LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - CONSIDERATION FOR ADOPTION

Report Author:	Chief Financial Officer
Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate Services
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public

SUMMARY

This report presents the Yarra Ranges Council Plan Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2025-2035 (attachment one) for Council's consideration.

Over the past 18-months Council has undertaken extensive engagement with our community to develop the Yarra Ranges Council LTFP for the next ten years.

The LTFP demonstrates Council's financial sustainability to fund the aspirations of the Community Vision, the Council Plan and support the Asset Plan.

The LTFP has been prepared in compliance with the Act, and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Financial Plan Better Practice Guide and Model sets out the long-term direction for Council and a positive vision for the future of Yarra Ranges.

It meets Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Yarra Ranges Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

During its meeting of 8 July 2025, Council approved the Draft LTFP for community consultation.

DISCUSSION

The Council Plan is the overarching strategic plan, that outlines what Council aims to achieve over the next four years, where efforts will be focused and how progress will be measured.

The LTFP provides the context through which the objectives of the Council Plan can be funded to achieve the Community Vision. The LTFP includes financial statements outlining the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan and Asset Plan and contains information about the decisions and assumptions that underpin the forecasts in the statements.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The financial, resource and asset management implications associated with the LTFP have been detailed in attachment one. The projections of the LTFP indicate Council is maintaining overall financial sustainability. The costs of preparing the LTFP are funded from operating budget allocations.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The LTFP is linked to the Council Plan, Asset Plan and other strategic Council plans.

Informed by state and federal government legislation, and community engagement, and Council's 2025/26 budget these plans guide the delivery of all Council strategies, services and actions to help achieve the Community Vision.

RELEVANT LAW

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) mandates that all councils develop and maintain several key strategic documents to ensure effective governance and planning.

Section 91 of the Act requires Council's to develop a Long-term Financial Plan, spanning a minimum of 10 years, providing a financial roadmap to support the council's strategic objectives and ensure financial sustainability.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Council's financial sustainability is informed by the indicators set by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO). These indicators comprise of both short term and longer-term measures and have been considered in the development of the LTFP.

The LTFP and associated Council Plan will have a range of Economic, Social and Environmental implications.

Economic Implications

The LTFP will fund the following Council Plan priority areas, Local industry and producers, Local business, Balanced tourism, and Local jobs.

Social Implications

The LTFP will fund the following Council Plan priorities areas: Community connections and resilience, Access to local services, Inclusive and safe, Healthy through life stages

Environmental Implications

The LTFP will fund the following priorities areas to focus on including Local biodiversity, Energy, climate and disaster resilience, Water management and Circular economy from the Council Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through an integrated planning approach alongside the Council Plan and Asset Plan the LTFP has been developed and informed using extensive engagement with local communities over an 18-month period. During that time Council received direct feedback from over 1,250 people and informed over 6000 community members in the development of the plans.

This feedback inform the Deliberative Engagement process where an independently appointed panel of 40 diverse participants selected from over 400 applicants discussed and responded to key challenges across three workshops which further informed the LTFP.

The Draft LTFP was opened for community feedback from the 9 July to the 10 August 2025.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The success of the community engagement program and development of the LTFP has been supported by collaboration across Council's and our partner agencies. Council officers and CEO's from across the Eastern Region have meet to discuss shared community priorities and opportunities for partnership.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no known operational or strategic risks identified in the development of this report or recommendation.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Yarra Ranges Council Financial Plan 2025 - 2035