

ASSET PLAN - CONSIDERATION FOR ADOPTION

Report Author: Senior Strategic Asset Planner
Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
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 submits the Yarra Ranges Council Asset Plan 2025-2035 (Attachment One) for Council's formal consideration.

The Yarra Ranges Council Asset Plan 2025-2035 includes information about the maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council. All councils are required, under the *Local Government Act 2020*, to produce and adopt an Asset Plan every four years.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Yarra Ranges Council Asset Plan 2025-2035.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The current Asset Plan 2022-2032 was adopted at the Council Meeting on 27 May 2022.

The Draft Council Plan, Draft Asset Plan and Draft Long-term Financial Plan were approved for community consultation at the Council Meeting on 8 July 2025.

DISCUSSION

The Asset Plan has a 10-year time horizon and includes information about the maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council.

Informed by evidence and shaped by the priorities of the community, the Asset Plan meets the requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*. It is the result of an iterative development process that included deliberative engagement with a cross-section of the community.

In 2022, Local Government Victoria (LGV) issued a guide for councils to assist with the development of their Asset Plans. It is intended for foundational asset planning, as opposed to best practice asset planning, and Councils may choose to incorporate some, or all the recommended elements included in the guide. This Asset Plan complies with the scope of content specified in the guide.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The costs of preparing the Asset Plan are funded from operating budget allocations.

The costs associated with the upgrade, renewal, maintenance, operating and decommissioning of Council assets have been accounted for in the Long-Term Financial Plan.

The projections of the Long-Term Financial Plan indicate Council is maintaining overall financial sustainability for the period of the Asset plan.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

Diagram One, below (also in the Asset Plan) shows how the Council Plan, Asset Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan and other Council plans fit together. Informed by evidence, State and Federal Government legislation and policy, community engagement and continuous improvement, these plans guide the delivery of all Council strategies, services and actions to help achieve the Community Vision. Ranging from medium to long-term these plans direct what Council is working towards and how resources will be used.

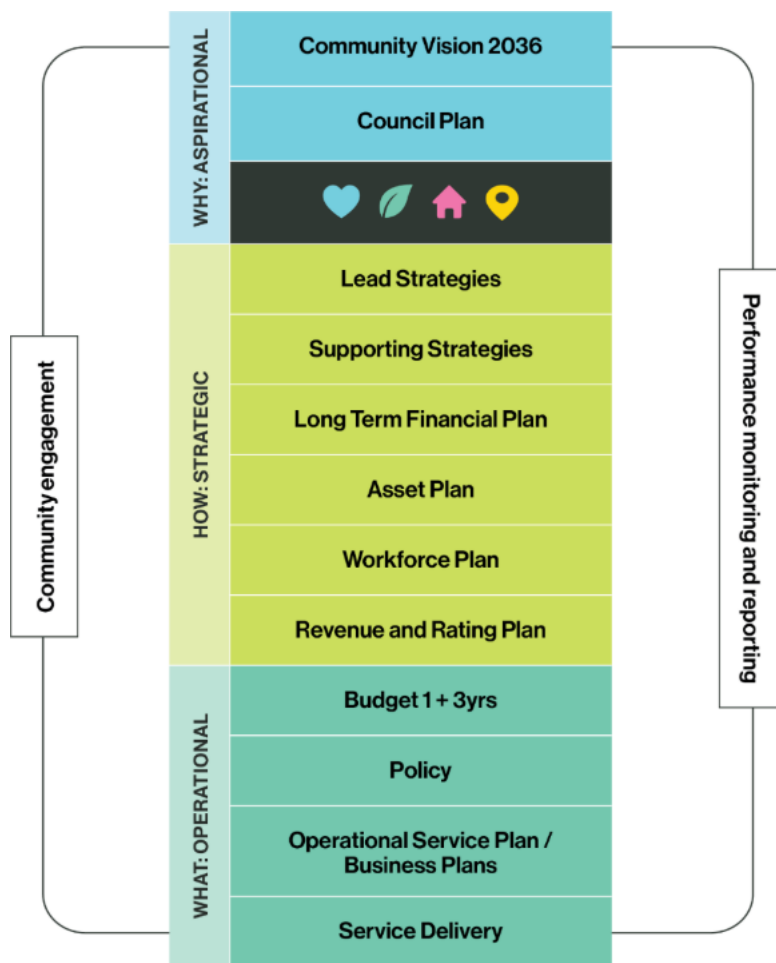


Diagram 1. Planning Framework

RELEVANT LAW

The Act mandates that councils develop and maintain several key strategic documents to ensure effective governance and planning.

Section 92 of the Act states that Council must develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. It must include information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council, with a scope of at least 10 financial years.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Council Plan, Asset Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan have been developed through extensive engagement with our community, and collaboration between Councillors and other relevant stakeholders over a 15-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.

The feedback received was used to 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.

Council then returned to community with a summary of these insights and delved deeper with 80 members of key groups including Youth groups; Townships groups; and members of the Disability Advisory Group, Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee, Indigenous Advisory Committee, Positive Ageing Reference Group, Rural Advisory Committee, Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Group, local services and 50 Students from six local secondary schools at a Youth Summit.

These insights, along with Councillor workshops and evidence, informed the Draft Asset Plan that was opened for community feedback from 9 July 2025 to the 10 August 2025. During this final consultation phase the Shaping pages for the three drafts (Council Plan, Asset Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan) received 1,028 visitors. The draft Asset Plan was downloaded 162 times, and a total of 17 contributions were received. The feedback from this final phase of community engagement resulted in minor amendments to improve the clarity of the Plan.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Asset Plan was developed using an integrated approach across Council. This meant that all three plans (Council Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Plan) were developed alongside each other, and collaboration was achieved through an Integrated Planning Control Group.

The Asset Plan has adopted an innovative approach to Asset Investment through not only considering condition-based risk but moving toward a multi-factor risk-based approach. This approach considers the risks associated with Social, Environmental, Economic, and Cultural factors, and incorporates governance considerations like Strategic Alignment and Financial Implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The following steps have been taken to mitigate risk associated with the development and implementation of the Asset Plan:

- Adequate community engagement and consultation ensure alignment with community needs; and
- Developing the Asset Plan under an integrated framework alongside the 2025-2026 Annual Budget, Long Term Financial Plan and Council Plan ensures realistic objectives across all strategic documents.

The Asset Plan proposes an investment strategy that is aligned with Council's proposed Long-Term Financial Plan. This investment strategy is composed of a mixture of estimated renewal, upgrade/expansion/new, maintenance and operations

expenditures to ensure that all current and new assets can support the delivery of the different services to the community, achieving the strategic objectives as proposed in the Council Plan.

Noting any reduction in funding in this investment strategy, especially in the renewal and maintenance and operations areas, would require a review of the risk profile of each asset class impacted.

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 Asset Plan 2025-2035