



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 16 September 2025, commencing at 5:00 PM

Meeting to be held at

Wellington Centre – Wellington Room, Foster Street, Sale

via Microsoft Teams

or stream online at <https://www.youtube.com/@wellingtonshire>

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TABLE OF CONTENTS

0.1. TABLE OF CONTENTS2

1. APOLOGIES5

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST5

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S.....5

 3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING5

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS6

5. ACCEPTANCE OF LATE AND URGENT ITEMS6

6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION6

 6.1. NOTICE OF MOTION - DESECRATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG6

7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS.....7

 7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS7

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS7

9. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE7

 9.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE7

10. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORT8

11. DELEGATES REPORT.....11

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....12

 12.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT12

13. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES14

 13.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT14

 13.2. PROPOSED COMMUNITY LOCAL LAW (AMENDMENT) LOCAL LAW 202518

 13.3. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER59

 13.4. AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES63

 13.5. PROGRESS OF 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN AND HEALTHY WELLINGTON 2024/25
 QUARTER 4.....74

| | |
|--|------------|
| 14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT | 123 |
| 14.1. QUARTERLY BUILDING REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2025 | 123 |
| 14.2. MONTHLY PLANNING DECISIONS - JULY 2025 | 131 |
| 15. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | 140 |
| 15.1. 2026-014 MACALISTER STREET DRAINAGE RENEWAL | 140 |
| 15.2. 2026-025 SKEELS STREET CONSTRUCTION HEYFIELD | 144 |
| 15.3. 2026-031 RIVER STREET RECONSTRUCTION WORKS | 148 |
| 16. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS..... | 152 |
| 17. IN CLOSED SESSION | 153 |
| 17.1. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION | 153 |
| 17.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S 2024/25 PERFORMANCE REVIEW | 154 |
| 17.3. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED SESSION | 155 |

COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION

Members of the public gallery should note that the Council records and publishes Council meetings via YouTube to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Wellington community. These recordings are also published and archived on Council's Website for viewing by the public. Recordings may be used for publicity or information purposes.

Members of the public in attendance at the Council meeting who wish to communicate with the Council regarding an agenda item or any other matter should advise the Mayor, ideally prior to the meeting starting, to ensure that their submission is called at the appropriate time during the meeting.

Would gallery visitors, Councillors and invited online attendees please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together to make a difference. We listen and lead to provide quality services that improve life for all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“Wellington Shire Council acknowledges our offices are located on the traditional lands of the Gunaikurnai nation. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past, present and future and acknowledge their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to their land and waters.”

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVE

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 2 September 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 2 September 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

| ITEM | FROM MEETING | COMMENTS | ACTION BY |
|------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| NIL | | | |

5. ACCEPTANCE OF LATE AND URGENT ITEMS

6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION

ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR LOWE

I, Councillor Edward Lowe, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday 16 September 2025 -

Motion

That Council:

- a) (i) *Place a notice of motion to the Australian Local Government Association calling for a unified stance against the desecration of the Australian National Flag.*
- (ii) *Australian Local Government Association advocate to the federal government for the introduction of specific federal legislation to protect the Australian flag from acts of deliberate damage, burning or desecration.*
- b) (i) *Place a notice of motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria calling for a unified stance against the desecration of the Australian National Flag.*
- (ii) *Municipal Association of Victoria advocate to the State government for the introduction of specific state legislation to protect the Australian flag from acts of deliberate damage, burning or desecration.*
- c) (i) *Send correspondence to the Honourable Darren Chester MP and Danny O'Brien MP advocating for legislation to protect the Australian flag from acts of deliberate damage, burning or desecration.*

COUNCILLOR LOWE

Dated: 08 September 2025

BACKGROUND

With the recent actions of protests across Australia burning of our national flag, I find this behaviour utterly disgraceful and un-Australian. The flag is not just a piece of fabric, it is a symbol of our history, our unity, and the countless men and women who have served, fought, and even given their lives to protect our country. To burn it is not only an insult to

their sacrifice, but also deeply disrespectful to those currently serving in our defence forces who stand in harm's way to protect our freedoms. While I acknowledge that Australia values freedom of speech and expression, there must be a line. Deliberately desecrating our national flag crosses that line, and I believe it is time we took steps to ensure stronger protections for this important national symbol.

7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS

7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

| ITEM | FROM MEETING | COMMENTS | ACTION BY |
|------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| NIL | | | |

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

9.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

| ITEM | FROM MEETING | COMMENTS | ACTION BY |
|------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| NIL | | | |

10. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR SCOTT ROSSETTI

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor and Councillors report be noted for August 2025.

AUGUST 2025

| DATE | EVENT | ATTENDEES |
|----------|---|--|
| 1 August | TAFE Gippsland 2025 Education Awards. English Orals Year 12 Yarram Secondary College. Rural Councils Victoria Forum, Yarrawonga. | Deputy Mayor Madeley Cr Stephens Cr Wells |
| 2 August | Grey Wolf Award, Annual Event for Cub Scouts in the Gippsland Region. Ben Cruachan Walking Club – 60 th Anniversary Dinner, Duart Homestead. Lunch with Nikki Gemmell, Author. | Cr Ripper Cr Ripper Deputy Mayor Madeley |
| 4 August | Maffra Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee Meeting. Sale Cancer Council Volunteer Group Meeting. | Cr Wells Mayor Rossetti |
| 5 August | Remuneration Committee meeting. CEO also in attendance. | Mayor Rossetti, Cr Ripper and Cr Bannerman. |
| 6 August | Shining the Light on Hidden Homelessness – Community Event. CEO also in attendance. Youth Council - August Formal Meeting. | Cr Ripper and Deputy Mayor Madeley. Deputy Mayor Madeley |
| 7 August | Meeting with Rob Pradolin (Housing All Australians). CEO also in attendance. Strzelecki Koalas Working Group – August meeting. | Deputy Mayor Madeley and Cr Ripper. Cr Stephens |
| 8 August | Gippsland Climate Change Network Meeting. | Deputy Mayor Madeley |

| DATE | EVENT | ATTENDEES |
|-------------|---|--|
| 8 August | Gippsland Critical Minerals CRG Meeting. | Cr Wells |
| 9 August | AGM Gippsland Woodcraft Group. | Deputy Mayor Madeley |
| 12 August | Mayor & Deputy Mayor Catch Up. CEO also in attendance. Cr Wells regular catch up with CEO. Aqua Energy Filming. | Mayor Rossetti and Deputy Mayor Madeley. Cr Wells Mayor Rossetti |
| 14 August | Cr Ripper catch up with CEO. Gippstar Annual Awards Night. Cr Wells catch up with General Manager Development. SEATS Executive Committee Meeting, Annual General Meeting, Quarterly General Meeting (Thursday session) and Dinner. | Cr Ripper Deputy Mayor Madeley Cr Wells Cr Tatterson |
| 15 August | One Gippsland: Closed Mayoral and Councillor Discussion. One Gippsland - Planning Meeting. CEO also in attendance. SEATS Quarterly Meeting (Friday Session). | Deputy Mayor Madeley Deputy Mayor Madeley Cr Tatterson |
| 16 August | Chair - Seed Annual General Meeting. | Deputy Mayor Madeley |
| 19 August | CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee (CERC) meeting. | Mayor Rossetti and Deputy Mayor Madeley. |
| 20 August | Newry Hall Annual General Meeting. | Cr Wells |
| 21 August | Gippsland Rally Car Ride. Meeting with Beverley McArthur MP and Tim Bull MP regarding information on unactioned Planning and Building Permits approved by Council. CEO also in attendance. | Mayor Rossetti Deputy Mayor Madeley and Cr Wells. |
| 22 August | One Gippsland - Presentation on the European Union Project. CEO also in attendance. Opening of the Gippsland International Winter Festival - All Breeds Championship Dog Shows. | Mayor Rossetti Cr Ripper |

| DATE | EVENT | ATTENDEES |
|-------------|--|---|
| 22 August | Official Opening, Gippsland Rally. | Mayor Rossetti and Deputy Mayor Madeley. |
| 24 August | Gippsland Rally HQ, Heyfield Gordon Street Reserve. | Cr Ripper |
| 25 August | WSC Audit & Risk Committee Meeting. CEO also in attendance. | Cr Wells |
| 26 August | U3A Meeting. Mayor & Deputy Mayor Catch Up. CEO also in attendance. Gunaikurnai cultural information session to support Future of Yarram projects. | Mayor Rossetti Mayor Rossetti and Deputy Mayor Madeley. Deputy Mayor Madeley |
| 28 August | Wellington Municipal Emergency Management Committee meeting. Film Dispenser 'how to' video at Port of Sale Library. | Cr Stephens Deputy Mayor Madeley |
| 29 August | CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting. Official Announcement-Our Lady of Sion Redevelopment. Gippsland Business Awards Gala Evening. Audit & Risk Committee – Interviews (four). Australian Local Government Women's Association Annual Conference (29-30 August). | Mayor Rossetti and Cr Stephens. Mayor Rossetti Cr Wells Mayor Rossetti Deputy Mayor Madeley |
| 31 August | Maffra Band - Spring Gala Concert. | Cr Ripper |

11. DELEGATES REPORT

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

12.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received for August 2025.

AUGUST 2025

| DAY | EVENT AND ATTENDEES |
|--------------------|--|
| 30 July – 1 August | Local Government Chief Officers Group Forum, NSW. |
| 4 August | Attended Regional Energy Accord Roundtable, Morwell. |
| 5 August | Attended Remuneration Committee Meeting. Mayor Rossetti, Councillor Ripper and Councillor Bannerman also in attendance. |
| 6 August | Joint State/Local Government Monthly CEO Forum. Attended Renewable Jobs Taskforce Meeting. Attended Community Event - Shining the Light on Hidden Homelessness. |
| 7 August | Committee for Wellington Monthly Meeting. Met with Rob Pradolin (Housing All Australians). Deputy Mayor Madeley also in attendance. |
| 11 August | Attended Leadership Development Program - T4 Launch Conference. |
| 12 August | Catch up with Councillor Wells. Quarterly online meeting with Darrin McKenzie, Regional Director Gippsland, DEECA. |
| 13 August | Met with Yarram Aerodrome Club. |
| 14 August | Catch up with Councillor Ripper. Met with Stephen Walsh, Sale Business owner. Telephone hook up with Craig Holland, Loch Sport Business and Traders Association. |

| DAY | EVENT AND ATTENDEES |
|------------|--|
| 15 August | <p>One Gippsland: Closed CEO Discussion.</p> <p>One Gippsland - Planning Meeting. Deputy Mayor Madeley also in attendance.</p> |
| 18 August | <p>Attended MAV, Monday Connect CEO Meeting.</p> <p>Attended Life Saving Victoria and Coastal Council CEO's online meeting.</p> <p>Met with Committee for Gippsland members regarding ongoing support of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program (GCLP).</p> |
| 20 August | <p>Met with Craig Holland regarding flood overlay at Loch Sport.</p> <p>Met with Mark Dykgraaf, CEO Central Gippsland Health regarding Crisis/Homelessness Housing. Mayor Rossetti also in attendance.</p> |
| 21 August | <p>Met with Beverley McArthur MP and Tim Bull MP regarding information on unactioned Planning and Building Permits approved by Council. Deputy Mayor Madeley and Councillor Wells also in attendance.</p> |
| 22 August | <p>One Gippsland - Presentation on the European Union Project. Mayor Rossetti also in attendance.</p> |
| 25 August | <p>Attended WSC Audit & Risk Committee Meeting. Councillor Wells also in attendance.</p> |
| 26 August | <p>Catch up with Mayor Rossetti and Deputy Mayor Madeley.</p> |
| 28 August | <p>Online meeting with Laura Macpherson, CEO TAFE Gippsland.</p> <p>Attended Destination Gippsland Board Meeting.</p> <p>Met with DEECA Executive Board, comprising the Secretary, Deputy Secretaries and the CEO of Resources Victoria, visiting Traralgon.</p> |
| 29 August | <p>Attended Dad's Talk Breakfast, Gippsland Grammar.</p> <p>One Gippsland CEO Forum Meeting.</p> <p>Attended four Audit & Risk Committee Interviews. Mayor Rossetti also in attendance.</p> |

13. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

13.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE

To report on all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 25 August to 7 September 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 25 August to 7 September 2025.

BACKGROUND

Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* required a written record be kept of all assemblies of Councillors, stating the names of all Councillors and Council staff attending, matters considered and any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor. These records were required to be reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and recorded in the minutes. Under the new *Local Government Act 2020*, this requirement is no longer provided for however, in accordance with good governance, Council will continue to provide records of assemblies of Councillors to ensure that the community are kept informed of Councillors' activity and participation.

Following is a summary of all Assembly of Councillor records received for the period 25 August to 7 September 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assembly of Councillors - 2 Sept 2025 Council Day [**13.1.1** - 2 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. Note and receive the attached assembly of Councillors records; or
2. Not receive the attached assembly of Councillors records.

PROPOSAL

That Council note and receive the attached assembly of Councillors records during the period 25 August to 7 September 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

While this report does not meet a specific Council Plan strategic objective, it aligns with good governance.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The reporting of written records of assemblies of Councillors to the Council in the prescribed format complied with Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* however, without prescription under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council will continue to provide these records in accordance with good governance.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE - COUNCIL DAY

| COUNCIL WORKSHOPS – 2 SEPTEMBER 2025 | | | |
|--|------------|--------------------------|---|
| COUNCILLOR | ATTENDANCE | OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE | |
| Cr Scott Rossetti (Mayor) | YES | David Morcom | Chief Executive Officer |
| Cr Cindy Madeley (Deputy Mayor) | YES | Arthur Skipitaris | General Manager Corporate Services |
| Cr Catherine Bannerman | YES | Chris Hastie | General Manager Built and Natural Environment |
| Cr Liz Foat | YES | Andrew Pomeroy | General Manager Development |
| Cr Edward Lowe | YES | | |
| Cr Garry Stephens (Online) | YES | | |
| Cr Carmel Ripper | YES | | |
| Cr John Tattersson | YES | | |
| Cr Geoff Wells | YES | | |
| CONFLICTS OF INTEREST NOTED* | | | |
| NIL | | | |

* In accordance with Rule 18.5 of the Wellington Shire Council Governance Rules a Councillor who has a conflict of interest must not participate in discussion of matters that will come before Council for a decision, or if a decision will be made by a member of staff acting under delegation.

| WORKSHOP DETAILS – 2 SEPTEMBER 2025 | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| ITEM NO. | WORKSHOP TITLE | PRESENTERS |
| 1.1 | UPDATE ON SEASPRAY OFFSHORE WIND FARM (CONSULTATION ON BLUE MACKEREL OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda French, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, JERA Nex bp David Ghali, Project Director, JERA Nex bp Conflict of Interest: NIL |
| 1.2 | PROGRESS OF 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN AND HEALTHY WELLINGTON 2024/25 QUARTER 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carly Bloomfield, Manager Governance Billie-Jo Thorburn, Performance and Reporting Coordinator Conflict of Interest: NIL |

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE - COUNCIL DAY

| WORKSHOP DETAILS – 2 SEPTEMBER 2025 | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ITEM NO. | WORKSHOP TITLE | PRESENTERS |
| 1.3 | WELLINGTON TREE MANAGEMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Harper, Manager Natural Environment and Parks • Cameron McGregor, Senior Arborist • Steven Swarbrick, Assistant Arborist <p>Conflict of Interest: NIL</p> |
| 1.4 | HOMELESSNESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Officers from the Victoria Police, Sale Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two Officers In-Person – One Officer Online • Carly Bloomfield, Manager Governance • Peter Thompson, Coordinator Local Laws • Lily Tatterson, Social Connection and Inclusion Officer – Data and Planning <p>Conflict of Interest: NIL</p> |

13.2. PROPOSED COMMUNITY LOCAL LAW (AMENDMENT) LOCAL LAW 2025

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE

To seek Council's adoption of the Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Having:

- a) completed the statutory process under Division 3 of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2020 for the making of Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025; and***
- b) obtained a certificate under section 74(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 from a suitably qualified lawyer who states that they are of the opinion that the proposed Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025 is consistent with the local law requirements as attached to this Report as Attachment 13.2.1; and***
- c) undertaken a community engagement process in respect of the proposed Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025,***

resolve to make the Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025 in the form attached to this Report as Attachment 13.2.2.

2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the making of the Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025 in accordance with sections 74(4) and 74(5) of the Local Government Act 2020.

3. Note that the Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025 will come into operation on 17 October 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Community Local Law 2021 (**the Principal Local Law**) was made by resolution of Wellington Shire Council on 15 June 2021.

Council is proposing to make the Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025 (**the Proposed Local Law**). If made, the Proposed Local Law will amend the Principal Local Law.

Local laws are a form of local regulation that enable councils to make legislative controls that reflect the different circumstances of each municipality. The authority for councils to make local laws is granted under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Proposed Local Law aims to amend the Principal Local Law, to incorporate clearer language, respond to legislative updates, correct some minor typographic issues and remove any inconsistencies that have emerged since the Principal Local Law was adopted in 2021.

Local Law Requirements

Section 72 of the *Local Government Act 2020* sets out the requirements for local laws, with the relevant items summarised as follows:

1. Consistency with Legislation

A local law must not be inconsistent with:

- Any Act, including the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- Any regulations

2. Scope of Power

- Must not exceed the powers conferred by the *Local Government Act 2020* or any other authorising Act

3. Consistency with Objectives

- Must align with the objectives of the *Local Government Act 2020* or other authorising legislation

4. Clarity and Precision

- Must be expressed as clearly and unambiguously as reasonably possible.

Making a Local Law

Section 74 of the *Local Government Act 2020* sets out the requirements for making a local law, which are summarised as follows:

1. Legal Certification Requirement

- Before making a local law, a council must obtain a certificate from a qualified person stating that the proposed law complies with the requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

2. Tabling of Certificate

- The certificate must be tabled at the council meeting where the local law is to be made.

3. Public Notice After Making the Law

- After the law is made, the council must publish a notice that includes:
 - The title of the local law
 - Its objectives
 - Its effect
 - A statement that a copy is available:
 - At the council office
 - On the council's website

4. Publication Requirements

- The notice must be published:
 - In the Government Gazette
 - On the council's website.

Proposed Amendments

The Proposed Local Law will, if made, make several amendments to the Principal Local Law. The main amendments are:

- a. removal of clause 4.1(6) of the Principal Local Law for alignment with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*;
- b. broadening of clause 4.4 of the Principal Local Law to cover vaping;
- c. correction to the number of cats that can be kept on some properties; and
- d. revision of Schedule 5, setting out infringement penalties. Since the adoption of the Principal Local Law was adopted, the value of a penalty unit has increased from \$100 to \$204. In response, several penalties have been reduced to maintain proportionality and deterrence.

Inconsistency with legislation

Through the Rainbow Local Government campaign, the Victorian Pride Lobby (a community-based advocacy group) had asked Council to consider whether Clause 4.1(6) of its Principal Local Law should be removed because it is discriminatory.

This clause states:

A person must not enter or use any dressing room, shower or toilet in or at a Council facility, or any passage leading to it, that is inappropriate for their sex unless that person is:

- a) child under 6 years old;*
- b) being cared for by a responsible person; or*
- c) authorised by the facility manager*

Council consented to orders of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for an updated Local Law to be presented with a recommendation to remove the clause.

Council reviewed the operation of this clause of the Principal Local Law and sought its own legal advice. The position that has been formed is that Clause 4.1(6) of the Local Law is likely to be inconsistent with the local law requirements set out in section 72 of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it:

- indirectly discriminates against people (particularly transgender, non-binary and intersex people) and is therefore inconsistent with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*; and
- impermissibly limits the right protected by s 8(3) of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* for a person to enjoy equal and effective protection of the law without discrimination and is therefore inconsistent with it.

Proposed Local Law

On this basis, the Proposed Local Law was developed to remove Clause 4.1(6) entirely. As part of this amendment process, Council officers also identified several additional minor updates to be implemented concurrently. These updates were designed to correct existing anomalies and improve the clarity of the Principle Local Law.

Community Engagement

In accordance with Section 73 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, any proposal to amend the local law must make a local law in accordance with its community engagement policy.

At the Council meeting of Tuesday 17 June 2025, Council approved the release of the proposed amendments to the local law for a four-week community engagement period.

The engagement occurred from 30 June 2025 to 31 July 2025.

The engagement period provided residents, stakeholders, and interested parties with an opportunity to view the Proposed Local Law and share their feedback. Engagement took place using the Your Wellington, Your Say portal: <https://your.wellington.vic.gov.au/>.

The following supported the community engagement process:

- Proposed Local Law - detailed each amendment to the Principal Local Law.
- Consolidated version of the Principal Local Law – this document was developed to assist the community to understand how the Principal Local Law would appear if the Proposed Local Law was adopted.
- Community Impact Statement - this document was prepared to inform the community about the amendments contained in the Proposed Local Law.
- Frequently Asked Questions - Community Engagement Information Sheet – refer Attachment 13.2.3.
- Why are we doing this? Community Engagement Information Sheet – refer Attachment 13.2.4.

During the four-week engagement period, the following responses were received.

| Amendment description | Count of feedback received |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Include any intoxicating substance in clause 4.1 | 951 |
| 2. Remove subclause (6) from clause 4.1 | 910 and 16 letters/emails. |
| 3. Include vaping in clause 4.4 | 927 |
| 4. Include a specific size of 0.04 cubic meters in clause 5.17 | 857 |
| 5. Remove reference to the Recreational Vehicle Strategy from Schedule 8 | 859 |
| 6. Amend clause 6.1 to read 2 cats rather than 5 | 884 |
| 7. Remove Standard 3: Abandoned Vehicles | 861 |
| 8. Replace the words his or hers with their and he or she with they or them | 924 |
| 9. Amend Schedule 5 – Fixed Penalties to reduce penalty units to align with State penalty infringements | 855 |

Over 99% of the feedback submitted via the *Your Wellington Your Say* portal was provided anonymously. While the online questionnaire included an option for respondents to provide their name, only seven individuals chose to do so.

The feedback received through the community engagement process was thoroughly reviewed and carefully considered. A comprehensive summary of the engagement outcomes was presented to Councillors during a workshop held on 19 August 2025.

During the workshop, Council officers recommended that no further amendments to the Proposed Local Law were warranted. This recommendation was based on the legislative requirement that a local law must not be inconsistent with:

- Any Act, including the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- Any regulations
- Legal advice, as outlined under the heading *Inconsistency with Legislation*

While Council values and respects the views expressed through the engagement process, it is legally obligated to ensure that any local law complies with all relevant legislation. In circumstances where legal advice identifies a conflict between a proposed provision and statutory requirements, Council must act in accordance with that advice to uphold its responsibilities under the law. This approach is essential to ensuring lawful decision-making and is outlined in Council's Engagement Policy and explicitly detailed in the Community Engagement Strategy, both of which were approved by Council on 17 June 2025.

Although no changes to the Proposed Local Law are recommended following the engagement, the feedback received remains highly valuable. It will inform future planning and design of Council-owned public amenities, particularly toilets and changerooms. The feedback provided important insights into community expectations and will guide Council in ensuring that facilities are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to diverse needs.

A summary of the feedback, along with corresponding Officer comments, is provided in this report, Attachment 13.2.5 - Community Engagement Report.

Changes to the Proposed Local Law prior to adoption

A further review of the Principal Local Law identified a typographical error—specifically, a reference to Part 12 of the Principal Local Law, which does not exist.

As a result, the Proposed Local Law has been further amended to delete “Part 12 of this” from clause 1.7(2)(e) and substitute “This” in the Principal Local Law – refer Attachment 13.2.2, Part 2 Item 2.1.

This is the only change which has been made to the Proposed Local Law following the completion of the community engagement process.

A certificate under section 74(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* from a lawyer who states that they are of the opinion that the Proposed Local Law is consistent with the local law requirements has been obtained.

Further amendments to the Proposed Local Law cannot be made without obtaining a new legal certificate. Additionally, any changes that would affect the rights or responsibilities of individuals would require a renewed community engagement process, in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Community Engagement process.

Operation of the Proposed Local Law

Subject to adoption, the Proposed Local Law will come into effect on 17 October 2025. From this date, liability and enforcement will be governed by section 83(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which sets out the legal framework for the commencement and enforceability of local laws.

A consolidated version of the Principal Local Law has been prepared, incorporating the Proposed Local Law into one document. Following adoption, this updated document will be published on Council's website to ensure transparency and ease of access for the community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Certification under section 74 of the Local Government Act 2020 [**13.2.1** - 1 page]
2. Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025 [**13.2.2** - 17 pages]
3. Frequently Asked Questions - Community Engagement Information Sheet [**13.2.3** - 1 page]
4. Why are we doing this? Community Engagement Information Sheet [**13.2.4** - 3 pages]
5. Community Engagement Report [**13.2.5** - 10 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. To adopt the *Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025*; or
2. Not adopt the *Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025*; or
3. Not adopt the *Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025*, and request further amendments, additional community engagement, and legal certification to confirm the proposed local law aligns with legislative obligations prior to reconsideration at a future Council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council adopt the *Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025* to comply with the requirements of the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

The removal of clause 4.1(6) will also bring Council into line with other local governments, with only five Victorian councils currently maintaining a similar provision, a number that will continue to decline as the remaining councils progress through the same removal process.

Options 2 and 3 have not been recommended by officers, as the Proposed Local Law incorporates essential updates required to ensure Council's compliance with current legislative obligations, including the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. These options also present substantial financial, resource, and risk management implications that make them unsuitable for recommendation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

This report supports the achievement of the following Council Plan 2025-29 Strategic Objective:

Strategic Objective One: Healthy and Connected Communities – *Vibrant, healthy, connected and inclusive communities. Quality services accessible to everyone* – states the strategy:

Aligning services through a community-centred organisation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The preparation of the Proposed Local Law including obtaining legal advice and legal certification has been funded within the existing adopted budget.

The adoption of the Proposed Local Law is not expected to have ongoing financial implications that are not already budgeted for in the administration of the Principle Local Law.

If the Proposed Local Law is not adopted, there is a potential risk that clause 4.1(6) could be subject to a discrimination claim under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. Such a claim may be lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), seeking a finding that the clause is discriminatory and requesting associated orders, which may include compensation. An indicative cost estimate for defending such a claim has been assessed at between \$80,000 and \$100,000. This estimate is subject to a range of variables and uncertainties, including the complexity of proceedings, legal representation, and potential compensation outcomes. It is important to note that this figure does not include internal resource costs, such as officer time across Governance, Communications and Media, and senior staff involvement, which would be significant if fully costed.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

A media release will be prepared to share the outcome of the Proposed Local Law with the broader community. As 99% of submissions were provided anonymously, it is not possible to respond individually to most contributors. However, community members who included contact details in their letters or emails will be directly informed of the decision.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Legal advice obtained provides that clause 4(1)6 of the Principal Local Law is likely to be inconsistent with the local law requirements set out in section 72 of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it:

- Indirectly discriminates against people (particularly transgender, non-binary and intersex people) and is therefore inconsistent with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*; and
- It limits the right in section 8(3) of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, which gives everyone equal and fair protection under the law without discrimination and is therefore not consistent with that right.

The adoption of the Proposed Local Law will remove this inconsistency with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* and *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

The Proposed Local Law has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Unless this Proposed Local Law is revoked sooner, its operation will cease when the Community Local Law 2021 ceases to operate.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

At the Council meeting of 17 June 2025, Council approved an interim update to the Public Toilets Policy to include the following paragraph:

Council will ensure that clause 4.1(6) of the Community Local Law 2021 is not applied to discriminate against transgender or non-binary persons, or where enforcement would be inconsistent with the human rights of non-binary and transgender persons under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act

2006 and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010, in situations where they seek access to Council facilities that are gendered, such as toilets.

If the Proposed Local Law is adopted, a report will be presented to Council recommending the removal of this paragraph from the Public Toilets Policy, as it will no longer be necessary.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

Relevant staff were consulted regarding the Proposed Local Law and have had the opportunity to contribute to the review. Following adoption, all staff with authorisations will be notified of the commencement of the Proposed Local Law.

The process has required significant staff resources, particularly in reviewing community feedback and preparing supporting information. This has involved contributions from multiple teams and disciplines, reflecting the complexity and importance of the Proposed Local Law.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The removal of clause 4.1(6) also brings Council into line with other local governments, with only five Victorian councils currently maintaining a similar provision, a number that will continue to decline as the remaining councils progress through the same removal process.

Council officers have engaged with several other Victorian councils that have removed similar clauses from their local laws in recent years. Feedback from these councils indicates no reported negative community impacts following the removal of the clause.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Engagement has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The community engagement process demonstrated there is a very high level of community interest in relation to the removal of clause 4.1(6), with both strong support and opposition for the change. The feedback gathered is still incredibly valuable because it will help shape the way Council plans and designs Council-owned toilets, changerooms and public facilities.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

The removal of clause 4.1(6) manages the risks associated with having a clause that is inconsistent with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* and *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. These risks include a range of legal and reputational risks that might flow from a decision to retain clause 4.1(6) of the Local Law, including:

- an application to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for a finding that clause 4.1(6) of the Local Law is discriminatory, and for associated orders;
- an application to the Supreme Court for an order quashing clause 4.1(6) of the Local Law for invalidity; and
- negative public comment from the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, the Victorian Ombudsman and/or the media.

Risks associated with developing or amending a local law have also been mitigated by the adherence to prescribed legislative processes, and the legal certification prior to adoption.

Concerns raised through community submissions have highlighted issues relating to public safety, particularly the safety of women and children, should clause 4.1(6) be removed. However, when assessed through an evidence-based lens, there is currently no demonstrable evidence indicating that clause 4.1(6) has a material impact on safety outcomes.

Removing the clause is a prudent risk management response that reduces exposure to litigation, and supports the objective of maintaining transparent, equitable, and legally sound practices.

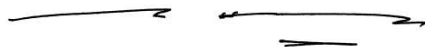
CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 74 OF THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020*

I, **Mark Richard Hayes**, being a person who is:

- (a) an Australian lawyer who has been admitted to the legal profession for at least 5 years; and
- (b) not a Councillor of Wellington Shire Council

certify that, in my opinion, the draft Local Law attached to this Certificate and marked "MRH-1" for identification is consistent with the local law requirements set out in section 72 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Dated: 22 August 2025



.....
Mark Richard Hayes
Maddocks



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Part 1 – Introductory | 3 |
| 1.1 Title | 3 |
| 1.2 Authorising Provisions | 3 |
| 1.3 Objectives | 3 |
| 1.4 Operation Date | 3 |
| 1.5 Revocation Date | 3 |
| 1.6 Definitions | 3 |
| Part 2 – Amendments to the Principal Local Law | 4 |
| Attachment 1 | 8 |
| Attachment 2 | 9 |
| Attachment 3 | 10 |
| Attachment 4 | 13 |
| Attachment 5 | 15 |
| Attachment 6 | 16 |

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

PART 1 – INTRODUCTORY

1.1 Title

- 1) This Local Law is the Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025 and is referred to as this Local Law.

1.2 Authorising Provisions

- 1) This Local Law is made under the provisions of Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

1.3 Objectives

- 1) The objectives of this Local Law are to:
- a) amend the Community Local Law 2021, by removing obsolete provisions and correcting anomalies; and
 - b) provide for the peace, order and good government of the municipal district of Wellington Shire Council.

1.4 Operation Date

- 1) This Local Law comes into operation on Wednesday 17 September 2025.

1.5 Revocation Date

- 1) Unless this Local Law is revoked sooner, its operation will cease when the Community Local Law 2021 ceases to operate.

1.6 Definitions

- 1) In this Local Law, unless the context otherwise requires:
- “municipal district” means the municipal district of Wellington Shire Council.
- “Principal Local Law” means the Community Local Law 2021.

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

PART 2 – AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL LOCAL LAW

- 2.1 In clause 1.7 2)e. of the Principal Local Law, delete “Part 12 of this” and substitute “This”.
- 2.2 Delete the dot points listed below clause 1.8 1) of the Principal Local Law and substitute:
- Wellington Shire Council Roadside Trading Guidelines March 2023
 - Wellington Shire Council Footpath Trading Guidelines 2011
 - Wellington Shire Council Recreational Vehicle Strategy
- 2.3 In the definition of “Authorised Officer” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “council under Section 313 of the Act” and substitute “Council under Section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989*”.
- 2.4 Delete the definition of “Chief Executive Officer” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law and substitute:
- “Chief Executive Officer” means the member of Council staff appointed by the Council to be its Chief Executive Officer or any other person acting in that position.
- 2.5 Immediately after the definition of “Council” and immediately before the definition of “Daylight Hours” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law insert:
- “Council Land” means land vested in or owned or occupied by the Council.
- 2.6 Delete the definition of “Disease” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law and substitute:
- “Disease” means any contagious or infectious disease or any condition to which livestock is subject, or an exotic disease as declared by the Governor in Council for the purposes of the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*.
- 2.7 In the definition of “Environmental Health Officer” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “as amended from time to time”.
- 2.8 In the definition of “Furniture” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “waiter’ stations” and substitute “waiter stations”.
- 2.9 Delete the definition of “Guidelines” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law and substitute:
- “Guidelines” are incorporated by reference and may be amended from time to time.
- 2.10 In the definition of “Land” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “land” where it twice appears and substitute “land”.

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

- 2.11 In the definition of “Municipal Waste Facility” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “outside” and substitute “aside”.
- 2.12 In the definition of “Nuisance” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “as amended from time to time”.
- 2.13 In the definition of “Penalty Unit” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “as amended from time to time”.
- 2.14 Delete the definition of “Road Rules” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law and substitute:
- “Road Rules” means the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*.
- 2.15 In the definition of “Vehicle” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “*Road Safety*” and “*2017*”.
- 2.16 Delete the definition of “Wellington Planning Scheme” in clause 1.9 1) of the Principal Local Law and substitute:
- “Wellington Planning Scheme” means the planning scheme which applies to Council at the relevant time.
- 2.17 In clause 2.3 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “his” and substitute “their”.
- 2.18 In clause 2.7 2) of the Principal Local Law, delete “from time to time”.
- 2.19 In clause 2.7 3) of the Principal Local Law, delete “from time to time”.
- 2.20 In clause 3.2 4) of the Principal Local Law, delete “and the policy” and “Wellington Shire” wherever those words appear.
- 2.21 Delete clause 3.4 6) of the Principal Local Law.
- 2.22 In clause 3.5 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “his or her” and substitute “their”.
- 2.23 In clause 3.8 4) of the Principal Local Law, delete the words “or works which a permit under the Road Management Act 2004 has been issued”.
- 2.24 In clause 3.9 3) of the Principal Local Law, delete “he or she” and substitute “they”.
- 2.25 Delete clause 4.1 5) e. of the Principal Local Law and substitute:
- enter or remain in a municipal facility if that person is exhibiting impairment due to any intoxicating substance;
- 2.26 Delete clause 4.1 6) of the Principal Local Law.
- 2.27 In clause 4.3 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “his or her” and substitute “their”.
- 2.28 Delete the heading to and text of clause 4.4 of the Principal Local Law and substitute:
- No Smoking/Vaping in Smoke/Vape Free Areas

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

- 1) The Council may by resolution, or as a condition of a permit, declare any part of a road reserve or municipal place to be a smoke/vape free area.
 - 2) Where a declaration is made by resolution, the Council must erect and maintain, or cause to be erected or maintained, appropriate signage indicating the boundaries of the declared smoke/vape free areas.
 - 3) A person must not smoke/vape on a road reserve or municipal area that has been declared as a smoke/vape free area and has appropriate smoke/vape free signage displayed.
- 2.29 In clause 4.5 1) b. of the Principal Local Law, delete “his or her” and substitute “their”.
- 2.30 In clause 4.5 2) a. of the Principal Local Law, delete “his or her” and substitute “their”.
- 2.31 In clause 4.5 3) b. of the Principal Local Law, delete “his or her” and substitute “their”.
- 2.32 In clause 5.9 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “*Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018*” and substitute “*Environment Protection Act 2017*”.
- 2.33 In clause 5.16 3) a. of the Principal Local Law, delete “his or her” and substitute “their”.
- 2.34 In clause 5.17 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “ice-box, trunk, chest or any other similar article” and substitute “icebox, trunk, chest or any other similar article having a compartment which has a capacity of 0.04 cubic meters or more”.
- 2.35 In the Table within clause 6.1 1) of the Principal Local Law, in the second row (commencing “Cats”) delete “5” in the final column and substitute “2”.
- 2.36 In clause 6.4 1) a. of the Principal Local Law, delete “- except to the extent that s32 of the Domestic Animals Act applies”.
- 2.37 In clause 7.4 2) of the Principal Local Law, delete “he or she is” and substitute “they are”.
- 2.38 In clause 9.2 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “his” and substitute “this”.
- 2.39 In clause 9.6 1) e. of the Principal Local Law, delete “he or she considers” and substitute “they consider”.
- 2.40 In clause 9.7 2) of the Principal Local Law, delete “he or she” and substitute “they”.
- 2.41 In clause 9.8 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “he or she” and substitute “they”.
- 2.42 In clause 9.9 1) b. of the Principal Local Law, delete “his or her” and substitute “their”.
- 2.43 In clause 9.10 1) of the Principal Local Law, insert “a maximum of” immediately before “twenty”.
- 2.44 In clause 9.11 1) of the Principal Local Law, immediately after “Local Law” insert “, requiring the person to pay the penalty for that offence within a time specified on the issue of the infringement notice”.
- 2.45 In clause 9.11 3) of the Principal Local Law, delete “, as amended from time to time”.

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

- 2.46 In clause 10.1 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “may from time to time” and substitute “will”.
- 2.47 In the heading to clause 10.3 of the Principal Local Law, delete “Waive” and substitute “Waiver” and delete “to” and substitute “of”.
- 2.48 In clause 10.3 1) of the Principal Local Law, delete “Council” and substitute “Council”.
- 2.49 Delete the heading to and text of clause S.3 of the Principal Local Law and substitute the following heading:
- [Blank]**
- 2.50 In clause S.9 4) b. of the Principal Local Law, delete “Licensing” and substitute “Control Victoria”.
- 2.51 In clause S.9 4) c. of the Principal Local Law, immediately after “planning permit” insert “.”.
- 2.52 In clause S.27 3) a. ix. of the Principal Local Law, delete “he or she complies” and substitute “they comply”.
- 2.53 In clause S.28 2) k. of the Principal Local Law, delete “his/her” and substitute “their”.
- 2.54 In clause S.28 3) h. of the Principal Local Law, delete “he or she complies” and substitute “they comply”.
- 2.55 Delete the text of Schedule 1 to the Principal Local Law and substitute the text in Attachment 1 to this Local Law.
- 2.56 Delete the text of Schedule 2 to the Principal Local Law and substitute the text in Attachment 2 to this Local Law.
- 2.57 Delete the text of Schedule 3 to the Principal Local Law and substitute the text in Attachment 3 to this Local Law.
- 2.58 Delete the text of Schedule 4 to the Principal Local Law and substitute the text in Attachment 4 to this Local Law.
- 2.59 Delete the text of Schedule 5 to the Principal Local Law and substitute the text in Attachment 5 to this Local Law.
- 2.60 Delete the text of Schedule 8 to the Principal Local Law and substitute the text in Attachment 6 to this Local Law.

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

Attachment 1

SCHEDULE 1: NOTICE TO COMPLY



Notice to Comply

Community Local Law 2021

| Name: (full name or Organisation/Business) | | |
|---|----------|-----------|
| Name: | Surname: | |
| Address: | Town: | Postcode: |

I, as an authorised officer of Wellington Shire Council, reasonably suspect that you are contravening the *Community Local Law 2021*.

| The particulars of the contravention are as follows: |
|--|
| |

| You are required to cease this contravention, by taking the following action: |
|---|
| |

Compliance with this notice must occur by (insert date & time)

If you fail to comply with this Notice, you may be guilty of an offence.

You may contact Wellington Shire Council Local Laws Staff on 1300 366 244 between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm for any further information about this notice.

[NAME OF AUTHORISED OFFICER]
Authorised Local Laws Officer

Date:

Sale Service Centre 18 Desailly Street (PO BOX 506), Sale VIC 3850 Telephone 1300 366 244
Yarram Service Centre 156 Grant Street, Yarram VIC 3971 Telephone (03) 5182 5100

Web www.wellington.vic.gov.au
Email enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

Attachment 2

SCHEDULE 2: NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT



Notice of Impoundment

Schedule 11 Local Government Act 1989

| Details |
|-----------------|
| Date of Notice: |
| To: |
| Of: |

Pursuant to sections 3 and 5, Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, you are hereby notified of the impoundment of:

| Description of vehicle/items impounded: |
|---|
| |
| From: |

The vehicle/items are currently located at Wellington Shire Council's Works Depot, Landy Street, Maffra and unless the vehicle/items are claimed by you and fees associated with the impounding, moving, keeping and releasing the vehicle/items (and anything on or attached) paid within fourteen days of this notice, the vehicle/items may be sold, destroyed or given away.

| Schedule of Fees: | |
|--|----|
| Transport from (Location details) to Landy Street Maffra | \$ |
| Impound Release Fee (\$340.00 per item): | \$ |
| TOTAL FEES: | \$ |

Payment can be made in person at Wellington Shire Council Customer Service Centre, 18 Desailly Street SALE VIC 3850 by either cash or EFTPOS (cheques not accepted) prior to claiming the impounded items.

For further information, please contact Wellington Shire Council's Local Laws Department by phoning 1300 366 244.

[NAME OF AUTHORISED OFFICER]
Authorised Local Laws Officer

Date:

Sale Service Centre 18 Desailly Street (PO BOX 506), Sale VIC 3850 Telephone 1300 366 244
Yarram Service Centre 156 Grant Street, Yarram VIC 3971 Telephone (03) 5182 5100

Web www.wellington.vic.gov.au
Email enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

Attachment 3

SCHEDULE 3: APPLICATION FOR A LOCAL LAW PERMIT



Application for a Local Law Permit

Community Local Law 2021

If you have questions concerning your application or the permit conditions, please contact our Local Laws Department on 1300 366 244.

① How to complete this form

- Step 1** Complete
Complete all sections of the form
- Step 2** Sign
Check all information and sign the declaration
- Step 3** Submit
Submit a completed application form including any additional documentation and payment to Council
Note: Application of a Local Laws Permit is not complete until payment is made unless the fee is waived.
DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR COMPLETING AN APPLICATION FOR KEEPING ANIMALS PERMIT

① How to submit this form

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| In person | Sale Service Centre 18 Desailly Street, Sale Monday-Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm | Yarram Service Centre 156 Grant Street, Yarram Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm (closed Wednesday) |
| | By Post | Wellington Shire Council, PO Box 506, Sale Victoria 3850 |
| Email | enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au | |

① What happens next?

Council's Local Laws Department will process the application. A Council staff member may contact you if any additional information is required.

How long does this process take?

- Allow up to 10 business days for your application to be assessed and processed.
- If you have not heard anything after this time, please contact our Local Laws Department on 1300 366 244.

What happens next?

- Once the application is processed, you will be informed in writing that your permit is active.
- Some permits are required to be renewed yearly or every 3 years, if you are applying for this type of permit you will be notified by Council asking if you still need the permit.

① Privacy

Information requested on this form is collected for the purpose of applying and obtaining a permit for a related register. Any personal information will be used solely by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. Council may disclose part or all of this information as required to do so by law (including third parties and/or other agencies). The applicant understands that the personal information provided is for the purpose of obtaining a permit, and they may apply to Council for access to/or amendment of the information.

Sale Service Centre 18 Desailly Street (PO BOX 506), Sale VIC 3850 Telephone 1300 366 244
Yarram Service Centre 156 Grant Street, Yarram VIC 3971 Telephone (03) 5182 5100

Web www.wellington.vic.gov.au
Email enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| ▼ S 1 Please tick one | | |
| Endorsement / Establish an Alfresco dining facility (Complete S2, S4, S6, S7 & S8) | Roadside Grazing Permit (Complete S2, S3, S4, S6 & S7) | |
| Roadside Trading (S2, S4, S6, S7 & S8) | Movement of Livestock (Complete S2, S3, S4, S6 & S7) | |
| Lighting an Outdoor Fire (Complete S2, S5, S6, S7 & S8) | Display Portable Advertising /Goods on Footpath (Complete S2, S4, S6, S7 & S8) (Complete S2, S4 & S5) | |
| Occupation of Caravan during Construction of Dwelling (S2, S6, S7) | Other please specify (please see our local laws for details) | |
| ▼ S 2 Details of applicant | | |
| Name/Organisation | | |
| Trading name (if different from above) | | |
| Residential/business address | | |
| Address/roads the permit applies to | | |
| Postal Address (if different from above) | | |
| Telephone | Email | |
| To opt out of having this permit issued to you by email please tick this box <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| ▼ S 3 Livestock Details (if applicable) | | |
| Type & number of Livestock (eg cows 600) | | |
| Description & Identification (eg Angus, farm PIC Number) | | |
| Name & Address of owner of Livestock | | |
| Name & Address of person in charge of Livestock Movement or Droving | | |
| Proposed point of commencement | | |
| Point of destination | | |
| Date of commencement | | |
| ▼ S 4 Public Liability Insurance (if applicable) | | |
| If you are required to complete this section of the form, please attach to this application a Certificate of Currency OR a copy of your current public liability insurance. | | |
| ▼ S 5 Adjoining Neighbour details (if applicable) | | |
| | Neighbour Detail 1 | Neighbour Detail 2 |
| Name | | |
| Address | | |

Sale Service Centre 18 Desailly Street (PO BOX 506), Sale VIC 3850 Telephone 1300 366 244
Yarram Service Centre 156 Grant Street, Yarram VIC 3971 Telephone (03) 5182 5100

Web www.wellington.vic.gov.au
Email enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

Attachment 4

SCHEDULE 4: APPLICATION FOR A KEEPING ANIMALS PERMIT



Application for a Keeping Animals Permit

Community Local Law 2021

If you have questions concerning your application or the permit conditions, please contact our Local Laws Department on 1300 366 244.

① How to complete this form

- Step 1 Complete**
Complete all sections of the form
- Step 2 Sign**
Check all information and sign the declaration
- Submit**
Submit a completed application form including any additional documentation and payment to Council
- Step 3**
- Note: Application of a Local Law Permit is not complete until payment is made unless the fee is waived.**

① How to submit this form

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| In person | Sale Service Centre 18 Desailly Street, Sale Monday-Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm | Yarram Service Centre 156 Grant Street, Yarram Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm (closed Wednesday) |
| | Wellington Shire Council, PO Box 506, Sale Victoria 3850 | |
| By Post | Wellington Shire Council, PO Box 506, Sale Victoria 3850 | |
| Email | enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au | |

① What happens next?

Council's Local Laws Department will process the application. A Council staff member may contact you if any additional information is required.

How long does this process take?

- Allow up to 10 business days for your application to be assessed and processed.
- If you have not heard anything after this time, please contact our Local Laws Department on 1300 366 244.

What happens next?

- Once the application is processed, you will be informed in writing that your permit is active.
- Some permits are required to be renewed yearly or every 3 years, if you are applying for this type of permit you will be notified by Council asking if you still need the permit.

① Privacy

Information requested on this form is collected for the purpose of applying and obtaining a permit for a related register. Any personal information will be used solely by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. Council may disclose part or all of this information as required to do so by law (including third parties and/or other agencies). The applicant understands that the personal information provided is for the purpose of obtaining a permit, and they may apply to Council for access to/or amendment of the information.

Sale Service Centre 18 Desailly Street (PO BOX 506), Sale VIC 3850 Telephone 1300 366 244
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Web www.wellington.vic.gov.au
Email enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

| S 2 Details of applicant | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|-----|
| Name | | | | | | | |
| Residential address | | | | | | | |
| Address that the permit applies to (if different from above) | | | | | | | |
| Postal Address (if different from above) | | | | | | | |
| Telephone | | Email | | | | | |
| To opt out of having this permit issued to you by email please tick this box <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | |
| Do you currently have any domestic animals | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | | No <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Provide details of animals already registered with <small>please use bottom of page if you require further room</small> | | | | | | | |
| Animal Number (can be found on your animal registration papers) | Type of Animal i.e. dog/cat | Breed | | | | Age | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| What additional animals are you applying for <small>please use bottom of page if you require further room</small> | | | | | | | |
| Type of animal i.e. dog/cat | Name | Breed | | | | Age | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Are these animals for breeding and rearing purposes? | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | | No <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Are these animals for training purposes (eg Greyhounds)? | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | | No <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Will your premises be used as a boarding establishment? | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | | No <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| S 7 Declaration of person completing this form | | | | | | | |
| I declare that the information I have given is true and correct. I agree to abide by all conditions specified in the permit and Local Law and any relevant Guidelines. I have attached the relevant documentation that this form | | | | | | | |
| Name | | Signature | | | | Date | |
| OFFICE USE: | | | | | | | |
| Rec Number/ | | \$ | 1Year <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 Year <input type="checkbox"/> | Date: | | CSO |

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

Attachment 5

SCHEDULE 5 – FIXED PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT NOTICES

| Clause | Offence | Penalty Units |
|---------|--|---------------|
| 9.1 (c) | Engages in an activity without a current permit where the activity requires a permit | 2 |
| 9.1 (d) | Breaches or fails to comply with permit conditions | 2 |
| 9.4 | Fail to remedy situation in accordance with a Notice to Comply | 2 |
| 9.9 | Fail to give correct name and address to authorised officer on request | 2 |
| 2.1 | Trees and plants interfering or obstructing | 1 |
| 2.2 | Interfere with or obstruct signpost | 1 |
| 2.3 (1) | Discharge irrigation water on to road | 2 |
| 2.3 (2) | Discharge irrigation water on to road (continuing) | 3 |
| 2.4 | Not displaying property number | 2 |
| 2.5 | Access land other than over council approved crossing | 2 |
| 2.6 | Leave shopping trolley on roads or municipal land | 0.5 |
| 2.7 | Toy vehicle offences | 0.5 |
| 2.8 | Stationary, heavy or long vehicles | 2 |
| 3.9 | Repair vehicle/deposit substances on a road | 2 |
| 4.1 | Behaviour in municipal place offence | 2 |
| 4.2 | Park/drive vehicle on a municipal reserve | 2 |
| 4.3 | Allow tree/plant to damage/interfere with municipal place | 1 |
| 4.4 | Smoke/vape in a smoke/vape free area | 1 |
| 4.5 | Consume/possess alcohol on a road | 1 |
| 4.6 | Camp in a municipal place | 1 |
| 5.1 | Allow dangerous/unsightly land | 2 |
| 5.2 | Outdoor fires | 2 |
| 5.3 | Burning of offensive materials | 2 |
| 5.4 | Recreational vehicles | 2 |
| 5.6 | Camping on vacant private land | 2 |
| 5.7 | Camping or caravans on roads | 2 |
| 5.9 | Deposit wastewater on land/watercourse | 2 |
| 5.10 | Domestic waste collection | 1 |
| 5.11 | Depositing household/commercial waste in public litter bins | 2 |
| 5.12 | Hard waste and recycling collections | 2 |
| 5.13 | Trade waste and waste hoppers | 3 |
| 5.14 | Transportation of waste | 2 |
| 5.15 | Depositing waste at municipal waste facilities | 2 |
| 5.16 | Scavenging at municipal waste facilities and other places | 2 |
| 5.17 | Dumping of refrigerators, trunks or similar containers | 2 |
| 5.18 | Prohibited waste | 2 |
| 6.3 | Animal excrement | 1 |
| 6.4 | Animal nuisance | 1 |
| 6.5 | Ride/lead horse on reservation | 2 |
| 7.4 | Right of way (livestock) | 2 |
| 7.5 | Warning signage | 2 |
| 7.6 | Relocation of livestock other than in daylight hours | 2 |

Where no penalty is specified, two (2) penalty units apply

Note: Section 110 of the *Sentencing Act 1991* describes the meaning of penalty units

Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025

Attachment 6

SCHEDULE 8: DESIGNATED AREAS FOR USE BY RECREATIONAL VEHICLES
(Dirt Bikes)

- Area abutting South Gippsland Highway, known as the Old Sale Common



Sale Service Centre

18 Desailly Street, Sale Victoria 3850
Telephone 1300 366 244

Yarram Service Centre

156 Grant Street, Yarram Victoria 3971
Telephone 03 5182 5100

www.wellington.vic.gov.au
enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au

HAVE YOUR SAY

Community Local Law Proposed Amendments



Frequently Asked Questions – Community Local Law Review

Why is the Community Local Law being updated?

A recent review of Wellington Shire Council's Community Local Law 2021 has highlighted some required amendments to the document. We are updating the law to make sure it reflects current legislation, best practice, and what all of our community expects.

Are fines going up?

Fines are not going up; the proposed amendment includes that penalties will be reduced to balance out the rise in penalty unit value. This will help keep fines fair and in line with state penalties. Of the 48 fines reviewed, 17 will be reduced, and none will increase.

Why are some fines being reduced?

The value of a penalty unit has almost doubled since 2021, the proposed amendment looks to balance the penalty units, reducing some fines, to keep them fair and reasonable against the number of units.

Why is the clause about accessing toilets being removed?

The current local law restricts access based on gender, which contradicts legislation (*Equal Opportunity Act 2010*). Removing it ensures we meet legal obligations and respect the rights of everyone, including transgender and gender-diverse people.

Is the toilet access change optional?

This change is required because the current clause conflicts with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. Council cannot legally enforce the old rule.

What's changing about smoking?

We are proposing changes so that smoke-free areas also apply to vaping, not just tobacco smoking. This helps protect public health.

What's happening with cat ownership rules?

An error in the wording is being corrected. The law will clearly state that a maximum of two cats is allowed in certain residential areas.

Can the community give feedback?

You can have your say on the draft changes from **Monday 30 June** through Council's 'Your Wellington Your Say' platform or provide your submission to one of Council's Customer Service Centres in Sale or Yarram.

Are all the changes final?

Some changes Council is legally required to make (like toilet access). Others may be adjusted based on community feedback.

What happens next?

A Council workshop in August will allow Councillors to review the feedback. If there are no major changes, the updated law may be adopted as early as **2 September**.



Community Local Law Amendment 2025

Why now and how did we get here?

Council is currently inviting community feedback on changes to the Wellington Shire Council Community Local Law 2021. One of the proposed changes is to remove Clause 4.1(6).

This clause currently says:

A person must not enter or use any dressing room, shower or toilet in or at a Council facility, or any passage leading to it, that is inappropriate for their sex unless that person is:

- a) child under 6 years old;
- b) being cared for by a responsible person; or
- c) authorised by the facility manager

What has occurred?

Rainbow Local Government had asked Council to consider whether Clause 4.1(6) of its Community Local Law 2021 should be removed because it is discriminatory. Council and Rainbow Local Government recently consented to orders of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for an updated Local Law to be presented with a recommendation to remove the clause. Following this request, Council reviewed the operation of this clause of the Local Law and sought its own legal advice.

The position that has been formed is that Clause 4.1(6) of the Local Law is likely to be inconsistent with the local law requirements set out in section 72 of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it:

- indirectly discriminates against people (particularly transgender, non-binary and intersex people) and is therefore inconsistent with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*; and
- It limits the right in section 8(3) of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, which gives everyone equal and fair protection under the law without discrimination, and is therefore not consistent with that right.

On this basis, Council has started the formal process to remove Clause 4.1(6) from the Local Law.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, any change to a Local Law must involve community engagement. This is required even when the community has limited ability to

influence the outcome, as is the case with this proposed change because keeping the current rule would go against the law.

Council takes community safety very seriously, particularly in spaces such as change rooms and public toilets/bathrooms. Importantly, removing Clause 4.1(6) does not permit individuals to behave in an offensive or threatening way in these spaces. Such conduct is already prohibited under existing laws that apply across all public areas. If anyone has safety concerns, they should contact Victoria Police, and Council staff will do the same.

Further information about Rainbow Local Government is available at rainbowvotes.com.au.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you proposing to remove the clause from the existing Local Law?

This proposed change comes after a complaint from the Victorian-based advocacy group Rainbow Local Government and a direction made through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) process. Council's legal advice has confirmed that the current clause likely goes against the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, and therefore doesn't meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020. Making this change would bring Wellington Shire Council's policy in line with 90% of other Councils across Victoria.

Who is Rainbow Local Government?

Rainbow Local Government is a campaign coordinated by the Victorian Pride Lobby, a community-based advocacy group working to achieve equality, social justice, and human rights for LGBTIQ+ Victorians. The campaign promotes inclusion and representation in local councils and is grounded in collaboration with like-minded organisations that share its mission and vision.

What would this change mean?

We do not expect much to change day to day in the use of our facilities. But it does mean those who identify as non-binary, gender diverse or transgender can lawfully use toilets and facilities that they're most comfortable using. Children who are under the care of a parent or care provider will still be able to accompany them into the changeroom which the parent or care provider is using.

Are you proposing to remove male and female signage from toilets and facilities?

No.

What changes would community members expect to see?

We don't expect to see any changes to the way most people use these facilities.

Do other Victorian Councils currently have a clause like the one Council is promising to remove?

Out of the 79 Victorian Councils all have removed the clause except for 5, including Wellington.

Why doesn't Council add a unisex option to its toilets and facilities?

We already do - a great example is the toilet facility located at the Sale Botanic Gardens playground precinct. A lot of our existing older toilets and facilities only have female and male options. However, when we update these facilities, we will include where feasible, all-gender facilities alongside male-only and female only amenities.

Does this mean that anyone can act in an offensive or threatening way in toilets or similar facilities?

No. There are laws in place to protect our community from people behaving in an offensive or threatening way in all public spaces. People should always call the police if they have any safety concerns, and Council staff will do the same.

If this is a legal requirement, why are you seeking community feedback?

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, any changes to the existing Local Law must include a community engagement process. While these proposed changes are required to comply with legislation and the law, the community can provide feedback for consideration.

It is important for the community to understand that while the legal direction for this change is clear, Council remains committed to listening to our community to help us better understand concerns and guide how we support inclusion and safety in public spaces. This includes exploring the future provision of all-gender facilities alongside male-only and female-only amenities.

The short answer is - we are committed to considering all feedback. However, not all suggestions may be incorporated if they conflict with legal requirements, existing policies or the overall objectives of the Local Law.

Has Council ever had to enforce this clause of the Local Law?

No, never.

Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025 Engagement Report

Council undertook community engagement to invite feedback on the proposed **Community Local Law (Amendment) Local Law 2025** over a four week period from 30 June 2025 until 31 July 2025.

Engagement was conducted via the [Your Wellington, Your Say](#) portal and promoted through social media. While local laws must not conflict with state or federal legislation, any amendments must include a community engagement process in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Your Wellington Your Say portal outlined the rationale for the proposed amendments and invited community feedback via a questionnaire or written correspondence.

Demographics of Respondents

A demographic breakdown of the responses is as follows:

Gender:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Female | 673 |
| Male | 287 |
| Prefer not to say | 20 |
| Gender Diverse | 12 |
| Self-described | 3 |

Age:

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Under 12 | 5 |
| 12-17 | 22 |
| 18-24 | 61 |
| 25-34 | 153 |
| 35-49 | 365 |
| 50-59 | 176 |
| 60-69 | 154 |
| 70-84 | 57 |
| 85+ | 2 |

Connection to Wellington Shire:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------|----|
| Resident | 873 | Visitor | 42 |
| Work in Wellington | 164 | No connection | 4 |
| Business Owner | 69 | Other | 28 |
| Part-time Resident | 38 | None of the above | 9 |

Responses to individual questions**1. Do you agree with the amendment to Clause 4.1 to be broader to include any intoxicating substance not just alcohol?**

| | | |
|----------|-----|---------|
| Yes | 781 | (82.1%) |
| No | 144 | (15.1%) |
| Not Sure | 26 | (2.7%) |

44 chose not to respond.

2. Please provide any comments you wish to make to Council specific to the removal of subclause (6) about toilets and changerooms.

| Category | Total | Female | Male | Gender Diverse | Prefer Not to Say |
|--|-------|--------|------|----------------|-------------------|
| Total Comments Submitted | 910 | 609 | 267 | 12 | 22 |
| Comments supporting Removal of Subclause 6 | 79 | 60 | 13 | 6 | 0 |
| Comments opposing removal of Subclause 6 | 718 | 474 | 218 | 4 | 22 |

Feedback received via letter or email

17 pieces of feedback were received directly via letter or emails.

- 12 opposed the proposed removal of subclause 6;
- 3 were in support of the removal of subclause 6;
- 1 recommended rewording of subclause 6; and
- 1 was outside the scope of the specific items proposed in the amendment.

3. Do you agree with the amendment to Clause 4.4 to include vaping?

| | | |
|----------|-----|---------|
| Yes | 785 | (84.5%) |
| No | 121 | (13.0%) |
| Not Sure | 21 | (2.5%) |

66 chose not to respond.

- 4. Do you agree with the amendment to Clause 5.17 to include a specific size of 0.04 cubic metres to remove uncertainty about whether small containers are included?**

| | | |
|--------|-----|---------|
| Yes | 511 | (59.6%) |
| No | 262 | (30.6%) |
| Unsure | 84 | (9.8%) |

138 chose not to respond.

- 5. Do you agree to remove the reference to the Recreational Vehicle Strategy in Schedule 8 to be replaced with the specific address of the area where recreational vehicles (dirt bikes) are permitted?**

| | | |
|--------|-----|---------|
| Yes | 568 | (66.1%) |
| No | 222 | (25.8%) |
| Unsure | 69 | (8.0%) |

136 chose not to respond.

- 6. Do you agree with the amendment to Clause 6.1 to amend the 'Cats' section to be corrected and read 2 rather than 5 cats?**

| | | |
|--------|-----|---------|
| Yes | 609 | (68.9%) |
| No | 220 | (24.9%) |
| Unsure | 55 | (6.2%) |

111 chose not to respond.

- 7. Do you agree with the removal of Standard 3 Abandoned Vehicles as it is already defined in the Local Government Act?**

| | | |
|--------|-----|---------|
| Yes | 722 | (83.9%) |
| No | 88 | (10.2%) |
| Unsure | 51 | (5.9%) |

134 chose not to respond.

- 8. Do you agree with the amendment to the local law to replace the words 'his or her' throughout the local law with 'their' and 'he or she' with 'they' or 'them' to ensure the local law applies to everyone?**

| | | |
|-----|-----|---------|
| Yes | 217 | (23.5%) |
| No | 648 | (70.1%) |

| | | |
|--------|----|--------|
| Unsure | 59 | (6.0%) |
|--------|----|--------|

71 chose not to respond.

9. Do you agree with the amendment to Schedule 5 – Fixed Penalties, to reduce penalty unit to align with State penalty infringements (fines)?

| | | |
|--------|-----|---------|
| Yes | 633 | (74.0%) |
| No | 164 | (19.2%) |
| Unsure | 58 | (6.8%) |

140 chose not to respond.

Summary of Feedback and Officer Comments

| | Amendment description | Count of feedback received | Officer comments |
|----|---|----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Include any intoxicating substance in clause 4.1 | 951 | Proceed with updating the clause to include references to intoxicating substances rather than alcohol only. Including <i>intoxicating substances</i> ensures the clause applies to a wider range of scenarios that may pose risks to community safety or amenity. It avoids scenarios where individuals may claim the clause does not apply because they are under the influence of something other than alcohol. |
| 2. | Remove subclause (6) from clause 4.1 | 910 | Proceed with removal of the clause. Refer to section titled 'Extended Comments' responding to feedback which have been grouped into themes. |
| 3. | Include vaping in clause 4.4 | 927 | Proceed with change which will bring the local law in line with the <i>Tobacco Act 1987</i> , which prohibits vaping in the same areas as smoking. |
| 4. | Include a specific size of 0.04 cubic meters in clause 5.17 | 857 | Proceed with change, which will provide more clarity to the clause by removing uncertainty about whether small containers are included. |
| 5. | Remove reference to the Recreational Vehicle Strategy from Schedule 8 | 859 | Proceed with change. A specific address where recreational vehicles (dirt bikes) can be used provides more clarity to the clause. |
| 6. | Amend clause 6.1 to read 2 cats rather than 5 | 884 | An error in the wording is being corrected. The law will clearly state that a maximum of two cats is allowed in certain residential areas. |
| 7. | Remove Standard 3: Abandoned Vehicles | 861 | Proceed with change. Abandoned vehicles are already defined in the <i>Local Government Act</i> . |
| 8. | Replace the words his or hers with their and he or she with they or them | 924 | Proceed with change, which provides more inclusive language throughout the Local Law to ensure the Local Law applies to everyone. |
| 9. | Amend Schedule 5 – Fixed Penalties which reduces some of the penalty units for offences relating to Community Local Law 2021. | 855 | The value of a penalty unit has almost doubled since 2021, the proposed amendment looks to balance the penalty units, reducing some fines, to keep them fair and reasonable against the number of units. Proceed with change. |

Extended Comments: Remove subclause (6) from clause 4.1

While Council values and respects the views expressed through the engagement process, it is obligated to act in accordance with legal advice which has been received, particularly where a provision is likely to contravene legislation. In such cases, legal compliance must take precedence over community sentiment to ensure Council's actions are lawful and defensible.

Please note, the number of 'occurrences' in the table below is higher than the total number of submissions received, due to multiple themes being raised in single submissions.

| Themes from Your Wellington Your Say | Occurrence | Officer comments |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---|
| Supporting Inclusiveness | 16 | Aligns with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020, Equal Opportunity Act 2010 and Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> . Creating inclusive environments where all community members feel safe, respected, and supported is a key consideration in the review of this clause. |
| Supporting Human Rights | 17 | Aligns with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020, Equal Opportunity Act 2010 and Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> . Supporting the right of all individuals to enjoy equal and effective protection under the law without discrimination, as outlined in the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> has been a key consideration in the review of this clause. |
| Supporting the Transgender Community | 12 | Aligns with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020, Equal Opportunity Act 2010 and Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> . Creating inclusive environments where all community members feel safe, respected, and supported is a key consideration in the review of this clause. It is important to acknowledge that for many individuals particularly those whose gender identity does not align with traditional binary definitions such provisions can cause distress, exclusion, and a sense of being unwelcome in public spaces. |

| Themes from Your Wellington Your Say | Occurrence | Officer comments |
|--|------------|---|
| Aligning with Legislation | 17 | The removal of the clause will remove the inconsistency with the <i>Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> and the <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i> . |
| Beliefs Aligning to Gender Binary (Strictly Male/Female) | 207 | While Council recognises some within the community have strong gender binary belief, legal advice received indicates strict gender binary rules, such as clause 4.1(6) are likely to be inconsistent with both the <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i> and <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> . |
| Concerns about Safety | 241 | <p>Council officers have engaged with several other Victorian councils that have recently removed similar clauses in their local laws. Feedback from these councils indicates no reported negative impacts on public safety following the removal of the clause.</p> <p>Clause 4.1(6) has never been enforced since the inception of the Community Local Law, nor have there been any requests to do so due to improper behaviour relating to public toilets and dressing rooms.</p> <p>The following Clause 4.1(1)(a) of the Community Local Law already makes it an offence for a person to behave in a manner that endangers others or unreasonably interferes with the quiet enjoyment of the municipal place by another person.</p> <p>In addition, it is already a criminal offence under state law to engage in threatening behaviour.</p> <p>If anyone feels unsafe or witnesses threatening behaviour, they are encouraged to contact Victoria Police immediately. Council staff are also instructed to contact police when safety concerns arise during their duties.</p> |
| Concerns Around Minors in Public Facilities | 121 | While Council recognises that the safety of minors in public facilities is a valid concern, there is doubt as to whether a local law provision such as Clause 4.1(6) attracting a |

| Themes from Your Wellington Your Say | Occurrence | Officer comments |
|--|------------|--|
| | | nominal fine has any deterrent effect on those intent on causing harm to minors. Offences against minors are addressed in State legislation. Victoria Police is the appropriate agency to contact to report matters relating to the safety of minors in public places. |
| Strong Objections to the Removal of the Clause | 67 | <p>While Council values and respects the views expressed through the engagement process, it is obligated to act in accordance with legal advice which has been received, particularly where a provision is likely to contravene legislation. In such cases, legal compliance must take precedence over community sentiment to ensure Council's actions are lawful and defensible.</p> <p>Clause 4.1(6) is inconsistent with the <i>Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> and the <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i>.</p> <p>The clause is currently not enforceable as authorised officers would have no reliable way to verify a person's assigned gender making it difficult to prove a breach. There is doubt about the clause's deterrent effect, particularly for individuals intending to misuse facilities for harmful purposes, as such individuals are likely to disregard far more serious criminal laws.</p> |
| Recommendations to Add Another Toilet | 72 | <p>Council already provides a number of all-gender toilet facilities across the municipality. For example, the amenities located at the Sale Botanic Gardens playground precinct incorporate inclusive design features.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that many of Council's older facilities currently offer only male and female options. As these facilities are progressively upgraded, Council is committed to including all-gender facilities in the design wherever feasible.</p> |
| Abusive/Threatening | 16 | While Council understands there are strong views on the proposed Local Law changes, |

| Themes from Your Wellington Your Say | Occurrence | Officer comments |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--|
| | | and while we respect the right to be heard, abuse, threats or disrespect toward staff or others are not tolerated. Submitters were asked to have their say respectfully, as defamatory comments would not be included in the consultation process. |

| Themes from the letters/ emails | Occurrence | Officer comments |
|--|------------|--|
| Supporting Inclusiveness | 3 | Aligns with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> , <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i> and <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> . |
| Opposed to the removal of the clause | 12 | While Council values and respects the views expressed through the engagement process, it is obligated to act in accordance with legal advice which has been received, particularly where a provision is likely to contravene legislation. In such cases, legal compliance must take precedence over community sentiment to ensure Council's actions are lawful and defensible. |
| Proposed re-wording of the clause | 1 | <p>Council has received legal advice as follows:</p> <p>The proposed rewording is considered a policy statement, making it inappropriate for inclusion in a local law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Council were to accept and include the proposed text in the Local Law, there is a very real risk that it would be discriminatory, contrary to the <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i> (EOA); and • The inclusion of the proposed rewording in the Local Law could not be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) justified as a 'special measure' under s 12 of the EOA; or (b) defended on the basis that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of any person under s 86 of the EOA. |
| Comments outside of the scope of the amendment | 1 | As the comments were not related to the specific amendments proposed for the |

| Themes from the letters/ emails | Occurrence | Officer comments |
|------------------------------------|------------|--|
| | | Local Law, they could not be considered for this report. |

13.3. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council to enable the consideration of, and a decision to appoint, an external independent member to Council's Audit & Risk Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Appoint an independent member to Council's Audit & Risk Committee for a three year period (in accordance with its charter) commencing 29 October 2025 and expiring 28 October 2028; based on the recommendation in the attached confidential Evaluation Report Audit & Risk Committee Member Appointment 2025 of this Council meeting agenda; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the attached Evaluation Report Audit & Risk Committee Member Appointment 2025 is designated confidential under section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 4 September 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:
(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs,
except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful applicant can be made public.***

BACKGROUND

Council maintains an Audit & Risk Committee in accordance with section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Audit & Risk Committee is a formally appointed committee of the Council and is responsible to Council.

The Audit & Risk Committee's role is to report to Council and provide appropriate advice and recommendations on matters relevant to its Charter to facilitate decision making by Council in relation to the discharge of its responsibilities.

The Audit & Risk Committee membership is comprised of two Councillors and three external independent persons with suitable knowledge and experience, all appointed by Council for varying periods up to a maximum term of three years. The term of the current appointment is due to expire on 28 October 2025.

To ensure the vacant position is filled, an Expression of Interest process has been undertaken to recruit a suitably qualified external member for Council's Audit & Risk Committee.

Advertising was undertaken in July 2025 and 21 expressions of interest were received by the nominated closing date of 6 August 2025.

An interview process was held in August and September 2025. The Evaluation Panel's assessment and a recommendation for appointment is included in the attached confidential report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Confidential Header - Audit & Risk Committee appointment [**13.3.1** - 1 page]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Evaluation Report Audit & Risk Committee Member Appointment 2025 [**13.3.2** - 2 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. To appoint an independent member to Council's Audit & Risk Committee, for a three year period (in accordance with its charter) commencing 29 October 2025 and expiring 28 October 2028; or
2. Amend the recommendation in relation to the proposed appointment.

PROPOSAL

That Council appoint an independent member to Council's Audit & Risk Committee, for a three year period (in accordance with its charter) commencing 29 October 2025 and expiring 28 October 2028 based on the recommendation in the attached confidential Evaluation Report Audit & Risk Committee Member Appointment 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

While this report does not meet a specific Council Plan strategic objective, it aligns with good governance.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The appointment of an independent Audit & Risk Committee member is in accordance with section 53(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

I declare that the information contained in the attached document **EVALUATION REPORT AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT 2025** relating to **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs

.....
ARTHUR SKIPITARIS
General Manager Corporate Services
4/09/2025

13.4. AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

To receive and note the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 25 August 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council receive and note the minutes in brief of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting 25 August 2025 (as attached) and the confidential attachment Wellington Shire Council Audit & Risk Committee - Minutes 25 August 2025; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the confidential document Wellington Shire Council Audit & Risk Committee - Minutes 25 August 2025 of this Council meeting agenda is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the Chief Executive Officer on 29 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:
e) legal privileged information; and
l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.***

BACKGROUND

Council maintains an Audit & Risk Committee in accordance with section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Audit & Risk Committee is an independent advisory Committee to Council and its primary objective is to assist Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities for financial reporting, management of risk, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls and facilitating the organisation's ethical development. Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee are reported direct to Council.

A copy of the minutes in brief from the Audit & Risk Committee meeting of 25 August 2025 is attached and is provided for the information of Council and the public in general.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Wellington Shire Council Audit & Risk Committee minutes in brief 25 August 2025 [13.4.1 - 7 pages]
2. Confidential Header - Audit & Risk Committee minutes [13.4.2 - 1 page]
3. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Wellington Shire Council Audit & Risk Committee - Minutes 25 August 2025 [13.4.3 - 309 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. To receive and note the minutes from the Audit & Risk Committee meeting of 25 August 2025; or
2. To seek further information and consider the minutes at a future meeting.

PROPOSAL

To receive and note the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 25 August 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

While this report does not meet a specific Council Plan strategic objective, it aligns with good governance.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The *Local Government Act 2020*, section 53(1) requires Council to establish an audit committee. Council's Audit & Risk Committee is an Advisory Committee to Council and operates within the Terms of Reference and Charter adopted by Council.

The Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference require the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee to be forwarded to an ordinary meeting of the Council, including a report explaining any specific recommendations and key outcomes.

This report complies with the legislative requirements and the Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference requirements.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

The Audit & Risk Committee Charter identifies the management of risk as one of the primary objectives of the Audit & Risk Committee. The Audit & Risk Committee monitors the risk exposure of Council by determining if management has appropriate risk management processes and adequate management information systems in place.

MINUTES IN BRIEF – AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING – 25 AUGUST 2025

Present: Mr Chris Badger (Chair) (via Teams)
Mr Tony Smith (via Teams)
Councillor Geoff Wells

In attendance: Mr David Morcom (Chief Executive Officer)
Mr Arthur Skipitaris (General Manager Corporate Services)
Mr Ian Carroll (Manager Corporate Finance)
Mr Des Reilly (Coordinator Work Health & Safety) (Item 7.7)
Mr Kapil Kukreja (HLB Mann Judd) (via Teams)
Mr Jaideep Mor (HLB Mann Judd) (via Teams)
Ms Sheryl Saynor (Executive Support Corporate Services)

1 Welcome – Councillor Geoff Wells

2 Apologies

Dr Craig Nisbet and Councillor Catherine Bannerman

3 Closure of Meeting to Public

Tony Smith/Councillor Wells

That the meeting be closed to the public under Section 66(5) of the Local Government Act 2020 to discuss legal privileged information and information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

CARRIED

4 Declaration of Conflict(s) of Interest

Nil

5 Adoption of Previous Minutes - 26 May 2025

Tony Smith/Chris Badger

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 May 2025.

CARRIED

6 In Camera Session (conducted at 1.00pm)

7.1 Actions from Previous Minutes

Tony Smith/Chris Badger

*That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.
That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:*

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.*

CARRIED

7.2 Q&A from previous meeting

Tony Smith/Chris Badger

*That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.
That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:*

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.*

CARRIED

7.3 Strategic Internal Audit Plan

Councillor Wells/Tony Smith

*That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.
That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:*

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.*

CARRIED

7.4 Internal Audit Report - Emergency Management

Councillor Wells/Tony Smith

*That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.
That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:*

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.*

CARRIED

7.5 Internal Audit - Follow Up Review

Tony Smith/Councillor Wells

*That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.
That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:*

*(I) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.6 Status of Audit Recommendations

*Tony Smith/Councillor Wells
That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.
That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:
(I) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.7 Work Health Safety Matters

*Councillor Wells/Tony Smith
That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.
That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:
(I) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.8 Risk Management Action Plan - Report on progress of previous year actions and review of actions for following year

*Councillor Wells/Tony Smith
That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.
That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:
(I) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.9 Review of Council Policies

*Tony Smith/Councillor Wells
That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.*

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.10 Annual Evaluation of Audit & Risk Committee Performance

Tony Smith/Chris Badger

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.11 PAEC Inquiry into Fraud and Corruption Control in Local Government

Chris Badger/Councillor Wells

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.12 Non-compliance with Local Government Act 2020

Chris Badger/Tony Smith

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.13 Review of Library Services

Councillor Wells/Tony Smith

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.14 Report of Reimbursements made to Councillors and members of delegated Committees

Tony Smith/Chris Badger

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.15 CEO Credit Card Expenditure

Tony Smith/Councillor Wells

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.16 Related Party Transactions

Councillor Wells/Tony Smith

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

*(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.
be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.
CARRIED*

7.17 Council Plan 2025-29

Councillor Wells/Tony Smith

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

- (l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.***

be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

CARRIED

7.18 ICT and Cyber Security Update

Tony Smith/Councillor Wells

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

- (l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.***

be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

CARRIED

7.19 Register of Commissioned Reports

Councillor Wells/Tony Smith

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

- (l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.***

be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

CARRIED

7.20 Key Risk Matters

Tony Smith/Councillor Wells

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

- (e) legal privileged information***

be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

CARRIED

7.21 Insurance Report

Tony Smith/Councillor Wells

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

(I) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

CARRIED

7.22 Fraud Report

Councillor Wells/Tony Smith

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

(I) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

CARRIED

7.23 Arrangements for Election of Chair

Councillor Wells/Tony Smith

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that it receive the report.

That the information contained in this document and designated under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:

(I) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

be designated confidential information under Clause 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

CARRIED

7.24 General Business

8.1 Rotating Assessment of and Feedback on Meeting

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.26PM



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

I declare that the information contained in the attached document **WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE - MINUTES 25 AUGUST 2025** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

- e) legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;
- l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

.....
ARTHUR SKIPITARIS
General Manager Corporate Services
29 August 2025

13.5. PROGRESS OF 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN AND HEALTHY WELLINGTON 2024/25 QUARTER 4

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE

To present Council and the community with the progress update for Quarter 4 of the 2024/25 financial year, outlining achievements against the Council Plan 2021-25. This is the final update as the Council Plan 2021-25 concluded on 30 June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the attached update on progress of the Council Plan 2021-25 for Quarter 4, 2024/25.

BACKGROUND

The Council Plan 2021-25 was adopted by Council in 2021 in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Council Plan 2021-25 set Council's priorities and direction over the four-year period. Contained within the plan were 104 actions including Major Initiatives, Initiatives and Key Projects addressing the four Strategic Directions, along with 31 Indicators of Success that aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Progress has been provided to the community through regular Council reports in addition to the Annual Report.

The attached document provides the following overview of the Council Plan 2021-25:

- Final progress status of all Major Initiatives, Initiatives and Key Projects linked to each Council Plan strategic direction and outcome;
- Final progress comments in relation to the Healthy Wellington considerations for those Major Initiatives, Initiatives and Key Projects which contain linkages to the Wellington Shire Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Healthy Wellington 2021-25.
- 2024/25 Indicators of Success - Indicators of success are updated annually at the conclusion of the financial year.

Major Initiatives are significant projects that will directly contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan during the financial year and have a major focus in the budget.

Initiatives are actions that are one-off in nature and/or lead to improvements in service.

The Council Plan 2021-25 spanned four years from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2025. With the conclusion of the Council Plan 2021-25, future reporting will monitor progress against the Council Plan 2025-29, which was formally adopted at the Council meeting held on Tuesday, 19 August 2025. The Council Plan 2025-29 came into effect on 1 July 2025 and will remain in place until 30 June 2029.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Progress of Council Plan 2021-25 and Healthy Wellington 2024/25 Quarter 4 [**13.5.1** - 41 pages]
2. Progress of Council Plan 2021-25 and Healthy Wellington 2024/25 Quarter 4 - at a glance [**13.5.2** - 5 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Receive the attached update on progress of the Council Plan 2021-25 for Quarter 4, 2024/25; or
2. Not receive the attached update on progress of the Council Plan 2021-25 for Quarter 4, 2024/25 and seek further information for consideration at a later Council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council receive the attached update on progress of the Council Plan 2021-25 for Quarter 4, 2024/25.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

The Council Plan communicates Council's strategic direction to the community. The Council Plan can also be used by Council to communicate its vision and direction to other tiers of government, organisations, government agencies and funding bodies.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The provision of a Council Plan report (report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year) is a requirement of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework - Governance and Management checklist which is enacted by the *Local Government Act 2020*.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2021-25 commits to the following:

Council will provide regular updates to the community on how we are progressing through a variety of reporting mechanisms.

This report supports the above Council Plan commitment.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Council continued to work in partnership with the community of Wellington Shire to deliver the Council Plan 2021-25.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

Council utilises a Risk Management Framework to ensure effective and responsible risk management, making it a fundamental aspect of all decision-making processes. Alongside this, Council recognises strategic risks, which could impact long-term objectives. Reporting on the advancement of initiatives and key projects aligned with each strategic direction outlined in the Council Plan serves as a crucial control mechanism, reinforcing our dedication to risk management and the early identification of potential challenges.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

We are a climate resilient community with sustainable practices and places.

OUTCOMES

- 1.1. A climate and disaster resilient community.
- 1.2. Assist community to transition to a low carbon economy via adoption of sustainable practices and renewable energy.
- 1.3. The natural environment is valued, protected and accessible.
- 1.4. Council is an environmental steward with a reducing carbon footprint.

2



ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

We are a growing, sustainable and prosperous community.

OUTCOMES

- 2.1. A diverse economy that creates jobs and opportunities.
- 2.2. A community that has the capacity and skills to meet our economic needs.
- 2.3. An increase in variety of housing choice to support equitable access to housing.
- 2.4. Infrastructure investment is targeted to maximise jobs and housing growth.

3



LIVEABILITY AND WELLBEING

We are a liveable, engaged, and supported community.

OUTCOMES

- 3.1. An inclusive, diverse, and resilient community.
- 3.2. An actively engaged community.
- 3.3. Opportunities for everyone to work, learn, create, play, and share.
- 3.4. Improved access to and participation in support services focussing on those who are vulnerable including: young children, youth, people living with a disability and seniors.

4



SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

We are a connected community with access to the services and infrastructure we require.


OUTCOMES

- 4.1. A financially sustainable, high performing organisation.
- 4.2. Services deliver operating efficiencies and best value.
- 4.3. Well planned and sustainable towns, facilities, and infrastructure that service community need.
- 4.4. Safe and well-used transport connections across all modes of travel.

DIRECTION

1

Environment and Climate Change



'We are a climate resilient community with sustainable practices and places.'

Key projects*

- Resource Recovery Hub at Kilmany Landfill site (1.4.3)
- Longford Landfill Rehabilitation (1.4)
- Lake Guyatt Environmental Education Centre (1.1.3, 3.1.1) ♥
- Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service (1.4)
- Maffra Resource Recovery Facility (1.4.3)
- Electric vehicle charging stations (1.2.2)
- Amendment C99 review of flood planning provisions within the Wellington Planning Scheme to reduce risks of flooding and coastal /river inundation as sea levels rise (1.1.1) ♥
- Great Southern Rail Trail Extension - Alberton to Welshpool (1.3.2)
- Solar or alternate energy rollout across community facilities (1.2.4)
- Preparing Remote Emergency Response Centres (1.1.4, 1.1.5)



*subject to successful business case and funding

SALE BOTANIC GARDENS


Council Plan Strategic Direction 1: Environment and Climate Change





- linked to Healthy Wellington Plan

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|--|---|---|-------------|----------|---|
| 1.1.1  | Major Initiative - In line with revised State Government policy documents, establish and implement a policy position around the impacts of sea level rise, flooding and bushfire on land use planning. | Regulator | <p>In order to progress this, Council is currently preparing Planning Scheme Amendment C125, which will supersede Amendment C99.</p> <p>Councillors were briefed on the proposed Amendment on 3 June 2025 with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), prior to requesting formal Authorisation from the Minister for Planning to proceed.</p> <p>Council will continue to work in collaboration with the WGCMA to finalise the relevant documents to support Amendment C125 prior to a request for Authorisation.</p> | Progressing | 90% | Planning Scheme Amendment C125 will assist the community in mitigating against the risk associated with climate change driven events. |
| 1.1.1.1  | Key Project - Amendment C99 review of flood planning provisions within the Wellington Planning Scheme to reduce risks of flooding and coastal/river inundation as sea levels rise. | Advocate, Facilitator, Funder, Provider | <p>Work to prepare the relevant documents to support Planning Scheme Amendment C125 (which supersedes C99) is progressing in collaboration with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.</p> <p>Councillors were briefed on progress at a workshop on 3 June 2025.</p> <p>A final suite of documents and Consultation Strategy to support Amendment C125 is expected to be finalised in late 2025.</p> | Progressing | 40% | Planning Scheme Amendment C125 will increase the community's resilience to withstand, recover and thrive from climate-driven natural disasters. |
| 1.1.2  | Major Initiative - Deliver organisation-wide integrated implementation of the climate change aspects of the Council's Sustainability Strategy 2020-24, Healthy Wellington 2021-25 and Planning Policy Framework including our zero net carbon emissions target by 2040. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>Council has partnered with the Gippsland Alliance for Climate Action on key sustainability projects, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> climate risk mapping; electric vehicle fleet transition frameworks; sustainable design policies for Council buildings; decarbonisation; emissions monitoring software; and staff training. <p>Community engagement has included;</p> | Completed | 100% | Transitioning to a low carbon polluted environment preserves the health and wellbeing of the community. |


Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|--|----------------|--|-----------|----------|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> information sessions; social media outreach and events showcasing electric vehicles; energy-saving solutions; gas-to-electricity education; and renewable energy options under the "Making the Switch" theme. <p>Sustainability education continues at the Nakunbalook Environmental and Cultural Education Centre.</p> <p>Preparations for the 2025/26 Urban Forest program are complete, with residents selecting street tree species to enhance canopy cover, reduce heat exposure, and improve community wellbeing.</p> <p>Council remains focused on its 2040 net zero emissions target. Recent investments include bulk energy contracts starting January 2025, supplying 70% renewable energy to Council facilities. Solar and battery systems were installed at the GRSC Hockey Pavilion, and public EV chargers are available in Yarram, Sale, Heyfield, Maffra, and now Stratford.</p> <p>Diesel mowers and small plant equipment have been replaced with electric alternatives.</p> <p>The Sustainability Strategy 2020-24 has concluded, and Council will continue assessing facilities for solar and battery upgrades.</p> <p>The Trellis emissions platform will guide future energy-saving investments and retrofits.</p> | | | |
| 1.1.3  | Major Initiative - Educate the community to increase understanding of the risks and impacts of climate change and the need for adaptation and sustainable living. | Facilitator | <p>During the period of 1 March to 30 June 2025, Sustainability Education has held or partnered in 7 Community events with 213 community members engaged.</p> <p>Other events held include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 secondary school events engaging 32 students; 11 primary school events engaging 741 students; | Completed | 100% | Multiple sessions were delivered focusing on vegetable gardening, climate-matched gardens, and biodiversity. These sessions aimed to promote sustainable practices and environmental awareness. Additional workshops and tours were held to explore the environmental impact of consumer choices, including the differences between linear and circular economies, |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 preschool events with 388 participants; and 1 tertiary event with 12 attendees. <p>In the 2024/25 financial year, Council delivered 30 community events with approximately 1,310 participants including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 secondary school events reaching around 360 students; 35 primary school events involving approximately 2,110 children; and 33 preschool events engaging about 880 young learners. <p>These figures reflect Council's ongoing commitment to inclusive and educational programming across all age groups.</p> <p>These included biodiversity planting days to support local revegetation efforts, waste education sessions and tip tours aimed at promoting sustainable choices, and cultural seminars featuring local Indigenous presenters.</p> <p>Events were held across various locations, including the Environmental and Cultural Education Centre Nakunbalook, and also included creative initiatives such as Art in the Wild in partnership with the Art Gallery team.</p> | | | and practical strategies for reducing waste. |
| 1.1.3.1  | Key Project - Lake Guyatt Environmental Education Centre. | Facilitator, Provider | Nakunbalook Environmental and Cultural Education Centre was completed in late 2022. | Completed | 100% | Providing the opportunity to undertake education programs, to assist the community with the transition to a low carbon economy. |
| 1.1.4  | Major Initiative - Build disaster resilience and improve adaptation and recovery in high-risk and vulnerable communities by facilitating community-led emergency management planning and preparedness. | Provider, Facilitator | <p>The Local Emergency Directory (LED) project has continued to be implemented in communities across Wellington.</p> <p>Significant achievement has been made on other key recovery and resilience projects including the installation of generators to provide back-up power at various sites and the further development of the multi-agency project to install emergency information markers at key locations in remote areas.</p> | Completed | 100% | Health and Climate Change is considered through this work as it aims to build the community's resilience and preparedness for future natural disasters. |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|--|
| 1.1.4.1 | Key Project - Preparing Remote Emergency Response Centre's. | Provider, Facilitator | Remote Emergency Relief Centres project has been completed. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.1.5 | Initiative - Ensure municipal emergency management plans are developed collaboratively with lead agencies to achieve better coordination of emergency mitigation to coordinate resources, protect lives, property, and the environment. | Facilitator | The Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023-2026 was updated and approved by Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) in November 2023. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.1.6  | Initiative - Increase the extent of our urban forests and trees (also considering urban agriculture) to help our townships cope better with future temperatures increases. | Provider | <p>The 2025 Urban Forest Renewal Program tree planting phase saw 1095 street and park trees planted in Maffra, Sale, Stratford and Wurruk, Rosedale & Heyfield. Planning for the 2026 Urban Forest Renewal Program has commenced with a key focus on consulting with residents in Sale, Maffra, Wurruk, Heyfield and Yarram.</p> <p>The annual program contributes to the enhancement of township character and neighbourhood amenity creating shaded footpaths that encourage active transport.</p> <p>The leafy streets will increase liveability, while also shade and cool our communities in future years as we navigate a changing climate.</p> | Completed | 100% | Future communities will enjoy the shaded streets and parks - the legacy of planting almost 5,000 street and park trees since 2021. The cooling effect created by these healthy, well established trees will ensure that there will be respite on the increasingly hotter days. The changing climate has been considered when selecting these trees, with all growing in conditions that is anticipated to be similar to Wellington Shire in 2050 and beyond. |
| 1.2.1 | Major Initiative - Advocate for, educate, and facilitate the adoption of regenerative agriculture and investment to improve water security and assist farmers to increase resilience and profitability in a warmer, drier climate. | Facilitator, Advocate | <p>Council actively supported the Gippsland Agricultural Group and Food and Fibre Gippsland to research and deliver sustainable agricultural outcomes.</p> <p>This included the promotion of drought resistant farming practices, regeneration of farmland, and the search for new markets for Gippsland's agricultural products.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.2.2 | Initiative - Advocate for uptake of electric and hybrid vehicles across our broader community and support this through delivery of charging stations. | Advocate, Provider | A new 75kW electric vehicle public charging station is now installed in Stratford, adjacent to the Memorial Park. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.2.2.1 | Key Project - Electric Vehicle charging stations. | Advocate, Provider | A new 75kW electric vehicle public charging station is now installed in Stratford, adjacent to the Memorial Park. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.2.3 | Major Initiative - Advocate alongside our renewable energy industry and community to secure priority transmission upgrade funding and | Advocate, Facilitator, Regulator | In December 2022, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy declared an area in the Bass | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|--|
| | aim for the area for our off-shore wind projects to be declared the first renewable energy zone. | | Strait off the coast of Gippsland as being suitable for offshore renewable energy. | | | |
| 1.2.4 | Initiative - Help build a diverse and resilient energy economy by supporting the uptake of community-owned renewable energy capture and storage through education, capacity building and targeted investment. | Facilitator, Regulator, Advocate | The Wellington Sustainability Expo was successfully delivered in March 2025. Officers worked in partnership with the Gippsland Climate Change Network and other community organisations to plan and deliver the successful annual event. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.2.4.1 | Key Project - Solar or alternate energy rollout across community facilities. | Advocate, Facilitator, Regulator | The Gippsland Regional Sports Complex (GRSC) Hockey Pavilion solar and battery installation was completed in 2024 and is now operational providing renewable generated day time power and some evening battery reserve. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.3.1  | Initiative - Maintain a high-quality network of local parks, open space and urban forests which help to lessen the impacts of extreme heat and are managed for community and environmental benefit. | Provider | <p>The Parks Services team continue to service local parks and open spaces in line with service standards to ensure maximum social and environmental benefits for the community.</p> <p>This has included quality management of grassed areas, horticultural offerings, treed reserves, paths network, play spaces, BBQ's, shelters and public amenities.</p> <p>Park audit results continue to demonstrate high standards of maintenance are occurring and practices being improved because of the data.</p> <p>Public parks and open spaces continue to be embraced and well utilised by the Wellington community with positive sentiments shared and low levels of complaints.</p> <p>In the 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Wellington Shire Council, the appearance of public areas was rated in the top 3 performing areas of Council, with Wellington performing significantly higher than the State-wide and Large Rural group averages.</p> <p>Programmed upgrades to play spaces across the shire have been completed, ensuring that young people at all different age profiles can continue to enjoy the outdoors in their own community.</p> | Completed | 100% | Increase participation in passive recreational activities such as walking and cycling. |

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|--|--|---|-----------|----------|---|
| | | | <p>New trails and paths network at Flooding Creek Reserve Sale have been completed, along with implementation of an annualised park path maintenance program.</p> <p>The urban forest tree planting program completed an active consultation and engagement program with the community in Spring 2024, with the tree planting phase seeing 1095 street and park trees planted in Maffra, Sale, Wurruk, Stratford, Rosedale and Heyfield.</p> <p>The program has contributed to the creation of urban canopy cover to protect streets in townships from heat exposure and building community amenity, delivering greening, shade and cooling in future years as trees become mature and well established, and contributing to the overall wellbeing of the community and protection from the impacts of future climate change.</p> | | | |
| 1.3.2  | Initiative - With key stakeholders, encourage access, appreciation and use of our natural areas through well-planned and sustainable nature-based and cultural tourism. | Advocate, Facilitator, Funder, Regulator | <p>Council continued its collaboration with Destination Gippsland on the Dark Skies project, which showcases stargazing opportunities in Loch Sport and Dargo.</p> <p>This initiative is supported by local Indigenous groups, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, neighbouring councils, and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation.</p> <p>Discussions were also held with Destination Gippsland regarding appropriate levels of Acknowledgement of Country in tourism brochures.</p> <p>The Koala Festival was scheduled to return to the Botanic Gardens, and opportunities were explored for a Botanical Gardens Open Day in partnership with the Parks and Gardens team, with a focus on sustainability and conservation.</p> <p>The region's sustainable, nature-based, and cultural tourism offerings continued to be</p> | Completed | 100% | Actively working with renewable proponents to provide ample opportunity to engage with community at events. |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|---|--|--|-----------|----------|--|
| | | | <p>promoted through the Middle of Everywhere social media channels.</p> <p>Council also maintained engagement with wind farm proponents to encourage participation in events, aiming to enhance public awareness and provide opportunities for face-to-face interaction.</p> | | | |
| 1.3.2.1 | Key Project - Great Southern Rail Trail Extension - Alberton to Welshpool. | Advocate, Facilitator, Funder, Regulator | The extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail, connecting Alberton and Port Welshpool, was completed and officially opened on 16 August 2024. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.3.3 | Major Initiative - Better utilise existing water resources, improve waterway health, increase biodiversity values and investigate bio link opportunities through implementing the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan. | Advocate, Facilitator, Funder, Regulator | <p>The Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP) and associated codes and ministerial guidelines continue to guide decision making for development works involving wastewater management in sensitive areas to improve the health of waterways.</p> <p>The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) have released updated guidance resources and officers from East Gippsland Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council participated in risk assessment for Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS) specific training in June 2024.</p> <p>The updated OWMP action plan has been accepted by Gippsland Water and an updated memorandum of understanding will be developed to provide guidance on development within special water supply catchments.</p> <p>Council has introduced improvements to administrative process for OWMS that allow for a consistent approach, follow up of permits due for expiry and high-risk locations.</p> <p>The Environmental Health team continue to play an active role in the Blue Green Algae portfolio to reduce the potential health impacts on residents, visitors and parks staff.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.4.1 | Major Initiative - Progress towards our 2040 net zero emissions target by reviewing our roadmap, strengthening our governance and exploring carbon offset opportunities. | Provider | Council continues to be opportunistic in efforts to make progress towards delivering its net zero carbon emissions target by 2040. | Completed | 100% | Mitigating carbon for community wellbeing |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|--|----------------|--|--------|----------|--|
| | | | <p>Significant investment decisions and projects over the last 12 months included the new purchase of bulk energy contracts commencing January 2025 for Council facilities and assets which resulted in the purchase of 70% renewable energy produced power to replace carbon emitting fossil fuel generated power.</p> <p>The Gippsland Regional Sports Complex (GRSC) Hockey Pavilion solar and battery installation was completed in 2024 and is now operational providing renewable generated day time power and some evening battery reserve.</p> <p>Council's commitment to 'Charging the Regions' Gippsland and encouraging Electric Vehicle uptake with installation of public Electric Vehicle chargers in each of the townships of Yarram, Sale, Heyfield, Maffra and now Stratford has been completed.</p> <p>Scheduled replacement of 2 diesel powered ride on mowers were transitioned to fully electric mowers with equal performance, markedly reduced operational noise impact to the community, and no refuelling required. Small plant was also replaced to schedule with transition from 2-stroke brush-cutters and leaf blowers to electric.</p> <p>The Sustainability Strategy 2020-24 has concluded through the period setting the scene for both appraisal of performance to date and a review of project and investment opportunities to be considered for carbon reduction in future years.</p> <p>Council's Facilities Portfolio will continue to be assessed to select the best and most financially prudent opportunities for solar and battery installations and to determine sustainability investments that can be made to reduce energy use and consumption.</p> <p>The purchased Emissions software platform 'Trellis' now has over 18 months of operational performance data which will be used to inform best value investments and retrofits to reduce</p> | | | |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------|----------|--|
| | | | Council's overall energy bills and contribute towards carbon mitigation. | | | |
| 1.4.2 | Initiative - Commence the green fleet transition to corporate electric and hybrid vehicles. | Provider | <p>As Council's existing vehicles become ready for turnover they will be replaced with Hybrids or Electric Vehicle's based on a cost / benefit analysis.</p> <p>Of Council's 14 shared pool vehicles, there are currently four hybrid and two electric vehicles. It must be noted that the vehicle pool includes 6 heavy duty rangers' trucks specifically modified for Council to carry K9 cubes.</p> <p>At this stage, although the electric vehicle market is rapidly evolving, there is no direct electric or hybrid replacement available, Council will continue to monitor the market however may not be able to fully transition the corporate fleet within the current Council Plan timeline.</p> | Progressing | 40% | Not applicable |
| 1.4.3 | Initiative - Advocate for alternate waste technologies to increase diversion of valuable resources and contaminated waste from landfill. Encourage and facilitate investment into resource recovery by private industries or partnerships. | Facilitator, Regulator, Advocate | <p>Elecsome commenced initial operations in solar panel processing, with full commissioning of the plant scheduled for mid-2025.</p> <p>Council entered into a contract with a Gippsland-based processor to implement Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) processing, set to begin in mid-2026.</p> <p>Council officers reassessed options for alternative residual waste treatment in future years, taking into account technological advancements and the finalisation of regulatory frameworks.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.4.3.1 | Key Project - Resource Recovery Hub at Kilmany Landfill site. | Facilitator, Regulator, Advocate | Council officers facilitated the leasing of a parcel of land in Kilmany for the construction of one of Australia's first solar panel recycling processing plants, Elecsome, which is scheduled to become fully operational by mid-2025. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.4.3.2 | Key Project - Longford Landfill Rehabilitation. | Facilitator, Regulator, Advocate | Construction commenced and remained on schedule, with completion anticipated by late 2025. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|---|-------------|----------|---|
| 1.4.3.3 | Key Project - Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service. | Facilitator, Regulator, Advocate | <p>Council entered into a contract for the processing of food and garden organic material as part of the Gippswide Kerbside joint procurement process.</p> <p>The existing Collection and Transport contract included the kerbside collection of Food and Garden Organics.</p> <p>The Food Organics and Garden Organics kerbside service is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2026.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.4.3.4 | Key Project - Maffra Resource Recovery facility. | Facilitator, Regulator, Advocate | <p>The new Maffra Resource Recovery facility has experienced progress delays and is now being reviewed for a new more effective and suitable operational layout design within the new site.</p> <p>The schematic proposal is being reviewed by designers to consider the most efficient and effective options for progressing the transfer station service.</p> <p>The project has been reprogrammed for delivery in 2026/27 financial year.</p> | Progressing | 55% | Opportunities to maximise resource recovery to mitigate environmental impacts on the planet and on communities. |
| 1.4.4 | Initiative - Investigate glass collection and diversion options to separate glass streams to facilitate the circular economy. | Provider | <p>Draft service standards released in July 2024 indicated that kerbside glass collection is compulsory for Local Government.</p> <p>Council has planned for the implementation of this service in accordance with the standards, with a commencement date of 1 July 2027.</p> <p>The introduction of the separate Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) has already resulted in significant recovery of glass containers and a reduction in the glass content of the mixed recycling stream collected by Council.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 1.4.5 | Initiative - Accelerate Council's delivery of renewable energy and energy saving projects through delivering Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) and investigating tools like an internal capital fund and process to rank and prioritise return on investment for projects. | Funder, Facilitator | <p>Officers are continuing to collaborate with Gippsland Alliance for Climate Action (GACA) to develop Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) policy for Council buildings.</p> <p>Major building projects have and will continue incorporate ESD in project planning and implementation. E.g. Aqua Energy Renewal.</p> | Completed | 100% | Transitioning to a low carbon polluted environment preserves the health and wellbeing of the community. |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

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|-----------------|--|----------------|---|--------|----------|--|
| | | | <p>The top 10 sites of the Facilities Portfolio have been identified to undertake a more comprehensive assessment over the next few years to explore opportunities for solar and battery installations and sustainability upgrades.</p> <p>Once established the emerging projects will define best value investment opportunities for Council to further progress its energy saving and transition journey.</p> | | | |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Indicators of Success: | Baseline | 2021-22 Result | 2022-23 Result | 2023-24 Result | 2024-25 Result | 2025 Target |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1.1 A climate and disaster resilient community | | | | | | |
| Community Satisfaction with Council Performance in Environmental sustainability | (2020) Wellington Shire 59/100 (Large Rural 49/100) | Wellington Shire 62/100 (Large Rural 59/100) | Wellington Shire 61/100 (Large Rural 58/100) | Wellington Shire 59/100 (Large Rural 58/100) | Wellington Shire 59/100 (Large Rural 58/100) | Higher than large rural Councils |
| Percentage of Tree Canopy cover within Town Boundaries | (2020) 20% Tree Canopy coverage | Not due until 2025 | Not due until 2025 | Not due until 2025 | Data will not be available until late 2025 | 1.5% improvement |
| Outcome 1.2 Assist community to transition to a low carbon economy via adoption of sustainable practices and renewable energy | | | | | | |
| Solar penetration rate – the percentage of electricity generation from solar facilities (SDG 7.2.1) | (2018) 21% | 27.7% (6941 dwellings with PV) | 31.6% (7387 dwellings with PV) | 32.7% (7585 dwellings with PV) | 34.7% (8593 dwellings with PV) | 50% |
| Wellington Shire community greenhouse gas emissions intensity (emissions per person) (SDG 13.2.2) | (2019/20) 43.57* tonnes per person *corrected from 31.3 tonnes per person (source: Snapshot Climate) | (2020/21)# 41.57* tonnes per person *corrected from 30.66 tonnes per person #12 month lag in reporting | (2021/22)# 42.75 tonnes per person | (2022/23)# 43.11 tonnes per person | Data unavailable until December 2025 | Equal to or better than Gippsland average |
| Outcome 1.3 The natural environment is valued, protected and accessible | | | | | | |
| Percentage of households located within 400m of quality open space (SDG 11.7.2) | (2014) 73% | Due 2023. Will be measured as part of updated Public Open Space Plan to be completed 2023 | Measurements will occur as part of the Public Open Space Plan which is scheduled for 2023/24 | Measurements will occur as part of Council's Public Open Space Strategy 2026/36 | Measurements will occur as part of Council's Public Open Space Strategy 2026/36 | 85% |
| Domestic travel visitor numbers to Wellington Shire (SDG 8.9) | (2020) 750,000 travel visitors | 686,000 travel visitors (8.53% decrease on baseline) | 858,000 travel visitors (14.4% increase on baseline) | The data was obtained from an external third party and is no longer accessible. | 1,168,000 travel visitors (55.73% increase on baseline) | 2% increase |
| Outcome 1.4 Council is an environmental steward with a reducing carbon footprint | | | | | | |
| Corporate Greenhouse Gas emissions (aiming for zero net emissions by 2040) (SDG 13.2.2) | (2017/18) 5244 tonnes of carbon equivalent emissions | 4120.5* tonnes of carbon equivalent emissions (21.4% decrease from 2018) *corrected from 4221 tonnes and 19% decrease from 2018 | 4294.4 tonnes of carbon equivalent emissions (18.10% decrease from 2018) | 3777.87 tonnes of carbon equivalent emissions (27.95% decrease from 2018) | Data will not be available until December 2025 | 23% reduction |
| Percentage waste diversion rate from kerbside collection (SDG 12.5) | (2019-20) 35% waste diversion | 33.5% waste diversion | 32.17% waste diversion | 30.02% waste diversion | 26.35% waste diversion | 65% waste diversion |

DIRECTION

2

Economy and Sustainable Growth

Key projects*

- York Street Streetscape enhancement (2.4.2)
- Commence Port of Sale Masterplan priorities (2.4.2)
- Tertiary Study Hub (2.2.2)
- Maffra and Sale Growth Area Drainage Strategies (2.4.2)
- Shire-wide Growth Management and Economic Development Strategy (2.4.1)
- Renewable Energy Readiness Project (1.2.3, 2.1.1)
- Yarram and Heyfield Timber Transition Local Development Strategies (2.1.1, 2.1.4)
- Residential stocktake and incentive project - addressing the acute shortage of housing (2.3.1, 2.3.2)
- Maffra stormwater retention basin and outfall improvement works (2.4.2, 1.3.3)

* subject to successful business case and funding


'We are a growing, sustainable and prosperous community.'

BUSHY PARK

Council Plan Strategic Direction 2: Economy and Sustainable Growth




- linked to Healthy Wellington Plan

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|--|-----------|----------|--|
| 2.1.1 | Major Initiative - Encourage and facilitate investment in the local mainstay industries with the potential to generate significant economic growth: Defence, Health, Agriculture, Tourism, Education, Timber, Renewables and the Oil and Gas transition. This includes encouraging modernisation and identifying supporting industries, encouraging their establishment in Wellington Shire. | Facilitator, Advocate | In June 2025 Council's Defence and Renewable Energy Economic Development officer facilitated a briefing connecting local business with the construction contractor of the Fulham Solar Farm. Officers also introduced local suppliers to Australia's largest defence prime (BAE Systems) during their visit to Wellington. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.1.1.1 | Key Project - Renewable Energy Readiness Project. | Facilitator, Advocate | Wellington Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study adopted by Council on 21 March 2023. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.1.2 | Initiative - Attract diversified and large-scale agriculture and food manufacturing and processing, including poultry, to meet Food and Fibre Gippsland objectives: Gippsland the Food Bowl of Victoria. Leverage off the significance of the Macalister Irrigation District while ensuring development does not contradict the principles of the WSC Sustainability Strategy. | Facilitator, Advocate | Council has provided financial and resource support to a number of organisations including Gippsland Agricultural Group and Food and Fibre Gippsland . A number of agricultural growth sectors were identified including the broiler industry with officers active in the facilitation of new and expanding enterprises. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.1.3 |  Initiative - Attract and facilitate development and growth in creative industry (arts) organisations to assist with COVID-19 recovery of the sector and grow local arts businesses, and Wellington's reputation as a cultural centre for Gippsland. | Facilitator, Advocate | Council is continuing its commitment to facilitating development and growth in creative industries and promote Wellington as the cultural heart of Gippsland. | Completed | 100% | Officers continue to deliver programs to increase social connection and inclusion and decrease social isolation via programs delivered in Council's Libraries, The Wedge Performing Arts Centre and Gippsland Art Gallery. |
| 2.1.4 | Major Initiative - Continue to advocate for the sustainability of the timber industry in Wellington Shire. | Advocate | The Local Development Strategy 'program' has been formally handed over to the respective community groups in both Heyfield and Yarram. The Heyfield Resource Centre and the Yarram Business Traders Association have received funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to continue the work supported by Wellington Shire Council over the last 2 years. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|--|
| 2.1.4.1 | Key Project - Yarram and Heyfield Timber Transition Local Development Strategies. | Advocate | <p>The Local Development Strategy 'program' has been formally handed over to the respective community groups in both Heyfield and Yarram.</p> <p>The Heyfield Resource Centre and the Yarram Business Traders Association have received funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to continue the work supported by Wellington Shire Council over the last 2 years.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.1.5 | Initiative - Continue to investigate options for developing aviation related activity at the West Sale Airport and facilitate industrial growth on adjacent land. | Facilitator, Funder, Advocate | <p>West Sale Airport has experienced another major increase of 10.2% in aircraft movements, primarily RAAF training activities. The airport's activity has quadrupled since basic pilot training commenced at RAAF Base East Sale in 2019.</p> <p>Expressions of Interest (EOI) are currently open for parties interested in investing at West Sale Airport. The EOI is aimed at enhancing economic activity and fostering growth in aviation in "The Middle of Everywhere". The EOI closes on 28 February 2025 and following an evaluation phase shortlisted parties will be requested to provide detailed proposals.</p> <p>This is the first comprehensive process Council has adopted to test interest at the airport and is anticipated to attract a range of proposals leading to new investment and economic activity opportunities.</p> <p>On the back of the highly successful airshow in 2024, planning is underway for the 2026 West Sale ANZAC Week Airshow with aims of exceeding the previous weekend attendance record of 14,000.</p> <p>As part of Council's 2024/25 budget initiatives, the West Sale Airport Business Attraction Plan has been developed.</p> <p>A key element of the business attraction initiative is attending Avalon Airshow 2025 as a roving exhibitor. This major event brings</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |




Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

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|--|--|----------------------------|--|-----------|----------|---|
| | | | <p>together defence and aerospace companies from across the globe and provides the opportunity for Council to promote West Sale Airport.</p> <p>Council has a track record of success from participating at Avalon Airshow having previously attracted new defence related business to establish in Wellington.</p> <p>Other budget approved initiatives include completing designs for aircraft to access land suitable for industrial or commercial development; cost options to strengthen the main runway and delivery of a tow lane to provide aircraft access to an emerging business operating fast jets.</p> <p>Following the rezoning of 55 hectares of land adjacent to West Sale Airport, a Development Plan has been drafted which consolidates a range of technical investigations.</p> <p>Once finalised the plan will fast-track development of new industry and jobs benefiting from being located on key road and rail networks and being right next door to West Sale Airport.</p> <p>A Draft Development Plan is intended to be presented to Council in 2025 prior to being approved.</p> | | | |
| 2.1.6  | Major Initiative - Use 'The Middle of Everywhere' campaign to promote the Shire as an events destination and as a place to explore, learn, live, invest, play and to do business. | Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>This initiative has been successfully implemented, with 'The Middle of Everywhere' (TMoE) campaign continuing to evolve, expand and strengthen.</p> <p>With a promising future in promoting Wellington, it now encompasses a wide range of assets, including a website, app and social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Additionally, TMoE features branded event furniture, town signage, business support, event participation, branded merchandise and much more.</p> <p>The TMoE campaign has grown beyond initial expectations, positioning Wellington as a</p> | Completed | 100% | With a growing number of events attracting a larger and more diverse audience, social connectedness, accessibility and inclusion have reached an all-time high. |



Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

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|-----------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------|----------|--|
| | | | <p>destination to explore, learn, live, invest, play and conduct business, every moment of every day.</p> <p>A robust calendar of recurring annual and biannual events has been established, such as the ANZAC Weekend Airshow, TMOE Gippsland Rally, Truegrit, TMOE Christmas Party and TMOE Pro-Am, among others.</p> <p>These events collectively reinforce Wellington's reputation as a premier event destination.</p> <p>Beyond events, ongoing efforts include developing new advocacy materials for the region, such as investment and promotional content for West Sale Airport and the broader aviation industry.</p> <p>Weekly short-form video promotions highlighting local businesses, activities and destinations, further strengthening the region's profile.</p> <p>Website enhancements are continuously underway, with the recent addition of the 'Services' tab a centralised resource for childcare, positive ageing, youth services and more.</p> <p>This development is a collaboration with the Social Connection and Inclusion team of Wellington Shire Council, ensuring continued support and accessibility for the community.</p> | | | |
| 2.2.1 | Initiative - Support our training facilities to develop a range of vocational, tertiary and higher education courses suited to our changing economy and industry needs. | Facilitator, Advocate | <p>Officers have supported and facilitated a number of events including Career-Expos.</p> <p>The most recent event was the Skills and Jobs Fair in Sale held in May 2025 and attended by over 35 employers</p> <p>Based on their success, these events (and similar) will continue to be programmed in the future.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.2.2 | Initiative - Ensure that secondary and tertiary students have a well-established and promoted | Facilitator, Advocate | Study hub fully established in Sale in collaboration with Wellington Shire Council (WSC), Beyond Bank, Gippsland TAFE and the | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |


Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|---|---|------------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|
| | study facility in our local area. | | Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network (GELLEN). | | | |
| 2.2.2.1 | Key Project - Tertiary Study Hub. | | Study hub located in Sale was launched in July 2022. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.2.3  | Initiative - Respond to significant economic shocks (including COVID-19) by delivering on State and Federal Government initiatives to provide economic resilience programs that assist community and businesses. | Facilitator | <p>Council provided businesses with direct support through business concierge program through Covid lockdown periods.</p> <p>Hospitality businesses were directly supported as part of the State Government Outdoor Dining Grant Program to enable more outdoor dining options during the Covid outbreak.</p> <p>Council continues to support local business however all government funding programs to support Covid recovery have now been acquitted.</p> <p>Council has no further action in delivery of Covid recovery programs for business.</p> | Completed | 100% | The Economic Development team assisted hospitality businesses with support as part of the Outdoor Dining Grant Program providing the community with increased opportunities to reconnect in a social setting. |
| 2.2.4  | Initiative - Continue advocacy for the creation of Sale College One Campus to establish a modern and efficient secondary school precinct to attract families, industry and students, while catering for a growing population. | Provider, Facilitator | <p>State Government funding has been committed to the Sale College One Campus project.</p> <p>The Victoria School Building Authority (VSBA) waiting on confirmed funding to commence construction.</p> | Completed | 100% | Equality - Reduces the barriers for people trying to access education. |
| 2.3.1  | Major Initiative - Satisfy housing demand by facilitating the development of a range of living settings and lifestyle choices including response to an ageing demographic and facilitating affordable and social housing models. | Regulator, Facilitator | <p>A number of Planning Scheme Amendments are underway to facilitate the rezoning of residential land in identified Growth Areas.</p> <p>These include proposals for the development of housing that is targeted towards an older demographic.</p> | Completed | 100% | Current strategic land use planning work will increase connectedness through the development of integrated residential development proposals and create neighbourhoods from which communities can grow. |
| 2.3.1.1 | Key Project - Residential stock take and incentive project - addressing the acute shortage of housing. | Regulator, Facilitator | <p>Council has adopted residential Stocktake Project and the forward funding of infrastructure policy to help activate residential land release across the municipality.</p> <p>Funding options and project options are currently being further considered to implement the forward funding of infrastructure policy.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|---|
|  2.3.2 | Major Initiative - Promote and facilitate appropriate land release/ incentives and subsequent housing development in growth areas, being guided by sustainable development principles. | Facilitator, Regulator, Advocate | Several key planning scheme amendments are currently in various states of progress that will contribute to facilitating significant urban development within the Shire's key growth areas. | Completed | 100% | Current strategic land use planning work will increase social connectedness through the provision of coordinated urban growth within the Shire's key townships. |
|  2.4.1 | Major Initiative - Prepare a Shire-wide Growth Management and Economic Development Strategy to establish a hierarchy of growth areas and identify priority projects. | Provider, Advocate | Following consultation, the final Growth Strategy was adopted by Council on 6 August 2024. | Completed | 100% | Helps support housing diversity objectives of the Healthy Wellington Plan. |
| 2.4.2 | Major Initiative - Prioritise investment projects in the main growth areas, including exploring all options for upgrades to trunk stormwater drainage, sewer, water reticulation, internet, and gas that will stimulate growth and housing. | Funder, Provider, Advocate | Progress continues across various planning projects/approvals, with completed and current Planning Scheme Amendments proposals to support urban growth across the municipality. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.4.2.1 | Key Project - York Street Streetscape enhancement. | Funder, Provider, Advocate | This project is now complete with significant upgrades to both York and Foster Street, including footpaths, kerbs, asphalt, street lighting and landscaping. In addition, the Cunninghame Street intersection was upgraded with traffic lights as part of this project. All works are now complete. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.4.2.2 | Key Project - Commence Port of Sale Masterplan priorities. | Funder, Provider, Advocate | Following the formation of a steering group, a list of priorities has been developed for implementation. Contractor engaged in development of moorings for commercial leases and project has commenced. Further updates will be provided to Council as this project continues. As the clear deliverable within this action was to commence these projects, this action is now complete. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.4.2.3 | Key Project - Maffra and Sale Growth Area Drainage Strategies. | Funder, Provider, Advocate | Council has adopted north Sale Development Plan and Infrastructure Funding Arrangement Reports. Maffra Structure Plan has also been adopted by Council, with implementation now progressing. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|-----------|----------|---|
| | | | The plans were informed by drainage assessments. | | | |
| 2.4.2.4 | Key Project - Maffra stormwater retention basin and outfall improvement works. | Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>Three of the four properties that needed to be acquired for this project to progress were completed.</p> <p>The fourth acquisition is currently not able to be progressed at this stage due to ongoing discussions concerning potential future residential development.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.4.3 | Initiative - Adopt a 'buy local' approach for Council procurement processes aligned with best value (the most advantageous combination of cost, quality and sustainability to meet requirements). | Provider, Funder | <p>Council's Procurement Policy directs that in the first instance quotes must be obtained from a local supplier, and only where the local business cannot supply goods or services, are deemed not capable, or cannot provide value for money, can suppliers outside of the local area be invited to quote.</p> <p>Council also applies Best Value Principles to ensure the best value is achieved for the community.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 2.4.4 |  Initiative - Increase access to and usage of internet and digital technologies throughout Gippsland, continuing the shift to online delivery of services and advocating for reduction of identified 'black spots'. Use access to networks to shape population attraction strategies and target industry development. | Advocate | <p>Council provided input and supportive evidence to the NBNCo for prioritising Fixed Wireless (FW) to Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) flips in Gippsland.</p> <p>The townships that were focused on included Sale, Wurruk, Stratford and Rosedale.</p> | Completed | 100% | Reduce barriers for people who are trying to access or feel included in community life (work, education, and recreation). |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Indicators of Success: | Baseline | 2021-22 Result | 2022-23 Result | 2023-24 Result | 2024-25 Result | 2025 Target |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| 2.1 A diverse economy that creates jobs and opportunities | | | | | | |
| Annual growth rate of real Gross Regional Product (GRP) (SDG 8.2.1) | (2020) Wellington - \$3.652B Gippsland - \$18.277B (as per REMPLAN) | Wellington - \$3.898B (6.73% growth) Gippsland - \$19.327B (5.74% growth) | Wellington - \$3.864B (5.80% increase) Gippsland - \$20.039B (9.64% growth) | Wellington - \$4.667B (27.79% growth) Gippsland - \$23.126B (26.53% growth) | Wellington - \$5.134B (40.58% growth) Gippsland - \$24.933B (36.41% growth) | Equal to or better than Gippsland average |
| Unemployment rate by sex, age and education level (SDG 8.5.2) | Wellington - 5.5% (June 2021 quarter) Gippsland - 5.4% (April 2021 quarter) | Wellington - 4.9% (March 2022 quarter) Gippsland - 3.9% (April 2022 quarter) | Wellington - 3.6% (June 2023 quarter) Gippsland - 3.7% (April 2023 quarter) | Wellington - 3.4% (March 2024 quarter) Gippsland - 4.6% (March 2024 quarter) | Wellington - 4.8% (March 2025 quarter) Gippsland - 4.9% (March 2025 quarter) | Equal to or better than Gippsland average |
| 2.2 A community that has the capacity and skills to meet our economic needs | | | | | | |
| Destinations of Wellington Year 12 or equivalent completers six months after leaving school (SDG 8.6.1) | 7.8% unemployed 46.9% further study 10.2% apprenticeships/trainees | 9.3% unemployed 44% further study 10.7% apprenticeships/trainees | 9.3% unemployed 44% further study 10.7% apprenticeships/trainees | 2.6% unemployed 61% further study 9.1% apprenticeships/trainees | 4% unemployed 50% further study 14% apprenticeships/trainees | 5% unemployed, 56% further study |
| 2.3 An increase in variety of housing choice to support equitable access to housing | | | | | | |
| Number of dwellings across the Shire (SDG 11.3) | (2021) 23,383 dwellings (source ID profile next census date 2026) | 23,554 dwellings | 23,554 dwellings (source ID profile next census date 2026) | 23,554 dwellings (source ID profile next census date 2026) | 23,554 dwellings (source ID profile next census date 2026) | 24,790 dwellings (2026 projection) |
| Number of new housing units built in the municipality (SDG 11.1.1) | (2021) 655* houses/units *corrected from 520 as per DFFH website | 669* houses/units * updated data available from DFFH website | 679* houses/units | 694* houses/units | Data will not be available until November 2025 | +26 beds |
| 2.4 Infrastructure investment is targeted to maximise jobs and housing growth | | | | | | |
| Wellington Shire total % population increase (SDG 11.3) | (2020 estimate) 44,770 (source: ID profile population and dwelling estimate) | 45,092 (0.72% annual increase) | 45,754 (1.46% annual increase) | 46,124 (0.80% annual increase) | 46,533 (0.88% annual increase) | Approximately 1% increase per annum |



DIRECTION

3

Liveability and Wellbeing

'We are a liveable, engaged, and supported community.'

PORT OF SALE LIBRARY

Key projects*

- Wedge Performing Arts Centre Redevelopment business case (3.3.5) ❤️
- Develop Early Learning Facilities with a focus on multi-use spaces (3.3.3) ❤️
- VicHealth Youth Mental Health project (3.4.3) ❤️
- Yarram and Sale Early Years Feasibility Studies (3.3.4)
- Gippsland Art Gallery blockbuster exhibitions commencing with Archibald Prize 2021 (3.3.4, 3.3.5, 3.3.6)
- Respond to the Federal Government Home and Community Care funding reform (3.4.2) ❤️

*subject to successful business case and funding

Council Plan Strategic Direction 3: Liveability and Wellbeing





- linked to Healthy Wellington Plan

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|
| 3.1.1 | Major Initiative - Implement a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to build relationships, improve cultural awareness and reconciliation with Gunaikurnai people and deliver on cultural, environmental, and economic projects in the spirit of the Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan. | Facilitator | Council continues to partner with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) on key projects. As mutually agreed, a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is not the preferred method to progress our partnership. Instead, the focus has moved towards Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's,) with specific outcomes, on shared priority areas and projects. | Completed | 100% | Ramahyuck has been offered the opportunity to help shape the strategic direction of the next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) whilst also partnering to deliver on the current MPHWP actions. |
| 3.1.2 | Initiative - Facilitate activities and events that celebrate and promote inclusion and engagement of our culturally and socially diverse communities. Deliver via defining and resourcing Council and the community's role in place activation and event delivery. | Funder, Provider, Facilitator | Council facilitated activities that celebrated and promoted inclusion and engagement of our culturally and socially diverse communities. A range of actions will continue to be delivered such as increased access to creative spaces, programming for diverse communities, strengthening knowledge of Gunaikurnai culture, enhancing pathways to employment and professional development opportunities. | Completed | 100% | Council continues to deliver activities and events that celebrate and promote inclusion of our culturally and socially diverse communities via programs delivered in its Libraries, The Wedge Performing Arts Centre and Gippsland Art Gallery. |
| 3.1.3 | Initiative - Sensitively consider and support people to participate, contribute and be represented in our community without barriers due to disability, gender, age, sexuality or culture via the development and implementation of a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. | Facilitator, Provider, Advocate | The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 draft will be presented to Council for adoption in the coming months. The draft is a reflection of Councils legislative requirements as well as intensive stakeholder engagement with co-design as the main principle of the development of the plan. | Completed | 100% | Diversity and inclusion are at the forefront of all health and wellbeing planning. |
| 3.1.4 | Initiative - Implement a Gender Equality Action Plan to improve gender equity and fairness within the workplace and amongst our community. | Provider, Facilitator | The Gender Equality Action Plan has been established and is being implemented as an ongoing business-as-usual body of work. There is a Gender Equality Committee meeting regularly and overseeing the broader Gender Equality obligations under the Gender Equality Act 2020. | Completed | 100% | Gender Equality Action Plan has been established; the Gender Equality Committee will continue to oversee work in this space. The Social Connection and Inclusion team are also working on community aspects of gender equality and diversity initiatives to support this work. |




Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|--|-----------|----------|--|
| 3.2.1 | Initiative - Highlight community voices in Council's decision making and the community's active engagement at the core of our operation. Listen and provide leadership, especially in complex matters. | Provider, Facilitator | Community voices were captured and highlighted through consultation and engagement to inform the development of Council's strategic documents. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 3.2.2 | Initiative - Advocate for local and regional priorities and issues that matter to our community in partnership with key stakeholders. | Advocate | <p>Council continues to advocate through several avenues (direct, indirect and informal) on key projects and services that impact on Wellington, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable energy - a multitude of delegations both federally and state. Council has just secured \$250,000 through VicGrid to begin Master planning with South Gippsland. Gender equity - Council's Gender Equality Hub was launched. The hub provides resources on Gender Impact Assessments, disaggregated data, and a library of other useful resources for staff to access when completing GIA's and/or grant submissions. Gender-based violence - Wellington partnered with Gippsland Councils, Federation University and Gippsland Women's Health in the Our Equal Local Government Program. This program delivered capacity building amongst Council staff, an anonymous reporting platform and primary prevention activities across Wellington. Upgrades and improved service to the Gippsland VLine service. A new Sale secondary school campus through the State Government and the Victorian School Building Authority. Purchase of land by the VSBA for the new school has been finalised. Coastal improvements for many of our coastal communities such as Loch Sport, funding announced last month with | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |




Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|--|
| | | | works to be completed by Gippsland Ports. | | | |
| 3.2.3 | Initiative - Use a range of online and in person methods to provide clear communication about decisions and plans that affect communities, making sure to close the loop and feedback on consultation outcomes. | Provider | Comprehensive community engagement plans were developed for key initiatives including the Library Services Review, Ageing Well in Wellington, and the Cat Curfew initiative. These plans ensure the community is fully informed, actively invited to contribute feedback, and kept updated on final outcomes through both online channels and direct face-to-face focus group sessions. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 3.3.1  | Initiative - To assist in recovery from COVID-19, facilitate support for and capacity building of community volunteers in Committees of Management and other groups that deliver community outcomes. | Funder, Provider, Facilitator | The Reactivating Community Facility Volunteers Project, funded by Black Summer Bushfire Recovery and Latrobe Valley Authority resulted in the creation of the temporary Committees Volunteer Support Officer role with a permanent Committees Liaison Officer role created to continue with some of the project objectives. The position was funded until June 2025 and directly supported volunteer facility managers by increasing volunteer capacity, supporting volunteer succession planning and supporting delivery of events, programs and volunteer support initiatives. A 12 month calendar of volunteer training has been delivered and regular communication about training opportunities is distributed to volunteers. Volunteer recruitment training is being delivered to individual Committees of Management. Targeted training is supported and delivered as needs are identified. | Completed | 100% | The Reactivating Community Facility Volunteers Project delivers programs and projects resulting in volunteer capacity building and succession planning which in turn results in increased participation at facilities, increased awareness of needs and efficient use of facilities. |
| 3.3.2  | Initiative - Support formal and informal education providers to offer transitions to different learning environments based on people's life circumstances. Aim to improve educational attainment and aspiration within Wellington Shire recognising that the delivery of secondary school VCE will commence a transition process in the | Facilitator, Advocate | Following the success of the Jobs and Skills Fair in May 2025 the intent is to program a similar event annually to consistently engage job seekers, employers, and training institutions. | Completed | 100% | Improve access and participation to activities, programs and services that support good mental health. Reduce barriers for people who are trying to access or feel included in community life (work, education, and recreation) |






Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|---|---|---|---|-----------|----------|--|
| | coming years to ensure it remains appropriate and relevant. | | | | | |
| 3.3.3  | Major Initiative - Respond to future Early Years' service gaps, particularly in childcare and kindergarten in major towns. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>Funding was acquired to expand the early years provision in Yarram via the Victorian Government's Building Blocks - Modular program.</p> <p>The modular facility was completed by the Victorian School Building Authority throughout 2023 and commenced operating from Term 1 2024.</p> <p>Funding was acquired to progress the concept and schematic design for the Sale Integrated Centre for Children and Families through the Victorian Government's Building Blocks - Planning program.</p> <p>Detailed designs have been completed with the project awaiting the outcome of funding for the construction of the facility through the Victorian Government's Building Blocks - Integrated Facility program.</p> | Completed | 100% | Equality objective is considered through this major initiative as the projects being delivered aim to reduce barriers for people to access key educational services. |
| 3.3.3.1  | Key Project - Develop Early Learning Facilities with a focus on multi-use spaces. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>Funding acquired to expand the early years provision in Yarram via the Victorian Government's Building Blocks - Modular program.</p> <p>The modular facility was completed by the Victorian School Building Authority throughout 2023 and commenced operating from Term 1 2024.</p> <p>Funding acquired to progress the concept and schematic design for the Sale Integrated Centre for Children and Families through the Victorian Government's Building Blocks - Planning program.</p> | Completed | 100% | Equality objective is considered through this major initiative as the projects being delivered aim to reduce barriers for people to access key educational services. |
| 3.3.3.2 | Key Project - Yarram and Sale Early Years Feasibility Studies. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | Reports completed late 2022. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 3.3.4  | Initiative - Work with the community to understand which arts and cultural services and | Provider, Funder | Council is committed to understanding which arts and culture services and opportunities are | Completed | 100% | Council aims to support improved access and participation in activities and programs that support good mental health |




Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|
| | opportunities are important to them and facilitate development in these areas. | | important to the community and to facilitate development in these areas. This is supported through programs delivered via Council's Libraries, The Wedge Performing Arts Centre and the Gippsland Art Gallery. | | | through programs delivered via Council's Libraries, The Wedge Performing Arts Centre and Gippsland Art Gallery. |
| 3.3.4.1 | Key Project - Gippsland Art Gallery blockbuster exhibitions commencing with Archibald Prize 2021. | Provider, Funder | 'Annemieke Mein: A Life's Work' exhibition was presented between 2 March and 26 May 2024, marking the first major 'blockbuster' exhibition since the Archibald Prize in 2021. 'The Americans: Master Works from the NGA' took place in December 2024. The latest exhibition 'Turner & Australia' opened in June 2025. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 3.3.5 | Initiative - Investigate opportunities for alternative cost-effective models for delivery of quality cultural, leisure and recreation facilities and programs that encourage access and participation across our community. | Funder, Provider, Facilitator | Final report received, findings presented to the Corporate Management Team and Council in December 2023. Council direction was to remain with in-house operating model, with the understanding of further operational review of how services are delivered. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 3.3.5.1  | Key Project - Wedge Performing Arts Centre Redevelopment business case. | Funder, Provider, Facilitator | Business case completed. Concept design and funding sourcing currently underway. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 3.3.6  | Initiative - Improve access to arts and cultural experiences by pursuing partnerships and creating programs that activate our open spaces and facilities to increase community connection. | Funder, Provider, Facilitator | The Gallery partnered with the other Arts and Culture business units to help deliver the 'Day @ the Port' Festival on 4 February 2023. | Completed | 100% | 'Day @ The Port' attracted people from a diverse range of backgrounds to come together and celebrate the Port of Sale precinct. 'Day @ the Port' is an important annual accessible event for community-building, with activities for young people outside to more contemplative spaces inside the Gallery. |
| 3.4.1  | Major Initiative - Investigate gaps in service provision for vulnerable community members, review options and determine Council's future role. | Facilitator | Council continues to provide community programming and initiatives to vulnerable groups within the community. Advocacy, capacity building and partnerships as established through the Wellington Health | Completed | 100% | Providing opportunities for vulnerable and priority groups to participate in safe, inclusive environments where families and children are able to meet and access services in the Wellington Shire remained a key focus. |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|---|
| | | | and Wellbeing Coalition are key mechanisms utilised by Council and key stakeholders. Each life age and stage are considerations when planning, mapping and benchmarking services and programming. | | | |
|  3.4.2 | Major Initiative - In response to the Federal Government reforms for Home and Community Care determine the most appropriate supports to be facilitated by Council for people to age positively in community. | Facilitator, Funder, Advocate | Council continues to fund an officer who focuses on strengthening community connection, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and planning for residents who are ageing, living with a disability and from other priority groups. | Completed | 100% | Council in partnerships with other local organisations have facilitated mobile health checks for people over 65. This is just one example of Council enabling people to age positively in the community. |
|  3.4.2.1 | Key Project - Respond to the Federal Government Home and Community Care funding reform. | Facilitator, Funder, Advocate | The 'Ageing Well in Wellington' strategy is yet to be formally adopted. However, key actions and recommendations are being implemented based on current resourcing and budget. Where possible, actions have been included in the next municipal public health and wellbeing plan, Live Well in Wellington and the Disability Inclusion and Access Plan 2025-2029. | Completed | 100% | Programs and actions from Healthy Wellington were implemented to support positive ageing and people living with a disability. Council utilised various facilities across Wellington to deliver appropriate activities, enhancing accessibility. |
|  3.4.3 | Initiative - Advocate for increased access to appropriate health services to meet the modern health challenges of the community including increased mental health and wellbeing services and education to reduce the stigma of accessing services in a post-COVID environment. | Facilitator, Advocate | Through Healthy Wellington, Council continues to partner and facilitate activities, programs and initiatives that focus on good mental health outcomes for people in Wellington. Through prevention and promotion initiatives and activities, people in Wellington can participate in mechanisms that support and promote good mental health. Healthy Wellington will conclude as of 30 June 2025, an evaluation will be undertaken. | Completed | 100% | Council continues to partner and facilitate activities, programs and initiatives that focus on good mental health outcomes for people in Wellington. Through prevention and promotion initiatives and activities, people in Wellington can participate in mechanisms that support and promote good mental health. |
|  3.4.3.1 | Key Project - VicHealth Youth Mental Health project. | Advocate, Facilitator | The Youth Mental Health Project - Wellington Ways to Wellbeing, has been successfully implemented. Council continues to work with some of our schools to implement/support the leadership framework as this ensures the project's continuation and sustainability. | Completed | 100% | Wellington Ways to Wellbeing has been successfully implemented across several secondary schools within Wellington. This program aims to provide a framework to support good mental and physical health for young people. |
|  3.4.4 | Major Initiative - Support employers with the attraction, recruitment and long-term retention of health specialists and allied health workers into | Facilitator, Advocate | Council provides assistance where appropriate, and in particular extending the offer to utilise | Completed | 100% | Improve access and participation to activities, programs and services that support good mental health. |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------|----------|---|
| | hospitals and schools and to service NDIS and My Aged Care packages. | | <p>The Middle of Everywhere branding to attract workforce applicants.</p> <p>The Skills and Job Fair held May 14th in Sale provided an avenue for the Health Sector to promote employment opportunities directly to the community.</p> <p>Officers also provided letters of support to organisations seeking to extend or change visa conditions of their employees when requested to ensure their ability to deliver services.</p> | | | Improve access to services that support and maintain mental illness. |
| 3.4.5  | Major Initiative - Create a Wellington Shire Health and Wellbeing Partnership with health and community agencies which focuses on preventing, supporting and responding to health and wellbeing issues as outlined in the Healthy Wellington 2021-25 Strategy. | Facilitator | <p>Wellington Health and Wellbeing has been successful established.</p> <p>The coalition comprises of key health and wellbeing organisations within Wellington.</p> | Completed | 100% | As Council moves into the next cycle of Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing planning, the Coalition will serve an important advisory role for the next four years. |
| 3.4.6  | Major Initiative - Use Healthy Wellington 2021-25 to focus on the health and wellbeing needs of the senior population. Prevent and address barriers to accessing community, social, health and lifelong learning services. | Facilitator, Funder, Advocate | <p>Healthy Wellington concludes on 30 June 2025, and an evaluation of the four-year plan will be undertaken.</p> <p>There have been many successes under the health Wellington plan related to Wellington's ageing population.</p> <p>The next municipal public health and wellbeing plan Live Well in Wellington will see the continuation of policy, programing and initiatives that focus on the senior population.</p> | Completed | 100% | <p>The 2025 Seniors festival will see a free, accessible and inclusive event for all Wellington residents.</p> <p>Seniors will be able to access health checks, meet services and participate in social connection.</p> |
| 3.4.7  | Initiative - Achieve Rainbow Tick accreditation of Council services to reduce stigma and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people. | Provider, Facilitator | <p>Council continues to work towards Rainbow Ready status.</p> <p>Council is using the Rainbow Ready Roadmap developed by State Government for LGBTQIA+ inclusion for rural and regional Councils.</p> | Progressing | 80% | Council celebrated IDAHOBIT Day and Pride Month along with Youth Council. |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Indicators of Success: | Baseline | 2021-22 Result | 2022-23 Result | 2023-24 Result | 2024-25 Result | 2025 Target |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 3.1 An inclusive, diverse, and resilient community | | | | | | |
| Community satisfaction with perception of diversity and accessibility in the community (SDG 10.2) | (2024) 71% of respondents agree that diversity and accessibility are well-represented in the community, contributing to a culturally safe and inclusive living environment | Indicator being reviewed | Indicator review completed; additional question included in the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey | 71% of respondents agree that diversity and accessibility are well-represented in the community, contributing to a culturally safe and inclusive living environment | 72% of respondents agree that diversity and accessibility are well-represented in the community, contributing to a culturally safe and inclusive living environment | Identify baseline. Continual improvement on WSC score |
| 3.2 An actively engaged community | | | | | | |
| Community satisfaction with Council decisions (SDG 16.7.2) | (2020) Wellington Shire 58/100 (Large Rural was 52/100) | Wellington Shire 59/100 (Large Rural 51/100) | Wellington Shire 54/100 (Large Rural 48/100) | Wellington Shire 53/100 (Large Rural 46/100) | Wellington Shire 55/100 (Large Rural 46/100) | Continual improvement on WSC score |
| Community satisfaction with Council engagement (SDG 16.7.2) | (2020) Wellington Shire 57/100 (Large Rural was 54/100) | Wellington Shire 55/100 (Large Rural 51/100) | Wellington Shire 53/100 (Large Rural 49/100) | Wellington Shire 53/100 (Large Rural 48/100) | Wellington Shire 52/100 (Large Rural 48/100) | Continual improvement on WSC score |
| Community satisfaction with level of Council lobbying (SDG 16.7.2) | (2020) Wellington Shire 57/100 (Large Rural was 53/100) | Wellington Shire 59/100 (Large Rural 51/100) | Wellington Shire 55/100 (Large Rural 49/100) | Wellington Shire 53/100 (Large Rural 49/100) | Wellington Shire 52/100 (Large Rural 47/100) | Continual improvement on WSC score |
| 3.3 Opportunities for everyone to work, learn, create, play and share | | | | | | |
| Participation rates in kindergarten for 4 year olds (SDG 4.2.2) | (2020) Participation rate 91.89% | Participation rate 89.9% Enrolment rate is 98.7% | Participation rate 93% Enrolment rate is 99.1% | Participation rate 97% Enrolment rate is 98.1% | Participation rate 102% Enrolment rate is 98.1% | Better than Gippsland average |
| Active library members in municipality (SDG 4.6) | (2019-20) 13% active library members | 10.68% active library members | 10% active library members | Data not available the indicator is no longer measured | Data not available the indicator is no longer measured | 15% |
| Participation at Council-run performing arts events (SDG 4.7) | (2018-19) 21,300 visits | 17,296 visits (18.79% decrease on baseline) | 20,652 visits (3.04% decrease on baseline) | 21,324 visits (0.11% increase on baseline) | 18,615 visits (12.6% decrease on baseline) | Increase by 2% |
| Participation in Gippsland Art Gallery programs and events (SDG 4.7) | (2018-19) 39,600 visits | 48,475 visits (includes 26,000 visits to the Archibald Prize) (22.41% increase on baseline) | 39,611 visits (0.02% increase on baseline) | 57,337 visits (44.79% increase on baseline) | 35,508 visits (10.33% decrease on baseline) | Increase by 2% |
| 3.4 Improved access to and participation in support services focusing on those who are vulnerable including: young children, youth, people living with a disability and seniors | | | | | | |
| Availability of NDIS services within Wellington Shire to meet service demand (SDG 10.2) | (2020) 49% of NDIS funding used by participants | LGA data not available, overall Victorian result 72% of NDIS funding used by participants | 70% of NDIS funding used by participants as at Q4 2022/23 | 71% of NDIS funding used by participants as at Q4 2023/24 | 71% of NDIS funding used by participants as at Q3 2024/25 | 80% of NDIS funding used by participants |
| Proportion of children attending Maternal and Child Health 3.5 years ages and stages visit (SDG 3.8) | (2017) 71.3% | Yarram & District Health Service 52% Central Gippsland Health Service 45% | Yarram & District Health Service 29.2% Central Gippsland Health Service 65.2% | Yarram & District Health Service 38% Central Gippsland Health Service 60.82% | Data is not available until October 2025 | 90% |

DIRECTION

4

Services and Infrastructure



Key projects*

- Accelerate Urban Paths Plan delivery (4.4.3) ♥
- Aqua Energy redevelopment (3.3.5 , 4.3.5) ♥
- Investigate delivery of Gippsland Regional Sports Complex Stage 2B (4.3.5)
- Briagolong Tennis Court refurbishment (4.3.5)
- LED lighting upgrades at Stratford Recreation Reserve and Rosedale Recreation Reserve (4.3.5)
- Streetscape improvements: Cowwarr and Port Albert (4.3.1)
- 'A Warmer Pool for Yarram' project (4.3)
- Stephenson Park, Sale, changerooms redevelopment (4.3.5)
- Stratford outdoor pool solar upgrade and pool blanket (4.3)
- Seacombe boat ramp upgrade (4.3.4)
- Town entry improvement program: Maffra and Heyfield (4.3)
- Port Albert Mechanics Institute facade and rising damp treatment (4.3.5)
- Wurruk pump track (4.3)
- Seaspray levy rehabilitation (4.3)

*subject to successful business case and funding


Council Plan Strategic Direction 4: Services and Infrastructure





- linked to Healthy Wellington Plan

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|---|-----------|----------|--|
| 4.1.1 | Initiative - Investigate a shared services operating model to expand innovative activities, enable operational efficiencies, contain costs, and take advantage of other revenue generating opportunities to benefit the organisation and community. | Provider, Facilitator | Wellington Shire Council (WSC) and East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC) have investigated the myriads of available options for establishing a Shared Services operating model. Both Councils are currently working towards improving and standardising ICT systems and processes across both organisations and once this program of work is completed the shared service operating model options will be reviewed. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.1.2 | Initiative - Continue to improve our long-term finance and asset planning to ensure that the Council remains financially sustainable. | Provider | Our current Long-term Financial Plan (LTFP) denotes strong financial sustainability and aligns with our asset plans. Council's 2021/25 Asset Plan was adopted by Council in June 2021 alongside the LTFP. Planning has commenced on the next iteration of Council's Asset Plan. The purpose of the Asset Plan is to demonstrate responsible management of Wellington Shire Council infrastructure assets, comply with the Local Government Act 2020 and model the funding required to maintain assets in their current condition. It includes dashboard summaries of the following asset classes- Roads, Paths, Bridges & Major Culverts, Drainage, Property and Open Space. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.2.1 | Initiative - Provide services that are easy to use, valued by the community and give best overall worth back to Council and the community. | Provider | Council's operational reviews of the Library Services Network and Aqua Energy have been completed with actions following reviews already commenced in relation to both services. The Gippsland Livestock Exchange Review highlighted the need for the livestock exchange with the closure of Pakenham | Completed | 100% | Conducting thorough service reviews will ensure services are resourced and structured to meet understood community needs, and optimise community engagement and social connections, thus enhancing community resilience and wellbeing. |


Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|---|---------------------|---|-----------|----------|--|
| | | | <p>Livestock Exchange. Wellington Shire Council has now seen this service return a modest profit with throughput more than doubling.</p> <p>The redevelopment of Aqua Energy Leisure Centre has almost been completed with an opening expected in Early October 2025.</p> <p>The enhancement of the Aqua Energy leisure Centre will inform future service requirements and enhancement to service delivery and further improvements to efficient operations for our community.</p> <p>The Gym at Aqua Energy has increased membership during the redevelopment and all swimming programs still provided via the facilities at West Sale Airport during the construction period.</p> | | | |
| 4.3.1  | Initiative - Work to ensure that our town centres are activated, safe, clean, have appropriate facilities and are well-maintained. | Provider, Regulator | <p>High community satisfaction with urban streetscapes and amenity.</p> <p>Teams are adhering to service level requirements in and around Central Business District's (CBD's), as well as connected public open spaces (parks and reserves).</p> <p>Streetscapes, facilities and supporting infrastructure are renewed and upgraded in line with relevant plans.</p> <p>Community activities to increase social connectedness and create opportunities for inclusion in community life are supported in collaboration with Council's Economic Development team and Communities & Culture team, during Parks Week and other programs. E.g. Festivals, Parades and other street events.</p> | Completed | 100% | High levels of maintenance to Council's public open space areas and parks and reserve contribute to quality experiences for the community leading to positive community health and wellbeing outcomes. |
| 4.3.1.1 | Key Project - Streetscape improvements: Cowwarr. | Provider, Regulator | Project completed during the 2022/23 financial year. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.1.2 | Key Project - Streetscape improvements: Port Albert. | Provider, Regulator | All work on the Tarraville Road footpath and the Wharf Street streetscape upgrade has been completed. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |


Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|--|
| 4.3.1.3 | Key Project - Town entry improvement program: Maffra. | Provider, Regulator | Shoulder sealing works undertaken by Department of Transport and Regional Roads Victoria. Project is complete. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.1.4 | Key Project - Town Entry improvement program: Heyfield. | Provider, Regulator | Project completed during the 2022/23 financial year. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.1.5 | Key Project - Seaspray levee rehabilitation. | Provider, Regulator | All works excluding a small section located on private property has been completed. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.2  | Initiative - Plan for the key growth communities across the shire from a 'place-based' approach holistically considering the built environment, community, and economic directions concurrently. | Provider, Facilitator | The draft Growth Management Strategy was formally adopted by Council on 8 August 2024. | Completed | 100% | Reduce barriers for people who are trying to access or feel included in community life (work, education, and recreation). |
| 4.3.3  | Initiative - Ensure green infrastructure (trees and vegetation) provision is a key component of the built environment and design of the public realm facilitates sustainability, liveability, and social connectivity. | Provider, Advocate | Green infrastructure, critical in mitigating the impacts of a changing climate for future communities, has made inroads to the planning and delivery of a range of Council projects and the development of new subdivisions and future communities. Almost 5,000 street and park trees have been planted as part of the Urban Forest Renewal Program since 2021. This has included significant opportunities being realised in major projects such as York Street (Sale) Upgrades, Bond Street (Sale) streetscape works as well as many other projects across the municipality. Greening Wellington has been instrumental in advancing the protection of existing street trees with a highlight being able to initiate a training session on the importance of protecting trees on development sites. | Completed | 100% | Leafy streets will be a lasting legacy of the early consideration of green infrastructure in the planning for development projects. Communities will be adorned with avenues of climate suitable species that are shading their neighbourhoods and footpaths, ensuring comfort on significantly hotter days. These well-established trees will provide support to the stormwater infrastructure, capturing and storing rainfall during storm events in their canopy, or through the root system. |
| 4.3.4 | Initiative - Assess our key tourism areas and benchmark against like towns to ensure the right mix of Council services and facilities is provided to meet peak tourist demand and ongoing community requirements. | Funder, Provider, Facilitator | Benchmarking has been completed in consultation with Destination Gippsland. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |




Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|-----------------|--|---|--|-----------|----------|--|
| 4.3.4.1 | Key Project - Seacombe boat ramp upgrade. | Funder, Provider, Facilitator | Completed in late 2022, providing improved boating access to Seacombe and The Straits. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.5 |  Initiative - Support volunteer facility managers whose work contributes to improved community mental and physical health by activating, upgrading, and repurposing existing multi-use sporting, cultural and social facilities in preference to establishing new. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>The Reactivating Community Facility Volunteers Project, funded by Black Summer Bushfire Recovery and Latrobe Valley Authority resulted in the creation of the temporary Committees Volunteer Support Officer role with a permanent Committees Liaison Officer role created to continue with some of the project objectives.</p> <p>The position was funded until June 2025 and directly supported volunteer facility managers by increasing volunteer capacity, supporting volunteer succession planning and supporting delivery of events, programs and volunteer support initiatives.</p> <p>The condition and access of facilities is supported by the provision of over \$900,000 in Risk and Maintenance Subsidies and direct maintenance support of over \$350,000.</p> <p>No new facilities acquired or built.</p> | Completed | 100% | The Reactivating Community Facility Volunteers Project delivers programs and projects resulting in volunteer capacity building and succession planning which in turn results in increased participation at facilities, increased awareness of needs and efficient use of facilities. |
| 4.3.5.1 | Key Project - Investigate delivery of Gippsland Regional Sports Complex Stage 2B. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | Final report received to be used for advocacy. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.5.2 | Key Project - Briarolong Tennis Court refurbishment. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | Final works completed in November 2023 providing the community with 4 compliant tennis courts, one which also serves as a multipurpose court enabling competition/training netball and social basketball and soccer. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.5.3 | Key Project - LED lighting upgrades at Stratford Recreation Reserve and Rosedale Recreation Reserve. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>LED lighting infrastructure installed on the main oval at Rosedale Recreation Reserve with funding through the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund.</p> <p>LED lighting infrastructure installed on the main oval at Stratford Recreation Reserve with funding through the Victorian Government's</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|---|---|--|-----------------|----------|---|
| Local Sports Infrastructure Fund - LED Lighting program. | | | | | | |
| 4.3.5.4 | Key Project - 'A Warmer Pool for Yarram'. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>Project delivered in time for 2022/23 season. Community consultation completed with Yarram Community to understand programming desires and expectations. New facility infrastructure has enabled additional programming, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to Swim (over 120 participants); • Warm water exercise sessions (3 sessions per week); • Increased school usage; • Increased lap swimming; • Increased recreational swimming. <p>Increased programming has resulted in attendances being up 48% from a 5-year average, which is the highest ever recorded season.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.5.5 | Key Project - Stephenson Park, Sale, changerooms redevelopment. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | Works completed in time for the 2022 Football / Netball Season. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.5.6 | Key Project - Stratford outdoor pool solar upgrade and pool blanket. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | <p>Project delivered on time and within budget.</p> <p>Increased water temperature has enabled additional patronage from previous seasons.</p> | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.5.7 | Key Project - Port Albert Mechanics Institute facade and rising damp treatment. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | Rising Damp treatment project completed in June 2024. | Completed | 100% | Not applicable |
| 4.3.5.8 | Key Project - Wurruk pump track. | Facilitator, Funder, Provider, Advocate | This project was withdrawn, with plans in coming years to engage with the residents of Wurruk in developing a space that provides recreational opportunities for all ages. | Not Progressing | 0% | Not applicable |
| 4.4.1  | Major Initiative - Advocate strongly to State Government and local stakeholders for improvements to the passenger train service to key regional centres. | Advocate | <p>Council continues to advocate to the Minister for Transport for an increase in train services for Sale.</p> <p>Awaiting completion of level crossing removal program.</p> | Ongoing | 90% | Advocating for the continual improvement and upgrading of rail services will promote healthier, safer, cleaner and more cohesive community. |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Initiative Code | Key initiatives and priorities to achieve these outcomes | Council's role | Progress update comments | Status | Progress | Healthy Wellington Framework Considerations: |
|--|--|------------------|---|-----------|----------|--|
| | | | | | | In addition to the economic benefit, any improvement will also provide the community easier access to other regional services. |
| 4.4.2  | Major Initiative - Advocate strongly to State Government and local stakeholders for improvements to the inter-town transport network connecting major towns to key regional centres in Gippsland. | Advocate | Council continues to advocate for inter-town connection to state bodies. Investigation into various funding sources and initiatives are continually being investigated, reviewed with focus on community run transport programs when appropriate. | Completed | 100% | Council continues to work with GippSport in delivering community transport safety programs across Wellington. Initiatives and programs focus on rural schools as well as primary schools in bigger townships. |
| 4.4.3  | Initiative - Address community road safety and connection issues via active travel projects (education) and road and footpath improvements which will build a physically active, safe, and connected community. | Provider, Funder | Council, with GippSport, continue to work with local schools and organisations to deliver Bike Education programs teaching young Wellington children the importance of bike safety and active living. One project delivered by GippSport as part of the 2024/25 programme introduced engaging and educational walking routes to early learning centres across Wellington, encouraging families to choose walking as a preferred mode of transport where possible. | Completed | 100% | GippSport delivered meaningful active transport projects across Wellington in 2024/25. Early learning services, kindergartens and primary schools all engaged in the projects that promoted active travel. |
| 4.4.3.1  | Key Project - Accelerate Urban Paths Plan delivery. | Provider, Funder | The overall Urban Paths Program expenditure has increased over the term of the current Council Plan when compared to the original forward capex program. Since adopting the plan, over 25% of path improvements required by the plan have been implemented which aligns with anticipated Urban Path delivery timeframes. Subject to Council budget approvals over the forward capex program, it may be possible to accelerate overall delivery further, noting that a review/update of the Urban Paths Plan is due to be completed over the next 12 months. | Completed | 100% | Path construction allows improved pedestrian access for the Wellington community. |

Council Plan Progress Report Quarter 4 | 2024/25

| Indicators of Success: | Baseline | 2021-22 Result | 2022-23 Result | 2023-24 Result | 2024-25 Result | 2025 Target |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 4.1 A financially sustainable, high performing organisation | | | | | | |
| Working capital (Current assets as a percentage of current liabilities) (SDG 16.6) | (Similar Councils 2019-20) 299.58% | 324.89%* *corrected from 326.58 | 470.80%* *corrected from 409.98% | 460.68% | 410.00% | Better than similar councils |
| Loans and borrowings as a percentage of rates (SDG 16.6) | (Similar councils 2019-20) 18.73% | 1.13% | 0.67% | 10.21% | 13.16% | Better than similar councils |
| 4.2 Services deliver operating efficiencies and best value | | | | | | |
| Community satisfaction rate with Council's overall performance (SDG 16.6.2) | (2020) Wellington Shire 62/100 (Large Rural was 55/100) | Wellington Shire 62/100 (Large Rural 55/100) | Wellington Shire 58/100 (Large Rural 52/100) | Wellington Shire 59/100 (Large Rural 50/100) | Wellington Shire 58/100 (Large Rural 50/100) | Continual improvement on WSC score |
| 4.3 Well planned and sustainable towns, facilities and infrastructure | | | | | | |
| Reduction in the Wellington Shire retail vacancy rate (SDG 11.a) | (2021) 6.7%* * Baseline corrected from 11.40% | 6.0% | 7.98% | 4.0% | 4.5% | 10% |
| % of Community Managed Facilities accessibility audit recommendations delivered (SDG 9.1) | (2020) 5% of items | 10% audit recommendations delivered | 12% audit recommendations delivered | 14% audit recommendations delivered | 0% audit recommendations delivered | 10% each year |
| 4.4 Safe and well-used transport connections across all modes of travel | | | | | | |
| Community satisfaction with condition of sealed local roads (SDG 9.1) | (2020) Wellington Shire 59/100 (Large Rural 47/100) | Wellington Shire 54/100 (Large Rural 45/100) | Wellington Shire 50/100 (Large Rural 40/100) | Wellington Shire 50/100 (Large Rural 38/100) | Wellington Shire 51/100 (Large Rural 39/100) | > 52/100 |
| Increase in kilometres of active travel routes in Wellington Shire as identified under the urban paths plan (SDG 11.2) | (2021) 259km* * Baseline corrected from 237km | 264km (2km annual increase target met) | 269.5km (2km annual increase target met) | 271.44km (2km annual increase target not met) | 274.42km (2km annual increase target met) | Increase by 2km of paths annually |

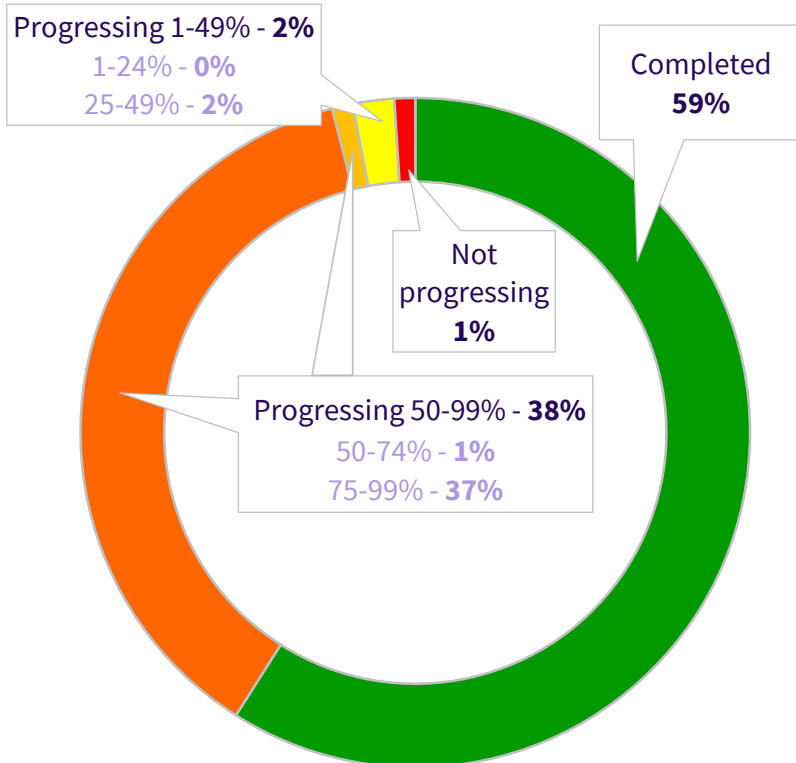


2024/25 Q.4 Council Plan Progress – at a glance

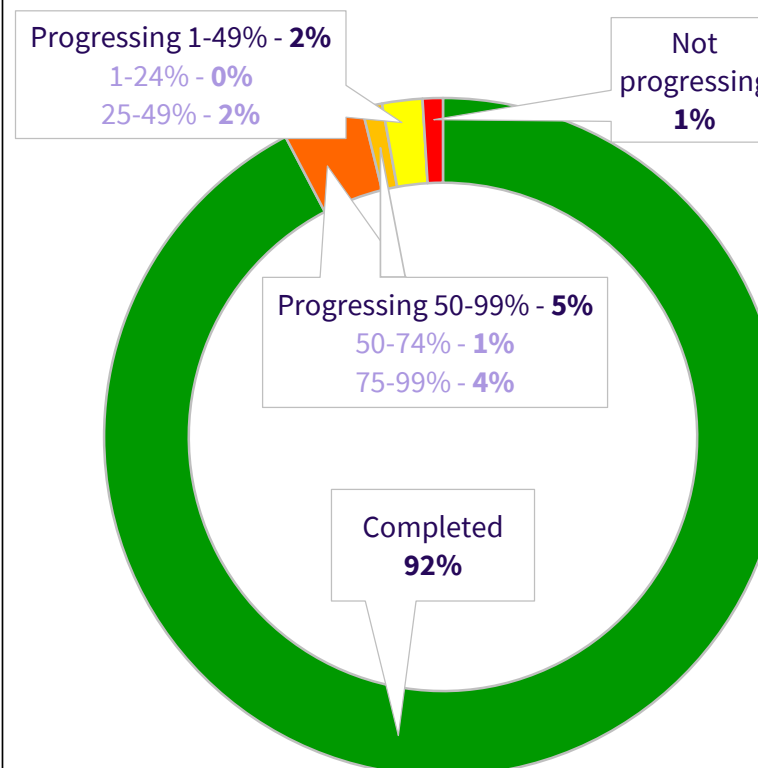
Includes: Major Initiatives, Initiatives and Key Projects

Current as at 30 June 2025

2024/25 Q.3 Overall progress status 104 Actions (as at 31 March 2025)



2024/25 Q.4 Overall progress status 104 Actions (as at 30 June 2025)





2024/25 Q.4 Council Plan Progress – at a glance

Includes: Major Initiatives, Initiatives and Key Projects

Current as at 30 June 2025

1 – Environment and Climate Change

Total Actions - 28



Completed

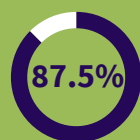


Progressing



Not Due to Start

8 Major Initiatives



Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start

10 Initiatives



Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start

10 Key Projects



Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start



2024/25 Q.4 Council Plan Progress – at a glance

Includes: Major Initiatives, Initiatives and Key Projects

Current as at 30 June 2025

2 – Economy and Sustainable Growth

Total Actions - 24



Completed



Progressing



Not Due to Start

7 Major Initiatives



Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start

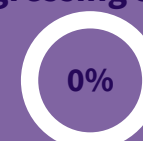
9 Initiatives



Completed



Progressing 50-99%

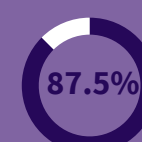


Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start

8 Key Projects



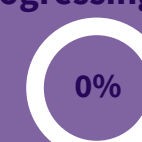
Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start



2024/25 Q.4 Council Plan Progress – at a glance

Includes: Major Initiatives, Initiatives and Key Projects

Current as at 30 June 2025

3 – Liveability and Wellbeing

Total Actions - 26



Completed



Progressing



Not Due to Start

7 Major Initiatives



Completed



Progressing 50-99%

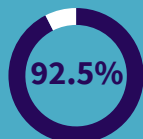


Progressing 1-49%

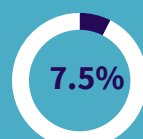


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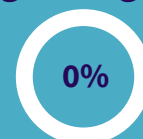
13 Initiatives



Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%

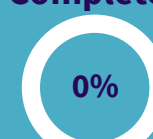


Not Due to Start

6 Key Projects



Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start



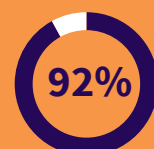
2024/25 Q.4 Council Plan Progress – at a glance

Includes: Major Initiatives, Initiatives and Key Projects

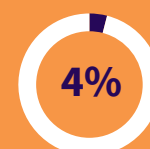
Current as at 30 June 2025

4 – Services and Infrastructure

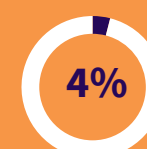
Total Actions - 26



Completed



Progressing



Not Progressing

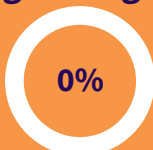
2 Major Initiatives



Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start

9 Initiatives



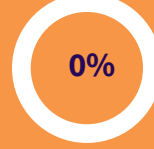
Completed



Progressing 50-99%

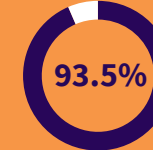


Progressing 1-49%



Not Due to Start

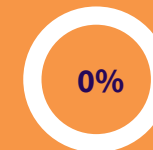
15 Key Projects



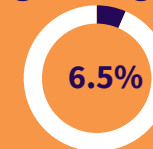
Completed



Progressing 50-99%



Progressing 1-49%



Not Progressing

14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

14.1. QUARTERLY BUILDING REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2025

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

To provide a report to Council on building permits issued in the Wellington Shire between 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report of building permits issued from 1 April to 30 June 2025.

BACKGROUND

Building permits are issued by private building surveyors, and copies of permits are provided to Council. The permits, plans and other documents, are filed by Council and recorded on a register of building permits. Building permits are issued for a range of developments, including dwellings, extensions and fences, as well as commercial and industrial buildings.

In this report, Attachment 14.1.1 - Wellington Permits Issued, provides an overview by township and the number of permits issued along with the estimated value of construction, for the three-month period ending 30 June 2025.

Attachments 14.1.2 and 14.1.3 provide an historical representation of the number and value of permits issued in Wellington Shire and compares this data against the broader Gippsland region.

For the period from 1 April to 30 June 2025 there were 197 permits issued with an estimated value of work at \$31,137,628.

The major projects include:

SALE

- New Bunnings Warehouse, Cobains Road, Sale – Stage 2
- Aldi Refurbishment, Sale

In the previous quarter, 1 January to 30 March 2025, there were 178 permits issued with an estimated value of work at \$27,585,358.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Wellington Permits Issued [**14.1.1** - 3 pages]
2. Graph 1 Number of Building Permits [**14.1.2** - 1 page]
3. Graph 2 Value of Building Works [**14.1.3** - 1 page]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Receive this Building Permits report; or
2. Not receive this Building Permits report and seek further information for consideration at a future Council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council note the report on building permits issued within Wellington Shire from 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

This report supports the achievement of the following Council Plan 2025-29 Strategic Objective/s:

Strategic Objective Two: Dynamic and Diverse Economy – *An economy that enables sustainable growth, and enhances the social environment, lifestyle and unique characteristics of our communities* – states the following strategy:

Planning to support future growth and changing needs of our community.

Strategic Objective Three: Infrastructure, Spaces and Places – *Strategically planned, designed and well-maintained infrastructure, spaces and places* – states the following strategy:

Coordinating facilities and infrastructure to meet growth and evolving needs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

The quarterly report provides information on the number of building permits, and cost of development per town, within the Wellington Shire. Gippsland-wide building activity is also provided, to demonstrate how the Wellington Shire area performs in comparison.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Building permits are issued in accordance with *Building Act 1993*, Building Regulations 2006 and the Wellington Planning Scheme.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

All building permits issued by private building surveyors are registered and filed as per the timelines set out in the Municipal Services Business Plan.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

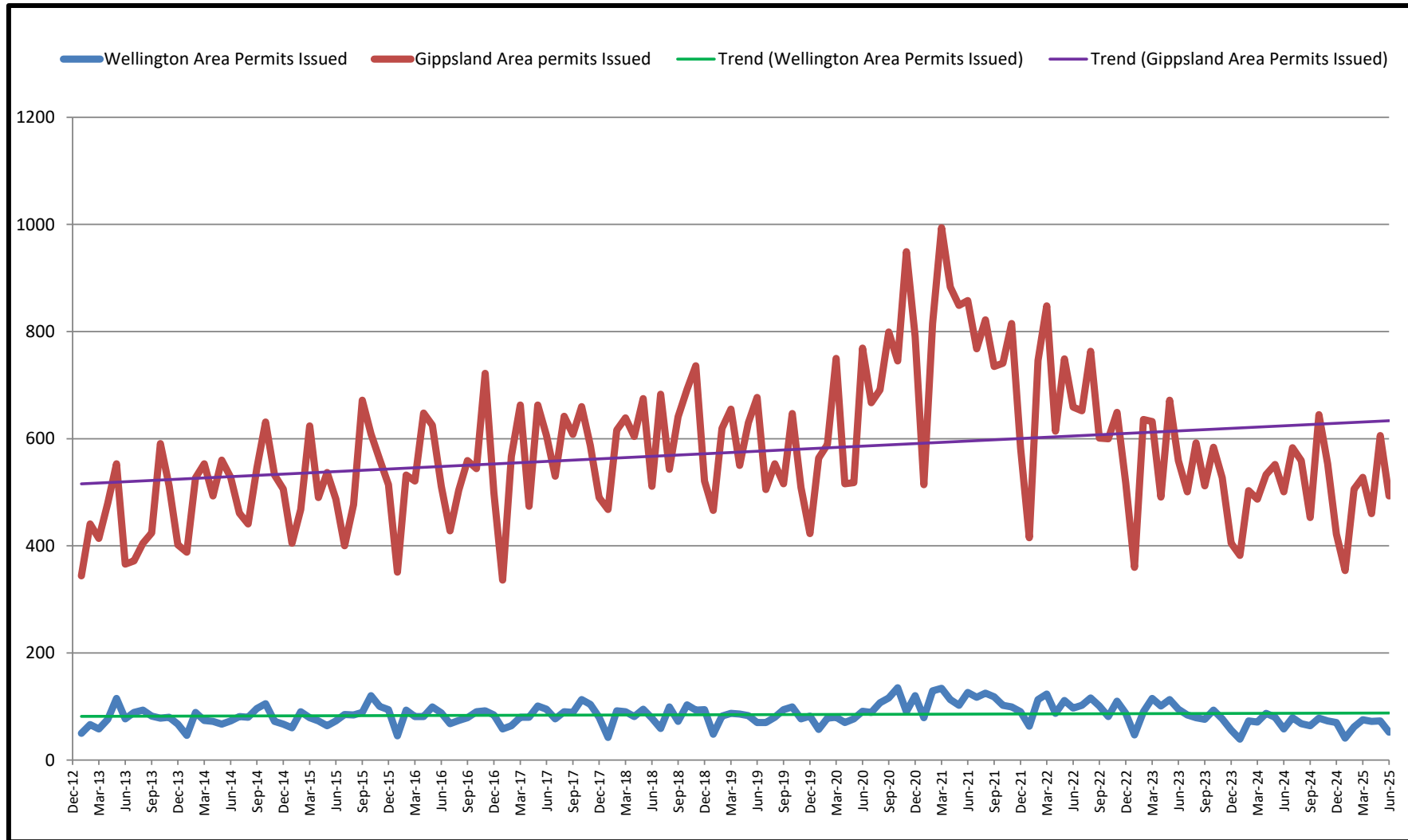
This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

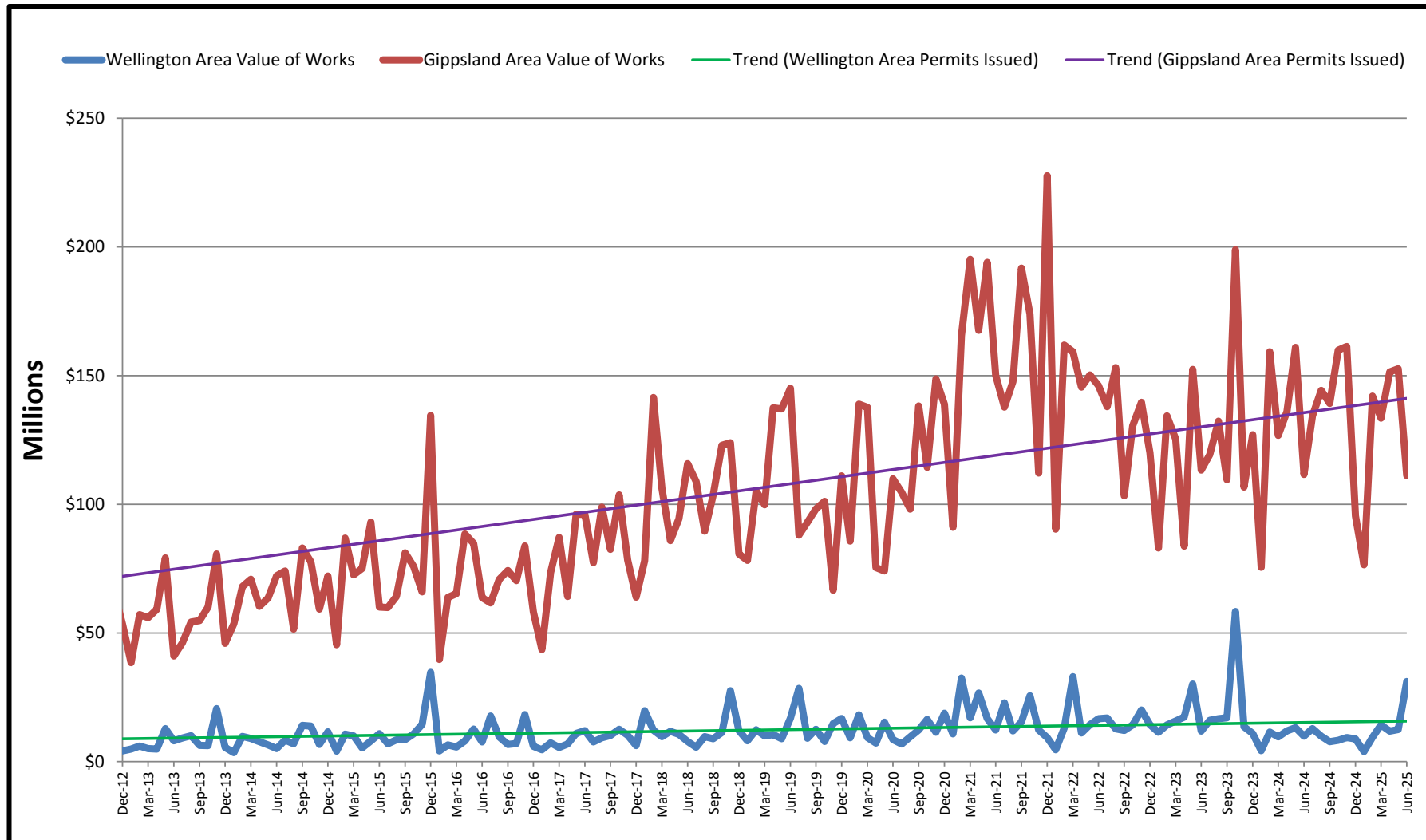
WELLINGTON PERMITS ISSUED
Number of Applications and their Estimated Value Each Month

| | April | May | June | Total |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| BLACKWARRY | 1 \$41,213 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$15,800 | 2 \$57,013 |
| BRIAGOLONG | 1 \$28,000 | 1 \$43,120 | 1 \$48,000 | 3 \$119,120 |
| CARRAJUNG LOWER | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$13,000 | 1 \$13,000 |
| COONGULLA | 1 \$34,000 | 1 \$100,000 | 1 \$720,700 | 3 \$854,700 |
| DENISON | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 2 \$287,000 | 2 \$287,000 |
| DEVON NORTH | 1 \$59,764 | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$59,764 |
| FLYNN | 1 \$58,450 | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$58,450 |
| FULHAM | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$66,858 | 1 \$66,858 |
| GIFFARD | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$16,000 | 1 \$16,000 |
| GLENGARRY | 1 \$79,200 | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$79,200 |
| GOLDEN BEACH | 3 \$210,480 | 0 \$0 | 3 \$399,662 | 6 \$610,142 |
| HEDLEY | 0 \$0 | 1 \$18,440 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$18,440 |
| HEYFIELD | 4 \$320,785 | 2 \$257,600 | 2 \$61,300 | 8 \$639,685 |
| HOLLANDS LANDING | 0 \$0 | 1 \$14,000 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$14,000 |
| KILMANY | 0 \$0 | 1 \$85,000 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$85,000 |
| LOCH SPORT | 9 \$1,601,409 | 4 \$867,666 | 0 \$0 | 13 \$2,469,075 |
| LONGFORD | 3 \$152,700 | 0 \$0 | 3 \$94,752 | 6 \$247,452 |
| MADALYA | 1 \$14,000 | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$14,000 |

| | April | May | June | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| MAFFRA | 7 \$1,400,371 | 10 \$2,225,372 | 7 \$2,439,877 | 24 \$6,065,620 |
| MONTGOMERY | 0 \$0 | 1 \$623,200 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$623,200 |
| NEWRY | 0 \$0 | 1 \$65,000 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$65,000 |
| PARADISE BEACH | 0 \$0 | 1 \$15,500 | 1 \$12,176 | 2 \$27,676 |
| PEARSONDALE | 1 \$110,000 | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$110,000 |
| PERRY BRIDGE | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$49,900 | 1 \$49,900 |
| PORT ALBERT | 1 \$12,100 | 2 \$336,907 | 0 \$0 | 3 \$349,007 |
| RIVERSLEA | 1 \$150,000 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$18,200 | 2 \$168,200 |
| ROSEDALE | 3 \$421,373 | 7 \$821,302 | 2 \$120,325 | 12 \$1,363,000 |
| SALE | 15 \$4,936,877 | 19 \$3,635,394 | 14 \$1,674,389 | 48 \$10,246,660 |
| SEASPRAY | 1 \$14,550 | 1 \$13,000 | 0 \$0 | 2 \$27,550 |
| SEATON | 1 \$329,302 | 2 \$562,008 | 0 \$0 | 3 \$891,310 |
| STRADBROKE | 0 \$0 | 1 \$613,988 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$613,988 |
| STRATFORD | 7 \$1,193,908 | 7 \$416,456 | 4 \$110,650 | 18 \$1,721,014 |
| TARRA VALLEY | 1 \$41,060 | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$41,060 |
| THE HONEYSUCKLES | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$14,200 | 1 \$14,200 |
| TINAMBA WEST | 0 \$0 | 1 \$701,500 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$701,500 |
| TOONGABBIE | 0 \$0 | 1 \$10,000 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$10,000 |
| VALENCIA CREEK | 1 \$68,750 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$127,600 | 2 \$196,350 |
| WINNINDOO | 0 \$0 | 1 \$10,000 | 1 \$108,272 | 2 \$118,272 |

| | April | May | June | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| WON WRON | 0 \$0 | 1 \$655,927 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$655,927 |
| WONGUNGARRA | 1 \$214,000 | 0 \$0 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$214,000 |
| WOODSIDE | 2 \$157,856 | 1 \$180,000 | 0 \$0 | 3 \$337,856 |
| WOODSIDE BEACH | 0 \$0 | 1 \$25,230 | 0 \$0 | 1 \$25,230 |
| WURRUK | 2 \$96,169 | 2 \$130,050 | 2 \$441,050 | 6 \$667,269 |
| YARRAM | 2 \$80,620 | 2 \$30,220 | 1 \$14,100 | 5 \$124,940 |
| Total | 72 11,826,937 | 73 12,456,880 | 52 6,853,811 | 197 31,137,628 |

GRAPH 1: NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS

GRAPH 2: VALUE OF BUILDING WORKS

14.2. MONTHLY PLANNING DECISIONS - JULY 2025

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING AND BUILDING

PURPOSE

To provide a report to Council on recent planning permit trends and planning decisions made under delegation by Statutory Planners during the month of July 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 and 31 July 2025.

BACKGROUND

Statutory Planners have delegated authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to make planning decisions in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Wellington Planning Scheme, including the issue of planning permits, amended permits, extensions of time, refusal of planning permits and notices of decision to grant a planning permit.

A copy of planning permit decisions made between 1 and 31 July 2025 is included in Attachment 14.2.1 - Planning Decisions Report - July 2025.

An overview of recent planning permit trends including decisions made, efficiency of decision making and the estimated value of approved development (derived from monthly planning permit activity reporting data) is included in Attachment 14.2.2 - Planning Trends Report - July 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Planning Decisions Report - July 2025 [**14.2.1** - 3 pages]
2. Planning Trends Report - July 2025 [**14.2.2** - 3 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Receive 1 to 31 July 2025 planning decisions report; or
2. Not receive 1 to 31 July 2025 planning decisions report and seek further information for consideration at a future Council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council note the report of recent planning permit trends and planning application determinations between 1 and 31 July 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

This report supports the achievement of the following Council Plan 2025-29 Strategic Objective/s:

Strategic Objective Two: Dynamic and Diverse Economy – *An economy that enables sustainable growth, and enhances the social environment, lifestyle and unique characteristics of our communities* – states the following strategies;

Supporting job growth and diversification of our economy.

Planning to support future growth and changing needs of our community.

Guiding responsible, sustainable development that protects, values and celebrates our unique heritage.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

The monthly report communicates information about planning trends and determinations including the issue of planning permits, amended permits, refusal of planning permits, and notices of decision to grant a planning permit.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

All planning decisions have been processed and issued in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Wellington Planning Scheme.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

All planning decisions have been issued after due consideration of relevant Council policy, including Council's Heritage Policy, and the requirements of the Planning Policy Framework in the Wellington Planning Scheme.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Planning decisions are made in accordance with the relevant environmental standards to ensure that environmental impacts are minimised.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

**PLANNING APPLICATION DETERMINATIONS
BETWEEN 1/07/2025 AND 31/07/2025**

| Application No/Year | Date Received | Property Title & Address | Proposal | Status |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---|--|--|
| 321-5.00/2019 | 26/06/2025 | Assessment No. 323329 LOT: 1 TP: 148899D 76 TYSON RD HEYFIELD | Staged subdivision of the land / removal of native vegetation. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 18/07/2025 |
| 53-4.00/2020 | 24/06/2025 | Assessment No. 260224 PC: 382044J 28 THE BOULEVARD PARADISE BEACH | Buildings & works / construction of a dwelling & outbuilding. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 11/07/2025 |
| 278-1.00/2024 | 30/08/2024 | Assessment No. 318394 LOT: 18 PS: 41422 5 HILLTOP CRES HEYFIELD | Buildings and works associated with a small second dwelling. | Withdrawn 25/07/2025 |
| 349-2.00/2024 | 3/06/2025 | Assessment No. 408161 LOT: 2 LP: 610084Q LOWER DARGO RD DARGO | B&W associated with the construction of an agricultural building. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 8/07/2025 |
| 395-1.00/2024 | 11/12/2024 | Assessment No. 86447 LOT: 6 LP: 99436 68 WANDANA RD SALE | 2 Lot subdivision of the land & variation of the restrictive covenant. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 17/07/2025 |
| 16-1.00/2025 | 22/01/2025 | Assessment No. 207878 LOT: 4 PS: 129490 6,056 SOUTH GIPPSLAND LONGFORD | 2 lot subdivision of land/creation of additional access to road in TZ2 | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 4/07/2025 |
| 19-1.00/2025 | 23/01/2025 | Assessment No. 16592 LOT: 2 TP: 681083D 196-198 YORK ST SALE | B&W constructing office, alter access to TZ2 & reduction of 4 carparks | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 1/07/2025 |
| 86-1.00/2025 | 20/03/2025 | Assessment No. 54353 LOT: 2 LP: 200100X 37 TOPPING ST SALE | Two lot subdivision of the land. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 9/07/2025 |
| 126-1.00/2025 | 24/04/2025 | Assessment No. 462861 CA: 4 SEC: 6 17 MCCOLE ST NEWRY | B&Ws associated with the construction of a dwelling and outbuilding. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 7/07/2025 |
| 128-1.00/2025 | 28/04/2025 | Assessment No. 345710 LOT: 1 TP: 320456G 16 HARVEYS RD BOISDALE | Buildings & works associated with the construction of a dwelling. | Refusal Issued by Delegate of Respo/Auth 29/07/2025 |
| 133-1.00/2025 | 8/05/2025 | Assessment No. 211870 LOT: 61 LP: 52647 20 STAR VIEW ST GOLDEN BEACH | Buildings and works associated with the construction of a dwelling. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 1/07/2025 |

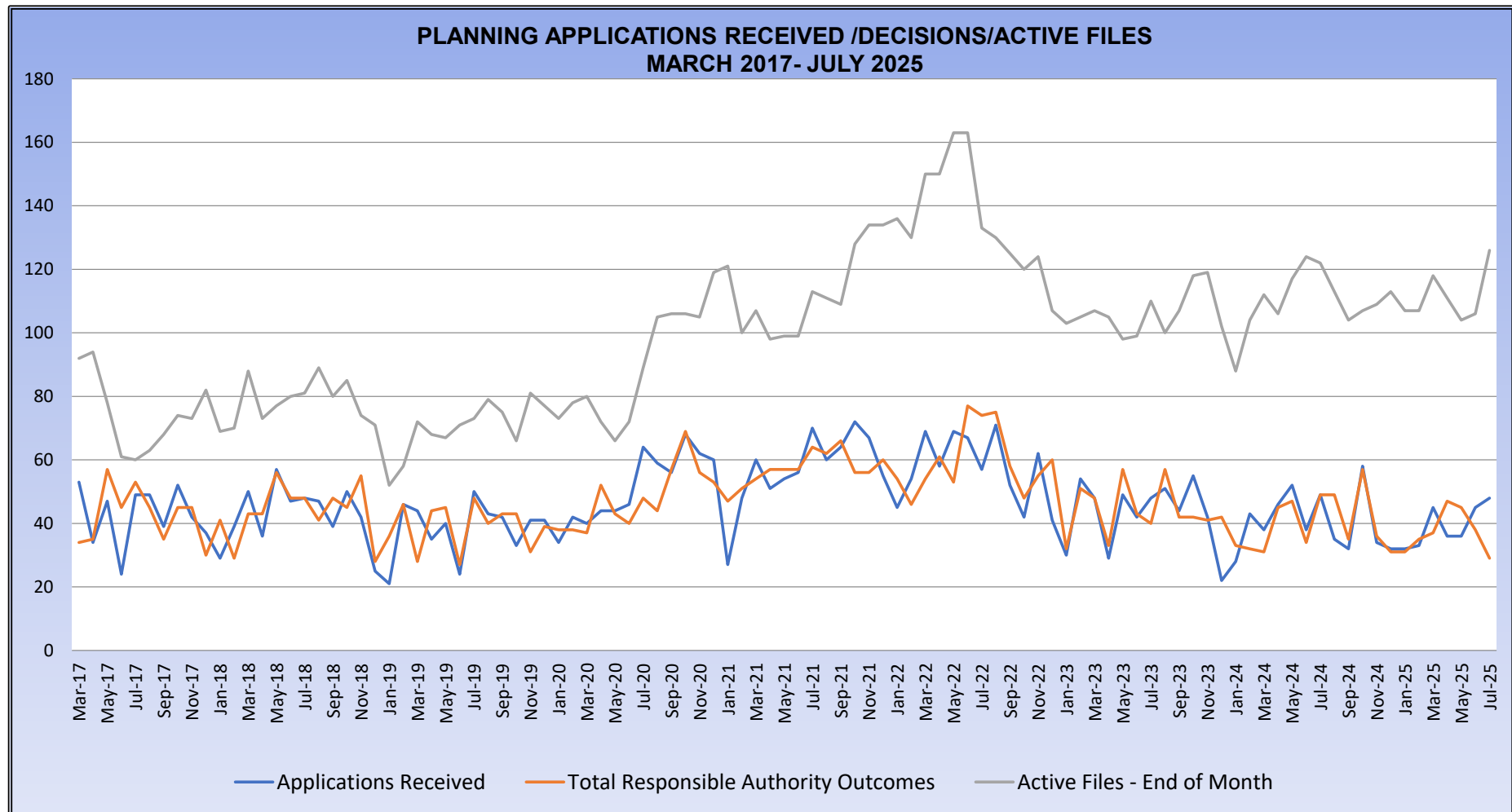
ATTACHMENT 14.2.1

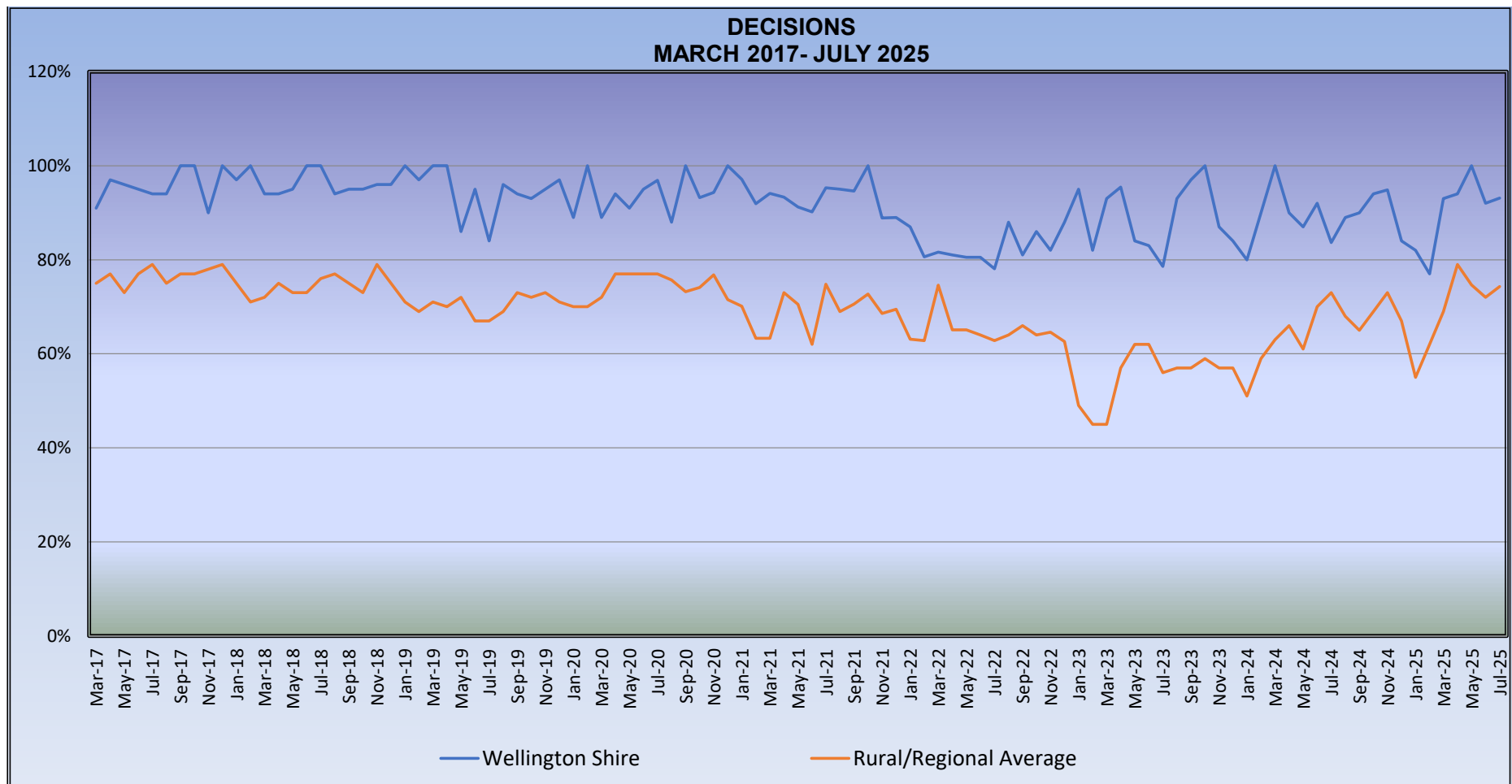
| Application No/Year | Date Received | Property Title & Address | Proposal | Status |
|---------------------|---------------|---|--|--|
| 134-1.00/2025 | 8/05/2025 | Assessment No. 204982 LOT: 6 PS: 704991G 2,019 PRINCES HWY ROSEDALE | B&Ws associated with the construction of a second dwelling. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 25/07/2025 |
| 142-1.00/2025 | 13/05/2025 | Assessment No. 104638 LOT: 1 PS: 924072W 1,403 MAFFRA-ROSEDALE NAMBROK | Use of the land for domestic animal husbandry (dog breeding). | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 14/07/2025 |
| 152-1.00/2025 | 22/05/2025 | Assessment No. 47357 LOT: 1 TP: 18121B 173-185 RAYMOND ST SALE | Reduce car parking spaces required & B&Ws associated with beer garden. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 1/07/2025 |
| 155-1.00/2025 | 27/05/2025 | Assessment No. 317677 PC: 167002R 24 GEORGE ST HEYFIELD | Buildings & works associated with alterations to an existing building. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 28/07/2025 |
| 156-1.00/2025 | 28/05/2025 | Assessment No. 264846 CA: 7G SEC: A 1,652 BULGA PARK RD BALOOK | Buildings and works / extension to an existing dwelling. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 30/07/2025 |
| 157-1.00/2025 | 29/05/2025 | Assessment No. 352666 LOT: 72 LP: 54201 101 TAMBORITHA TCE COONGULLA | B&Ws associated with construction of extension to an existing dwelling | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 21/07/2025 |
| 161-1.00/2025 | 4/06/2025 | Assessment No. 42663 LOT: 2 PS: 84032 184 MACALISTER ST SALE | B&Ws associated with demolition of existing outbuilding & dwelling. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 9/07/2025 |
| 174-1.00/2025 | 10/06/2025 | Assessment No. 297804 LOT: 1 TP: 429663U 63 RODGERS ST YARRAM | Buildings & works associated with the construction of an outbuilding. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 17/07/2025 |
| 178-1.00/2025 | 11/06/2025 | Assessment No. 207381 LOT: 1 PS: 304689 6,189A SOUTH GIPPSLAND LONGFORD | Buildings & works associated with the construction of an outbuilding. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 16/07/2025 |
| 179-1.00/2025 | 12/06/2025 | Assessment No. 446179 LOT: 3 PS: 546216F 2,193 TRARALGON-MAFFRA TOONGABBIE | Works associated with construction of access to road in the TZ2. | Withdrawn 21/07/2025 |
| 183-1.00/2025 | 16/06/2025 | Assessment No. 74096 LOT: 2 LP: 203889F 27 DAWSON ST STRATFORD | B&Ws associated with the construction of an access to a TZ2. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 23/07/2025 |
| 186-1.00/2025 | 25/06/2025 | Assessment No. 106377 LOT: 1 LP: 213645E 2,054 SALE-HEYFIELD RD DENISON | Buildings & works associated with the construction of an outbuilding. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 11/07/2025 |

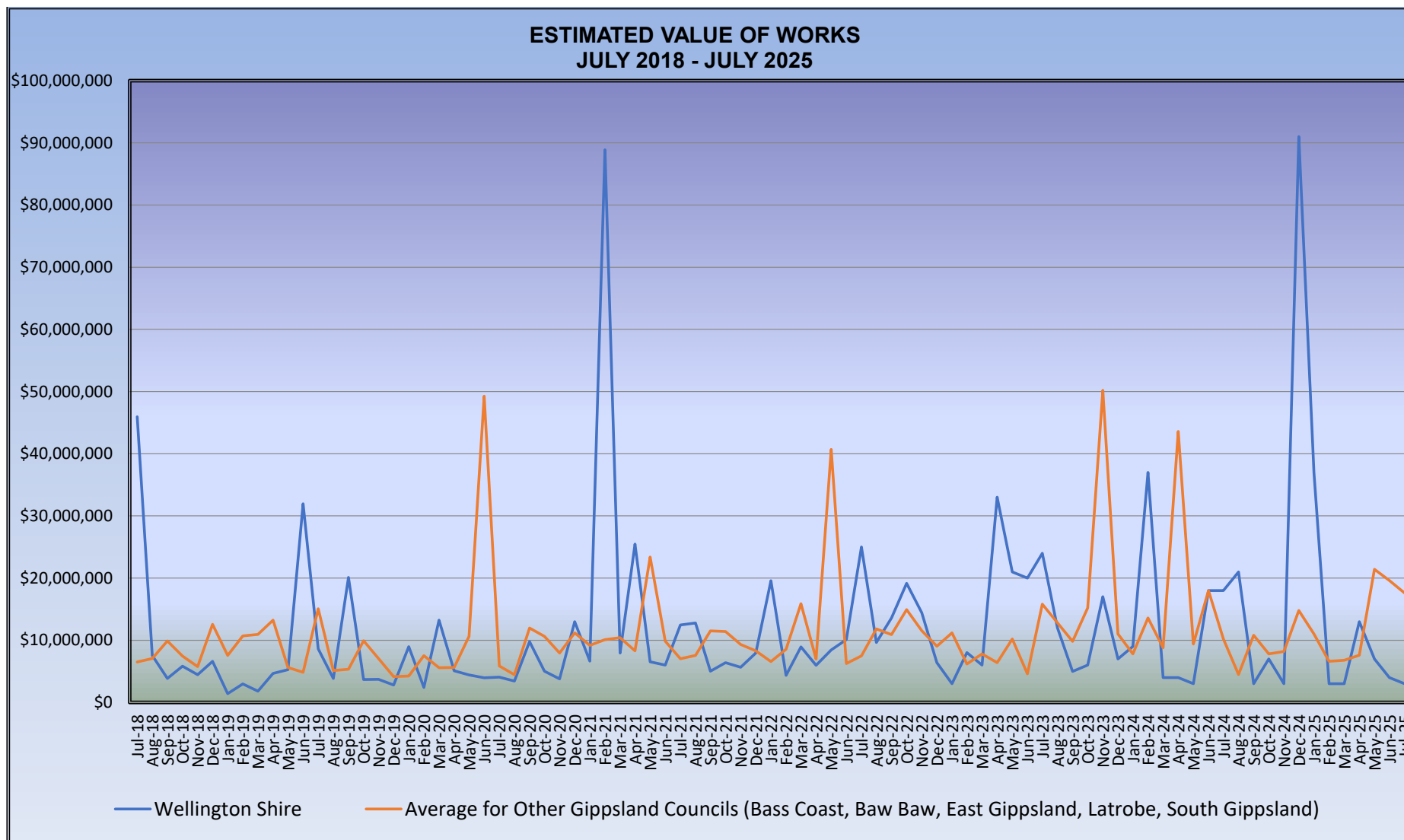
ATTACHMENT 14.2.1

| Application No/Year | Date Received | Property Title & Address | Proposal | Status |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|---|---|
| 189-1.00/2025 | 26/06/2025 | Assessment No. 425926 LOT: 1 PS: 620578G 1,345A SALE-TOONGABBIE WINNINDOO | Buildings & works / construction of extension to a dwelling. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 4/07/2025 |
| 190-1.00/2025 | 26/06/2025 | Assessment No. 212894 LOT: 1 TP: 88929D 14 SPINDRIFT AVE GOLDEN BEACH | Buildings & works / construction of extension to a dwelling. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 2/07/2025 |
| 193-1.00/2025 | 30/06/2025 | Assessment No. 460444 LOT: 1 PS: 905315E 862 LLOWALONG RD LLOWALONG | Buildings & works / construction of the extension to a dwelling. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 9/07/2025 |
| 199-1.00/2025 | 2/07/2025 | Assessment No. 453860 LOT: 178 LP: 82059 10 AZORES CT THE HONEYSUCKLES | Buildings and works associated with the construction of a fence. | Permit Issued by Delegate of Resp/Auth 9/07/2025 |
| 212-1.00/2025 | 10/07/2025 | Assessment No. 85670 LOT: 1 PS: 347809L 834 PRINCES HWY MONTGOMERY | B&Ws associated with the installation of a dependent persons unit. | No Permit Required 15/07/2025 |
| 224-1.00/2025 | 21/07/2025 | Assessment No. 240986 LOT: 1217 LP: 58872 121 SEAGULL DR LOCH SPORT | Buildings & works associated with the construction of an outbuilding. | No Permit Required 28/07/2025 |

Total No of Decisions Made: 29







15. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

15.1. 2026-014 MACALISTER STREET DRAINAGE RENEWAL

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider entering into a contract for the Macalister Street Drainage Renewal, Sale.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.1.2 - 2026–014 Tender Contract Evaluation Report for the Macalister Street Drainage Renewal; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the confidential attachment 15.1.2 - 2026–014 Tender Contract Evaluation Report relating to the Macalister Street Drainage Renewal was designated confidential by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 1 September 2025 because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020;***
(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage
except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful tenderer can be made public.

BACKGROUND

The project includes the renewal and upgrade of existing underground drainage on Macalister Street between Desailly Street Carparking and the Flooding Creek outfall. The upgrade component of this project addresses major flooding in the Desailly Street off-street carpark which does not meet the design service level for this area. Included in the works is a gross pollutant trap at the outfall to capture rubbish and sediment before it enters Flooding Creek and comply with stormwater treatment guidelines.

Accordingly, a tender was advertised for these works and has been evaluated and a contract has now been prepared for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Confidential Header - 2026 014 Tender Evaluation Report - Macalister Street Drainage Renewal [**15.1.1** - 1 page]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026-014 Tender Evaluation Report - Macalister Street Drainage Renewal [**15.1.2** - 6 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.1.2 - 2026-014 Tender Contract Evaluation Report relating to the Macalister Street Drainage Renewal, Sale;
2. Not enter into a contract and not proceed with these works at this time.

PROPOSAL

That Council adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.1.2 - 2026-014 Tender Contract Evaluation Report for Macalister Street Drainage Renewal, Sale.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

This report supports the achievement of the following Council Plan 2025-29 Strategic Objective/s:

Strategic Objective Three: Infrastructure, Spaces and Places – *Strategically planned, designed and well-maintained infrastructure, spaces and places* – states the following strategy:

Coordinating facilities and infrastructure to meet growth and evolving needs.

COLLABORATION

Pursuant to section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, no collaborative opportunities have been identified for this one-off project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

These works have been budgeted for under the 2025-2026 capital works program.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Wellington Shire Council is committed to ensuring the Contract tendering process complies with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Best Practice Procurement Guidelines for Victorian Local Government.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

These works are in line with Council's policies of maintaining and enhancing Council's infrastructure.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This project will be undertaken with the resources of the Assets and Projects unit.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

These works will have a positive community impact by ensuring that drainage infrastructure that is the responsibility of Wellington Shire Council is maintained and kept in good condition.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact will have minimal environmental impact, with the contractors providing an Environmental Management Plan which will be strictly monitored.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Wellington Shire Council's standard consultation practices will be implemented on this project.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

It is considered that the proposed contract works will not expose Wellington Shire Council to any significant risks. All Occupational Health and Safety risks will be discussed with the contractor and allocated to the party in the best position to manage each risk.



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 16 September 2025

I declare that the information contained in the attached document **2026-014 CONTRACT TENDER EVALUATION REPORT** relating to the **MACALISTER STREET DRAINAGE RENEWAL** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that - relates to trade secrets; or - if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage

CHRIS HASTIE
General Manager Built and Natural Environment
1/09/2025

15.2. 2026-025 SKEELS STREET CONSTRUCTION HEYFIELD

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider entering into a contract for Skeels Street Reconstruction, Heyfield.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.2.2 - 2026–025 Tender Contract Evaluation Report for Skeels Street Reconstruction, Heyfield; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the confidential attachment 15.2.2 - 2026–025 Tender Contract Evaluation Report relating to Skeels Street Reconstruction, Heyfield, was designated confidential by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 1 September 2025 because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020
(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage
except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful tenderer can be made public.***

BACKGROUND

Skeels Street Heyfield is beginning to fail in several locations and kerb and channel is at the end of its life and beyond maintenance intervention. The works under this contract involve the replacement of the kerb and channel and reconstruction of Skeels Street between Tyson Road and Anderson Street. Accordingly, designs have been completed and a tender advertised for these works, which allowed for options with the pavement design.

The submitted tenders have now been evaluated and a contract has been prepared for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Confidential Header - 2026 025 Tender Evaluation Report - Skeels Street Reconstruction Heyfield [**15.2.1** - 1 page]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026-025 Tender Evaluation Report - Skeels Street Reconstruction Heyfield [**15.2.2** - 6 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.2.2 - 2026-025 Tender Contract Evaluation Report relating to Skeels Street Reconstruction, Heyfield;
2. Not enter into a contract and not proceed with these works at this time.

PROPOSAL

That Council adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.2.2 - 2026-025 Tender Contract Evaluation Report for Skeels Street Reconstruction, Heyfield.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

This report supports the achievement of the following Council Plan 2025-29 Strategic Objective/s:

Strategic Objective Three: Infrastructure, Spaces and Places – *Strategically planned, designed and well-maintained infrastructure, spaces and places* – states the following strategy:

Coordinating facilities and infrastructure to meet growth and evolving needs.

COLLABORATION

Pursuant to section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, no collaborative opportunities have been identified for this one-off project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

These works have been budgeted for under the 2025-2026 capital works program.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Wellington Shire Council is committed to ensuring the Contract tendering process complies with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Best Practice Procurement Guidelines for Victorian Local Government.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

These works are in line with Council's policies of maintaining and enhancing Council's infrastructure.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This project will be undertaken with the resources of the Assets and Projects unit.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

These works will have a positive community impact by ensuring roads that are the responsibility of Wellington Shire Council are maintained and kept in good condition.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact will have minimal environmental impact, with the contractors providing an Environmental Management Plan which will be strictly monitored.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Wellington Shire Council's standard consultation practices will be implemented on this project.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

It is considered that the proposed contract works will not expose Wellington Shire Council to any significant risks. All Occupational Health and Safety risks will be discussed with the contractor and allocated to the party in the best position to manage each risk.



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

I declare that the information contained in the attached document **2026-025 CONTRACT TENDER EVALUATION** relating to **SKEELS STREET RECONSTRUCTION HEYFIELD** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that - relates to trade secrets; or - if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage

CHRIS HASTIE
General Manager Built and Natural Environment
1/09/2025

15.3. 2026-031 RIVER STREET RECONSTRUCTION WORKS

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider entering into a contract for the River Street Reconstruction, Heyfield.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.3.2 - 2026-031 Tender Contract Evaluation Report for the River Street Reconstruction, Heyfield; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the confidential attachment 15.3.2 - 2026-031 Tender Contract Evaluation Report relating to the River Street Reconstruction, Heyfield was designated confidential by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 1 September 2025 because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020;
(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage
except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful tenderer can be made public.***

BACKGROUND

River Street Heyfield is beginning to fail in several locations and kerb and channel is at the end of its life and beyond maintenance intervention. The works under this contract involve the replacement of the kerb and channel and reconstruction of River Street between Gordon Street and Dudley Street. Work also includes the Construction and Sealing of the gravel section of River Street between Dudley Street and Bessant Street. Accordingly, designs have been completed and a tender advertised for these works, which allowed for options with the pavement design.

The submitted tenders have now been evaluated and a contract has been prepared for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Confidential Header - 2026 031 Tender Evaluation Report - River Street Reconstruction Heyfield [**15.3.1** - 1 page]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026-031 Tender Evaluation Report - River Street Reconstruction Heyfield [**15.3.2** - 6 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.3.2 - 2026-031 Tender Contract Evaluation Report relating to the River Street Reconstruction, Heyfield;
2. Not enter into a contract and not proceed with these works at this time.

PROPOSAL

That Council adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential attachment 15.3.2 - 2026-031 Tender Contract Evaluation Report for the River Street Reconstruction, Heyfield.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

This report supports the achievement of the following Council Plan 2025-29 Strategic Objective/s:

Strategic Objective Three: Infrastructure, Spaces and Places – *Strategically planned, designed and well-maintained infrastructure, spaces and places* – states the following strategy:

Coordinating facilities and infrastructure to meet growth and evolving needs.

COLLABORATION

Pursuant to section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, no collaborative opportunities have been identified for this one-off project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

These works have been budgeted for under the 2025-2026 capital works program.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Wellington Shire Council is committed to ensuring the Contract tendering process complies with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Best Practice Procurement Guidelines for Victorian Local Government.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

These works are in line with Council's policies of maintaining and enhancing Council's infrastructure.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This project will be undertaken with the resources of the Assets and Projects unit.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

These works will have a positive community impact by ensuring roads that are the responsibility of Wellington Shire Council are maintained and kept in good condition.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact will have minimal environmental impact, with the contractors providing an Environmental Management Plan which will be strictly monitored.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Wellington Shire Council's standard consultation practices will be implemented on this project.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

It is considered that the proposed contract works will not expose Wellington Shire Council to any significant risks. All Occupational Health and Safety risks will be discussed with the contractor and allocated to the party in the best position to manage each risk.



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

I declare that the information contained in the attached document **2026-031 CONTRACT TENDER EVALUATION** relating to **RIVER STREET RECONSTRUCTION HEYFIELD** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that - relates to trade secrets; or - if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage



CHRIS HASTIE
General Manager Built and Natural Environment
1/09/2025

16. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS

Gallery comments are an opportunity for members of the public to raise any particular matter they wish. This allows those in the gallery to speak directly to Councillors but is not a forum designed for open discussion or debate. We will listen respectfully to what you have to say and make the commitment that if your query requires a written response, we will advise you that a response will be forthcoming, and a copy of that response will be circulated to all Councillors.

This is not a forum for members of the public to lodge complaints against individuals, including Councillors and staff, particularly as that individual gets no public right of reply to any matter raised. We take complaints seriously, and in line with the guidance from the Victorian Ombudsman and the local Government Inspectorate, we request that any specific complaint against an individual be put in writing. This way, your concern can be properly dealt with while ensuring fairness to all parties concerned.

If you wish to speak, we remind you that this part of the meeting is being recorded and broadcast on our website. Council's official Minutes will record that you have spoken to Council and the subject you spoke to Council about but will not record specific comments. We ask you to state your name in full, where you are from, and you have three minutes.

ONLINE COMMENTS –

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS –

17. IN CLOSED SESSION

17.1. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

- 1. That the meeting be closed to the public to consider confidential information pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 and defined in section 3(1) as involving personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.*
- 2. The grounds for designation under section 3(1)(g)(ii) have been made as the information is deemed confidential to protect the personal information*

IN CLOSED SESSION

The live streaming of this Council meeting came to a close at:

17.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S 2024/25 PERFORMANCE REVIEW



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public.

I declare that the information contained in this report **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S 2024/25 PERFORMANCE REVIEW** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs

I further declare that the circumstances of this report necessitate consideration in a meeting closed to the public pursuant to sections 66(2)(a) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Further explanation:

The grounds for designation under section 3(1)(f) have been made as the information is deemed confidential to protect the privacy and personal information of any person or their personal affairs.

.....
ARTHUR SKIPITARIS
GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES
8/09/2025

17.3. MOVE OUT CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

That Council move into open session and ratify the decision made in closed session.

Meeting declared closed at: