

COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2023-25

Report Author: Corporate Planning & Performance Coordinator

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

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

Based on the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must review the Council Plan on an annual basis to ensure the strategic direction and the services it provides are aligned to the long-term Community Vision 2036 and current community needs.

The *Council Action Plan 2022-2025*, adopted in June 2022, has been revised for 2023-25, the remaining period of the current Council Plan. This document articulates Council's focus for the next two years in accordance with the *Council Plan 2021-2025*.

Following internal consultation and taking into consideration feedback provided through recent community engagement on the budget, no material changes have been made to the Council Action Plan. However, one environment focused action has been added.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve and adopt the Council Action Plan 2023-2025.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- *Council Plan 2021-2025* (including *Community Vision 2036*) – adopted at the Council Meeting on 26 October 2021.
- *Council Action Plan 2022-2025* – adopted at the Council Meeting on 28 June 2022.

These documents can be found on [Council's website](#).

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

The *Council Plan 2021-2025* is the connection point between Yarra Ranges communities' vision for the future, Vision 2036 and Council's planning process.

The *Council Action Plan 2023-2025* articulates the initiatives, projects and actions that Council will focus on to deliver on the strategic objectives and strategies outlined in the Council Plan.

Following review of recent community feedback on the budget and internal consultation, no material changes have been made from the existing Council Action Plan for 2023-2025. The exception being that an additional action has been proposed for the key strategic objective, Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment, to reflect the emerging need and desire from the community for a greater focus on climate adaptation. This target is derived from the *Nature Plan* that is under development and will provide an annual progress measure specific to the natural environment.

The additional action is as follows:

"Improve our green corridors to enable native wildlife movement across the landscape by investing in restoration and revegetation works on private and council land."

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The delivery of the projects and initiatives outlined in the Council Action Plan is aligned to annual budget planning. At this stage, there are no additional financial implications.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

Vision 2036 articulates the future aspirations for our community and the municipality. The Council Plan is Council's strategic planning guide to outline Council's direction and focus to achieve the vision for our community. *The Council Plan 2021-25* sets a clear direction for Council and the supporting Council Action Plan articulates the focussed key initiatives and projects to be undertaken by Council.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The Council Action Plan outlines the key initiatives of Council to increase economic growth and support businesses and the community.

Social Implications

The Council Action Plan outlines the key initiatives that will enable Council to work towards providing quality services, infrastructure and programs to promote the health and wellbeing of all within the municipality.

Environmental Implications

The Council Action Plan identifies key environmental initiatives of the Council that enable the delivery of the key goals in the *Environment Strategy 2015-2025* and the *Nature Plan* (under development) to improve the health and biodiversity of our natural environment. These initiatives aim to reduce resources and energy consumption through environmental best practice.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The revised Council Action Plan has been informed through recent community feedback provided for the Council Budget. Due to no material changes made from the *Council Action Plan 2022-2025*, the *Council Action Plan 2023-2025* has been submitted for Council endorsement.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Annually reviewing the Council Action Plan ensures organisational efforts are focused on achievement of Council Plan objectives. No action or initiative is assessed as being at risk of delivery failure.

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. Council Action Plan 2023-2025