>26</sup>	Increase by 10% (31.35%)

Action areas:	<i>Healthy Wellington 2017 -2021 future direction</i>
Policy:	<i>Support the development and implementation of policies using a gender equity lens.</i>
Physical environment:	<i>Create physical environments which do not restrict individuals due to gender.</i>
Capacity building within environments:	<i>Strive to create and celebrate settings where rigid gender norms are challenged, women's independence &amp; leadership is promoted and respectful relationships are endorsed.</i>
Community voice and advocacy:	<i>Raise local voices to counter the drivers of gender inequity. Advocate for cultural change in attitudes towards rigid gendered roles.</i>
Programs and events:	<i>Support programs that promote women's leadership, education and participation to address gender inequality.</i>

#### What else is influencing our work?

The Victorian government have stated their future direction in 'Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy' <sup>27</sup>. This includes strategies to:

- Address the economic dimensions of gender equality
- Model workplace gender equality in the public sector
- Progressively introduce gender impact analysis in policy, budgets and service delivery
- Leverage purchasing and funding to influence change
- Measure progress against preliminary targets
- Work towards change across a range of settings

'Change the Story' details a national approach to preventing violence against women and their children through addressing gender equity by:

- Promoting women's independence and decision-making in public life and relationships
- Fostering positive personal identities and challenge gender stereotypes and roles
- Strengthening positive, equal and respectful relations between and among women and men, girls and boys
- Promoting and normalising gender equality in public and private life

## Focus area 2b. Decrease violence against women and their children

### What is violence against women?

Violence against women is defined as any act of gender based violence that causes or could cause physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of harm or coercion, in public or in private life. Gender based violence is violence specifically 'directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately'. It can occur in homes, in social and recreational contexts, on the street, in workplaces, schools or online, and at the hands of perpetrators either known or unknown to the victim <sup>28</sup>.

Violence against women can include:

- Psychological Abuse
- Economic Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

Violence against women occurs across the whole community; however certain groups of women experience much higher rates of male violence than others. These groups include women with disabilities, Aboriginal women, women in rural and remote areas, and immigrant and refugee women <sup>29</sup>.



*An explanatory model of violence clarifies what constitutes violence against women and explores the gendered nature of this violence. It identifies the drivers of violence, together with a number of reinforcing factors, as summarised in the graphic above.*



### Why do we need to focus on preventing violence against women and their children?

Wellington residents experience a high rate of reported family violence incidents. We have higher than the Victorian average child protection investigations and assessments as indicated below:

- Child protection investigations completed per 1,000 eligible population 32.8% (Vic 19.4%, 12 in LGA) (2014) <sup>2</sup>
- Child protection substantiations per 1,000 population eligible population 17.5% (Vic 11.4%, 17 in LGA) (2014) <sup>2</sup>
- Child FIRST assessments per 1,000 eligible population 16.1% (Vic 10.1, 29 in LGA) (2014) <sup>2</sup>

### What do we want to achieve?

Priority area	Focus area	Shared outcome	Shared measure	Current measure	Target for 2021
2. Increase gender equality	2b. Decrease violence against women and their children	Reduce prevalence and impact of family violence	Rate of incidents of family violence recorded by police	Wellington Shire 18.9 per 1000 (2014)  Vic 12.4 per 1000 <sup>2</sup>	Decrease by 10% (17 per 1000)

Action areas:	<i>Healthy Wellington 2017 -2021 future direction</i>
Policy:	<i>Support the development and implementation of government and workplace policies that guide practice in supporting victims of family violence and preventing violence against women and their children.</i>
Physical environment:	<i>Influence and support the development of environments which are safe and inclusive to reduce the likelihood of violence against women and their children.</i>
Capacity building within environments:	<i>Drive capacity building within our settings to challenge the drivers of violence against women and their children.</i>  <i>Encourage organisations to build employee capacity and have the tools to respond appropriately to incidents of disclosure of violence against women.</i>
Community voice and advocacy:	<i>Raise the community voice for the prevention of violence against women and their children.</i>



Programs and events:	<p><i>Support the development and implementation of programs, events and resources in the community that educate and inform on the drivers of violence against women and their children.</i></p> <p><i>Support programs which provide assistance to those at risk of or are subject to violence.</i></p>
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#### What else is influencing our work?

Royal Commission into Family Violence report was release March 2016 with a total of 227 recommendations. A commitment by Victorian government to adopt all the recommendation has resulted in several changes including legislation and policy change.

This focus area, links to Recommendation 94 '*Councils to report on their proposed measures to reduce family violence and respond to victims*'.

'Change the Story' details a national approach to preventing violence against women and their children through:

- Challenging the condoning of violence against women <sup>27</sup>

Victorian Department of Education and Training has committed to a focus on 'Respectful Relationships' within schools <sup>30</sup>.