

Yarra Ranges Council

Road Management Plan 2025 - Summary

Yarra Ranges Council oversees one of Victoria's largest local road networks, spanning over 1,755 km of sealed and unsealed roads across 55 townships—making road maintenance, inspection, and improvement a major focus.

What is the Road Management Plan (RMP)?

The RMP outlines how Council manages, inspects, maintains, and repairs its road network. It sets service standards, defines responsibilities, and ensures compliance with the **Road Management Act 2004** to deliver a safe and efficient road system.

Why Update the RMP?

- **Legal Requirement:** Must be reviewed every four years.
- **Community Expectations:** Reflects changing needs for safety, accessibility, and service quality.
- **Best Practice:** Aligns with the MAV Rural Template for consistency and legal defensibility.
- **Audit & Risk:** Responds to audit findings and insurance trends to reduce liability.

Key Updates in 2025

- **New MAV Template:** Provides a consistent structure tailored to rural needs.
- **Night Inspections:** Improves hazard detection.
- **Emergency Protocols:** Ensures rapid response during events.
- **Improved Footpath & Kerb Standards:** Repairs for high-risk defects.
- **Shared Paths:** Managed under a separate policy.
- **Vegetation Standards:** Aligned with Council's Tree Canopy Plan.

Why Use the MAV Rural Template?

Yarra Ranges Council selected the Rural Template over the Metro Template because it better suits the region's low traffic, dispersed, and semi-rural road network. The Rural Template:

- Offers flexible standards for inspection and maintenance
- Aligns with available resources and geographic realities
- Supports legal defensibility and operational efficiency

While the Metro Template suits high-traffic urban environments, Yarra Ranges' diverse road network—including approx. 694 km of unsealed roads, or 40% of its total—requires a framework tailored to both suburban and semi-rural conditions.

Budget Impact

- Estimated additional cost: to be managed within existing budget allocations.
- Funded through rates, grants, and developer contributions.

Benefits

- **Economic:** Supports tourism and reduces long-term costs.
- **Social:** Enhances safety and accessibility.
- **Environmental:** Builds resilience to climate impacts.

Next Steps

- Public exhibition for 28 days.
- Final adoption planned for **October 2025**