



Yarra Ranges Council

Council Plan 2025–2029

Annual Action Plan



Strategic Objective

Healthy Connected Communities



Initiative – title and short description		Priority Areas	Thinking ahead 10 years’ – what benefits for community and future generations will this bring?	Milestones			
				Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
1	Place-based approach to achieve local priorities Work with local communities to identify and coordinate place planning to create town centre plans for services and infrastructure that address local priorities (such as Place Plans, Masterplans, Township Design Frameworks and Structure Plans)	Connected and Resilient	Increased connected communities where local priorities are addressed through tailored solutions. This coordinated and customised design approach recognises each area and community’s (Urban, Upper Yarra, Hills, and Valley) unique character and needs, resulting in more effective services, stronger community ownership and better use of resources.	Q2: Preparation of three scheduled town centre plans Q4: Living Places Framework finalised to guide all planning for place	Preparation of up to three scheduled town centre plans	Preparation of up to three scheduled town centre plans	Preparation of up to three scheduled town centre plans
2	Work with partners to advocate for local priorities Work with community and council partners to advocate for and progress shared community advocacy priorities.	Connected and Resilient	A stronger collective voice that achieves tangible results for local communities. Working together with partners and key stakeholders, we will secure greater federal and state funding, better infrastructure, services, and quality of life improvements for future generations.	Q2: Prepare budget submissions and advocacy plans for the following state and federal government budget cycles, and for the 2026 Victorian election. Q4: Delivery of a network action plan for collaborative work with Eastern Region Group of Councils, Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), and other partners.	Advocacy priorities in 2026-27 target the November 2026 Victorian election and its outcomes.	Review and update advocacy, partnerships, and government relations priorities.	Review and update advocacy, partnerships, and government relations priorities.

Healthy Connected Communities

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			Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
3 Deliver and enhance multi-use Community Pavilions across the municipality Deliver the Don Rd Healesville and Seville Community Pavilions and program of upgrades for existing pavilions to ensure they are fit-for-purpose, future proofed, and designed to meet the needs of people of all genders, ages, abilities, and diverse backgrounds.	Healthy through lifestages	Inclusive and accessible spaces that bring people together through sport and community activities and groups. These multipurpose facilities will support increased participation, create volunteer opportunities, deliver environmental sustainability as a key design element, and strengthen community connections for generations.	Q2: Don Rd, Healesville - schematic design complete	Construction commenced and building permit issued	Construction completed, (Certificate of practical completion and occupancy permit issued).	Contract finalised (defects liability complete and final certificate issued)
			Q4: Permits and approvals issued contract awarded			
			Q2: Seville - detailed design complete and project tendered	Construction progress update	Construction completed, (Certificate of practical completion and occupancy permit issued).	Contract finalised (defects liability complete and final certificate issued)
			Q4: Construction commenced and building permit issued			
4 Planning for an urban aquatic and leisure facility Progress planning for an aquatic and leisure facility within the urban area	Healthy through lifestages	An aquatic and leisure facility will offer year-round access to swimming, fitness programs, and water safety education, promoting community wellbeing and active lifestyles. The centre will be a valuable community gathering space that can serve multiple generations, while boosting local economic activity and employment opportunities.	Q2: Shortlist of site locations and facility components established. Pursue funding models including private sector investment.	Complete business case to confirm best facility mix and complete final investment decision.	Pursue preferred funding arrangements and partnerships	Initiate project delivery - pending secured funding
			Q4: Test sites with architectural concepts completed. Finalise preferred locations. Develop and implement a targeted advocacy campaign to gain funding for development of aquatics and leisure facility.			

Strategic Objective

Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment



Initiative – title and short description		Priority Areas	Thinking ahead 10 years’ – what benefits for community and future generations will this bring?	Milestones			
				Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
5	Enhance energy and infrastructure resilience for Council and communities before, during and after extreme weather events Enable Council and community to achieve sustainable infrastructure design by enhancing infrastructure resilience and energy efficiency, to reduce climate and weather-related impacts.	Energy, disaster, and climate resilience	Council and community can access energy and climate resilient infrastructure, which is energy efficient, minimises service disruption, protects vulnerable residents and reduces the overall impact of power outages, heatwaves, storms, floods, and other weather-related events on Council and communities.	Q2: Develop a place-based action plan that informs Council's capital works pipeline with recommended energy and resilient building, and improvement works.	Implementation of action plan through capital works pipeline.	Implementation of action plan through capital works pipeline.	Implementation of action plan through capital works pipeline.
				Q4: Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy finalised.			
6	Increase and protect biodiversity links and tree canopy connections Through the development of a Biolinks Plan and the implementation of the Tree Canopy Strategy we will restore and protect important local biodiversity corridors, biocultural knowledge and maximise the cooling effect. Working in partnership with Traditional Owners, community and agencies, this initiative will achieve priority actions within the Nature Plan.	Local biodiversity	A connected natural landscape where native wildlife can thrive and move safely. Expanded tree canopy and healthy waterways will support local biodiversity, cooler neighbourhoods, and ecosystem health. Integrating biocultural knowledge will strengthen ecological outcomes and foster deeper connections between people and place.	Q2: Establish project governance and commence data and stakeholder mapping.	Draft Biolinks Plan developed.	Biolinks Plan presented to Council.	Biolinks on-ground project commence.
				Q4: Natural assets baseline data from Council and multiple agencies collected and collated.			

Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment

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			Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
7 Use nature-based solutions to increase resilience of natural landscape in a changing climate Partner with Traditional Owners to utilise traditional owner land management practices and implement other solutions that work with nature to reduce the impact of natural hazards and improve restoration and resilience of natural landscapes including the Birrarung (Yarra River). Example solutions include strategic wetland restoration for flood mitigation, strategic vegetation management for fire control, the use of cultural fire practices and riparian buffers for erosion prevention.	Energy, disaster, and climate resilience	Sustainable nature-based solutions, including Traditional Owner land management practices, that will provide lasting protection from natural hazards, such as floods, fires, drought and erosion while improving biodiversity and water quality through strategic wetland restoration for flood mitigation, strategic vegetation management for fire control, the use of cultural fire practice and riparian buffers for erosion prevention. This will help to achieve key outcomes of the Nature Plan and the Yarra Strategic Plan.	Q2: Establishment of cross-organisational working group to lead a review of current practices, such as the Code of Environment Practice, best practice fauna sensitive road design guidelines, natural assets capitalisation and identification of new nature-based solution (NBS) opportunities. Q4: Funding and investment opportunities explored and NBS and Nature Fund profile raised. Use baseline NBS report to establish a policy that embeds best practice environmental practices with	Establish a referral pathway through capital pipeline for future NBS. Commence planning of pilot projects to trial NBS approaches, investigating nature repair investment opportunities. Begin assessing natural asset value such as through ecosystem accounting.	Deliver trial of new NBS and continue to monitor existing. NBS in place. Investigate future funding, and resourcing needs for expanded NBS initiatives.	Embed use of NBS across Council functions, promoting best practice and highlighting successful examples to the community and industry.
8 Provide leadership in pursuit of net zero emissions and developing a resilient local energy supply Deliver programs to strengthen community’s climate adaptation and resilience to climate impacts and support the transition to a low carbon future, by increasing the use of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and fostering sustainable practices in local businesses and homes.	Energy, disaster, and climate resilience	Our region is at the forefront of the challenges imposed by climate change, with the social, environmental, and economic impacts already being felt throughout our communities. Local government has an important role to influence change, build community capacity, and demonstrate leadership. By partnering with communities and empowering residents to actively participate in climate solutions, we can develop practical and sustainable adaptation and net zero strategies tailored to unique community needs. This approach also brings co-benefits, such as better prepared and connected communities, improved climate literacy and more climate conscious behaviours.	Q2: Undertake a gap analysis of climate adaptation and net zero initiatives, including development of Energy Transition Plan and continued roll out of ‘The Adaptation Game’ (TAG), to embed best practice implementation across communities. Q4: Select pilot community to develop a localised climate adaptation and resilience plan. Build capacity of community led facilitation of engagement and education tools.	Deliver pilot Local Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. Evaluate and use learnings to inform further implementation. Continue implementation of TAG and other engagement and education tools, alongside monitoring of effectiveness.	Implementation in line with Liveable Climate Plan actions and key actions identified in the Energy Transition Plan. Continue roll out of programs to support community including the use of TAG and other engagement and education tools.	Implementation in line with Liveable Climate Plan actions and key actions identified in the Energy Transition Plan. Continue roll out of programs to support community including the use of TAG and other engagement and education tools.

Strategic Objective

Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places



Initiative – title and short description		Priority Areas	Thinking ahead 10 years’ – what benefits for community and future generations will this bring?	Milestones			
				Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
9	Reduce storm water and flooding risk Proactively manage stormwater to safeguard our community, promote sustainable development practices and preserve natural ecosystems.	Roads and drainage	Protecting public assets and natural waterways from damage while improving water quality through pollutant filtration. Well-designed stormwater systems can capture water for reuse, helping communities adapt to changing climate conditions, support healthy ecosystems, and maintain essential infrastructure functionality. Developing and prioritising infrastructure upgrades will improve flood protection and the reliability of the stormwater management system. Ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the stormwater management system by supporting healthy ecosystems and adapting to changing climate conditions.	Q2: Flood mapping in partnership with Melbourne Water and stakeholders commenced	Deliver program of drainage upgrade works focused on reducing risk to properties.	Implement developer and engineering technical guidelines.	Completion of flood mapping.
				Q4: Disseminate community fact sheets in collaboration with the Stormwater Community Reference panel. Review Integrated Water management strategy	Develop water sensitive urban guidelines Investigate alternative funding opportunities	Complete flood mapping across the municipality in partnership with Melbourne Water	Consult with community and investigate Planning Scheme amendment. Review Stormwater Management Plan

Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places

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				Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
10	Activate Ridges and Rivers Deliver funded stages and operating models of ngurrak barring RidgeWalk, Yarra Valley Trail and Warburton Mountain Bike Park, while continuing to advocate for future funding.	Paths, trails, and green open space	Connected trail networks that showcase our beautiful natural landscapes. These trails will encourage active lifestyles, improve physical and mental wellbeing, boost tourism, strengthen environmental connections, and preserve significant landscapes for future generations.	ngurrak barring			
				Q2: Website, operating model, and activations development	Operating model and activations.	Operating model and activations	Operating model and activations
				Q4: Advocacy for additional art, installations, activations, and events			
				Warburton Mountain Bike Park			
				Q2: Stage 1A works completion.	Stage 1C 30km’s and Stage 1D completion	Full operating model in function	Full operating model in function
				Q4: Stage 1B works completion and Business and operating model commenced.	Full operating model in function	Stage 2 funding advocacy, approvals development and design progression	Stage 2 funding advocacy, approvals development and design progression
					Stage 2 funding advocacy, approvals development and design progression		
				Yarra Valley Trail			
				Q2: Stage 1B.1 (Yering to Melba bend) opened.	Stage 2A (Yarra Glen to Tarrawarra) construction completion Stage 1C (Yarra River to Yarra Glen), 2B (Tarrawarra to Healesville) and Stage 3 (Healesville to Woori Yallock) planning and funding advocacy	Stage 1C (Yarra River to Yarra Glen), 2B (Tarrawarra to Healesville) and Stage 3 (Healesville to Woori Yallock) planning and funding advocacy	Stage 1C (Yarra River to Yarra Glen), 2B (Tarrawarra to Healesville) and Stage 3 (Healesville to Woori Yallock) planning and funding advocacy
				Q4: Stage 1B.2 (Melba bend to Yarra River and Yarra Glen Northern Tourist Loop construction completion.			

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			Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
11 Facilitate diverse housing options Work with partners and industry to increase opportunities for diverse housing around transport hubs, employment centres and key services.	Clean and well-planned townships and urban areas	Increased housing diversity and a community where people of all ages, genders, abilities and income levels can find suitable housing near transport and services. This will reduce housing insecurity, support workforce retention, help families stay connected to their community, and create a more inclusive society.	Q2: Required Planning Scheme Amendment prepared, and implementation of Housing Strategy key actions commenced	Implementation of key actions from the Housing Strategy	Continue implementation of actions arising from the adopted Housing Strategy	Continue implementation of actions arising from the adopted Housing Strategy
			Q4: Social and Affordable Housing Policy completed	Implementation of key actions arising from Social and Affordable Housing Policy		
12 Improve safety and maintenance of local roads Plan and deliver maintenance of sealed and unsealed local roads, in accordance with local priorities and advocate for further funding opportunities.	Roads and drainage	Safe, well-maintained roads that connect people to essential services, jobs, and each other. Strategic road maintenance will improve safety, support business activity, and ensure accessibility for everyone, especially vulnerable community members.	Q2: Road management Plan review completed	Advocacy for road infrastructure funding	Road Condition Audit Local Area Traffic Management Engagement	Local Area Traffic Management Program Delivery
			Q4: Community engagement program on road maintenance services commenced.	Local Area Traffic Management Concept Design		

Strategic Objective

Prosperous Communities and Vibrant Economy



Initiative – title and short description		Priority Areas	Thinking ahead 10 years’ – what benefits for community and future generations will this bring?	Milestones			
				Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
13	Enhance local amenity and walkability Continue improving and maintaining the look, feel and walkability of townships and local areas in collaboration with communities.	Balanced Tourism	Clean, attractive, and functional public spaces that reflect community pride. Well-maintained townships will improve quality of life, increase safety and property values, attract visitors and create accessible and inclusive spaces where people can gather, strengthening community bonds.	Q2: Deliver two park and township blitz.	Implement annual audit and develop Park Blitz schedule.	Implement annual audit and develop Park Blitz schedule.	Implement annual audit and develop Park Blitz schedule.
		Local Business		Deliver footpath and trail rehabilitation and upgrade program	Develop and implement a Township Minor Works Program	Develop and implement a Township Minor Works Program	Develop and implement a Township Minor Works Program
		Clean and well-planned townships		Q4: Deliver two park and township blitz.			
				Deliver footpath and trail rehabilitation and upgrade program.			
14	Strengthen tourism destination management across the region Collaborate across the new Visitor Economy Partnership and local communities to manage the impact of new and existing tourism assets on established communities and infrastructure.	Local Business	Balanced tourism that benefits locals while welcoming visitors. This approach will prevent over-tourism problems, distribute economic benefits throughout the community, create sustainable jobs and protect the natural and cultural assets that make our region special.	Q2: Key priorities from the Destination Management Plan updated.	Implement key Council actions from the Destination Management Plan	Implement key Council actions from the Destination Management Plan	Implement key Council actions from the Destination Management Plan
				Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) to support seasonal workforce needs in hospitality and tourism established.			
				Complete feasibility study of RV/ caravan facilities to encourage stops and overnight stays.			
				Q4: Develop an action plan to mitigate the impacts of tourism on townships, while providing a quality tourism experience.			
				Establish partnerships to support implementation of EV chargers across the Shire.			

Prosperous Communities and Vibrant Economy

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			Year 1 (End 30 June 2026)	Year 2 (End 30 June 2027)	Year 3 (End 30 June 2028)	Year 4 (End 30 June 2029)
15 Support local Agri-Food Futures Centre of Excellence and Innovation Work with industry, education providers, Traditional Owners, community and government partners to establish an industry hub and centre of excellence.	Local industry and producers Local jobs	A thriving innovation hub that creates local jobs and economic growth. By connecting businesses, education providers and government, we will develop new skills, attract talent, support business growth and establish our region as a recognised leader in agriculture and food technology.	Q2: Establish an Agri/Food Sector cross-functional taskforce with representatives from across industry, education, community and government.	Implement key Council actions from the Economic Development Strategy.	Implement key Council actions from the Economic Development Strategy.	Implement key Council actions from the Economic Development Strategy.
			Q4: Commence Centre of Excellence feasibility study.	Complete feasibility study for a Centre of Excellence. Develop new Agri-Food Futures Plan	Centre of Excellence Business Case developed. Deliver and evaluate pilot program to support local producers through micro-leasing spaces	Continue the process from Year 3.
16 Develop new Green Wedge Management Plan Develop new contemporary Green Wedge Management Plan that responds to (land use) emerging agricultural practice and industry needs	Local industry and producers	Protected green spaces and productive agricultural land for future generations. This plan will prevent land use conflicts, protect biodiversity, support local economic opportunities, and maintain the distinctive character that makes our region unique.	Q2: Engage with industry partners and develop draft green wedge management plan.	Finalise and adopt a new Green Wedge Management Plan	Commence implementation of action plan	Implementation of action plan
			Q4: Draft plan for community and industry consultation			

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