



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting to be held at

Wellington Centre – Wellington Room

Foster Street, Sale

Tuesday 20 July 2021, commencing at 6:00 PM

**or join Wellington on the Web:
www.wellington.vic.gov.au**

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
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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 archived and may be published on Council's Website for viewing by the public or used for publicity or information purposes. At the appropriate times during the meeting, members of the gallery may address the Council at which time their image, comments or submissions will be recorded.

Members of the public who are not in attendance at the Council meeting but who wish to communicate with the Council via the online webform should lodge their questions or comments early in the meeting to ensure that their submissions can be dealt with at the end of the meeting.

Please could gallery visitors and Councillors ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gunaikurnai people, and pay respects to their Elders past and present"

PRAYER

"Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon the Wellington Shire Council, its Councillors, officers, staff and their families. We pray for your guidance in our decisions so that the true good of the Wellington Shire Council may result to the benefit of all residents and community groups."

Amen

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: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 6 July 2021.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 6 July 2021.

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

7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS

7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

7.2. RECEIPT OF PETITION - OBJECTION TO TREES PLANTED AT ANDREWS ROAD AND CUMMING DRIVE, LONGFORD

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

To present Council with a petition in relation to an objection to trees planted at Andrews Road and Cumming Drive, Longford.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the attached petition in relation to an objection to trees planted at Andrews Road and Cumming Drive, Longford.

BACKGROUND

Council is in receipt of a petition from a number of landowners of Andrews Road and Cumming Drive in Longford. Their petition sets out their objection to the trees recently planted in Andrews Road and Cumming Drive Longford, noting that the planted species are Eucalyptus Melliodora, commonly known as Yellow Box. They noted a number of concerns in relation to this species, most importantly their size at maturity (20-30m) and the impact on their north facing views.

Other concerns raised include:

- the amount of bark the Yellow Bark species limbs will shed, resulting in a lot of debris for owners to clear;
- the level of moisture they take from the ground; and
- safety due to species such as these dropping their limbs when stressed.

The petitioners have also noted that they are not opposed to tree planting in the estate but request the current species be removed and replaced with trees or shrubs not exceeding 3-4m in height. They would also like to be consulted and/or involved throughout the process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Petition with signatures - objection to trees planted at Andrews Road and Cumming Drive, Longford [7.2.1 - 2 pages]

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

Rule 7.5(2) of Wellington Shire Council Governance Rules provides for petitions and joint letters:

“A petition or joint letter presented to the Council must lay on the table for a period determined by the Council but not exceeding the next two Council Meetings. No motion, other than to receive the petition or joint letter may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless the Council unanimously agrees to deal with it earlier.”

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

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

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 6 Organisational states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 6.3: *“Maintain a well governed, transparent, high performing, ethical and accountable organisation.”*

Strategy 6.3.3: *“Ensure sound governance processes that result in responsive, ethical, transparent and accountable decision making.”*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

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.

25th May 2021

Mr Tim Rowe
Manager of Natural Environment and Parks
Wellington Shire Council
PO Box 506
SALE VIC 3850



Dear Mr Rowe

RE: Objection to trees planted at Andrews Rd/Cumming Dr Longford

We are writing to lodge our objection to the trees recently planted in Andrews Road/Cumming Drive Longford. It is our understanding the planted species are *Eucalyptus Melliodora*, commonly known as *Yellow Box*.

We have a number of concerns in relation to this species, most importantly their size at maturity (20-30m) and the impact on our north facing views. Cumming Drive was originally advertised as "Grandview Estate" given its spectacular views to the Great Dividing Range. These views were a major factor in the purchasing decisions of the north facing block owners. Not only will the Yellow Box interrupt and largely remove these views, it's our view they'll devalue affected properties.

Our other concerns with the *Yellow Box* species is the amount of bark their limbs will shed (resulting in a lot of debris for owners to clear) and the level of moisture they'll take from the ground. Safety is also a concern, with species such as these dropping their limbs when stressed. It is our view the Estate's general appeal and aesthetics will be largely diminished by these factors.

We aren't opposed to tree planting in the Estate but for reasons outlined we request the current species be removed and replaced with trees or shrubs not exceeding 3-4m in height. We would also like to be consulted and/or involved throughout the process.

Thankyou for listening to our objections. To discuss this matter further please contact Kylie Perkins (on behalf of the land owners) on [REDACTED].

Kind Regards

LANDOWNERS CUMMING DRIVE

Name

Signature

WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

10 JUN 2021

RECEIVED

Paula Grosveld

Henry Grosveld

DAMIEN BINOTTO

~~J. Binotto~~ James Binotto

DAVE & Gwynn SPERMAN

Bradley Baker

Melissa Baker

DAVE SMITH

Renee Potts

Jack Johnstone

Jenna Beatson

Kylie Perkins

Trent Perkins

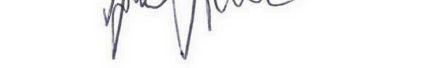
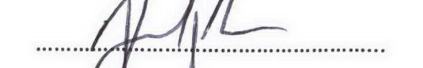
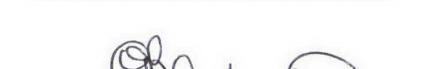
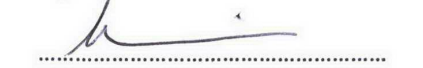
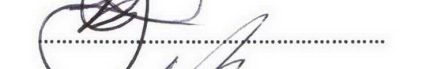
Karen Tenkate

Michael Tenkate

KATRINA BINOTTO

BRAD NEU

Stacey & Jamie Sweeney



7.3. RESPONSE TO PETITION - BUS STOP BOISDALE STREET, MAFFRA

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 June 2021 regarding the removal of five trees and two tree stumps from the road reserve in Boisdale Street, Maffra opposite Hillcrest Avenue to improve parking opportunities and provide additional space in the area for use as a school bus stop.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That, in response to the petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 June 2021, Council;

- 1. Decline the request for the removal of five trees from the Boisdale Street Road Reserve in Maffra opposite Hillcrest Avenue;***
- 2. Accept the request to grub two tree stumps from the Boisdale Street Road Reserve in Maffra opposite Hillcrest Avenue; and***
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to write to the head petitioner to advise them of Council's decision in relation to this matter.***

BACKGROUND

At its Ordinary Council Meeting of 15 June 2021, Council received a petition requesting the removal of five small trees and two tree stumps from the Boisdale Street Road Reserve in Maffra opposite Hillcrest Avenue to improve parking opportunities and provide additional space in the area for use as a school bus stop.

Wellington Shire Council supports the school bus program operated by Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and the Department of Education (DET) generally through the approving of new bus stops or alteration to existing bus routes, the maintenance of the road shoulders at bus stops and the provision of bus shelters where appropriate based on patronage.

The day to day operation of the PTV funded school bus program is locally administered in conjunction with three school bus coordinators located at Sale Secondary College, Maffra Secondary College and Yarram Secondary College.

The petition received is in relation to the school bus stop used in the mornings by school bus chartered by the Boisdale Consolidated Primary School and this service is not part of the PTV school bus network.

Council does not provide any formal assistance with bus stops used by chartered school buses. Council officers are not involved or engaged with any approval process for a bus stop used by the chartered school bus service and likewise PTV has no responsibility for the provision of this service. The bus stop arrangements and their locations are made directly between the bus company and the school itself.

This bus stop located on Boisdale Street opposite Hillcrest Avenue in Maffra is a dual use stop that is used in the 'am' as a school bus stop for the Boisdale Consolidated Primary School (subject of this petition) and in the 'pm' by the Sale Secondary School bus.

The petition has sought the removal of five trees and two stumps to provide for improve parking opportunities and more space for children while they wait to board the chartered school bus. According to the submission it is difficult in the mornings for parents to park and wait for the chartered school bus to arrive. Highlighted also are concerns that with ongoing development of this Hillcrest Estate and that the stop is likely to get busier.

The use of the bus stop in 'pm' by the Sale Secondary bus does not face similar concerns as school children quickly disperse once the school bus has departed. No safety or operational concerns with this bus stop have been raised by the School Bus Coordinator or through PTV.

Initial investigation undertaken by Council officers have determined that the removal of the five trees requires a planning permit for the removal of any non-planted native vegetation. The process requires a referral to the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and likely would require a biodiversity assessment and the possibly of the need for offset costs to be paid. The grubbing of the two tree stumps would not require a planning permit.

Furthermore, the request for the removal of the small trees is not supported by Council's current position relating to sustainability and urban forest outcomes, specifically the need to retain and increase canopy cover to promote a cooler urban environment and improve biodiversity.

The removal of native vegetation to accommodate the operation of a school bus stop is not undertaken by Council unless it is within the clear zone from the edge of the traffic lane. Whilst the grubbing of the two stumps would be considered beneficial to the ongoing management and maintenance of road reserve in general and meets the petitions request around providing more space for children while they wait to board the chartered school bus.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

OPTIONS

Council have the following options:

1. Decline the request for the removal of the five small trees and two tree stumps from the road reserve; or
2. Accept the request for the removal of the two tree stumps and decline the request for the removal of the five small trees from the road reserve; or
3. Accept the request for the removal of the two trees stumps and the removal of the five small trees from the road reserve.

PROPOSAL

That Council decline the request for the removal of five small trees from the road reserve as the request would require planning permit approval for the removal of native vegetation, is inconsistent with sustainability outcomes and does not relate to the specific safe operation of

the school bus stop. It is also proposed that Council accept the request in part and support the removal of the two tree stumps from the road reserve on the basis that such works would allow for the better ongoing maintenance and slashing of the road reserve and provide more space for children while they wait to board the chartered school bus.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Should Council resolve to remove the five small trees and two tree stumps, it will entail the costs of obtaining a planning permit, a biodiversity assessment and referral to DELWP. If approved, the tree removal costs of \$1,000 plus, fees and permits costs between \$500 to \$2,000 could be expected, giving a total estimated cost of up to \$3,000.

Should Council resolve to remove the two tree stumps, no specific approvals are required, stump grubbing costs of around \$500 would be expected.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and should Council resolve to remove or not to remove the trees and/or tree stumps, there is no significant communications impact to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

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

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

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

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 2 Services & Infrastructure states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 2.2: *"Council assets are responsibly, socially, economically and sustainably managed."*

Strategy 2.2.3: *"Continue to maintain and enhance Council's built environment for public amenity and long-term sustainability."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

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 should Council resolve to remove the five trees a planning permit would be required in order to remove native vegetation. A referral to the DELWP with a biodiversity assessment would be required for the removal of the trees and determine if any offset costs are to be paid.

Removal of these trees, should Council resolve to do so, is considered to have a negative impact on the environment specifically in relation to increased canopy cover to promote a cooler urban environment and improved urban biodiversity.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and should Council resolve to remove or not to remove the trees and/or tree stumps there is no significant engagement impacts to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

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

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

10.1. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR GARRY STEPHENS

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor and Councillors report be noted.

5 JUNE TO 2 JULY

9 June	Libraries by Design Conference - Session 2, online	Cr Ripper attended
11 June	Gender Equality Act meeting, online	Cr Crossley, Cr McKenzie, Cr Bye, Cr Maher, Cr Wood and Cr Ripper attended
12 June	Woodside Flood Relief Community BBQ, Woodside	Mayor Stephens and Cr McKenzie attended
13 June	Devon North Flood Relief Community BBQ and Dinner, Devon North	Mayor Stephens and Cr Maher attended
14 June	Gormandale Flood Relief Community BBQ, Gormandale	Cr Crossley attended
16 June	Teleconference with The Hon Darren Chester MP	Mayor Stephens attended
	Binginwarri Flood Relief Community Dinner, Binginwarri	Mayor Stephens and Cr McKenzie attended
	Libraries by Design Conference – Session 3, online	Cr Ripper attended
17 June	Timber Towns Victoria meeting, online	Mayor Stephens attended
18 June	One Gippsland Board meeting, online	Mayor Stephens attended

	Meeting with Ms Jane Garret MP, Yarram	Mayor Stephens attended
	Binginwarri Flood Relief Community Dinner, Binginwarri	Mayor Stephens attended
23 June	Sale Neighbourhood House – Community Garden Launch, Sale	Mayor Stephens attended
	Federation Uni Gippsland Breakfast meeting, Morwell	Cr Crossley attended
24 June	Meeting with VicForest, Yarram	Mayor Stephens attended
25 June	Wellington History Group luncheon, Sale	Cr Crossley attended
26 June	Seaspray Surf Lifesaving Club Presentation Ball, Seaspray	Mayor Stephens attended
27 June	Official Opening of the Accessibility for All Project at Lake Wellington Yacht Club, Marley Point	Cr Crossley attended
30 June	Gippsland Community Power Hub Governance meeting, online	Cr Crossley attended
1 July	Wellington Living Well During Covid -19 Committee Meeting, online	Cr Crossley attended
2 July	The Middle of Everywhere Business Boost meeting, online	Cr Maher and Cr Wood attended

**COUNCILLOR GARRY STEPHENS
MAYOR**

11. DELEGATES REPORT

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

12.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received.

5 JUNE TO 2 JULY

10 June	Attended an information session hosted by Acting Premier regarding the Regional-Metro COVID Restriction Settings for Business, online
11 June	Attended a Gender Equality Act Information session, online
16 June	Teleconference with Mr Darren Chester MP in relation to recent flooding events affecting the local area. In attendance was Mayor Stephens
17 June	Attended a Joint State and Local Government CEO's Forum, online Attended a Severe Weather Event Debrief with Council CEO's, online
18 June	Attended One Gippsland's Board meeting, alongside Mayor Stephens, online
21 June	Ministerial Roundtable with Council CEO's to discuss Recycling Victoria, hosted by Lily D'Ambrosio via teleconference Teleconference with Ms Karen Cain, Latrobe Valley Authority to discuss Radial Timber Renewable Energy Park
22 June	Teleconference with GLaWAC CEO to discuss Native Title sites.
23 June	Attended a Regional Partnership Committee meeting, online Teleconference with CEO's to discuss Severe Weather Event support
24 June - 23 July	Annual Leave

12.2. VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION REPORT ON 2020 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PURPOSE

For Council to receive the attached report provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) on the Wellington Shire Council 2020 local government election.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the attached report provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission on the Wellington Shire Council 2020 local government election.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 263 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the VEC conducted the 2020 Wellington Shire Council local government elections. As required under section 83(1) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020, the VEC is required to prepare a report on the conduct of the election for the Chief Executive Officer, as attached. In addition, under clause 83(3) the Chief Executive Officer is to ensure that the report is submitted to the Council at the earliest practical meeting of Council held after the report is received.

The VEC conducted the Wellington Shire Council 2020 local government election in accordance with the service level agreement entered into in April 2020. The VEC's report on the 2020 Wellington Shire Council local government election outlines the legislative requirements implemented under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the activities undertaken by the VEC, the statistics relating to voters and the results of the election.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Wellington Shire Council - Election Report - 2020 Local Government Election [12.2.1 - 52 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Receive the attached report provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission on the Wellington Shire Council 2020 local government election; or
2. Not receive the attached report provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission on the Wellington Shire Council 2020 local government election.

PROPOSAL

That Council receive the attached report provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission on the Wellington Shire Council 2020 local government election.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and satisfies the requirement of section 83 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 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 2017-21 Theme 6 Organisational states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 6.3: *"Maintain a well governed, transparent, high performing, ethical and accountable organisation."*

Strategy 6.3.3: *"Ensure sound governance processes that result in responsive, ethical, transparent and accountable decision making."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

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.

2020 Local government elections

Wellington Shire Council

Election Report





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(Victorian Electoral Commission)
April 2021

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Melbourne Victoria 3000
T 131 832
info@vec.vic.gov.au
vec.vic.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Electoral Commission pays respect to Victoria's traditional owners and their elders past and present who have been custodians of this country for many thousands of years. Their living culture and their role in the life of Victoria is acknowledged by the VEC.

Letter of Transmittal

19 April 2021

Mr David Morcom
Chief Executive Officer
Wellington Shire Council
PO Box 506
SALE VIC 3850

Dear Mr Morcom

Pursuant to Regulation 83 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020, I submit this report to the Chief Executive Officer of Wellington Shire Council on the general election held in October 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM Gately', with a stylized, cursive script.

Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

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Introduction

The Victorian local government general elections are held every four years as defined by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (**LG Act**). In 2020, general elections were held for 76 of the 79 Victorian councils¹ with Saturday 24 October marking election day. In accordance with section 263(1) of the LG Act, the Victorian Electoral Commission (**VEC**) is the statutory election service provider for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria.

This report provides information on the 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election including details of the end-to-end service delivery of electoral activities throughout the election timeline. This report also provides details of post-election items including compulsory voting enforcement.

About the Victorian Electoral Commission

The VEC is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 2002* (Vic) (**the Electoral Act**). The VEC's principal functions are to conduct State elections, local government elections, certain statutory elections and polls, commercial and community elections, and to support electoral representation processes for local councils and the Electoral Boundaries Commission for State electoral boundaries. The VEC is also responsible for maintaining the Victorian register of electors and administering political funding and donation disclosure laws. The VEC has a mandated role to conduct electoral research, provide communication and education services, and inform and engage Victorians in the democratic process.

Warwick Gately AM is the appointed Electoral Commissioner and Liz Williams is the appointed Deputy Electoral Commissioner. The Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner report to the Victorian Parliament in relation to the VEC's operations and activities.

The Electoral Commissioner heads the VEC's Executive Management Group that comprises the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, the Executive Director, Corporate Services and seven Directors, each leading the main functional areas of the VEC. Each Director acts as subject matter expert within their legislative responsibilities under the LG Act and the Electoral Act.

The VEC has a dedicated local government election program which is managed by Katrina Collins and incorporates a range of programs, projects and activities that are supported through strategic planning, project management, and process mapping. The program is overseen by the VEC's Planning Group and has sponsorship from the Executive Management Group.

¹ The South Gippsland Shire Council was placed into administration in mid-2019. The Council's general election has been postponed until October 2021. Casey City Council and Whittlesea City Council were placed into

administration in early 2020. The Councils' general elections have been postponed until October 2024.

Key changes

Changes in legislation

The new LG Act received royal assent on 24 March 2020 and introduced a number of changes, some requiring immediate implementation and others to be implemented progressively. Those requiring immediate implementation had a significant impact on the 2020 local government election program.

Following the LG Act completing its passage through Parliament, the VEC implemented the necessary changes to the 2020 local government election program in response to the reforms as they applied to the elections.

The key changes from the LG Act are as follows:

Local government electoral structures	<p>The default electoral structure for all local councils is single-councillor wards, although some regional and rural local councils may be unsubdivided or divided into wards with equal numbers of councillors in each ward.</p> <p>The VEC is no longer responsible for conducting electoral representation reviews of all local councils in Victoria.</p> <p>An independent Local Government Electoral Representation Advisory Panel will review council electoral structures. The panel includes the Electoral Commissioner and other members appointed by the Minister for Local Government.</p>
Voting system	<p>The voting system (attendance or postal) is set by the Minister for Local Government.</p> <p>All local council elections are conducted according to the same voting system.</p>
Enrolment and voters' rolls	<p>Non-resident property owners need to apply to be enrolled (this change will be implemented in stages leading up to the 2024 local government elections).</p> <p>Amendments to the voters' roll are completed by the VEC only (excluding Melbourne City Council).</p>
Candidate qualifications	<p>It is compulsory for local government candidates to complete mandatory training prior to nominating for local government elections.</p>
Nominations/candidate statements	<p>When nominating, candidates are required to declare they have completed the mandatory Local Government Candidate Training.</p> <p>The maximum number of words for a candidate statement was increased to 300 (350 for the Melbourne City Council Leadership Team and Councillor Groups).</p>
Election staff	<p>The term 'Election Manager' replaced 'Returning Officer' making the term consistent with the <i>Electoral Act 2002</i>.</p>
Extraordinary vacancies	<p>The VEC will fix the timeline for local council by-elections (previously fixed by the Minister).</p> <p>Changes to the countback process which now draws on a broader pool of ballot papers to determine the successful candidate at a countback.</p>
Compulsory voting	<p>From the 2024 local government general elections onwards, it will be compulsory for everyone enrolled on a voters' roll to vote.</p>

Wellington Shire Council

The LG Act made other changes to the local government electoral landscape, including:

- operational and technical provisions for electoral matters are now prescribed in the Regulations rather than being contained in the LG Act.
- disputed election results are now heard by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

On 8 May 2020, the Minister determined² all of the 2020 general elections would be held by postal voting. As such, the VEC adjusted preparations in response to the Minister's determination.

In addition, new Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (**the Regulations**) came into operation on 13 July 2020.

Response to public health crisis: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic, a State of Emergency was declared in Victoria on 16 March 2020. While the VEC was well advanced in planning for the elections, some uncertainty arose due to speculation that the elections could be rescheduled.

Following the Local Government Minister's confirmation on 15 May 2020 that the 2020 local government elections would proceed, the VEC's operating model was adjusted to deliver a compliant election while meeting health, safety, social distancing and hygiene obligations to voters, election staff, councils, candidates and all other stakeholders.

On Wednesday 1 September 2020, the Governor in Council made amendments to the regulations to allow certain provisions to be varied in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the amendments allowed the VEC to determine an appropriate method for eligible candidates to lodge their nomination form and pay their nomination fee electronically; and to allow the Election Manager to determine the maximum number of scrutineers that may be present for any activity at any one time. The amended regulations commenced the day after

they were made and remain in place until 26 April 2021.

On 29 September 2020, the Governor in Council made further changes to the Regulations to provide greater clarity of mitigation options for any disruptions to the voting timeline, including delays across the postal network that could threaten the integrity of the elections. The changes allowed the Electoral Commissioner to alter the last day of voting and/or the extended postal vote receipt deadline if necessary, to maintain and protect election integrity.

The VEC developed a COVIDSafe Election Plan³ in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services which complemented the VEC's Service Plan. The COVIDSafe Election Plan outlined the VEC's actions and strategies to deliver safe and compliant local government elections.

The plan considered all electoral operations and activities and included changes such as (but not limited to):

- acquiring larger election office spaces to accommodate social distancing practices
- moving operations from face-to-face to online (when legislation permitted), for example:
 - the VEC's briefing meetings with individual councils
 - the candidate information sessions
- modifying the timeline for ballot paper extraction and counting activities
- modifying scrutineer practices.

The VEC acknowledges the collaboration and contributions of council officers in navigating the changes required to the program due to COVID-19.

² The Minister published this decision in the Government Gazette on 18 May 2020

³ 'VEC COVIDSafe election plan' - <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/local-council-election-reports-and-plans>

Election dates

The key timelines that applied to the 2020 local government elections were as follows.

Deadline fixed by the VEC for council primary enrolment data	Monday 13 July 2020
Close of roll	4 pm Friday 28 August 2020
Opening of the election office to the public	Wednesday 16 September 2020
Certification of the voters' roll and opening of nominations	Thursday 17 September 2020
Close of nominations	12 noon Tuesday 22 September 2020
*Ballot draw	From 1 pm on Tuesday 22 September 2020
*Deadline for lodging candidate statements, photographs and questionnaires	12 noon Wednesday 23 September 2020
*General mail out of ballot packs to voters	Tuesday 6 October to Thursday 8 October 2020
*Close of voting	6 pm Friday 23 October 2020
Day prescribed as Election Day	Saturday 24 October 2020
*Close of extended postal vote receipt period	12 noon Friday 30 October 2020
Declaration of election results	No later than Friday 13 November 2020

*Dates with asterisks relate to contested elections only.

About Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council is comprised of nine councillors elected from three three-councillor wards.

The structure was last reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* through an electoral representation review in 2015.

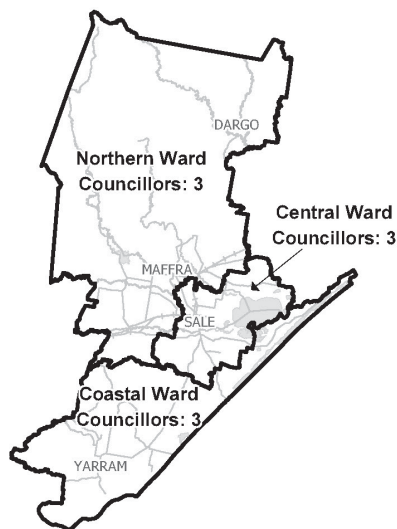


Figure 1: The electoral structure of Wellington Shire Council at the general election held on 24 October 2020.

Voters' roll

The VEC prepared the voters' roll for the election under section 8(2)(c) of the Electoral Act and in accordance with section 249 of the LG Act. The close of roll for the election was 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020. Pursuant to section 249(4) of the LG Act, the VEC certified the voters' roll on Thursday 17 September 2020.

At certification, the voters' roll for the 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election included 40,220 enrolled voters.

Composition of the voters' roll

The LG Act specifies that the voters' roll for a local government election is formed by combining two separate lists of voters.

1. The Electoral Commissioner's list (EC list) – List of State electors that are enrolled within that local government area.
2. The Chief Executive Officer's list (CEO list) – List of council-entitled voters.

Refer to **Appendix 1** for a breakdown of the Wellington Shire Council general election voters' roll.

Amendments to the voters' roll

In accordance with section 250 of the LG Act, the VEC is able to amend any error or omission in the preparation, printing or copying of the voters' roll, or correct any misnomer or inaccurate description of any person, place or thing on the voters' roll. Following the passage of the LG Act, amendments to the voters' roll are to be certified by the VEC. All voters added to the roll were issued with a ballot pack. Where a voter was deleted from the roll after the mail-out of ballot material, the VEC had systems in place to ensure that returned ballot papers from the deleted voters could be identified and excluded from the extraction and count. Where roll amendments were required, the total number of voters on the roll was updated.

Following the close of roll, the VEC made three amendments to the voters' roll, three additions and no deletions.

Advertising and communication campaign

State-wide advertising

The VEC delivered a state-wide advertising campaign to maximise public awareness and participation amongst all eligible voters. Campaign activities and consistent messaging were delivered across two phases – enrolment and voting – and through multiple traditional and emerging mediums, including radio, digital and social media, and offline/outdoor advertising.

Statutory advertising

The VEC published a series of statutory notices throughout the election as required by the LG Act. The notices included critical information relevant to each milestone of the election timeline.

For the 2020 statutory notices, Wellington Shire Council nominated the following newspaper for the statutory notices to appear in:

- Gippsland Times

In 2020, the VEC established a new policy position for statutory advertising in alignment with the updated definition of 'publish' in the LG Act. The policy position included the following:

- all statutory and non-statutory election advertising would be published on the VEC website, and
- where available, all statutory and non-statutory election advertising would be published in local newspapers and/or other selected newspapers identified following consultation with the council.

Refer to **Appendix 2** for further information in relation to the statutory advertising.

VEC website

The VEC provided council specific information regarding the election on its website under the '2020 local council election' page. The VEC website went live for the local government elections in early August 2020. Whilst some council specific data remained static during the election, the website was regularly updated with content relevant to the election and at each key milestone such as close of roll, nominations, voting and results.

Media liaison

An online media webinar was held on Friday 21 August 2020. The webinar could be downloaded or accessed at a later time for those who were unable to participate live. The media briefing summarised the planning and timeline for the 2020 local government elections, and also provided a specific update in relation to the availability of election results in light of COVID-19.

Media outlets were provided with a media information booklet that outlined the election timeline and key messages, and provided the VEC's head office media contacts. The VEC's communication team supported each Election Manager as the primary media spokesperson in relation to each election.

The VEC's media liaison program principally featured staged media releases aimed to highlight key milestones during the election timeline, and capitalise on existing general news coverage. More information on the VEC's media release schedule is available at **Appendix 3**.

Social media campaign

As part of its state-wide advertising campaign, the VEC used paid promotions on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat and WeChat, targeting voters through audience segmentation.

This advertising was supported by a defined timeline of organic social media posts on the VEC's channels, designed to cover each of the key messages of the communication campaign to further extend the reach to the community and promote conversation about the democratic process.

VEC VoterAlert advisories

Electors on the State enrolment register are able to sign up to the VEC's free SMS or email alert service VoterAlert, to receive reminder messages pertinent to elections that affect them. They can subscribe to receive SMS messages only, email only, or both SMS and email.

During the general election, the VEC used its VoterAlert service to send the following direct messages to those State-enrolled voters on the roll for the election.

The messages were rolled out in the following schedule:

Wednesday 19 August to Wednesday 26 August 2020 – 22,931 VoterAlert messages were sent by SMS and email reminding voters to enrol or update their details by the close of roll.

Friday 9 October to Friday 13 October 2020 – 23,333 VoterAlert messages were sent by SMS and email advising that the VEC had commenced posting ballot packs.

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In mid-October, the VEC commenced sending its final VoterAlert – a reminder to post ballot packs by the voting deadline. Whilst approximately 900,000 of the 1.8 million voters scheduled to receive an alert were contacted it was identified that an unanticipated high volume of calls was received by both the VEC and councils as a result of the alert. Therefore, the VEC suspended the VoterAlert messages scheduled for the remaining 900,000 voters.

More information on the VEC's VoterAlert advisories is available at **Appendix 4**.

Voter engagement

The VEC delivered an extensive voter engagement program. The program sessions were implemented throughout Victoria and were specific to local demographics. Please refer to **Appendix 5** to view the full list of initiatives for the 2020 local government elections. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the VEC's programs traditionally offered through face-to-face education and engagement were redesigned to comply with health, safety, social distancing and hygiene obligations.

Blind and low vision services

Braille and large print ballot material was available to blind and low vision voters who had registered for these products by 5 pm on Tuesday 15 September 2020.

The VEC received and processed a request for one large print ballot material for Wellington Shire Council.

Interpreting services

The VEC engaged the Victorian Interpreting and Language Services' Language Link to provide a telephone interpreting service for telephone enquiries from voters who had a first language other than English. The VEC advertised direct lines for 20 languages other than English and a general line for all other languages.

Telephone enquiry service

A local telephone enquiry service was provided at the election office from Wednesday 16 September 2020 until the close of voting, for enquiries regarding the election.

The local telephone enquiry service was supplemented by an overflow call centre at the VEC's head office. The overflow call centre received calls made directly to the VEC's head office line (131 VEC, 131 832 or +61 3 8620 1100 for callers outside of Australia) and diverted calls from the election office when the election office lines were at capacity. Additionally, email enquiries were received and processed through info@vec.vic.gov.au.

The types of calls that are typical during an election relate to:

- voting entitlements and compulsory voting obligations
- enrolment questions
- ballot pack had not been received
- ballot material was spoilt or destroyed, so replacement ballot material was required
- a voter advising that they were overseas or interstate
- queries regarding the content of the ballot pack.

A breakdown of the daily number of calls received by the telephone enquiry service and the overflow call centre in respect to the election is available at **Appendix 6**.

Election Manager

The VEC maintains a pool of trained senior election officials located across the state to fill election management roles for State and local government elections. Election-specific training is provided to senior election officials prior to each election management appointment.

The size of the election management team appointed for the conduct of an election is based on the size of the council. As required under the LG Act an Election Manager is appointed to conduct the election and is supported by one or more Assistant Election Managers for larger councils, or a senior election official for smaller councils.

Wellington Shire Council

In accordance with section 3 of the LG Act, the Electoral Commissioner appointed Rick Coleman as the Election Manager for the 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election.

The appointed Assistant Election Manager was Diana Chambers.

Election office

The Election Manager was responsible for the establishment and management of the election office located at 118 Raymond Street, Sale. The election office was provided by the VEC.

In accordance with the VEC's COVIDSafe election plan, the election office was open to the public by appointment only. The election office was available for appointments from Wednesday 16 September until Friday 23 October 2020 between 9 am and 5 pm. Opening hours were extended on Thursday 22 October (9 am to 8 pm) and Friday 23 October (9 am to 6 pm) to allow for final enquiries and the hand-delivery of ballots prior to the close of voting. Enquiries regarding the election were also managed by phone.

Candidates

Nominations for the election opened at 9 am on Thursday 17 September and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020. Candidates were required to lodge their nomination forms in person at the election office. A \$250 nomination fee applied.

On Wednesday 9 September 2020, the Electoral Commissioner published a determination⁴ establishing a framework for prospective candidates who were prevented from attending the election office due to health directions regarding COVID-19 under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. The determination outlined provisions for electronic lodgement of the nomination form and nomination fee for affected candidates.

⁴ VEC 2020 Determination No.1 - Nominations from candidates impacted by COVID-19 Public Health Directions in respect to local government elections -

Candidate information

The VEC developed a suite of resources that were accessible to prospective candidates prior to the nomination period. From early September, candidates were able to access the VEC's information about the process of nominating and becoming a candidate for the election. The VEC's online *Candidate Helper*, accessible via the VEC website, went live on Thursday 3 September 2020. The *Candidate Helper* enabled candidates to pre-complete their nomination form and other forms online before lodging them with the Election Manager.

For the 2020 elections, the VEC's candidate information session was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website. The session was complemented by three state-wide interactive seminars consisting of a panel from the VEC's leadership and executive teams.

Nominations

At the close of nominations, 18 candidates had nominated for election to council.

The following is a breakdown of candidate nominations per ward:

- Central Ward - nine nominations
- Coastal Ward - four nominations
- Northern Ward - five nominations

Ballot draws to determine the order in which the names would appear on the ballot paper were held at the election office following the close of nominations using the VEC's computerised ballot draw application. See **Appendix 7** for the list of candidates in ballot draw order.

Candidate statements and photos

In accordance with Regulation 39 of the Regulations, candidates were able to lodge a 300 word statement and submit a recent photograph for inclusion in the ballot packs sent to voters. The deadline for the submission of candidate statements and photographs was 12 noon on Wednesday 23 September 2020.

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation/determinations>

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See **Appendix 7.1** for a breakdown of submitted statements and photos, and **7.2** for the sample website version product.

Candidate questionnaires

In accordance with Regulation 43 of the Regulations, candidates were able to complete and lodge their answers to a set of prescribed questions in addition to a statement and photograph. The Election Manager accepted questionnaire submissions lodged by all 18 candidates at the election.

The completed questionnaires were accessible to voters on the VEC website or by contacting the election office.

Voting

Redirection of ballot packs

The Regulations provide that a voter may – no later than the day the roll is certified (or a later date if specified by the Election Manager under Regulation 22(2)(f) of the Regulations) – make a request in writing to the Election Manager to have their postal ballot envelope redirected to another address. For the 2020 elections voters had until Thursday 17 September to submit requests for redirection.

The Election Manager received six requests for redirection of ballot packs for the election.

Early votes

A voter may request an early postal ballot envelope (early vote) prior to the general mail out of ballot packs. The Election Manager processes the request and issues the early vote if the request is assessed as reasonable. Requests for early votes could be processed from Wednesday 23 September 2020, the day after nominations closed, until the commencement of the general mail out of ballot packs on Tuesday 6 October 2020. Due to the timing of early votes, some early voters may not have had access to the candidate statements, photographs or questionnaires.

Due to the impact that COVID-19 restrictions had on election services for the 2020 elections, requests for early votes were managed by appointment.

The Election Manager issued eight early votes for the election.

Mail-out of ballot packs

The VEC mailed 40,218 ballot packs between Tuesday 6 October and Thursday 8 October 2020. See **Appendix 8** for a breakdown of the packs mailed out on each day during the general mail-out noting that ballot packs were not mailed to any voters that had passed away between the close of the roll and generation of the mail-out file.

This included six ballot packs that were redirected to alternative addresses for voters that had applied to redirect their ballot pack by Thursday 17 September 2020.

In accordance with Regulation 49(3) of the Regulations, no more than 35% of ballot packs were mailed or delivered to voters on any one day during the mail out period. All ballot packs were lodged with Australia Post under the priority paid delivery timetable.

The VEC liaised closely with Australia Post during the mail out period to confirm that ballot packs had been delivered to voters. The VEC received confirmation that all ballot packs had been delivered to delivery addresses by Wednesday 14 October 2020.

During the voting period, 1,788 ballot packs were returned to the election office by Australia Post as return-to-sender mail. Most of this mail was due to the addressee not residing at the address.

Election office counter services

In order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of voters and VEC personnel in the COVID-19 environment, the VEC did not provide an over-the-counter replacement or unenrolled vote service at election offices in the Metropolitan Melbourne region (including Mitchell Shire Council) for the elections. Similar restrictions were initially imposed on election offices in Regional Victoria and were relaxed in the final weeks of voting. Voters were advised to request replacement or unenrolled ballot material by phone, which was sent to them by post.

Unenrolled votes

Unenrolled votes are issued to people whose name cannot be found on the voters' roll but who claim they are entitled to vote at the election. The unenrolled ballot pack includes a declaration that is signed by the applicant and assessed by the Election Manager prior to either admitting or disallowing the vote.

The Election Manager issued 29 unenrolled votes and following relevant checks, 11 were admitted to the count.

Replacement ballot packs

Following the general mail-out of ballot packs, a voter who claimed that their ballot pack had not been received, or had been lost, spoilt or destroyed, could apply to the Election Manager for a replacement ballot pack. Requests for replacement ballot packs within metropolitan councils were processed and fulfilled at the election office then lodged at the local postal facility. In order to assist in the mail turnaround time for regional councils, the VEC established a centralised postal vote issuing service at head office. Replacement vote requests were processed at the election office and fulfilled and lodged with Australia Post from the VEC in Melbourne.

The Election Manager issued 683 replacement ballot packs across all wards during the voting period. Please refer to **Schedule 1** for further information on replacement ballot packs issued.

Return of ballot paper envelopes

Voters were provided with a priority reply-paid envelope for the return of their ballot paper envelope containing their completed ballot paper. The return mail was delivered to the election office from local postal facilities or mail distribution centres. Voters who chose to hand-deliver their vote to the election office were able to do so by placing their ballot paper envelope containing their completed ballot paper into ballot boxes located at the election office. The ballot boxes allowed voters to drop off their ballot envelopes without interaction with staff, therefore remaining compliant with a COVIDSafe election⁵.

As ballot paper envelopes were returned, they were progressively checked by the election management team to ensure they had been signed by the voter. Additionally, processes were in place to ensure that only one returned ballot from any one voter could proceed to the extraction and count.

The Election Manager received a total of 28,358 returned ballot paper envelopes across all wards by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.

The Regulations provide that the Election Manager can accept returned ballot paper envelopes up until 12 noon on the Friday following the close of voting, if satisfied that the ballot paper envelope was completed by the voter prior to the close of voting. The Election Manager accepted 4,364 ballot paper envelopes across all wards during the extended postal vote receipt period.

The total returned ballot paper envelopes for Wellington Shire Council was 32,722.

The Election Manager set aside 1,128 returned ballot paper envelopes that were not admitted to the extraction and counting process due to the voter not having signed the declaration envelope or, in the case of unenrolled declaration votes, an entitlement was not found for the person, or the declaration envelope was not returned with the vote.

Refer to **Schedule 1** for the total certified record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes across all wards.

Results

Extraction

A total of 31,594 ballot paper envelopes were admitted to the extraction process.

The extraction of ballot papers occurred at the election office commencing on Monday 26 October. The extraction of all admitted ballot paper envelopes was completed on Monday 2 November, following the close of the extended postal vote receipt period.

⁵ 'VEC COVIDSafe election plan' - <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/local-council-election-reports-and-plans>

Wellington Shire Council

The extraction process involved separating the declaration flaps containing voters' details from each admitted ballot paper envelope, and then extracting the ballot papers from the envelopes. This two-stage process maintains anonymity and ensures the number of envelopes is tracked for ongoing reconciliation.

Any returned ballot paper envelopes found not to contain a ballot paper, or that contained more than one ballot paper, were required to be rejected and could not be counted. There were 75 returned ballot paper envelopes rejected during the extraction activity.

Following the extraction of ballot papers from the ballot paper envelopes, a total of 31,519 ballot papers proceeded to the count.

Computer count

Following the extraction of ballot papers admitted to the count for all wards, preferences on ballot papers were data entered into the VEC's computer counting application at the election office. The application distributes preferences using the proportional representation method once data entry of ballot paper preferences is complete. The computer count information session explaining the process was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website from Monday 19 October 2020. Results were calculated at the election office on Thursday 5 November.

The provisional results were published to the VEC website as they became available. Results were updated as finalised⁶ once declarations had taken place.

For a breakdown of the first preference results by ward, refer to **Appendix 9**.

Recounts

At any time before a candidate is declared as elected, a recount may be initiated by the Election Manager or requested in writing by a candidate stating the reasons for their request. Such requests are assessed by the Election Manager supported by the VEC and either accepted or declined.

The Election Manager did not receive any requests for a recount following the count for Wellington Shire Council.

Declaration of results

The declaration of results was scheduled later than at previous elections, due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on extraction and counting timelines. As per the Service Plan, the latest date for all results declarations to have been completed was Friday 13 November 2020.

The results of the 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election were declared at 11.30 am on Thursday 5 November 2020 at The Loading Dock (outdoor stage, behind The Wedge), 100 Foster Street, Sale.

The VEC website was updated following the declaration to reflect the elected candidates from the election.

Election statistics

Participation

Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of the total enrolment and can vary from turnout. The overall participation rate in the Wellington Shire Council election was 80.76%, which is lower than the State average of 84.12% (excluding Melbourne City Council) and higher than the 73.13% rate at the 2016 Wellington Shire Council general election.

Analysis of voter participation for the different enrolment categories shows that participation is higher for voters who are enrolled on the EC's List (85.74%) compared to voters enrolled on the CEO's List (58.67%).

Refer to **Appendix 10** for further information on participation, including a breakdown by enrolment category.

⁶ A preference distribution report can be found at [2020 council election results | Victorian Electoral Commission \(vec.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.2020council.electionresults.vic.gov.au/).

Turnout

Voter turnout is measured by the number of formal and informal ballot papers counted in the election as a percentage of voters on the voters' roll for the election.

The overall voter turnout for the 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election was 78.36%. This is compared to the State average turnout of 81.47% (excluding Melbourne City Council). The voter turnout at the 2016 general election for council was 71.89%.

Informality

The overall informal voting rate recorded at the 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election was 2.89%, compared with the State average of 4.76%. An informality rate of 2.93% was recorded at the Wellington Shire Council general election held in October 2016.

Complaints

Type of complaints

At local government elections, complaints generally fall into two broad categories:

1. The conduct of participants in the election.

Complaints about the conduct of candidates and other participants in the election, at times alleging a breach of the LG Act or local laws.

2. The administration of the election.

Complaints about the conduct of the election and services to voters.

The majority of complaints at the 2020 local government elections related to category one, often where the complainant alleged inappropriate or illegal action by another person or group associated with the election.

Complaints process

The VEC operates a streamlined complaints process during elections, developed in consultation with local councils and enforcement agencies. The process requires complaints to be lodged in writing, and they are then processed through the VEC's head office. For the 2020 local government elections, customers were able to provide feedback and complaints through an online submission form on the VEC's website.

Each complaint is evaluated and an appropriate course of action is determined. Complaints alleging a breach of the LG Act, for example, are forwarded to the Local Government Inspectorate (LGI). Complaints relating to local laws are referred to council. Complaints about the VEC's services or the behaviour or actions of VEC staff and election officials are the responsibility of the VEC. In these cases, the VEC investigates the matter and determines the most appropriate response. The VEC committed to responding to each complaint within five working days, however due to the unanticipated high volume of complaints received this extended in some instances.

Complaints received

The VEC received six written complaints relating to the election for Wellington Shire Council. Please see **Appendix 11** for a description of complaints received by the VEC.

Post-election activities

Storage of election material

All records from the election will be kept by the VEC safely and secretly in accordance with Regulation 79 of the Regulations.

Refund of nomination fees

Nomination fees were refunded to eligible candidates on Thursday 10 December 2020. Eligible candidates included elected candidates or those who received at least 4% of the first preference vote. Any forfeited nomination fees were remitted to Council on 10 December 2020.

Courts and tribunals

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is responsible for hearing disputes on the validity of an election under section 311 of the LG Act.

Applications for a review of the declaration of the results of an election must be lodged within 14 days of the election and can be made by a candidate in the election, 10 persons who were entitled to vote at the election, or the VEC.

There were no applications to the VCAT disputing the result of the Wellington Shire Council general election.

Non-voter follow up

In accordance with section 267 of the LG Act, the VEC has commenced its compulsory voting enforcement program. Any person who was required to vote at the election and failed to vote will be issued with an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. Apparent non-voters have 28 days in which to respond.

People who do not respond to that notice, or do not provide a satisfactory response to the notice, may be issued with an Infringement Notice that will incur a penalty. Further follow-up by way of a Penalty Reminder Notice may also take place – this stage includes the original penalty and a Penalty Reminder Notice fee. Penalties collected on behalf of council will be reimbursed at the end of the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages.

Additionally, during the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages, non-voters may request for their matter to proceed directly to the Magistrates' Court.

Any such requests will be actioned at the conclusion of the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages. The VEC will lodge the file of any remaining non-voters with Fines Victoria at the conclusion of the Penalty Reminder Notice stage.

Evaluating the VEC's services

The VEC is committed to providing high quality election services to its local government clients. Through the VEC's formal feedback and debriefing program, the VEC is able to gauge its performance and seek advice for future local government election projects.

Feedback from councils

The VEC invited feedback from councils on its services in December 2020 and acknowledges the receipt of feedback provided by Wellington Shire Council. Additional feedback can be provided to the Program Manager for Local Government elections by emailing LGProgram2020@vec.vic.gov.au.

Internal debriefing program

After every electoral event, the VEC conducts an internal debriefing program which includes input from all areas across the VEC's workforce. Internal debriefing following the local government elections commenced in December 2020. In due course, the VEC will publish a consolidated report on its performance and key statistics from the elections. This report will be tabled in Parliament and available on the VEC website.

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Wellington Shire Council Central Ward election

BALLOT PAPERS PRINTED

Victorian Electoral Commission	16,500
Election Manager	6
Total	16,506

BALLOT PAPERS ISSUED

General mail out	14,029
Early and replacement votes	360
Unenrolled declaration votes	8
Spoilt	0
Sub total	14,397
Unused	2,109
Total	16,506

DECLARATIONS RETURNED

General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,005
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	308
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	2
Returned declarations unable to admit to extraction	381
Declarations returned to sender	395
Sub total	12,091
Declarations not returned	2,306
Total	14,397

Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council Coastal Ward election

BALLOT PAPERS PRINTED

Victorian Electoral Commission	14,500
Election Manager	3
Total	14,503

BALLOT PAPERS ISSUED

General mail out	12,204
Early and replacement votes	93
Unenrolled declaration votes	11
Spoilt	0
Sub total	12,308
Unused	2,195
Total	14,503

DECLARATIONS RETURNED

General mail out admitted to the extraction	8,596
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	63
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	7
Returned declarations unable to admit to extraction	361
Declarations returned to sender	987
Sub total	10,014
Declarations not returned	2,294
Total	12,308

Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council Northern Ward election

BALLOT PAPERS PRINTED

Victorian Electoral Commission	16,500
Election Manager	3
Total	16,503

BALLOT PAPERS ISSUED

General mail out	13,985
Early and replacement votes	238
Unenrolled declaration votes	10
Spoilt	0
Sub total	14,233
Unused	2,270
Total	16,503

DECLARATIONS RETURNED

General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,411
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	200
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	2
Returned declarations unable to admit to extraction	386
Declarations returned to sender	406
Sub total	12,405
Declarations not returned	1,828
Total	14,233

Wellington Shire Council

Schedule 2: Certification statement

In accordance with Regulation 77, I certify that Schedule 1 of this report on the conduct of the 2020 Wellington Shire Council local government election is a true and correct account of the number of ballot papers issued, returned and not used in this election and declarations not returned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM Gately'.

Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll

Wellington Shire Council

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	32,816
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	7,404
Total	40,220

Central Ward election

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	13,328
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	702
Central Ward election total	14,030

Coastal Ward election

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	6,437
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	5,767
Coastal Ward election total	12,204

Northern Ward election

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	13,051
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	935
Northern Ward election total	13,986

Appendix 2: Statutory advertising

Wellington Shire Council election schedule of public notices

Close of roll notice (see Appendix 2.1 for example)

VEC Website	8 August 2020
Gippsland Times	11 August 2020

Notice of election (see Appendix 2.2 for example)

VEC Website	31 August 2020
Gippsland Times	1 September 2020

Voting details notice (see Appendix 2.3 for example)

VEC Website	28 September 2020
Gippsland Times	29 September 2020

Reminder notice (see Appendix 2.4 for example)

VEC Website	12 October 2020
Gippsland Times	13 October 2020


Notice of result (see Appendix 2.5 for example)

VEC Website	23 November 2020
Gippsland Times	24 November 2020

Appendix 2.1: Close of roll notice for Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote



You must be enrolled to vote

A general election will be held for Wellington Shire Council in October 2020. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Wellington Shire Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

State-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 AND
- you live in Wellington Shire AND
- you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 AND
- you live in Wellington Shire and you are not on the State electoral roll OR
- you have lived at your current residential address within Wellington Shire for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au

You can also download an enrolment form from the website. All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

How can I check my State enrolment?

You can check your enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 1300 805 478.

Council-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

To be a Council-enrolled voter, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 AND
- not a State-enrolled voter within Wellington Shire.

You are automatically enrolled for this election if you were enrolled as a non-resident owner at the most recent election for your local area. This includes any by-elections held since the last general election.

If your circumstances have changed since the most recent election and you are no longer a non-resident owner of that property, you will not be automatically enrolled for this election. Depending on your circumstances, you may still be eligible to apply to be enrolled as a Council-enrolled voter.

Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property in Wellington Shire since the last election or by-election and you are not automatically enrolled OR
- you are not an Australian citizen and you live in, and pay rates for, a property within Wellington Shire OR
- you pay rates on a property you occupy in Wellington Shire, for example you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the Council for the tenancy, and you have no other voting entitlement within Wellington Shire OR
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates to Wellington Shire Council and you have no other voting entitlement within Wellington Shire.

How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the mentioned criteria and wish to enrol, contact Wellington Shire Council on 1300 366 244 for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details by contacting the Council on 1300 366 244.

Thinking about standing for election?

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate for Wellington Shire Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Wellington Shire Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes

4 pm Friday 28 August

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au



vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- 普通话 9209 0180 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دارجي 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ភាសាខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.


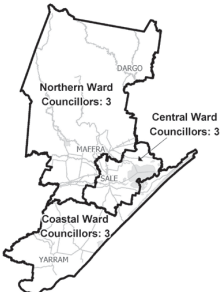
@electionsvic

Appendix 2.2: Notice of election for Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote

Vote by post this October

Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Wellington Shire Council election from Tuesday 6 October 2020. Return your completed ballot material by mail ASAP or hand-deliver it to the Election Manager by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.

If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday 28 August 2020, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by writing to:

Election Manager
Wellington Shire Council election
c/- Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively, you can email your request to: redirections@vec.vic.gov.au

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request.

Requests for redirection must be received by **Thursday 17 September 2020**.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by **Tuesday 15 September 2020**. To register, call (03) 8620 1222 during business hours.

Request an early postal vote

To apply for an early postal vote, contact the Election Manager from **Wednesday 23 September 2020** on 1300 141 498 and make an application. You must provide a valid reason.

How to nominate as a candidate

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Wellington Shire Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the Election Manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from **Thursday 17 September 2020** until **12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020** at:

118 Raymond Street, Sale

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from **Thursday 3 September 2020**.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the Election Manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the Election Manager from **Wednesday 16 September 2020** on 1300 141 498 to make a nomination appointment.

Online candidate information session

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the VEC's recorded candidate information session can be streamed online from **Thursday 3 September 2020** complemented by state-wide interactive candidate seminars based on the information video. To watch the information session or find out how to join an online interactive seminar, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Nominations close

12 noon Tuesday 22 September

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:


- 普通话 9209 0180 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داري 9209 0193 Dari
- Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • ЕЛНУВКА 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ភ្នំ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
- 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • العربية 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
- Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Appendix 2.3: Voting details notice for Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote



Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Tuesday 6 October 2020**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Friday 16 October 2020**, please call 1300 141 498 during office hours to arrange a replacement.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number EVERY BOX and only use each number once.

How to return your completed ballot paper

Follow the instructions on your ballot paper to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot paper, put it in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:

118 Raymond Street, Sale

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were on the State roll at 4 pm on **Friday 28 August 2020**.

You may be fined if you do not vote — this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote, but you will not be fined if you don't vote, if:

- you live outside this local council area OR
- you are enrolled directly with the Council to be on the voters' roll for this election.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm* Friday 23 October

*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 1300 141 498

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:


- 普通话 9209 0180 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داري 9209 0193 Dari
- Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • ЕЛНУВКА 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ភ្នំ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
- 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • العربية 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
- Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

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Appendix 2.4: Reminder notice for Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote



Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday 6 October 2020.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Friday 16 October 2020**, please call 1300 141 498 during office hours to arrange a replacement.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

How to return your completed ballot paper

Follow the instructions on your ballot paper to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot paper, put it in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:

118 Raymond Street, Sale

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were on the State roll at **4 pm** on **Friday 28 August 2020**.

You may be fined if you do not vote — this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote, but you will not be fined if you don't vote, if:

- you live outside this local council area **OR**
- you are enrolled directly with the Council to be on the voters' roll for this election.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm* Friday 23 October

*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au


vec.vic.gov.au | 1300 141 498

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• 9209 0190 Amharic • 9209 0100 Arabic • 9209 0191 Bosnian • 9209 0101 Cantonese • 9209 0102 Croatian • 9209 0193 Dari • 9209 0119 Dinka • 9209 0103 Greek • 9209 0104 Italian • 9209 0192 Khmer • 9209 0194 Korean • 9209 0105 Macedonian • 9209 0106 Mandarin • 9209 0195 Persian • 9209 0196 Russian • 9209 0107 Serbian • 9209 0108 Somali • 9209 0109 Spanish • 9209 0110 Turkish • 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

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@electionsvic



Appendix 2.5: Notice of results for Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council election

Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to the Wellington Shire Council at the general election held in October 2020:

Central Ward BYE, Ian (1st elected) ROSSETTI, Scott (2nd elected) WOOD, Jill (3rd elected)	Northern Ward HOLE, Malcolm (1st elected) TATTERSON, John (2nd elected) CROSSLEY, Carolyn (3rd elected)
Coastal Ward STEPHENS, Garry John (1st elected) MAHER, Gayle (2nd elected) MCKENZIE, Marcus (3rd elected)	


Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Rick Coleman
Election Manager
 Thursday 5 November 2020

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic



Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories

Wellington Shire Council Council-specific media releases and advisories

Enrol now for the Wellington Shire Council election	7 August 2020
Call for candidates for the upcoming Wellington Shire Council election	24 August 2020
Candidates announced for the Wellington Shire Council election	23 September 2020
Ballot packs mailed this week for Wellington Shire Council election	5 October 2020
Voting closes soon for the Wellington Shire Council election	12 October 2020
New councillors for Wellington Shire Council	5 November 2020

Statewide media releases and advisories

Victorians urged to enrol for upcoming council elections	7 August 2020
October local council elections to proceed under COVIDSafe election plan	19 August 2020
Last chance to enrol for Victorian council elections	21 August 2020
Enrolment closes tomorrow for October's council elections	26 August 2020
Nominations open soon for Victorian local council elections	31 August 2020
Council election information one click away on VEC website	4 September 2020
Accessing candidate information for the 2020 Victorian local council elections	14 September 2020
Victorian voters encouraged to sign up for free election reminders	16 September 2020
Nominations are in for the October council elections	23 September 2020
Authority granted for postal vote contingency	30 September 2020
Voting underway for Victoria's local council elections	5 October 2020
Mobile numbers not from VEC	12 October 2020
Local council elections voting deadline looms	19 October 2020
Strong voter response to local council elections	20 October 2020
Results timeline for Victorian local council elections (media advisory, not for publication)	21 October 2020
Final day of voting shows high voter turnout for council elections	23 October 2020
VEC won't risk public health for quick results in record turnout	28 October 2020
A win for democracy in a challenging year	13 November 2020
Didn't vote in the election? Please explain.	8 February 2021

Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories

Appendix 4.1: SMS alerts

4.1.1 close of roll – sent from Wednesday 19 August to Wednesday 26 August 2020



Council elections will be held by post in October. Make sure you are correctly enrolled by 4pm 28 Aug. More info or unsubscribe at: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/tohMhA5I>

4.1.2 mail out of ballot pack Friday 9 October to Friday 13 October 2020



VEC has posted a ballot pack to your enrolled address. Voting in council elections is compulsory. More info or unsubscribe at: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/ufDvSR07>

4.1.3 reminder close of voting - Monday 19 October 2020




Council elections: voting closes 6pm Friday. Post your vote or return it to your election office ASAP. More info or unsubscribe: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/usSUBkIM>

Wellington Shire Council

Appendix 4.2: Email alerts

4.2.1 Close of roll email

VoterAlert


2020 Local council elections

Hello,

Local council elections will be held in Victoria by post this October. It is important that you are correctly enrolled so you receive a ballot pack at your correct address.

Enrolment closes at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

If you haven't changed your postal address, residential address or name, there is no need to do anything.

Are your details up to date?

You can check your details online on the VEC's Check My Enrolment portal. Complete all fields, making sure you:

- enter your first and middle names in the 'Given names' field
- start to enter your suburb and pick it from the list suggested
- start to enter your street name only and pick it from the list suggested.

CHECK MY ENROLMENT

Do you need to update your details?

CHANGE MY DETAILS

Are you eligible to vote in another council?

In a council election, there are two types of enrolment: State enrolment and council enrolment.

You are receiving this message because you are State-enrolled.

But if you own property or pay rates in another council, you may be enrolled or eligible to enrol directly with that council.

Find out more: [Enrolling for council elections](#)

Do I have to vote at these elections?

Voting is compulsory for State-enrolled voters. Don't risk a fine!

If you are on the roll for Melbourne City Council, it is also compulsory for council enrolled voters to vote.




FIND OUT MORE

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

UNSUBSCRIBE






[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Wellington Shire Council

4.2.2 Ballot Pack mailout email

Please do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. For any queries, [contact us](#).

VoterAlert
 Victorian Electoral Commission

2020 local council elections

Hello

You are enrolled to vote in the 2020 local council elections in Council Name.

Voting in this election will be by post. We posted you a ballot pack between Tuesday 6 and Thursday 8 October 2020.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to cast your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible. **Voting closes at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.** But local mail clearance times may be earlier than the cut-off. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

Didn't get a ballot pack?

If you don't get a ballot pack by Friday 16 October, call your local Election Office to request a replacement. You can find [Election Office contact details](#) on our website.

Are you away from your enrolled address?

If you are away from your enrolled address call your local Election Office to request a replacement ballot pack. You can find [Election Office contact details](#) on our website.

Do I have to vote?

Voting is compulsory for everyone on the State and Melbourne City Council voters' rolls. Don't risk a fine!




[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELECTION](#)

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 510 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:
Level 11, 510 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Wellington Shire Council

4.2.3 Last week to vote email

Please do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. For any queries, [contact us](#).

VoterAlert

 Victorian Electoral Commission

2020 local council elections

Disregard this email if you have already voted.

Hello

You are enrolled to vote in the 2020 local council elections in **Council Name** Council.

Voting closes 6 pm this Friday 23 October.

How to vote

As soon as possible, make sure you:

mail your completed ballot paper in the reply-paid envelope provided

OR

drop your completed ballot paper off at [your local Election Office](#).

Please note: voting closes at 6 pm on Friday 23 October. However, local mail clearance times vary and we recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

Didn't get a ballot pack?

If you haven't received a ballot pack, [check our website to understand your options](#).

Do I have to vote?

Voting is compulsory for everyone on the State and Melbourne City Council voters' rolls. Don't risk a fine!

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELECTION](#)

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:

Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)



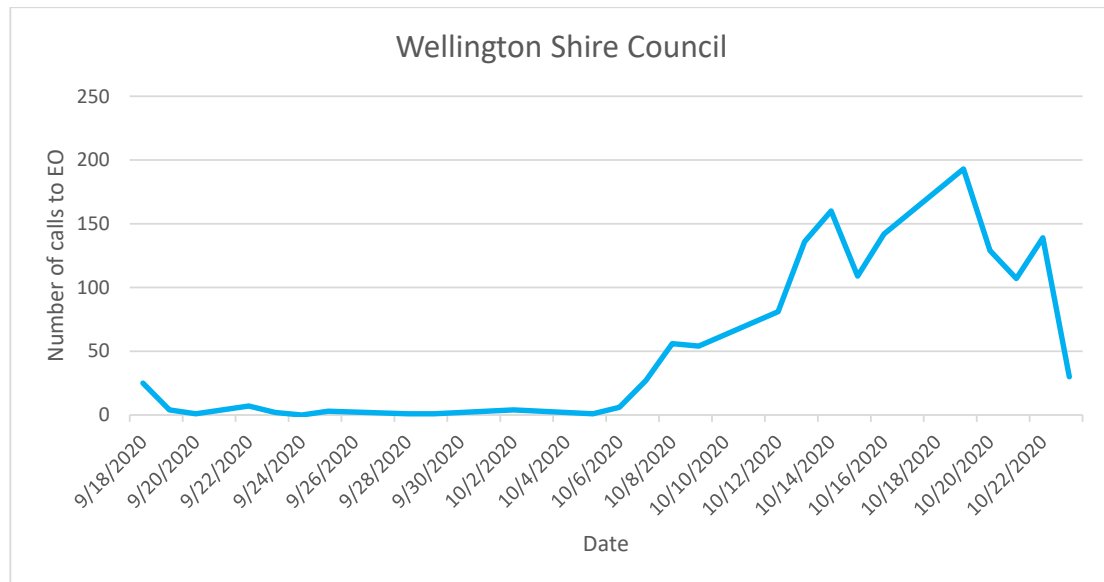
[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Appendix 5: Voter engagement program and initiatives

Program	Program Details
Be Heard Democracy Ambassador program	This program normally provides face-to-face electoral education sessions and was adapted to an online delivery model, providing peer-led electoral education to residents in specialist disability services and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. A total of 47 sessions were provided to people with disabilities and a total of 80 sessions were provided to CALD communities through councils and community organisations hosting online sessions.
Myth busting campaign.	This offline campaign addressed myths around enrolling and voting for those experiencing homelessness or with unstable housing. Four myths were dispelled and displayed on billboards and street posters, in metropolitan Melbourne areas with high populations of people experiencing homelessness. During the enrolment period, no-fixed-address enrolment forms were distributed with 4,500 meals to those suffering financial hardship, through a sponsorship with StreetSmart. This partnership included social media and Electronic Direct Mail distribution to StreetSmart's database of homeless services and community partners. A 1800 freecall number was also established to support those with financial hardship to provide support for enrolling and voting. This phone number was advertised on posters distributed through homelessness agencies, drug and alcohol services and services providing COVID-19 testing in hotels.
CALD in-language social media videos.	This project produced a series of three videos in 10-12 different languages which provided electoral information on how to enrol, how to vote by post, and how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. These were widely distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms and community networks.
Aboriginal short videos.	This project produced five videos in collaboration with Reconciliation Victoria. Two videos featured Aboriginal Elders and other leading Aboriginal community members discussing the value and ways to engage with local council elections. A further three videos, using culturally relevant animation, explained what services councils are responsible for, how to vote and the role of a councillor. These were shared through Aboriginal community channels and organisations.
DemGraphics young people co-designed social media project.	This project involved conducting research to identify barriers to enrolling and voting with a diverse group of young people. This information was then used to pilot a social media campaign in selected councils to encourage engagement in the elections for those aged 18-29.
Easy English tutor guide and worksheets.	These were produced for people with low English proficiency and designed as a co-read product where a person supports the learner through the worksheets. The tutor guide and worksheets were based on the VEC's Easy English guides for local council elections and were available for download from the VEC's website in PDF and Word formats.

Appendix 6: Daily telephone enquiries

The following graph shows the number of telephone calls recorded by the election office telephone enquiry service including those received by the VEC's overflow call centre and tagged as relating to Wellington Shire Council during the 2020 local government elections.



Appendix 7: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

Wellington Shire Council election

The candidates, in ballot paper order, were as follows:

Central Ward election

WOOD, Jill

STRAUSS, David

BOWERS, Akarna

BYE, Ian

McCUBBIN, Darren

ROSSETTI, Scott

MACLEAN, Dirk

GUNNING, Deanna

MANSFIELD, Kathy

Coastal Ward election

KELLY, Alison

MAHER, Gayle

STEPHENS, Garry John

MCKENZIE, Marcus

Northern Ward election

HOLE, Malcolm

CROSSLEY, Carolyn

TATTERSON, John

ILIOPOULOS, Christos

RIPPER, Carmel

Wellington Shire Council

Appendix 7.1: Candidate statements and photographs**Wellington Shire Council election****Central Ward election (see Appendix 7.2.1 for candidate statement leaflet)**

Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
9	9	9

Coastal Ward election (see Appendix 7.2.2 for candidate statement leaflet)

Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
4	4	4

Northern Ward election (see Appendix 7.2.3 for candidate statement leaflet)

Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
5	5	5

Appendix 7.2: Candidate statement leaflets

Appendix 7.2.1: Candidate statement leaflet for Central Ward election

Don't Risk a Fine
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020

Your ballot paper is attached to this leaflet.
Complete and return as soon as possible.
See the ballot paper envelope for voting instructions.


VOTING IN THIS ELECTION IS BY POST ONLY

Your completed ballot material must be posted or in the hands of the Election Manager on or before **6.00 pm on Friday 23 October 2020**.
Local mail clearance times may vary. Ballot material must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Late votes cannot be included in the count.
Alternatively, you may hand-deliver your envelope during business hours to:
118 - 124 Raymond Street
Sale


CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES
Completed candidate questionnaires are available at vec.vic.gov.au or alternatively from the Election Manager.

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY
You have received this ballot pack because you are enrolled for this election. Voting is compulsory if you were on the Victorian State electoral roll for this council on Friday 28 August 2020.
Further information on voting entitlements can be found at vec.vic.gov.au

You may receive an Apparent Failure To Vote Notice if you complete and return your ballot material after the close of voting.




2020 Council Election
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020



Central Ward
THIS IS A POSTAL ELECTION ONLY.
Voting is compulsory for residents.
For further information visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 141 498 during business hours.

VEC Victorian Electoral Commission
Printed on 100% Australian made recycled stock


NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.



WOOD, Jill

My family came to Sale in 1954, where my father was the Curator of Parks and Gardens. Attended 545 Primary School and Sale High School. After leaving school I worked around Australia on cattle Stations and horse studs. Joined Victoria Police and had 37 years in Community Policing, Training, Crime Prevention, Criminal Investigation and more. Taking early retirement in 2009 I returned home to Sale. I worked with the Salvation Army in youth homelessness, Aged Care and training people with disabilities. Taught English and Food Handling at Fulham Prison. Currently I am working as a Compliance Officer for the Anglican Church in the Gippsland Diocese. As I live and work in the Central Ward in Sale, I am aware of issues in and around the town such as community safety and better lighting. I was in Charge of State Wide Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention for a number of years and I know what can be achieved working with the local community. I intend to work hard to be your voice in Council. I have the passion and commitment to be a dedicated influencer. I intend to make sure that every dollar of your Council rates are spent wisely and improve the amenity of all residents. I believe that every person deserves to feel safe in their community and be given the right to be heard whatever their circumstances.


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STRAUSS, David

Serving and Promoting our Community. Bringing experience, commitment, integrity and caring I will represent you on Council. I promote and support listening to the community, being accessible to you and ensuring balanced and sensible decisions are made by Council that will benefit our community. I have 15 years of experience as a Councillor where I have represented views of residents, sporting clubs and local businesses supporting community issues. I have held leadership roles in the local community including past President of the Rotary Club of Sale and past President of Sale City Football and Netball Club. My wife Rachel and I live in Sale. We have two adult children and 3 grandchildren. I served for over 30 years in the Air Force and am currently employed at the Heliport as a Safety Manager. Throughout my life I have tried to have a positive influence on those I work with and believe that working together there is so much that can be achieved. I appreciate the diversity and skills that we have within our community.

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BOWERS, Akarna

As a young woman who grew up in Sale in a low-income single-parent household, I am proud to be a candidate for Central ward in the Wellington Shire Council election. I care about the Wellington Shire and love living here. Our area has so much potential, and I will work hard to ensure everyone thrives. I will show the leadership we need to bring our community into the future and address climate change. Farmers hold the key to climate change mitigation and Council should offer additional municipal rates discounts to farmers engaged in regenerative agriculture. As a former member of the Wellington Shire Youth Council, I understand how councils work and will bring a fresh perspective on issues that are affecting our community. I want to help in the long-term fight against financial inequality and ensure nobody is left behind. I stand with the Greens because the four pillars of the Greens environmental sustainability, grassroots democracy, peace and non-violence and social and economic justice all resonate with me, my values and my lived experience. If elected, my key focus areas will be: 1) Action on climate change and protecting our biodiversity. 2) Supporting the socioeconomically disadvantaged in our community. 3) Creating a Reconciliation Action Plan for the Wellington Shire. It would be my pleasure to stand up for Sale as your local Councillor. Please contact me at akarna.bowers@vic.greens.org.au. Vote [1] Akarna Bowers to help shape a new and exciting future for the Wellington Shire.

1

2

3

Wellington Shire Council

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**BYE, Ian**

Having lived in Sale my entire life, creating new jobs and putting locals first is my passion. Our Shire has some exciting construction projects planned for our region. However projects that are constructed in the Shire need to employ more locals so money can be reinvested into our area. With 31 years experience as an Accountant dealing with local business, I know firsthand how important small business is to our community. Married for 20 years, Rachael and I have two beautiful girls aged 17 and 15. Wellington Shire is a great place to live and raise children and I want to ensure an even brighter future for generations to come. I strongly support improved sports facilities and never lose sight of keeping community sport affordable, accessible and inclusive. Our Shire has a diverse landscape, from the beautiful surroundings of the high country, through to the lakes and ocean beaches. I will work to create more opportunities in growing tourism and getting more people from outside our area to come and visit our hidden treasures. I recognise the work of volunteers and the need to support them as they are vital to maintaining our community spirit. I continue to be involved in many organisations and sporting clubs and am always prepared to give back to the community that has given so much to me for many years. It has been my privilege to be an active councillor over the past 4 years, and if re-elected, I will use my experience to help our shire grow and prosper.

4

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**McCUBBIN, Darren**

Our recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic will be the biggest challenge of the new Council. We need an experienced, forward thinking Wellington Shire team to safely boost business, support our front line workers, provide assistance to our people and build back our communities. As your Central Ward Councillor, it has been a privilege to have your support to build the Wellington Centre with a new library, Art Gallery and top line community facilities, installed pathways to Longford, Wurruk and the Glebe Woodlands estates, redeveloped the Sale Botanical Gardens, built the Gippsland livestock exchange, looked in the TAFE relocation to the Port of Sale precinct and advocated successfully for the RAAF Base expansion. We have also provided drought assistance for farmers and effective emergency management during the recent bushfire season all while releasing a zero-rate increase policy. But there is more to be done. We are committed to developing the Aqua Energy Pool and progress community facilities at the Port of Sale including improvements to boating infrastructure and the WEDGE. Maintain our iconic Swing Bridge and provide better pedestrian connections through Longford, Wurruk and Sale. I will advocate for a combined Sale College Campus on a new site. I support the development of a Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone that builds our energy future and jobs through offshore wind, solar farms and a clean, sustainable future. We need to lead reconciliation with our First Nations people and provide assistance to our youth through support for mental health, community facilities and vibrant local events. I am committed to listen and act on your concerns as your loud voice in Council. I manage a small business and live in Longford with my wife and two teenage daughters.

5

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**ROSSETTI, Scott**

Born and raised in Wellington Shire, my interests have always been in helping to develop the prosperity and welfare of the Shire. I have gained valuable experience through my involvement with a number of different boards and committees, including school and TAFE boards, bowls clubs, the committee for Wellington and Rotary. Additionally, with my three terms as Mayor, and twice Chair of the Gippsland Local Government Network, I have acquired a great depth of knowledge enabling me to better serve the people of Wellington as we all strive towards making our community the best it can possibly be. I have learned so much from the people I have worked with in local government but my greatest experience has come from my engagement with our wonderful local community. The simple act of listening carefully to constituents concerns and ambitions has empowered me to consistently bring sensible thinking with real outcomes to council. I am lucky enough to have a really diverse professional and tertiary education while keeping up my trade qualification as an Electrician. This keeps me grounded (no pun intended) but also helps me to understand the complexities of Wellington Shire. My experience in running a successful business, provides me with a track record that underpins my eligibility to become a useful and valuable Central Ward Councillor. My Leadership in achieving a 0% rate rise against opposition from several other Councillors is evidence of the value I believe I can add. I will always put the Wellington community first through listening, hard work and passion for positive outcomes and I hope to be able to continue this work if elected. If you give me this opportunity I promise I will not let you down.

6

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**MACLEAN, Dirk**

Dirk Maclean is a specialist trainer in decision making for emergency and defence personnel. He served in the Air Force as an Intelligence Officer and is the author of 'Shoot, Don't Shoot', a book published by the RAAF's Air Power Development Centre. Dirk has also been a full time firefighter with DELWP and before that CFA. His training is in use by the RAAF, Emergency Management Victoria, and other agencies. Dirk first came to the area in 2012 to complete Officer Training at the RAAF base in East Sale. He returned in 2017 to be close to his oldest son, at the time a member of the rapel firefighting crew based in Heyfield. Dirk himself has been taken part in firefighting operations at recent major fires near Rosedale, Licola, and in the Alpine country. In addition to his expertise in emergency management, Dirk has also worked with Dairy Australia to develop their crisis response plan, and is familiar with many of the challenges faced by dairy farmers today. His desire to become a councillor is motivated by Team Welly's vision for Wellington as a 'producers' hub', grounded in its connection to the rich and fertile land here. Dirk has studied nutrition and has a strong belief in the importance of beef and dairy to the human diet, and in the all-round benefits of regenerative forms of agriculture. He hopes to promote these actively from his position as a Council member, and also to assist with the drawing up of the next Municipal Emergency Management Plan in a way that promotes self-reliance, the defence of properties, and the emergency volunteer system. Dirk has a Masters of Business Management (MBA) from La Trobe University, and a Doctorate (PhD) in philosophy. He is a keen member of the Maffra Association of Philosophy.

7

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**GUNNING, Deanna**

I proudly announce my candidacy for the Wellington Shire Central Ward Council Elections. I believe that together we can make the Wellington Shire become one of Gippsland's most attractive places to live, work, study, and invest by cutting unnecessary red and green tape, increasing productivity, and reducing constraints on development. I moved to the area with my RAAF husband Graham, and our three children in 1994, shortly afterwards making Longford our permanent home. I've passionately served our community, including twelve years in Wellington Shire's Library Service, and writing local history book Glimpses of Longford, so our rich history would not be lost. My vision includes working to build connected communities, by advocating to help local community networks and individuals thrive, so this can become a place where everyone finds purpose and belonging. I'm also mindful of our aging population, with nearly 60% of residents aged over 55, so I'd like to see improved road safety around York Street and CBD, by exploring construction of a mobility scooter track to provide greater safety and freedom of movement for all. I'd like opportunity to advocate for homelessness and mental health by exploring more low cost housing, and using existing council owned buildings. When elected, I'll advocate council for certainty for the future of the people in our Shire, I'll develop and increase job and study opportunities, re-visiting the TAFE relocation commitment, and supporting and growing our State timber industry. My husband and I also serve as Pastors of Kingsway (for 23+ years), providing various community services including - foodbank, mothers group, and parenting, budgeting, and marriage classes. I totally believe in pursuing truth to make informed decisions, and have learned to listen well. Let's keep working together for a better quality of life for all, making a difference, together.

Vote 1 - Deanna Gunning.

8

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**MANSFIELD, Kathy**

I strongly support and will seek innovative ways to energise Wellington Shire businesses after COVID lockdowns. I will promote the growing of Councils local purchasing of goods and services where possible, thus stimulating and development of local jobs. I will work within Council to grow Community respect and care for others in Wellington, especially focusing on prevention of family violence and effective support for victims. I will highlight the need to foster better quality residential aged care & empower users of community-based home care, including their social engagement needs and access to safe public spaces and services. I support more inclusiveness for women and minority groups in decision making bodies, Governance Boards and Committees within Wellington Shire, along with growing Council connections to our minority communities, e.g. First Nations people, multicultural communities, the aged community, LGBTIQ community and our young people, in order that they are better heard, and valued, within Wellington Shire. I am a Member of the Wellington Gender Equity & Violence Prevention Partnership, Committee Member of Wurruk Community House, Treasurer of the Friends of The Gippsland Gallery Inc and a member of the Central Gippsland Health LGBTIQ Community reference group. My extensive business experience includes retail and wholesale management in private enterprise in Sale, many years with the RAAF at East Sale as a Business and Contracts advisor. I hold Post Graduate qualifications in Public Sector Management. My independence from Party politics make me a sound candidate. I seek to influence Councils decision making to ensure fair, equitable and forward-looking decisions that recognise climate science and enhance lifestyle and growth. Implementing and developing policies that incorporate professional medical & scientific advice as we rebuild our Wellington regional lifestyle towards an environmentally sustainable and COVID free future. To achieve these objectives your vote is vital to me.

9

Appendix 7.2.2: Candidate statement leaflet for Coastal Ward election

Don't Risk a Fine
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020

Your ballot paper is attached to this leaflet.
Complete and return as soon as possible.
 See the ballot paper envelope for voting instructions.


VOTING IN THIS ELECTION IS BY POST ONLY

Your completed ballot material must be posted or in the hands of the Election Manager on or before **6.00 pm on Friday 23 October 2020**. Local mail clearance times may vary. Ballot material must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Late votes cannot be included in the count. Alternatively, you may hand-deliver your envelope during business hours to:
 118 - 124 Raymond Street
 Sale


CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES
 Completed candidate questionnaires are available at vec.vic.gov.au or alternatively from the Election Manager.

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY
 You have received this ballot pack because you are enrolled for this election. Voting is compulsory if you were on the Victorian State electoral roll for this council on Friday 28 August 2020.
 Further information on voting entitlements can be found at vec.vic.gov.au


You may receive an Apparent Failure To Vote Notice if you complete and return your ballot material after the close of voting.



2020 Council Election
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020




Coastal Ward
THIS IS A POSTAL ELECTION ONLY.
Voting is compulsory for residents.
 For further information visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 141 498



Printed on 100% Australian made recycled stock

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KELLY, Alison

I have been a business owner in Yarram and have been a home owner in Port Albert for over 12 years. I will be treating this position as representing the whole of the Coastal areas from Loch Sport to Port Albert. I will be visiting and communicating with representatives from all of these communities on a regular basis and working with the people on solutions to the issues of their respective area. The issues I am aware of are planning, zoning, accommodation, rubbish and drainage as we are experiencing intense growth in these communities that require serious attention. I am approachable and have an open door policy to constituents and will be putting my best foot forward for these communities.

1

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MAHER, Gayle

Community is my passion and helping people make a difference where they live is my goal. My aim is to be a reasonable voice around the table, advocating for community. As an incumbent of the Coastal ward, I firmly believe I have achieved this. Ensuring that our coastal communities remain viable into the future is important. Supporting the Port Albert - Alberton Tarra Trail extension, Yarram mural project, boat ramp upgrades, local street and footpath constructions ensure coastal Gippsland is a great place to live. There is still so much more to do! The proposed C99 Planning Amendment flood overlays will dictate how our coastal communities look in the future. I am confident to advocate strongly on this, using past experience gained from the C33 Planning Scheme Amendment that ensured Port Albert's viability today. My law clerk/conveyancing background stands me in good stead, as has operating a successful retail and cabinet making business. I am a committed community member serving on various committees in the region and strongly advocate living where you live. Small communities are the lifeblood of Wellington Shire and they need to be represented with honesty, commitment and much hard work, particularly in light of a post-COVID recovery. My family has lived happily in Port Albert for the last 15 years and has served our local community over this time. I stand for what is right and I stand with local community. Allow me to continue to be your voice.

2

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STEPHENS, Garry John

Garry Stephens of Yarram has had the privilege to represent the voters of the Coastal Ward for the last four years. Garry is proud of the work that he has done for local residents. He has received over 400 requests for assistance and has had excellent results in getting a positive outcome for local people. Garry advocated for the heating of the Yarram pool and is very pleased that funding has been received for the project. Garry has also strongly supported the development of the Tarra trail stage 2 between Alberton and Port Albert. This project is just about completed. Garry has advocated for the completion of the Great Southern Rail Trail between Alberton and Welshpool and this will be an important project going forward. Several special charge schemes have been completed or are about to start in the Coastal Ward. The current council policy to support such schemes make them attractive for residents. Garry has also supported projects for both the Gormandale Recreation Reserve and the Woodside Recreation Reserve. The lights have been installed at Gormandale and the funding is now available for the building extension at Woodside. Garry has advocated for work on the main car park at Golden Beach and for footpath works in the same area. Garry is aware of erosion issues at Loch Sport and the need for the State Government to take action on this matter. Whilst on Council Garry has continued to serve the community on various groups. He believes that his record of service shows his strong commitment to the community. Garry would welcome your vote at the 2020 Council election. He looks forward to an opportunity to continue representing you on Council if you choose to re-elect him to Council.

3

Wellington Shire Council

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MCKENZIE, Marcus

Marcus has held senior management positions in the food-processing industry in both Sydney and Melbourne. He has also operated his own business consultancy in the Philippines for several years, where he assisted Australian corporations seeking to set up. Marcus was responsible for liaising with the relevant national government departments, and local government officials, to ensure the successful establishment of his clients' enterprises. Marcus and his wife Cherie now operate Gowrie Guest House and Interiors by Jade Gift Shop in Port Albert. Since being attracted to the area, Marcus has become a passionate advocate. As a member of Rotary, he has been instrumental in assisting with the good work of that organisation. Marcus is also involved as a valued mentor in the Small Business Mentoring Service. Marcus makes regular visits to Loch Sport to fish, and to travel by boat to Paynesville. He is also a regular visitor to Seaspray where he enjoys swimming and picnicking at the beach and the lagoon. His in-laws live in Golden Beach, where the family has holidayed for many years. Marcus will be a competent and strong voice for Wellington and its community. He is keen to have the Heesco Art Trail complemented by the completion of the art project on the Port Albert and Yarram Water Towers and by linking it to the Art Trail. Marcus would also like to: fast-track Shire infrastructure programs; improve governance; introduce more leisure and wellness programs; advocate for more affordable housing; facilitate local agricultural and seafood production; encourage a 'buy-local produce' culture; develop producer hubs to increase local job opportunities; and reduce electricity and gas bills - for all Wellington residents - by making Council a utilities broker. To achieve the above goals and more, Marcus has joined Team Welly 2020 a like-minded candidate group.

4

Appendix 7.2.3: Candidate statement leaflet for Northern Ward election

Don't Risk a Fine
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Friday 23 October 2020

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2020 Council Election
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020




Northern Ward

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For further information visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 141 498

VEC Victorian Electoral Commission
Printed on 100% Australian made recycled stock

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HOLE, Malcolm

I am a widower with 15 grandchildren. First elected to Council in March 2000. I have been Mayor twice, inaugural national President National Timber Councils. I am Gippsland representative on Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) Board, also currently deputy chair MAV Emergency Management Committee. Projects that have been delivered include the WEDGE, new Art Gallery and Library, Regional Livestock Centre upgrade, Cameron Complex upgrade, female changing facilities at most sporting venues, replacement of almost 100 old wooden bridges, upgrade of public toilets playgrounds and parks. And I have always been accessible to all ratepayers by phone, email, or private conversation, and that will continue. I am council delegate to Maffra Cameron Complex, Heyfield Gordon St and Newry Recreation Reserve committees. If re-elected for this new term, I wish to deliver an all ability water park, skate park upgrades where needed, review footpath needs, keep Wellington modern to protect your investment, your jobs and businesses, maintain the quality of our sporting venues for our youth, assist communities to strengthen or grow festivals, markets, or other events to promote their region. I will continue to be compassionate to your needs within legal boundaries. I will also fight for the Native Timber Industry and its workers, will encourage new industry to invest in Wellington Shire. I was a successful business owner in Heyfield for 32 years and will continue to use that experience for our benefit. I am not affiliated with any political party, being totally independent. Also, I live in the Riding. So please vote for those who live in the Riding. Please follow my How to Vote card.

1

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CROSSLEY, Carolyn

Vote 1 for Carolyn Crossley for the Northern Ward. I believe our community should empower its people, optimises its resources, and protect the natural environment through sustainable development. I have a vision of a community that recognises and celebrates its recent history whilst also reconciling with its Traditional Owners. After running a business and living in Cowwarr in the Northern Ward for 27 years and having friends and family in the agricultural sector, I know the joys and challenges faced by rural communities. Since 2012 it has been my great privilege to serve you on council and to have the honour of three years as Mayor. I have always been a voice for the smaller townships and rural communities. I have proven my experience and ability to work effectively with my community, council colleagues, government agencies and political representatives, leading to positive community outcomes. There have been huge investments in community facilities, Main Street renewals and playground upgrades within the Northern Ward. The \$8.9M Cameron Sporting Complex redevelopment is a standout. It will take a trusted council and councillors with established relationships to deliver the support required from both the State and Federal Governments if we are to meet the challenges before us. The community has been severely impacted by the prolonged drought the devastating bushfires and now the COVID-19 Pandemic is affecting everyone. That is why I strongly advocated for an 0% overall rate increase in this years budget. A number of business and social supports specific to Covid-19s impacts have been implemented but more needs to be done. I will work with our community towards a brighter future. I have the energy, expertise, and drive to serve, I call for your vote for the Northern Ward.

2

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TATTERSON, John

As a local I was born and grew up on a dairy farm in Kilmany. My early farm life followed by the family business, Stratford newsagent has given me an appreciation of the challenges of our farmers and businesses within our towns. I am married to Sue and we have two adult children Jessica and Jack who live locally with their partners and children. I am keen to represent the local community and will ensure Council plan for a prosperous future for my children and grandchildren. I have had a strong community connection through a lifelong involvement in local community, sport and as Council Manager Built Environment. I appreciate the importance of sport in the community and Councils role to provide facilities that allow our sports to prosper. Our clubs are essential to the ongoing community activity and I will advocate for the Shire to support clubs and associations to ensure facilities are inclusive, affordable, fun and encouraged for all residents young and old. I will work with Council to ensure clubs, community sports, libraries, parks and pools are there for my grandchildren. Council need to play a key role in planning and attracting funding for future facility development. We don't want to see community facilities disappear. As manager I lead planning for CBD upgrades in Rosedale, Stratford, Heyfield and Maffra that resulted in a great sense of community pride for each township. I will advocate for continued investment in infrastructure including roads, town entries, parks and footpaths. We definitely need to improve paths to give our community every opportunity to get active. I will advocate for local purchasing in contracts and operations. Council needs to spend with local business and contractors were possible to ensure future jobs for locals. I am very approachable and happy to be contacted.

3

Wellington Shire Council

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ILIOPOULOS, Christos

Christos is the designer and founder of Freedom Housing: an innovative model of housing for the care of persons with disabilities, and for aged-care. It was inspired by his late wife Pamela, who suffered from multiple sclerosis. Freedom Housing received the Australian Human Rights Commission Business Award. Christos came to Wellington from Williamstown to supervise the prototype Freedom Housing development in Sale. Rural life resonates with his love of nature. Christos founded Maffra Association of Philosophy; ShowProphet: a social enterprise for producing artistic works without funding; and the Maffra Responsible Dog Owners Group. He is currently launching Pentagon Agricultural League (PAL), a mini-cooperative - made possible by a GPHN grant - and designed to enable farmers to benefit socially and monetarily. Christos was a rural financial counsellor with Rural Financial Counselling Service, and a case manager with La Trobe Community Health Service. In his earlier career, Christos managed passenger and freight transport companies. He was Portfolio Councillor for Economic Development and Education, on the inaugural Moreland City Council, and served as Bail Justice. He has teamed up with a group of like-minded candidates - Team Welly 2020 - and looks forward to taking stock of Wellington's vast natural resources; it's talented people; their insights; their ideas; their aspirations; their innovative thinking; and employing all of these creatively and responsibly, to deliver the very best quality of life possible for everyone living in this beautiful and inspiring region of Australia. Christos is a philosopher, and an award-winning educator. He taught in state secondary colleges; grammar schools; at TAFE, and La Trobe University. He has - for many years - been self-employed as a business consultant, and as a philosophical counsellor. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from La Trobe University, and a Graduate Diploma in Education from the University of Melbourne.

4

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RIPPER, Carmel

I am retired and live in Stratford. I came onto Council via a count back, in November 2017, after a Councillor resigned. Since that day I have had to play catch up, however I have taken on the Councillor position with gusto. I concentrate on Local Government issues, but am aware of State and Federal Politics, as these decisions do affect us. Voting in the Chamber must always consider, what fits with the community. I have seen in my three years a large amount of infrastructure completed or under completion. For example in Stratford, upgraded Tennis Courts, Street scape upgrade to Tyres St, Mary Treasure Reserve playground, upgrade to Stratford Recreation Reserve change rooms. Upgrade to Briagolong Recreation Reserve Pavilion. Upgrade and expansion, to Cameron Sporting complex, Street scape upgrade in Maffra. I am keen to continue on Council in order to lobby for a brighter future for Wellington Shire, especially the North Ward, taking into account COVID19 issues. Continue to have input into our Budget which effects, roads, rates and rubbish, jobs for locals, especially our youth, lobby for any shortfalls in services. Finding, the right mix for all our community, no matter what age group. I would like you to vote for me because, I come with fresh ideas, using a common sense approach, I show enthusiasm, along with being generous of my time, and always happy to speak face to face with the community on Council matters. I am involved with local community clubs and organizations. Volunteer, at Op Shop, Legatee, RSL, Stratford Football Netball Club, Historical Society, and Maffra Gippsland Vehicle Collection. I also spent time talking with businesses and the general community whilst shopping locally on a daily basis. Always happy to have a chat, phone 0460 971 558.

5

Appendix 8: Daily breakdown of the general mail-out

Wellington Shire Council election

6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
13,674	13,674	12,870	40,218

Central Ward election

6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
4,770	4,770	4,489	14,029

Coastal Ward election

6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
4,149	4,149	3,906	12,204

Northern Ward election

6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
4,755	4,755	4,475	13,985

Appendix 9: Result information

Wellington Shire Council election

Central Ward Count summary		
Enrolment:	14,030	
Formal votes:	10,912	
Informal votes:	377 (3.34% of the total votes)	
Voter turnout:	11,289 (80.46% of the total enrolment)	
Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
WOOD, Jill	1,468	13.45%
STRAUSS, David	1,066	9.77%
BOWERS, Akarna	737	6.75%
BYE, Ian	2,348	21.52%
McCUBBIN, Darren	1,581	14.49%
ROSSETTI, Scott	2,217	20.32%
MACLEAN, Dirk	619	5.67%
GUNNING, Deanna	396	3.63%
MANSFIELD, Kathy	480	4.40%
Successful candidates		
BYE, Ian (1st elected candidate)		
ROSSETTI, Scott (2nd elected candidate)		
WOOD, Jill (3rd elected candidate)		

Wellington Shire Council

Coastal Ward Count summary**Enrolment:** 12,204**Formal votes:** 8,396**Informal votes:** 241 (2.79% of the total votes)**Voter turnout:** 8,637 (70.77% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
KELLY, Alison	1,227	14.61%
MAHER, Gayle	1,773	21.12%
STEPHENS, Garry John	3,530	42.04%
MCKENZIE, Marcus	1,866	22.22%

Successful candidates

STEPHENS, Garry John (1st elected candidate)

MAHER, Gayle (2nd elected candidate)

MCKENZIE, Marcus (3rd elected candidate)

Northern Ward Count summary**Enrolment:** 13,986**Formal votes:** 11,298**Informal votes:** 292 (2.52% of the total votes)**Voter turnout:** 11,590 (82.87% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
HOLE, Malcolm	3,764	33.32%
CROSSLEY, Carolyn	1,700	15.05%
TATTERSON, John	3,199	28.31%
ILIOPOULOS, Christos	1,215	10.75%
RIPPER, Carmel	1,420	12.57%

Successful candidates

HOLE, Malcolm (1st elected candidate)

TATTERSON, John (2nd elected candidate)

CROSSLEY, Carolyn (3rd elected candidate)

Appendix 10: Election participation statistics

Note: Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of total enrolment and can vary from turnout (total ballot papers counted as a percentage of total enrolment).

Wellington Shire Council election

Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election	Comparator for 2016 Wellington Shire Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	85.74%	80.97%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	84.40%	80.55%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	90.97%	82.91%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	58.67%	52.39%	60.96%
Council total	80.76%	73.13%	84.12%

Central Ward election

Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	84.97%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	83.52%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	91.06%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	44.02%	60.96%
Ward total	82.92%	84.12%

Wellington Shire Council

Coastal Ward election

Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	85.93%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	84.95%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	88.80%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	58.95%	60.96%
Ward total	73.18%	84.12%

Northern Ward election

Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	86.44%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	85.04%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	92.29%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	67.95%	60.96%
Ward total	85.20%	84.12%

Appendix 11: Complaints

Written complaints received by the VEC

Date	Nature of the complaint	Action taken by the VEC
21 September 2020	Clarification of Process, Procedure or Legislation - Enrolment (Entitlements)	Action taken and responded
21 September 2020	Clarification of Process, Procedure or Legislation - Enrolment (Entitlements)	Action taken and responded
8 October 2020	Clarification of Process, Procedure or Legislation - Voting (Ballot Papers)	Action taken and responded
14 October 2020	Criticism - Voting (Lack of information)	Response provided
16 October 2020	General Question - Voting (Electoral Boundaries)	Response provided
5 November 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Candidates and Parties (Candidates)	Escalated for investigation and action

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13. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

13.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

OBJECTIVE

To report on all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 28 June 2021 to 11 July 2021.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 28 June 2021 to 11 July 2021.

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, under Council's good governance framework, Council will continue to provide records of assemblies of Councillors to ensure that the community is kept informed of Councillors' activity and participation.

Following is a summary of all Assembly of Councillor records received for the period 28 June 2021 to 11 July 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assembly of Councillors - 1 July 2021 - WLWDCC [13.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Assembly of Councillors - 5 July 2021 - Archibald Prize 2021 Project Steering Group [13.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Assembly of Councillors - 6 July 2021 - Council Day [13.1.3 - 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 28 June 2021 to 11 July 2021.

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

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 as part of Council's good governance framework.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

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

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 6 Organisational states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 6.3: *"Maintain a well governed, transparent, high performing, ethical and accountable organisation."*

Strategy 6.3.3: *"Ensure sound governance processes that result in responsive, ethical, transparent and accountable decision making."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

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 – 1 JULY 2021

MEETING	COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)					
WELLINGTON LIVING WELL DURING COVID-19 COMMITTEE	Councillor Name	Attendance	Conflict of Interest	Officer Name	Attendance	Item No.
	Cr Ian Bye	No		D Morcom, CEO	No	
	Cr Carolyn Crossley	Yes		A Skipitaris, GMCS	No	
	Cr John Tatterson	No		S Houlihan, GMC&C	Yes	
	Cr Ripper	No		C Hastie, GMB&NE	No	
	Cr McKenzie	No		B McAlister, GMD	Yes	
	Cr Gayle Maher	No				
	Cr Jill Wood	No				
	Cr Scott Rossetti	No				
	Cr Garry Stephens	No				
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)			MATTERS/ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING			
Karen McLennan, MEP			Received reports from Social and Economic Subgroups			
Julie Baker, admin			Update on State response from DFFH			
Erin Lord, RDV			Update from RDV on economic recovery			
Sara ?, DFFH			Update from DET			
Alison Clark, DET						
Geoff Hay, WSC						

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – 5 JULY 2021

MEETING	COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)					
Archibald Prize 2021 Project Steering Group	Councillor Name	Attendance	Conflict of Interest	Officer Name	Attendance	Item No.
	Cr Ian Bye	No		D Morcom, CEO	No	
	Cr Carolyn Crossley	Yes		A Skipitaris, GMCS	Yes	
	Cr John Tatterson	No		S Houlihan, GMC&C	Yes	
	Cr Garry Stephens	No		C Hastie, GMB&NE	No	
	Cr Marcus McKenzie	No		B McAlister, GMD	Yes	
	Cr Gayle Maher	No				
	Cr Jill Wood	No				
	Cr Scott Rossetti	No				
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)			MATTERS/ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING			
Andrew Thomson, AMAC			Discussion on transport funding received			
Simon Gregg, GAG			Received Project Manager's report			
Mel Caple, Project Manager			Discussion on actions required including contacting all hospitality businesses in Sale to gauge interest			
Julie Baker, Minutes			Marketing options discussed			
Brian Castles, Community Rep			Staff modelling for event to be finalised			

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – 6 JULY 2021

MEETING	COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (NAME AND POSITION)				CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST OR ACTION ITEMS
	Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance	
IT / Diary Meeting	Cr Bye	Yes	Cr Stephens	Yes	N/A
	Cr Crossley	Yes	Cr Tatterson	Yes	N/A
	Cr McKenzie	Yes	Cr Wood	Yes	N/A
	Cr Maher	Yes	David Morcom, CEO <i>(on leave)</i>	No	N/A
	Cr Ripper	Yes	Leah Carubia, EA CEO	Yes	N/A
	Cr Rossetti	Yes	Damian Norkus, ICT Operations Officer	Yes	N/A

MEETING	COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE				CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST OR ACTION ITEMS
	Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance	
Workshops	Cr Bye	Yes	Cr Tatterson	Yes	N/A
	Cr Crossley	Yes	Cr Wood	Yes	N/A
	Cr McKenzie	Yes	David Morcom, CEO <i>(on leave)</i>	No	N/A
	Cr Maher	Yes	Arthur Skipitaris, GM Corporate Services (Acting CEO)	Yes	N/A
	Cr Ripper	Yes	Sharon Houlihan, GM Community & Culture	Yes	N/A
	Cr Rossetti	Yes	Chris Hastie, GM Built & Natural Environment	Yes	N/A
	Cr Stephens	Yes	Brent McAlister, GM Development	Yes	N/A

Workshops (cont.)	MATTERS/ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING	OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE
	BRIEF UPDATES (a) COUNCIL PLAN CONSULTATION UPDATE (b) SPORTING LEGENDS APPLICATION CHANGE	(a) Brent McAlister, General Manager Development Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services Bodye Darvill, Coordinator Council Plan Engagement (b) Sharon Houlihan, General Manager Community and Culture <i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i>
	1. COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharon Houlihan, General Manager Community and Culture <i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i>
	2. MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2021 - 2025 - PART 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catherine Vassiliou, Coordinator Social Planning and Policy <i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i>
	3. SUSTAINABILITY AND REBATE FOR CONSERVATION POLICY REVISIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joanna Rule, Sustainability Projects Officer Tim Rowe, Manager Natural Environment and Parks <i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i>
	4. CARBONNET PROJECT UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Harding - Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager, CarbonNet (external presenter) Jane Burton - Executive Director, Earth Resources Policy and Programs (external presenter) Geoff Hay, Acting Manager Economic Development <i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i>
	5. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THE REVIEWED MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services/Acting CEO <i>Conflict of Interest: Nil</i>

13.2. CONSIDERATION OF THE REVIEWED MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES FOR ADOPTION

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

For Council to formally adopt the reviewed Mayoral and Councillor allowances; Councillors - \$26,245 and the Mayor - \$81,204, until the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal make its first determination and resolve to forward a copy of the submission received to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Formally adopt the reviewed Mayoral and Councillor allowances;***
 - Councillors - \$26,245***
 - Mayor - \$81,204******until the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal make its first determination; and***
- 2. Resolve to forward a copy of the submission received, to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.***

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* transfers responsibilities in determining Mayoral, Deputy Mayoral and Councillor allowances to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Remuneration Tribunal).

However, until the Remuneration Tribunal makes its first determination on allowances, the allowance framework under the *Local Government Act 1989* continues to apply. Section 39(6) of the 2020 Act provides for this transitional arrangement.

Under section 74(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Councils must review and determine the level of Mayoral and Councillor allowances within six months of a general election or by 30 June, whichever is later. The review must also include public consultations and the opportunity for submissions in accordance with section 223 of the 1989 Act.

Mayors and Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as an elected official. Under the current framework the Victorian Government sets the upper and lower levels for allowances paid to Councillors. Allowance levels are subject to annual automatic adjustments that are announced in the Victoria Government Gazette by the Minister for Local Government.

The Wellington Shire Council is deemed as a Category 2 Council, along with another 28 Victorian Councils and pays the following per annum:

- Councillors - \$26,245

- Mayor - \$81,204

Further information regarding Councillor Remuneration can be found at the “Know Your Council Website” via the following link - [Councillor remuneration - Know Your Council](#).

Individuals and organisations had an opportunity to make submissions in response to the review of the Mayoral and Councillor allowances. The submission period opened on 1 June and closed at 5:00pm on 29 June with one submission received. This submission was considered at the Council meeting on Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 3:00pm with no further submissions or comments received during the meeting.

The submission recommended that Mayors and Councillors be remunerated at a higher range than already determined by the Minister for Local Government. At this stage, Council cannot act any further in adjusting allowances, until such time that the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal make its first determination. Council will forward a copy of the submission to the Remuneration Tribunal

ATTACHMENTS

1. Public submissions received with recommendation [**13.2.1** - 1 page]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Formally adopt the reviewed Mayoral and Councillor allowances until the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal make its first determination and resolve to forward a copy of the submission received to the Remuneration Tribunal; or
2. Not formally adopt the reviewed Mayoral and Councillor allowances until the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal make its first determination, not resolve to forward a copy of the submission received to the Remuneration Tribunal and seek further information to present to Council for consideration at a later Council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council formally adopt the reviewed Mayoral and Councillor allowances; Councillors - \$26,245 and the Mayor - \$81,204, until the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal make its first determination and resolve to forward a copy of the submission received to the Remuneration Tribunal

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Provision for the proposed Mayoral and Councillor allowances is included in Council's annual budget.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

Any individuals or organisations that made a submission in response to the review of the Mayoral and Councillor allowances had an opportunity to present to Council on Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 3:00pm. One submission was received and no further comments or submissions were received during the Council meeting.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Section 74(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires Council to review and determine the level of Councillor and Mayoral allowances within a period of six months after a general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is the later. The review must also include public consultations and the opportunity for submissions in accordance with section 223 of the 1989 Act which requires Council to provide a 28-day submission period.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

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

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 6 Organisational states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 6.3: *"Maintain a well governed, transparent, high performing, ethical and accountable organisation."*

Strategy 6.3.3: *"Ensure sound governance processes that result in responsive, ethical, transparent and accountable decision making."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

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.

REVIEW OF MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES: PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

NO.	CORRESPONDENT	SUBMISSION	OFFICER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED ACTION
1.	Anthony Goode	<p>I would like to see Councillor allowances raised substantially, in the order of 100 to 200%. My rationale is that currently the small remuneration effectively reduces the pool of potential representatives to self-funded retirees. For all other cohorts it is not near enough to act as a reasonable wage that could adequately supplement any other income. Given the role of councillors is very time consuming, combined with the small wage, this effectively makes it impossible for young people, parents, working singles and couples, etc to put their hand up for a Councillor role. Hence, it becomes impossible to get a diverse representation of views and opinions on Council.</p>	<p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Council is already paying at the top of the range, there is currently nothing further that Council can do in relation to the submitter's recommendation. • A copy of the submission will be forwarded to the Minister for Local Government for input to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal before it makes its first determination of Councillor allowances.

14. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

14.1. BOGGY CREEK ROAD LONGFORD SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME - FINAL COST CERTIFICATE

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for consideration the final cost certificate for the Boggy Creek Road Longford Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1901.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council adopts the Final Cost Certificate for the Boggy Creek Road Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1901; and*
- 2. Council Officers prepare the final apportionment amounts due from property owners for the Boggy Creek Road Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1901 based on the total levy amount of \$115,308.*

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 17 December 2019, Council resolved to give notice of the intention to declare the Special Charge Street Construction Scheme for the construction of Boggy Creek Road in Longford. There was one submission received on the proposed scheme with Council resolving to declare the Special Charge Scheme at its 21 April 2020 meeting and to serve a notice on all affected property owners.

The initial estimated cost of the street reconstruction works was \$316,400.00. The project was subsequently tendered, a contract was awarded by Council on 17 November 2020 and the works were undertaken and practical completion was achieved on 23 April 2021.

The contract amount entered into with Bairnsdale Constructions Pty Ltd was \$377,700.00 ex GST. The final contract costs increased to \$380,950.00 with a variation of \$3,250 being for additional road safety and speed signage and culvert beaching (\$3,250), this variation was attributed to additional scheme costs.

Ancillary costs including Biodiversity Offsets (\$7,940.00) along with signage and advertisement cost for tendering of the contract (\$739.44) produced an overall **final cost of \$389,629.44** (all figures are ex GST). Staff overhead costs and design costs have not been included in as part of the scheme.

Under the provisions of section 166 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may vary the special charge to be paid, although if the increase is an amount equal to or greater than 10% of the estimated declared cost then a further declaration would need to be made.

The estimated cost of this scheme was \$316,400 and the overall final cost of the scheme was \$389,629.44 an increase of \$73,229.44 or 18.8% over the estimated cost.

Under the provisions of sections 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) the calculation of the benefit ratio as a percentage amount of the special charge to be levied was determined at 67.7% of the estimated scheme cost. Therefore, the maximum total levy amount that could be levied on properties at 67.7% of the estimated cost was \$214,203 ($0.677 \times \$316,400$) - refer Declaration Report 21 April 2020.

With final construction costs exceeding the estimated costs, the maximum total levy amount that could be recovered from property owners could be increased up to 10%, to \$235,623 ($\$214,203 \times 1.1$) without any further declarations. Based on the final costs the **maximum total levy amount** that could be levied on properties in the scheme is \$235,623.

In accordance with the funding framework outlined within the Residential Road and Street Construction Plan 2019 as adopted by Council, the apportioned amount to be levied against properties within a scheme is set at a maximum of \$3,600 per property for properties located within small and coastal towns.

Under these criteria the total levy apportionable for the properties within this scheme equates to a total of \$115,308 (**Total Levy Amount**).

This total levy amount to be apportioned of \$115,308 remains less than the maximum total levy amount \$235,623. Therefore, no adjustment to the levy apportionment schedule for this scheme is required. Additional costs of the scheme will be funded from within Council's budgetary provisions.

A final cost certificate has been prepared for the scheme and is attached to this report, see attached **Final Cost Certificate**.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Final Cost Certificate [**14.1.1** - 1 page]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Accept the final cost certificate as presented and apportion the costs based on the original total levy amount; or
2. Accept the final cost certificate as presented and apportion the costs based on the maximum total levy amount; or
3. Not accept the final cost certificate as presented.

PROPOSAL

That:

1. Council adopt the Final Cost Certificate for the Boggy Creek Road Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1901; and
2. Council Officers prepare the final apportionment amounts due from property owners for the Boggy Creek Road Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1901 based on the total levy amount of \$115,308.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Council may, under the provisions of section 166 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, vary the liability of any property owner to pay the special charge. Where the special charge increase is equal to or greater than 10%, Council must also comply with subsections (1A), (1B) and (1C) of section 163 of the Act and redeclare the scheme which is not required in this instance.

The financial impact of adopting the Final Cost Certificate as detailed, is that property owners will not be liable for an amount above the estimated costs initially provided. The Council contribution for this project is being funded through the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program and this proposal will increase the Council contribution amount.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

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

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

This scheme was prepared in accordance with Section 163, 163A, 163B of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Notification will be in accordance with Sections 163 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

The scheme was prepared in accordance with Council's Special Charge Schemes – Roads, Street and Drainage Development Policy 4.2.4 and Residential Road and Street Construction Plan 2019.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017 – 2021 Theme 2 Services and Infrastructure states the following Strategic Objectives and Strategies:

Strategic Objectives

"Continued improvement to Wellington Shire's connectivity with further developed, accessible transport networks."

Strategy 2.4.2

"Continue to maintain and enhance Council's road assets infrastructure."

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The adoption of the recommendation is likely to have no impact as the apportioned cost will equal the previously proposed estimated cost.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

A comprehensive public consultation process has been entered into with affected property owners including:

- Information letter advising property owners of street works proposal
- Public meeting held at Longford, 25 June 2019
- Mail out survey to all property owners, 9 July 2019
- Follow up phone calls and emails requesting replies to the survey
- Public Notices placed in local newspapers of 'Intention to Declare the Scheme'
- Letter with a copy of Public Notice mailed to property owners on 8 January 2020
- S223 Hearing held on 4 March 2020
- Letter with Levy Notice mailed out to property owners on 28 April 2020

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

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

WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

BOGGY CREEK ROAD SPECIAL CHARGE STREET CONSTRUCTION SCHEME

SCHEME No. 1901

FINAL COST CERTIFICATE

Project : Boggly Creek Road Special Charge Street Construction Scheme.

Scheme No: 1901

Commencement date (scheme): 21/04/2020

Completion date (works): 23/04/2021

Estimated cost of scheme: \$ 316,400.00

Final cost of scheme: \$ 389,629.44

Variation between estimated cost and final cost: 18.8% decrease

Council contribution to scheme as property owner: \$ 0.00

Council contribution to scheme - public benefit: \$ 274,321.44

Property owner contribution to scheme: \$ 115,308.00

Total \$ 389,629.44

Prepared by: Tilo Junge, Infrastructure Planner

Approved by: Sam Pye, Manager Built Environment

Adopted by Council: / /

14.2. LLOYD STREET (NORTH) STRATFORD SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME - FINAL COST CERTIFICATE

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for consideration the final cost certificate for the Lloyd Street (North) Stratford Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1902.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council adopts the Final Cost Certificate for the Lloyd Street (North) Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1902; and***
- 2. Council Officers prepare the final apportionment amounts due from property owners for the Lloyd Street (North) Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1902 based on the total levy amount of \$42,000.***

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 17 March 2020, Council resolved to give notice of the intention to declare the Special Charge Street Construction Scheme for the construction of Lloyd Street (North) in Stratford. There were no submissions received on the proposed scheme with Council resolving to declare the Special Charge Scheme at its 21 July 2020 meeting and to serve a notice on all affected property owners.

The initial estimated cost of the street reconstruction works was \$450,000. The project was subsequently tendered, a contract was awarded under delegation on 27 November 2020 and the works were undertaken and practical completion was achieved on 1 June 2021.

The contract amount entered into with Contula Constructions Pty Ltd was \$315,590 ex GST. The final contract costs increased to \$335,340.00 with variations of \$19,750 being for additional stormwater works (\$9,100), additional reinstatement works at south end (\$7,500) and additional sub surface drainage works (\$3,150) at intersection with Redbank Road, all variations attributed to additional scheme costs.

Advertisement cost for tendering of the contract of \$189.82 produced an overall **final cost of \$335,529.82** (all figures are ex GST). Staff overhead costs and design costs have not been included in as part of the scheme.

Under the provisions of section 166 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may vary the special charge to be paid, although if the increase is an amount equal to or greater than 10% of the declared cost then a further declaration would need to be made.

The estimated cost of this scheme was \$450,000 and the overall final cost of the scheme was \$335,529.82 a decrease of \$114,470.18 or 25.4% under the estimated cost.

Under the provisions of sections 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) the calculation of the benefit ratio as a percentage amount of the special charge to be levied was determined at 57% of the estimated scheme cost. Therefore, the maximum total levy amount that could be levied on properties was calculated at 57% of the estimated cost being \$256,500 (0.57 x \$450,000) - refer Declaration Report 21 July 2020.

Likewise, a lower final cost to the estimated cost could see a reduction in the maximum total levy amount, as the final costs of the scheme would be less than the estimated cost. Based on final cost the **maximum total levy amount** that could be levied is \$191,252 (0.57 x \$335,529.82).

In accordance with the funding framework outlined within the Residential Road and Street Construction Plan 2019 as adopted by Council, the apportioned amount to be levied against properties within a scheme is set at an amount of \$6,000 per property for properties located in major urban centres.

Under these criteria the total levy apportionable for the properties within this scheme equates to \$42,000 (**Total Levy Amount**).

This total levy amount to be apportioned of \$42,000 remains less than the maximum total levy amount \$191,252. Therefore, no adjustment to the levy apportionment schedule for this scheme is required. Cost savings from the scheme will be used to fund Council's other budgetary provisions.

A final cost certificate has been prepared for the scheme and is attached to this report, see attached **Final Cost Certificate**.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Final Cost Certificate [**14.2.1** - 1 page]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Accept the final cost certificate as presented and apportion the costs based on the original total levy amount; or
2. Accept the final cost certificate as presented and apportion the costs based on the maximum total levy amount; or
3. Not accept the final cost certificate as presented.

PROPOSAL

That:

1. Council adopt the Final Cost Certificate for the Lloyd Street (North) Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1902; and
2. Council Officers prepare the final apportionment amounts due from property owners for the Lloyd Street Special Charge Street Construction Scheme – Scheme No 1902 based on the total levy amount of \$42,000.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Council may, under the provisions of section 166 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, vary the liability of any property owner to pay the special charge. Where the special charge increase is equal to or greater than 10%, Council must also comply with subsections (1A), (1B) and (1C) of section 163 of the Act and redeclare the scheme which is not required in this instance.

The financial impact of adopting the Final Cost Certificate as detailed, is that Council's contribution to the scheme will be lower than the estimated costs initially provided. The Council contribution for this project is being funded through the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program and this proposal will reduce the Council contribution amount.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

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

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

This scheme was prepared in accordance with Section 163, 163A, 163B of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Notification will be in accordance with Sections 163 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

The scheme was prepared in accordance with Council's Special Charge Schemes – Roads, Street and Drainage Development Policy 4.2.4 and Residential Road and Street Construction Plan 2019.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017 – 2021 Theme 2 Services and Infrastructure states the following Strategic Objectives and Strategies:

Strategic Objectives

"Continued improvement to Wellington Shire's connectivity with further developed, accessible transport networks."

Strategy 2.4.2

"Continue to maintain and enhance Council's road assets infrastructure."

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The adoption of the recommendation is likely to have no impact as the apportioned cost will equal the previously proposed levy amounts.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

A comprehensive public consultation process has been entered into with affected property owners including:

- Information letter advising property owners of street works proposal 7 August 2019
- Public meeting held at Stratford, 19 August 2019
- Mail out survey to all property owners, 5 September 2019
- Formal public notice under sections 163B and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, 14 April 2020
- Letter with a copy of Public Notice mailed to property owners on 17 June 2020
- Letter with Levy Notice mailed to property owners on 27 July 2020.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

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

WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

LLOYD STREET (NORTH) SPECIAL CHARGE STREET CONSTRUCTION SCHEME

SCHEME No. 1902

FINAL COST CERTIFICATE

Project : Lloyd Street (North) Special Charge Street Construction Scheme.

Scheme No: 1902

Commencement date (scheme): 21/07/2020

Completion date (works): 1/06/2021

Estimated cost of scheme: \$ 450,000.00

Final cost of scheme: \$ 335,529.82

Variation between estimated cost and final cost: 25.4% decrease

Council contribution to scheme as property owner: \$ 0.00

Council contribution to scheme - public benefit: \$ 293,529.82

Property owner contribution to scheme: \$ 42,000.00

Total \$ 335,529.82

Prepared by: Tilo Junge, Infrastructure Planner

Approved by: Sam Pye, Manager Built Environment

Adopted by Council: / /

14.3. REVOCATION OF UNUSED ROAD LICENCE BEING THE EXTENSION OF GRAHAM ROAD TOONGABBIE

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a request from the holder of the unused road licence to relinquish their unused road licence abutting Lots 8A and 9A PS840677 (being the extension of Graham Road, Toongabbie) and to open this road to public traffic.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Pursuant to section 407(1) of the Land Act 1958, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning be requested to revoke the unused road licence held over the Government Road abutting Lots 8A and 9A PS840677 as the road is required for public traffic; and***
- 2. Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the property owner to advise them of Council's decision in relation to this matter.***

BACKGROUND

The licensee of the unused road licence held abutting Lots 8A and 9A PS840677 being the extension of Graham Road in Toongabbie, has requested that their unused road licence be relinquished. The process to relinquish an unused road licence requires Council, in the first instance, to resolve that this road is required for public traffic.

The request to relinquish the unused road licence is in part required following the approval of the development of this property under planning permit 204/2019. Subsequent to the issue of the planning permit, the land that was CA 32 and 33 Parish of Toongabbie South has been subdivided to create Lots 8A and 9A PS840677.

In order that Lot 9A has legal road access the unused road licence requires revocation, the process requiring Council to resolve the road is required for open traffic and formally request the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP), pursuant to section 407(1) of the *Land Act 1958*, to revoke or cancel the licence. A plan showing the location of the unused road licence is attached.

The revocation of this unused road licence does not obligate Council to declare the road on its register of Public Roads, or, to undertake any road maintenance. Subject to Council approval, once open to public traffic the road will not be included on Council's register of Public Roads and as such will be a non-maintained road. Planning permit conditions obligate the proponent of the development to either construct the road to Council standards, or, to undertake the purchase of this road reserve from the Crown (via DEWLP) and to then incorporate this road reserve into their property within specified timeframes.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Plan of unused road licence abutting Lots 8 A & 9 A [**14.3.1** - 1 page]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Agree to the request that the unused road licence held over the unused Government Road abutting Lots 8A and 9A PS840677 be revoked as the road is required for public traffic; or
2. Not agree to the revocation of the unused road licence.

PROPOSAL

That:

1. Pursuant to section 407(1) of the *Land Act 1958*, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning be requested to revoke the unused road licence held over the Government Road abutting Lots 8A and 9A PS840677 as the road is required for public traffic.
2. Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the property owner to advise them of Council's decision in relation to this matter.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The revocation of the unused road licence and opening of the road to public traffic will not incur any cost to Council as it is not proposed to include the road on Council's Register of Public Roads until as such time as the road is constructed to Council standards required by the planning permit.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

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

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Application for revocation of the licence has been made pursuant to Section 407(1) of the *Land Act 1958*.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

There is no Council policy on the closure or opening of unused roads to public traffic. Each application is treated on merit.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 2 Services & Infrastructure states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 2.4: *“Continued improvement to Wellington Shire's connectivity with further developed, accessible transport networks.”*

Strategy 2.4.2: *“Continue to maintain and enhance Council's road assets infrastructure.”*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

There will be no negative identifiable community impact as this section of road is not being used and is not required for general public use for roading purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

The unused road licence holder is the only person affected by the licence and they are the proponents making the request. The request is also supported by the owner of Lot 9A, therefore there is no significant engagement impacts to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

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

ATTACHMENT

MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF UNUSED ROAD LICENCE TO BE CANCELLED
ABUTTING LOTS 8A & 9A PS840677 AND ROAD TO BE OPENED TO PUBLIC
TRAFFIC



UNUSED ROAD LICENCE TO BE CANCELLED SHOWN AS



15. GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

15.1. MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2021/2025 - APPROVAL DRAFT PLAN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER COMMUNITIES, FACILITIES AND EMERGENCIES

PURPOSE

For Council to approve the draft municipal public health and wellbeing plan, 'Healthy Wellington 2021-2025', as attached, for release for public consultation for a six-week period.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the draft municipal public health and wellbeing plan, 'Healthy Wellington 2021-2025', as attached, for release for public consultation for a six-week period.

BACKGROUND

Development of a municipal public health and wellbeing plan is a legislative requirement of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and *Local Government Act 2020*. It is a high-level strategy which sets a framework and objectives for maximising health and wellbeing in the municipality.

Our next four-year municipal public health and wellbeing plan, referred to as 'Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025', is legislatively required to align with the Council plan. The draft plan has been developed in consultation with our community and, importantly, with health and wellbeing agencies in the shire on whom we rely to implement the plan in partnership with Council.

Healthy Wellington 2021-2025 outlines four health priorities for our community:

1. mental wellbeing;
2. health and climate change;
3. equality; and
4. active living.

Under these four health priorities, action planning to be undertaken in areas of policy, the physical environment, capacity building, advocacy and programs and events will result in community outcomes to improve health and wellbeing, community resilience, transition to education and the shire's liveability.

Healthy Wellington 2021-2025 is now ready for public exhibition and for broad community input, alongside our Council plan which is currently out for public comment.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Final Draft Healthy Wellington [15.1.1 - 38 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Approve the draft municipal public health and wellbeing plan, 'Healthy Wellington 2021-25', as attached, for release for public consultation for a six-week period; or
2. Seek further information at a future council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council approves the draft municipal public health and wellbeing plan, 'Healthy Wellington 2021-25', as attached, for release for public consultation for a six-week period.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

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

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

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

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2017-21 Theme 1 Communities states the following strategic objective and related strategy:

Strategic Objective 1.1: *"Maintain friendly, safe communities providing opportunities for residents to lead healthy and active lifestyles."*

Strategy 1.1.1: *"Continue to deliver services and programs that encourage and foster community wellness and the prevention of disease."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic objective and strategy.

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.

healthy WELLINGTON



MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2021 – 2025

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Wellington Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Gunaikurnai people, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land and water on which we rely.

The Gunaikurnai are the Traditional Owners of the land encompassed by Wellington Shire and hold Native Title to the region. The Brataualung Clan occupied the southern area including the waters and islands of Nooramunga. The Tatungalung Clan lived around the Gippsland Lakes, the Brayakaulung Clan around the current site of Sale, Providence Ponds, Avon and Latrobe rivers and the Brabralung Clan were further to the west.

Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025

Final Draft

21.06.21

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Mayor's message

<1 page: Wendy to provide>

INTRODUCTION:

Wellington Shire's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan known as '*Healthy Wellington 2021-2025*' outlines the community outcomes and health priorities for Wellington Shire Council over the next four years.

The purpose of Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 is to demonstrate how Wellington Shire Council in partnership with health, community and education stakeholders will work together to improve the health and wellbeing of our community over the next four years.

This strategy builds upon the strengths of the previous municipal public health plans and is a key strategic planning tool to maintain and improve public health and wellbeing at a local community level.

Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 was developed and aligned with Wellington Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 and is one of four major strategic plans aimed at addressing the overall Wellington Shire 2031 vision (image to the right).

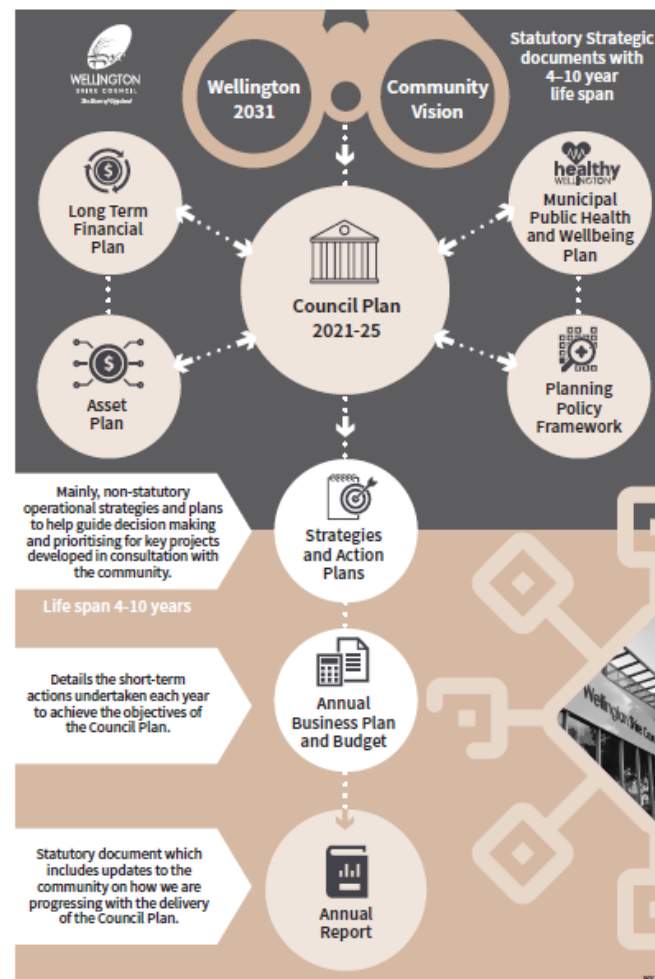
“Happy people, healthy environments and thriving communities”.

(Wellington 2031 Vision)

The *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires that all Council's develop a document that addresses health and wellbeing matters every four years. It is also a recommendation of the Act that the document be consistent with the Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement (soon to be known as Planning and Policy Framework).

Healthy Wellington Plan 2021 – 2025 will incorporate previous Council's organisation plans (listed below), ensuring past work, focus and partnerships of those plans strongly align with community outcomes and health priorities of this document.

- Wellington Community Early Years Plan
- Wellington Youth Strategy



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- Age Friendly Strategy

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DEVELOPING THIS STRATEGY

When considering what are the current and future health and wellbeing needs of our community, it is important to acknowledge past and current challenges and how they have impacted on the health and wellbeing of our community.

They include:

- The impact of climate change on our people has been significant. Long-term temperature increases (between 1 and 1.2 degrees Celsius since 1950), more bushfires, lower than average annual rainfall (between 100-200 mm and up to 200-300 mm in the high country), increased droughts, more intense flooding, and sea level rise (between 0.1 to 0.2 m above the 1986-2005 level).
- Multiple economic shocks including the Hazelwood power station closure, a prolonged drought, bushfires and more recently COVID-19, flood and storm damage. Traditional industries like oil are in decline and native timber harvesting will shortly cease under current State Government policy.
- Limited housing options, including affordable and social housing for our aging and vulnerable community members.
- Changes to health and community services, particularly for disability and age care to a commercial model of health care. The transition of government funded not for profit community health, disability, and age care services to a more individual package model (i.e., NDIS and My Age Care) where people purchase the service. This has resulted in health services operating like a business and competing with other private businesses within a marketplace (or for profit) environment.
- Resilience levels in our community have been impacted due to the cumulative effects of drought, fires, and COVID-19.

This strategy looks to address the health and wellbeing impacts of these challenges, by providing a strategic health and wellbeing framework of the work being delivered by Council, partnership agencies and community.

This plan will include major health and wellbeing projects that address the community outcomes and health and wellbeing priorities of our community. These projects will be incorporated into an actions plan, and monitoring and reporting of progress will be done annually.

Links to Council Plan

The Council Plan is underpinned by a ten-year Asset Plan and ten-year Financial Plan. These plans set out the financial and non-financial resources and technical elements required for managing assets to achieve the objectives of the Council Plan.

The Council Plan also provides direction to this strategy. Within the Council Plan, there are key initiatives that are also linked to Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 planning. These initiatives are marked within the Council Plan with this symbol .

For more information, please see a copy of Council Plan 2021 - 2025.

WELLINGTON SHIRE DEMOGRAPHICS**(Converted to an infographic)**

- Wellington Shire is located about 212km east of Melbourne in the Gippsland Region. Wellington is a large LGA, covering 10,817km², with nine major towns based around the largest community, Sale.
- Wellington Shire has an estimated population size of 44,770 ¹
- Between 2016 and 2041, the population for Wellington Shire is forecast to increase by 14,329 persons (32.92% growth), at an average annual change of 1.14%. ²
- In the Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), which is a measure of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage across Australia, Wellington Shire has a score of 974. Scores less than 1000 indicate greater disadvantage and lack of advantage in general. In Wellington Shire there are large towns that have scored 900 or below placing it among the most disadvantage 5% of towns in Victoria.
- Major towns within the shire vary in SEIFA: Sale (970), Maffra (966), Rosedale (964) Heyfield (929), Stratford (1006), Briagolong (1014) and Loch Sport (816), Yarram (906), Wurruk (parts of Wurruk scoring 780 to 1000).
- The population aged 15-64 years is steadily declining in Wellington, from 63.4% in 2014 to 61.6% in 2018 while the median age of residents is increasing: from 42.3 years in 2014 to 43.2 years in 2018. ³
- In 2017, the median personal income in Wellington (excl. Government pensions and allowances) was \$41,816, an increase from \$40,681 in 2014. By comparison, the 2017 median personal income for Victoria was \$47,709.
- There has been a decrease in the number of residents receiving the Disability Support Pension, with 1,950 Wellington residents receiving the pension in 2018 compared to 2,013 in 2014. However, Wellington Shire has a higher population of people with disability, who require care and/or financial support compared to the Victorian average.
- In the Wellington Shire, 5.9 percent of people need assistance with their daily life due to having a disability.
- In Wellington Shire, 4,291 carers were providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age in 2016. This represents 12.1% of the population aged 15+.
- Compared to other municipalities in Victoria, Wellington Shire has a large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. In 2016, 1.5% of Wellington's population identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, compared to 0.8% for Victoria overall.
- The proportion of residents born overseas is 11%; 4% of residents speak a language other than English at home, compared to the Victorian average of 26%.
- Wellington Shire has approximately 2768 children aged 0 to 4 years, and 3975 children aged 5 to 11 years.
- 11.6% of children entering school within Wellington Shire presenting with emotional and behavioural problem, compared to Victorian average of 5.6%
- 19% of children entering school within Wellington Shire presenting with speech and language problems, compared to Victorian average of 14.7%

¹ ABS, Estimated Resident Population, 2021

² Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2041, prepared by [.id](#) (informed decisions), December 2020

³ Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 Municipal Scan, Dec 2020

- Wellington Shire has approximately 3268 children aged 12 to 17 years, and 3443 young adults aged 18 to 24 years.
- 63.9% Wellington residents reported not complete year 12, compared to the Victorian average of 43.7%. Note this ranks Wellington Shire in bottom 20 of the total 79 Victorian Councils.
- 25.5% of Wellington residents have completed a higher education qualification, compared to the Victorian average of 45.7%. This ranks Wellington Shire lower risk area of 67 out of 79 LGAs.

Health Data

- 6.1% of Wellington Shire population reported having low food security, compared to the Victorian average of 4.6%. This puts Wellington Shire within the top 20 LGAs as having low food security.
- Of the people experiencing low food security in Wellington Shire, women are disproportionately impacted with 6.5% (Vic 6.8%) compared to men 1.7% (Vic 5.2%).
- 6.1% of Wellington Shire residents reported poor dental health ranking as higher disadvantage compared to the Victorian average of 5.6%.
- In 2019 Wellington Shire, we are ranked 5th highest rate of offences out of 79 LGA of crimes against a person by a family member. Recent VicPol stats indicate that Wellington Shire is now ranked highest.
- 50.7% of Wellington Shire residents had met physical activity guidelines (approx. 30 minutes of exercise), compared to the Victorian average of 54.0%. This ranks Wellington Shire as 60th out of 79 LGAs.
- Of the people not meeting physical activity guidelines in Wellington Shire, women fared slightly better at 53.8% (Vic 56.1%) compared to men 47.6% (Vic 52%).
- 33% of Wellington Shire residents are overweight, compared to the Victorian average of 31.5%.
- Of the people being overweight in Wellington Shire, women scored lower than state average at 22.6% (Vic 24.2%) compared to men 41.7% (Vic 31.3%).
- 9.8% of Wellington Shire residents report having high/very high degree of psychological distress, compared to Victorian average of 15.4%. This ranks Wellington Shire in the top performing LGAs.
- Wellington Shire prevalence for depression and anxiety is 26% compared to the Victorian average of 27.4%. This ranks Wellington Shire in the top 21 LGAs of lower-than-average prevalence.
- Wellington Shire has a higher than state average score (57.8%) for adequate work life balance, compared to Victoria score of 53.1%.
- Wellington Shire resident reported that their 'perceptions of Neighbourhood – people willing to help each other' was high 84.3%, compared to the Victorian average 74.1%. As well as reporting their 'perceptions of Neighbourhood – this is a close-knit neighbourhood' was high 76.5%, compared to the Victorian average 61.0%.

For more information and further details on Wellington Shire population health data, please contact Council for a copy of 'Healthy Wellington Municipal Scan 2020' and 'Municipal Scan comparison 2020'.

HOW THE STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 has been developed through a process of:

- reviewing population data and local policies and plans,
- consulting stakeholders including those who deliver a community, health, and educational service, and
- consulting with our diverse community.

The community engagement for this plan was delivered over three phases, which lead to key decisions for the development of this plan. Overall decision making for this plan sat with Wellington Shire Councillors, with support from council staff.

Municipal scan

A municipal scan is a document that provides an understanding of the health and wellbeing status of our community and the causes that contribute to this status.

A municipal scan was undertaken using census data, Victorian Population Health data, Victorian Health Indicators as well as other relevant sources. As part of this process, a comparison report was prepared, which compared change over time with previous municipal scan (conducted in 2016). This report also identified certain health priorities which improved or declined.

For more information and further details on Wellington Shire population health data, please contact Council for a copy of 'Healthy Wellington Municipal Scan 2020' and 'Municipal Scan comparison 2020'.

Community engagement

As part of the development of Healthy Wellington, there were 3 phases of community engagement.

Phase 1 – October 2020 to late February 2021

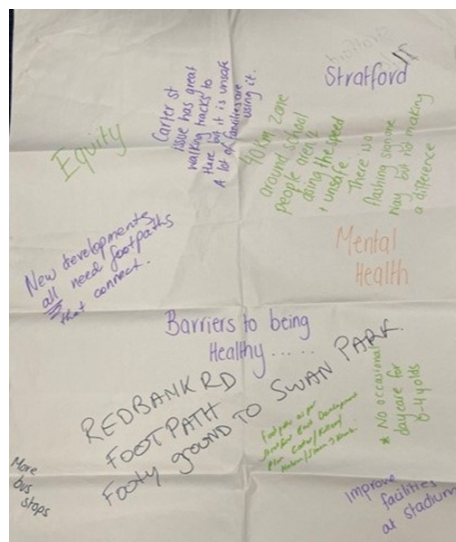
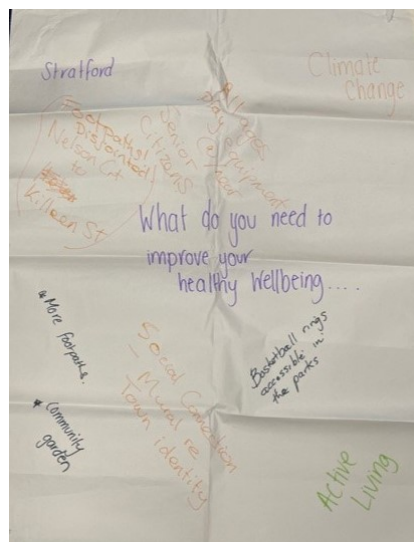
During this phase, council engaged with various stakeholders about the development of the new Healthy Wellington plan, and possible health priorities. The [Victorian Public Health Plan 19-23](#) identifies 10 state wide health priorities, which the new Healthy Wellington must have regard to. Community, health and educational stakeholders provided recommendations on which health priorities to choose, and how they would align their future work to these priorities.

During this time, 2020 Local Government election occurred, and new councillors were elected. As part of the development of the new Council Plan, councillors and senior management identified a need to have stronger alignment between the Council Plan and the Healthy Wellington Plan.

Councillors endorsed the listed community outcomes and health priorities and recommended further engagement with the community before finalising.

Phase 2 – March to end of May 2021

Community engagement commenced with communities. During this phase council officers conducted the following engagement activities:



Images: Community feed from Stratford Pop up Session

Pop up Community Sessions – Council staff delivered 16 pop up sessions across Wellington Shire. Sessions occurred as part of shared community engagement with the Council Plan and separate pop-up sessions specifically for Healthy Wellington planning.

Pop up sessions occurred in the following towns:
Gormandale, Maffra, Boisdale, Heyfield, Briagolong, Stratford, Port Albert, Golden Beach, Yarram, Sale, Loch Sport and Rosedale.

Stakeholder Engagement – Council met with a variety of community, health and educational stakeholders and presented the proposed health priorities and discussed future opportunities to collaborate. The key themes included:

- Collaborating on Gippsland wide projects where possible, for example prevention of family violence and climate action type projects.
- Deliver projects which will benefit more than one health priority.
- Alignment of work to community outcomes and health priorities.

Online Engagement – An online engagement page was created via councils Your Wellington Your Say website. Via the website, community had the opportunity to provide feedback via:

- Community survey
- Idea's portal
- Post a Question.

Summary of the feedback received from the online surveys:



What are top 3 priorities for mental health?

- ### Top 3 Barriers to achieving mental wellbeing
1. Access
 2. Financial
 3. Knowledge

Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025

Final Draft

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Barrier Definitions	
Education	- Is there enough information to understand health topic?
Access	- Are there barriers to accessing services or activities?
Financial	- Is it affordable?
Knowledge	- Do you know what is available?



- Top 3 Barriers to achieving active living**
1. Access
 2. Financial
 3. Knowledge



Phase 3 – July to end of August 2021 (to be added once phase three is complete, Aug 2021)

A draft Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 Strategic plan was developed in June 2021.

The draft plan was formally presented to Council on ** July and was endorsed for public exhibition for a period of 8 weeks. During that time, * submissions were received

Overall, the feedback provided from the three community engagement phases was positive with strong support for the four chosen health priorities. Key themes in the comments included:

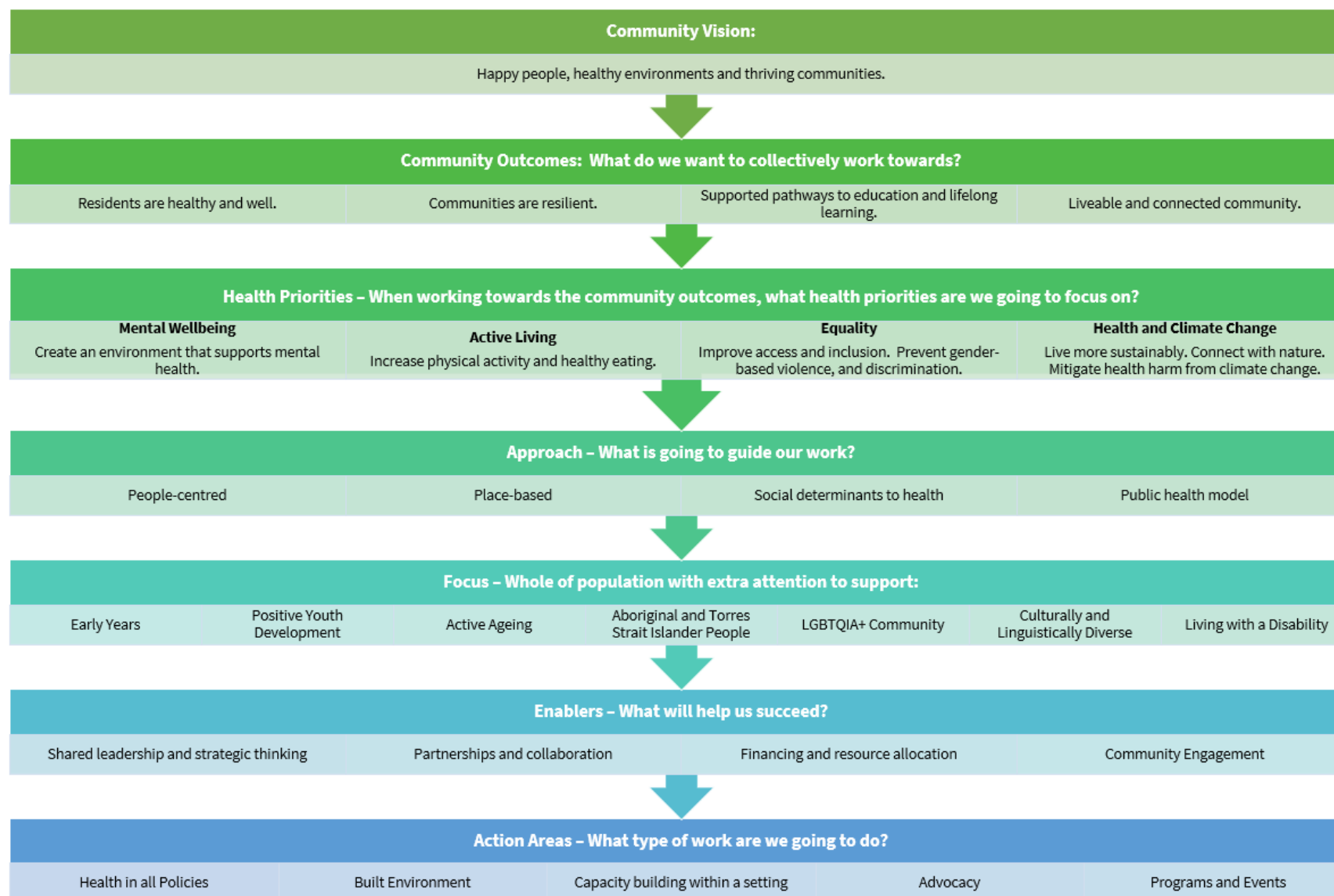
- ***
- ***
- Accessibility and inclusion were critical in all priority areas.
- Community recognised the links between mental wellbeing, active living, equity and climate change and how addressing one health priority can have benefits in the others.

How did we incorporate feedback in Healthy Wellington Planning?

Information we received as part of all stages of engagement has been incorporated in shaping the different sections of the [Healthy Wellington Strategic Framework](#). The feedback will also inform the projects that will be included in the annual Healthy Wellington Action Plan.

Future engagement for council plans, policies, and services will also be guided by community engagement feedback.

The next part of this document will introduce the Healthy Wellington Strategic Framework. This document will unpack what each section of the framework means and wants to achieve.



HEALTHY WELLINGTON STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 will have the following strategic framework that will guide our actions over the next four years.

Community Outcomes – What do we want to collectively work towards?

- Residents are healthy and well.
- Communities are resilient.
- Supported pathways to education and lifelong learning.
- Liveable and connected community.

Health Priorities – When working towards the community outcomes, what health priorities are we going to focus on?

- Mental Wellbeing - Create an environment that supports mental health.
- Active Living - Increase physical activity and healthy eating.
- Equality - Improve access and inclusion. Prevent gender-based violence, and discrimination.
- Health and Climate Change - Live more sustainably. Connect with nature. Mitigate health harm from climate change.

Approach – What is going to guide our work?

- People-centred
- Place-based
- Social determinants of health
- Public Health Model

Focus – Whole of population with extra attention to support:

- Early Years
- Positive Youth Development
- Active Ageing
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- LGBTQIA+ Community
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
- Living with a Disability

Enablers – What will help us succeed?

- Shared leadership and strategic thinking
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Financing and resource allocation
- Community Engagement

Action Areas – What type of work are we going to do?

- Health in all Policies
- Built Environment
- Capacity building within a setting
- Advocacy
- Programs and Events

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 has identified four community outcomes which will act as a *shared outcome* between different parts of council and with external stakeholders such as state and federal government services, and not for profit organisations (i.e., community, health and educational services).

Having shared outcomes provides the opportunity to build partnership and rally members from different industries and organisations to work together despite their having competing perspectives, goals, and even performance metrics. A shared outcome can also compel a partnership to reach outside its membership for help, insight, and resources.

The Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 community outcomes are:

- Residents are healthy and well.
- Communities are resilient.
- There are supported pathways to education and lifelong learning.
- We live in a liveable and connected community.

Each of the community outcomes has a direct link to one or more of the chosen four health priorities, which will enable a more purposeful focus on addressing the health priorities.

Residents are healthy and well.

Good health and wellbeing are essential elements of a successful community. Being in good health allows people to participate fully and contribute to society.

Communities are resilient.

Resilience is the ability to cope or ‘bounce back’ after negative events, difficult situations, challenging or hard times and return to almost the same level of wellbeing. It is also the ability to respond to difficult situations and still thrive.

We live in a liveable and connected community.

A liveable and connected community is one that is safe and secure. It offers choices in where to live and how to get around. And it equitably serves residents of all ages, ability levels, incomes, races, ethnicities, and other backgrounds.

A liveable and connected community enhances personal independence, allowing residents to remain in their homes and communities as they age, and provide opportunities for residents of all ages, ability levels, and backgrounds to engage in community life.

There are supported pathways to education and lifelong learning.

Education is associated with better health and wellbeing throughout life. It equips people to achieve stable employment, have a secure and affordable housing, provide for families, and cope with ill health.

Educational attainment refers to *highest achievement a person has attained* in any area of formal study.

By increasing the levels of educational attainment in Wellington Shire it will positively influence employment rates, community engagement, volunteering, trust and tolerance, healthy behaviours, and environmental protection activities.

Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 acknowledges the importance of key transition stages in a person's education and learning journey, and specific actions will support the individuals transitioning through the different stages.

They include:

- Early Childhood Education
- Primary School to Secondary School
- Secondary School to further Education (University / TAFE) or employment
- Employment to Retirement
- Lifelong Learning

HEALTH PRIORITIES

Mental Wellbeing

Good mental health is defined as more than just the absence of mental illness. It is a positive state of wellbeing which includes feeling good and functioning well.

According to the World Health Organisation, mental health is a state of wellbeing in which a person can:

- Cope with the normal stresses of life
- Work productively.
- Realise their potential.
- Contribute to the community.

Certain population groups are at higher risk of poor mental health and mental illness because of greater exposure and vulnerability to unfavourable social, economic, and environmental circumstances, including social isolation and loneliness. Feeling connected to others, being able to cope with the usual stresses of life, having the opportunity and capacity to contribute to community and being productive are all critical to mental health (DHHS, VPHWP 2019-23).

Good mental health is important to a thriving community. As all people experience varying levels of need related to mental health at different times during their lives, the protective factors for good mental health need to be enhanced and supported.

Objectives for enhancing mental wellbeing are:

- Increase awareness of how to care for your mental health.
- Improve access to activities, programs and services that support good mental health.
- Increase support and assistance for people experiencing mental illness.
- Improve access to services to support and maintain mental illness.



Major Health and Wellbeing Projects:

- VicHealth Youth Mental Health Project, Wellington Ways to Wellness
- Nature Play Bush Kindergarten Project
- Develop and implement Council Reconciliation Action Plan
- Develop and implement the Living Well During Covid 19 Plan
- Respond to the Federal Government Home and Community Care funding reform.

Links to other Council and External Plans:

Community Managed Facilities Strategy
Wellington Access and Inclusion Plan
Community Infrastructure Plan
Early Years Infrastructure Plan
Sporting Infrastructure Plan
TBA External Plans

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- Middle of Everywhere Project
- Gippsland Art Gallery blockbuster exhibitions commencing with Archibald Prize 2021
- Wedge Performing Arts Centre Redevelopment business case.
- TBA external projects

Active Living

Leading an active life improves our health and wellbeing. Moving more and sitting less reduces the risk of health disease such as heart disease, some cancers, diabetes, musculoskeletal conditions (i.e., bones and muscles), and depression.

Being physically active (minimum 30 minutes of moderate activity a day) in combination with looking after your mental health and eating a healthy diet will help to reduce other risk factors for health disease such as high blood pressure and overweight and obesity.

Objectives for enhancing on active living are:

- Increase active travel to and from places you work, learn, play, and enjoy.
- Increase and raise awareness of active recreational activity such as sports or other type activities that require use of a special facility.
- Increase and raise awareness of passive recreational activities such as walking and riding or other activities that does not require a purpose-built facility.
- Increase and raise awareness of local and healthy food and drinking options.



Major Health and Wellbeing Projects:

- Increase annual capital budget for Urban Paths Plan
- Deliver Community Road Safety and Active Travel Projects, linked with Councils Urban Path Plan
- Aqua Energy Redevelopment
- Investigate delivery of Gippsland Regional Sport Complex Stage 2B
- Community Facilities Plans (**)
- TBA External

Links to other Council and External Plans:

Urban Paths Plan
Sustainability Strategy
Open Space Plan
TBA External Plans

Equality

An equal society is one in which all can participate and prosper.

Healthy Wellington defines equity and equality as:

- **Equity** is giving everyone what they need to be successful.
- **Equality** is treating everyone the same or providing the same help to everyone.

We cannot start to address equality, without addressing the gaps or barriers to people being treated equally (equity). By focusing on how to make people feel safe, supported, and included, will lead to achieving equality for all.

Wellington Shire is made up a diverse group of people, whose personal experiences and upbringing influence how well they do in life. For some, they may experience little to no barriers ensuring their access to opportunities to better oneself is not as challenging. Whereas for other groups of people, they may experience barriers daily, putting them more behind, or worse reduce the motivation or hope to better oneself.

Creating a community that understands and celebrates diversity ensures that access to community life (i.e., work, education, and recreation) is done via the lens of fairness.

Objectives for enhancing equity are:

- Reduce barriers for people who are trying to access or feel included in community life (work, education, and recreation).
- Increase community activities that focus on eliminating gender-based and family violence.
- Increase gender equity in various settings (home life, workplace, and community).
- Increase community activities that focus on celebrating diversity, including race, ethnicity and gender.



Major Health and Wellbeing Projects:

- Tertiary Study Hub
- Develop and implement Gender Equity Action Plan
- Gippsland Prevention of Violence Partnership
- TBA External

Links to other Council and External Plans:

- Community Managed Facilities Strategy
- TBA External Plans

Health and Climate Change

Climate change will impact Wellington Shire in many ways including greater risk of bushfires, more hot days and warm periods, more frequent and intense storms, fewer frosts and less rainfall in winter and spring.

The highest health and wellbeing risks due to climate change in Wellington Shire are:

- Injuries or death as a result of increased bushfire, floods and storm frequency and intensity,
- Premature deaths as a result of heatwaves,
- Mental ill health after disaster events (bushfires, floods),
- Increased thunderstorm asthma as a result of changing rainfall patterns and extreme weather,
- Increased vector borne diseases (e.g. Ross River virus),
- Social and economic impacts from prolonged drought, and
- Social and economic impacts of current COVID-19 pandemic.

These impacts put increased pressure on health services and infrastructure. They, and others identified, are all projected to increase in the future as the climate continues to change.

Local governments play a significant role in the local emergency management sector, with strategies and activities aimed at creating a safer and more resilient community which is better able to withstand and adapt to chronic stresses like climate change or acute shocks such as bushfires.

Objectives to reduce the impact of climate change on health are:

- Increase community's ability to be resilient and recover and thrive from climatic-driven natural disasters (i.e., flood, fires, and drought).
- Increase community's knowledge and education on how to transition to a low carbon economy via adoption of sustainable practices and renewable energy.
- Increase opportunity for community to have food security.
- Increase access to healthy local food options.



Major Health and Wellbeing Projects:

- Lake Guyatt Environmental Education Centre
- Amendment C99 review of flood overlays to reduce risks of flooding and coastal / riparian inundation as sea levels rise
- TBA External

Links to other Council and External Plans:

- Sustainability Strategy
- Open Space Plan
- TBA External plans

APPROACH

Wellington Shire Council and its community, health and educational stakeholders acknowledge the following approaches that will guide the work being delivered as part of Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025.

People Centred Approaches

People-centred approaches involves Council and community, health and education stakeholders, working with the broader community to co-design policies and programs with a focus on people, families, and communities, to deliver flexible and responsive services and which adapt to the changing needs of the community.

By delivering a people centred approach the following would also be considered:

- Access
- Ongoing participation
- Affordability
- Availability
- Inclusion



Place Based Approaches

A place-based approach recognises that the locations (or place) where people live, work, learn and play have a fundamental impact on health and wellbeing.

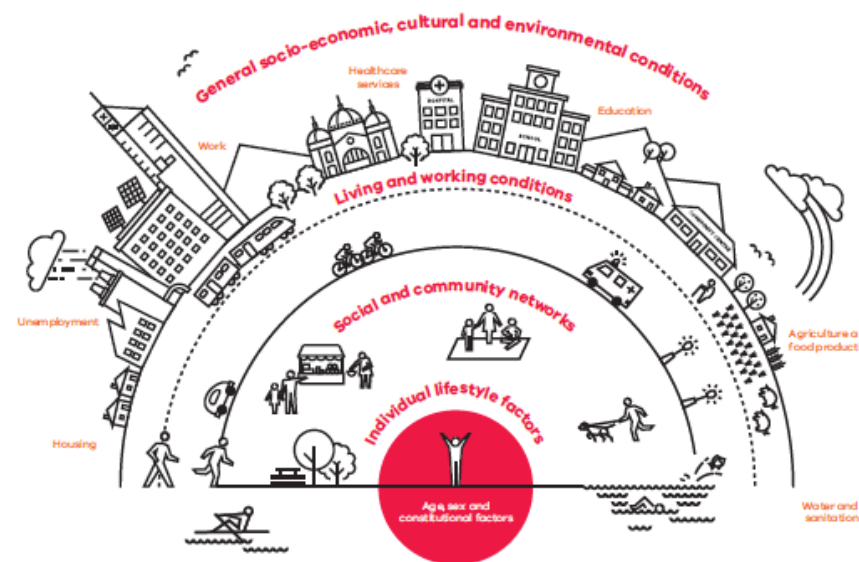
A place-based approach addresses a set of outcomes or priorities that are specific to a location or community. It empowers the people within that place to develop their own way of addressing the outcomes or priorities, giving them a degree of control and accountability.

Place-based approaches can also be directed at a range of settings in a particular location, such as workplaces, early childhood centres, schools and sports groups.

Social Determinants of Health:

Evidence shows that the conditions in which people live, learn, work and play and life experiences have an enormous impact on health. While people have a personal responsibility to take care of themselves and their health, the social determinants make the largest impact on our health and it is these social determinants of health that contribute most to inequalities in health (DHHS 2017).

Social determinants include but are not limited to (Image): socioeconomic status, employment, education, housing, transportation, food security, psychosocial risk factors, social environment, social support networks community and civic engagement, gender, social and civic trust, physical environment.



Source: Adapted from Dahlgren & Whitehead 1991

Public health model

The public health model aims to prevent problems occurring in the first place by targeting policies and interventions at the known risk indicators for the problem, quickly identifying and responding to problems if they do occur, and minimising the long-term effects of the problems (World Health Organization, 2006)

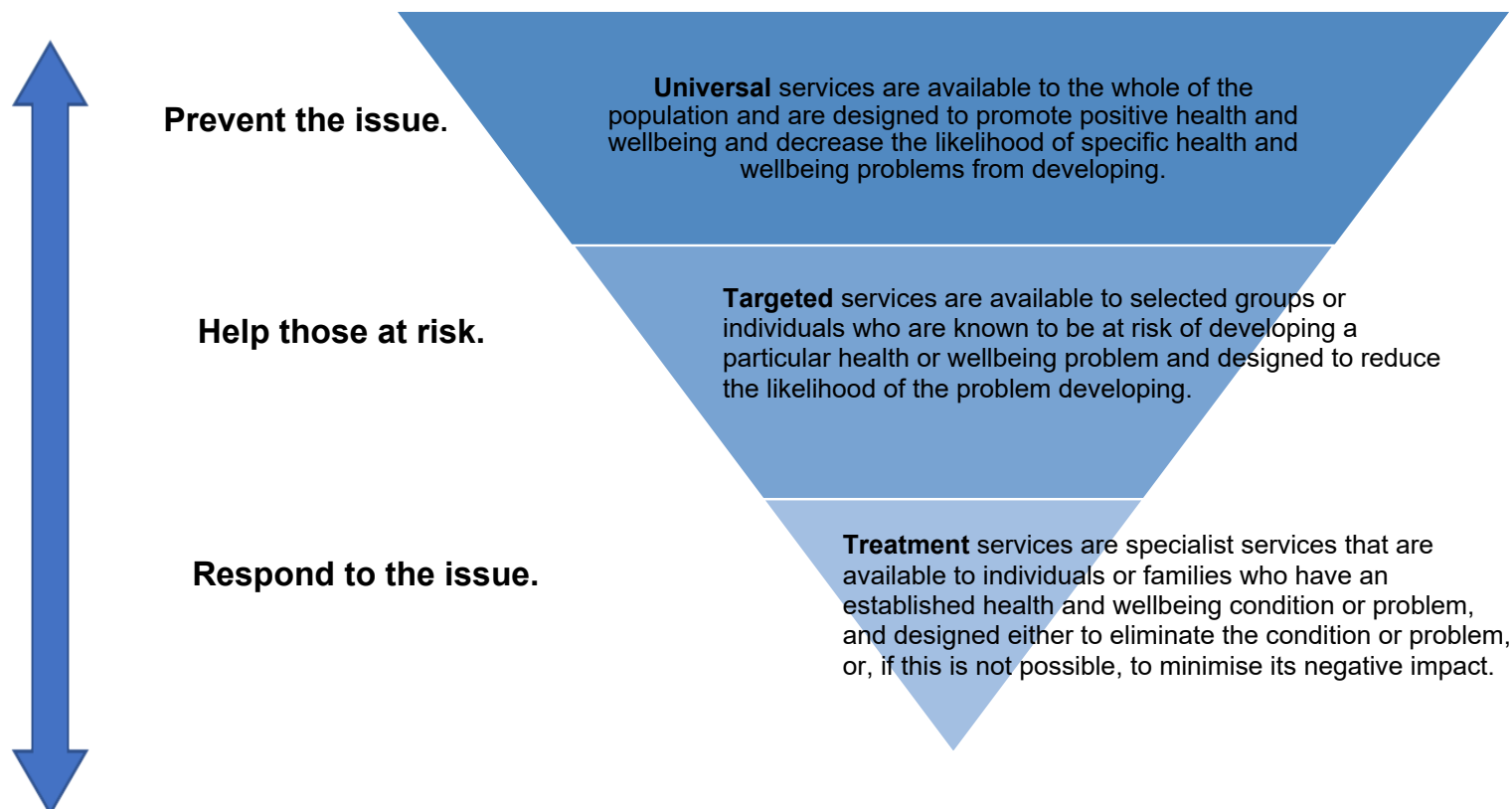
The framework for Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 incorporates a Public Health Model with a strong focus on *universal* and *targeted* actions to address the causes of poor health and wellbeing.

Due to the diversity of partners involved in actioning Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025, actions implemented to address our community outcomes and health priorities will move along the spectrum of the public health model dependant on the nature of the organisation leading the work.

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FOCUS

Health and wellbeing issues and risks can accumulate throughout life for everyone. However Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 recognises that some population groups may experience access and inclusion barriers, or significant brain development is taking place and the best possible support must be available.

The focus populations include:

- Early Years
- Positive Youth Development
- Active Aging
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- LGBTQIA+
- CALD
- Living with a Disability

Early Years

It is widely recognised that the most significant brain development phase in a person life is aged 0 to 8 years, and the opportunities and learning that occurred during that time impacts long term on that person's health, wellbeing, education, and employment outcomes. The nature of a child's environment, relationships and learning experience during these time shapes children's development for better or worse.

The Australian Early Childhood Development Index surveys indicate that 26.2 percent of Wellington Shire prep-aged children are vulnerable in one or more areas in comparison to 19.9 percent Victoria-wide, whilst 12.0 percent are vulnerable in two or more areas compared to 10.1 percent Victoria-wide.

At a state level, there are significant investments within the early childhood education sector, namely expansion to the kindergarten program, ensuring families and children can access 2 years of kindergarten education prior to transitioning to primary school.

The flow on affect at a local level will include changes to early years services and facilities ensuring they can meet the new changes.

Overall, the investment into early years education will lead to long term educational, employment, health, and wellbeing success.

Positive Youth Development

***Positive Youth Development (PYD)** provides the framework for our work with young people. PYD operates under the belief that all young people have great potential. It builds the skills, aspirations, and strengths of young people by focusing on the promotion of positive experiences and developmental outcomes.*

Adolescence and youth are another significant brain development phase, marked by ‘critical transition phase’ is a critical transition period where a person forms their own individual thoughts and opinions relating to their health and wellbeing, local and global issues and other matters that relate to being an adult.

This stage brings numerous significant life experiences and decision-making opportunities including education, employment, relationships, housing, legal age for driving and alcohol consumption. Adolescence is often the stage when individuals make decisions about risky behaviours or set up positive habits which can assist with good physical and mental health throughout life.

Wellington Shire Council works in conjunction with other education and health providers to deliver, support, and promote a range of programs supporting youth development, leadership opportunities, equity, respectful relationships, and safe behaviours.

It is not yet well understood the ongoing impacts that living in and through the COVID-19 pandemic will have on young people, anecdotal evidence suggests that the four identified health priorities will provide us with opportunity to support our young people’s primary needs.

Strong themes that have come out through current consultation with secondary school students are lowered self-esteem and confidence, lack of aspiration (hope), increases in feelings of depression and anxiety, and a desire for more (planned/organised) opportunities to be active and connect with others, and a platform to be visible. There have been reports from schools that students, particularly those who transitioned to secondary school in 2020, have returned to school in 2021 with few relationships having been formed in Yr 7. This lack of connection with school and peers has heightened moments of aggression and withdrawal and is making evident the need for opportunities to relearn skills associated with social and emotional intelligence.

Active Ageing

Being healthy and active throughout life will assist people to be healthy and independent as they age. Active ageing implies people will continue to participate and contribute, socially and economically, to their communities as they age. As an ageing community, the physical and social environment determines how people can actively participate, live safely and have good health and wellbeing in the Wellington Shire as they age.

It's important for Healthy Wellington Plan 2021 – 2025 to have a focus on older adults because, older people are the fastest growing segment of our community.

At the 2016 Census 8,674 of Wellington's total population of 42,983 were aged 65 and over. This age group represents 20.2% of our community and is the fastest growing age segment with an increase of 24.3% at the 2016 census, when compared to the 2011 census.

The growth of this segment of the Wellington community is forecasted to continue, and it is estimated that by 2031 26.7% of the total Wellington population will be over 65.

There are significant economic and social benefits to making Wellington an excellent place to live and visit for older people. Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 will continue to incorporate themes from previous, Wellington Age Friendly Strategy 2018 – 2022, and ensure actions directed at older adults consider below themes. They include:

- A clear idea of ageing well Staying active, friends, family, community, joining groups, being generous and accepting generosity, telling your stories, volunteering, learning new things, laughing.
- The challenges that come with ageing. Transport, access to information, advertising groups, losing a partner, health, not mixing with other generations, finding meeting places, personal security, mobility confidence, hearing loss, loss of community, adapting to technology.
- Building on the strengths and capacity within communities. The Age-Friendly Wellington Project (delivered in 2017 and concluded in 2018) revealed the existing strength of the senior's community, as well as a high level of support that community members can provide each other through both formal and informal networks.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience significantly poorer health outcomes than the general community. On average, they live 10 years less than non-indigenous people.

The traditional owners of the land, Wellington Shire is the Gunaikurnai people.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party that represents the Gunaikurnai people.

GLaWAC was incorporated in 2007 and have several strategic documents which guide and influence our work to support Gunaikurnai people and more broadly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan, includes the overarching goal of:

GOAL 1: To have a strong, healthy and happy mob

The well-being of our mob is our top priority. More than just physical health and security, it is about being respected, having stable employment and housing, and maintaining a strong spiritual connection with our Country and our ancestors. We can be healthy if our Country is looked after, and we can be strong if our living culture is thriving. We have lived through colonisation and decades of dispossession and discrimination, and we are still dealing with the impacts of these injustices. Health and housing services don't yet meet our needs and our employment rates are among the lowest in the region. Although it has improved in recent years, racism remains an ongoing issue that our mob continues to face. We are making great strides in overcoming these colonial legacies by setting up new enterprises to employ our own people and building partnerships to address a range of challenges. We still have some way to go however to ensure our Elders are properly looked after and that we are being true to traditional laws and customs. We want all Gunaikurnai to be comfortable and proud, to be free from worry and live fulfilled lives, both individually and together as a mob.

Wellington Shire Council will work in partnership with GLaWAC and seek direction and advice on best ways to deliver, support and promote a range of health and wellbeing programs which will directly reach local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Wellington.

LGBTQIA+

Although many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer people and other sexuality and gender diverse (LGBTQIA+) people live healthy and happy lives, research has demonstrated that a disproportionate number experience poorer mental health outcomes and have higher risk of suicidal behaviours than their peers. Amongst the youth population these statistics are even higher. These health outcomes are directly related to experiences of stigma, prejudice, discrimination, and abuse based on being LGBTQIA+. (The 2021 update - LGBTIQ+ Health Australia).

It is vital that additional supports are provided to educate and build a more inclusive community that celebrates and values all people. At the same time, it is evident that supports need to be provided directly to our LGBTQIA+ communities, particularly youth, to improve their health outcomes.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

Cultural diversity is the term used to describe many different cultures co-existing within one larger culture. In Wellington Shire there are several Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups living within Wellington Shire. They include:

Australian (18,167 people or 42.3%)
English (17,242 people or 40.1%)

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Irish (4,923 people or 11.5%)
 Scottish (4,641 people or 10.8%)
 German (1,698 people or 4.0%)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#), 2016 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

Whilst the proportion of Wellington Shire residents who were born overseas is low compared with other parts of Gippsland and Victoria, this is rapidly changing.

Wellington Shire became a [Refugee Welcome Zone area](#) in 2017. A Refugee Welcome Zone is a Local Government Area which has made a symbolic commitment to welcoming refugees into the community, upholding their human rights, demonstrating compassion and embracing cultural and religious diversity in the community. It signifies our commitment to support people who have been forced to leave their country to escape war or persecution.

The State and Federal governments are considering new policies to manage issues such as congestion and affordable housing in the metro areas by creating incentives for migrants to study, live and work in regional areas. Wellington Shire is well placed to benefit socially and economically from these policy approaches.

It is important that all residents, regardless of their cultural background, can equally participate in community life, live free from discrimination, and fulfil their cultural and religious human rights.

Living with a disability

People living with a disability experience much poorer health outcomes than the general community. This requires a special focus within Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 so that people living or caring for a person with a disability can move around their community, access information, interact with other community members and participate in community life.

People living with or caring for someone with a disability have widely different life opportunities. They are not all the same, even if their disability might seem similar. People living with a disability are diverse in the same ways as other people. They have many other parts to their identity, beyond their disability.

People are different due to their individual experiences, interests, and other reasons including age, gender, and their background. It is important to recognise that disadvantage associated with disability is often compounded by other sources of discrimination (i.e., age, ethnicity, or gender). Recognising and responding to this multi-layered impact requires particular attention.

ENABLERS:

For Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 to be successful as a plan the following enablers are important. They include:

- Shared leadership and strategic thinking
- Partnership and collaboration
- Financing and resource allocation
- Community Engagement

Shared leadership and strategic thinking

Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 has been identified as one of the four key strategic documents that will guide strategic thinking for Wellington Shire Council. This will mean future council planning will have regard to the community outcomes and health priorities listed within this plan.

This document will also provide strategic direction to:

- Council services and programs, such as libraries and leisure centres.
- Future Council projects, such as built infrastructure and facilities.
- Health funded agencies, such as Central Gippsland Health Service and Yarram and District Health Service, Ramahyuck and Gippsland Women's Health
- Wellington Shire Neighbourhood Houses, have regard to plan as part of their Strategic Plans.
- State funded kindergarten programs must have regard to curriculum and school readiness planning.
- Public primary and secondary schools to demonstrate collaborative partnership with community.

Partnership and collaboration

Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 acknowledges that effective public health planning cannot be done by local government or the health sector alone. It requires a collaborative approach by all concerned. Working in partnership will ensure our work is aligned and we share the same goals in improving the health and wellbeing of people in Wellington Shire.

Partners of Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 include (but are not limited to):

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Local Government:	Government Departments:	Health Sector:	Community Sector:	Education:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington Shire Council Partnership with the 5 Councils within Gippsland 	Department Education and Training Department Families, Fairness and Housing Dept of Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Department of Premier and Cabinet Department of Transport, which includes VicRoads and Regional Roads Victoria Victoria Police	Central Gippsland Health Gippsland Primary Health Network Gippsland Women's Health Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation Wellington Primary Care Partnership Yarram and District Health Service	GippSport Uniting 12 Neighbourhood Houses across Wellington Shire	Early Learning Centres Primary and Secondary Schools Wellington Early Year Network Wellington Youth Service Network GELLEN

Financing and resource allocation:

Partnering agencies of Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 will allocate resources in the form of:

- Staff time to support delivery of actions within the plan.
- Financial support via budget allocation or applying for grants to deliver actions within this plan.
- Marketing and promoting via their own communications channels (i.e., social media, media releases and internal organisational communications like staff newsletters and emails)

Community Engagement

Community engagement is *“any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision-making and uses public input to make decisions”*.

Wellington Shire Council is committed to Community Engagement, as outlined in Council's [Community Engagement Strategy 2021](#).

As part of Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 planning, actions listed within this plan whether it be led by Council or Council is a partnering agency, the community engagement activities will be as outlined in Council's Community Engagement Strategy.

ACTION AREAS

Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025 action areas was adapted from international health promotion frameworks including the WHO Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion.

The action areas are a collection of actions that need to occur to address the health priority. This method ensures that when planning and delivering actions, they address different areas. Identifying action areas with too many activities is important as well as reducing the likelihood of duplication or looking for opportunities to work together on a shared action.

This way of planning ensures actions rest with the most appropriate stakeholders, and gaps are identified in our action planning, that may require a more concerted effort.

Healthy Wellington Action Areas and Definition	
Health in all Policy:	<p><i>A formal statement, made by a person or organisation with power to do so. Having formal policies can guide practice for a group, workplace, and broader community.</i></p> <p><i>Health in all Policy implies that all public policies will have regard to community outcomes and health priorities, but more broadly focus on improving population health and health equity.</i></p>
Supportive physical environment:	<i>Made up of natural and built structures.</i>
Capacity building within settings:	<p><i>Creating supportive and health promoting settings that can have an impact on health and wellbeing of individuals or groups within that setting.</i></p> <p><i>Settings include place, workplace, schools, facility.</i></p>
Community voice and advocacy:	<i>An activity by an individual or group which aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems.</i>
Programs and Events:	<p><i>Programs are interventions for individuals or groups which focus on promoting health and wellbeing.</i></p> <p><i>Events are activities which connect the community, promoting key health and wellbeing messages.</i></p>

SHARED OUTCOMES AND MEASURES

As part of Healthy Wellington 2021 – 2025, we will have shared community outcomes and a commitment to addressing the health priorities via the [Healthy Wellington Framework for Action](#).

As much as possible shared outcome measures will be worked towards. Some of the outcome measures will be taken from the [Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework](#), and will be used to measure change in the community's health and wellbeing over time.

Results of some of the data shows that Wellington Shire is performing well compared with the state average. However, within the plan work will be undertaken to improve these figures to achieve shared outcomes.

Targets will be aligned with those set in the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework*. Where no target has been set in the framework document, targets will be determined based on desired improvement.

Long term measures: The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework provides a comprehensive set of public health and wellbeing outcomes, indicators, targets, and measures. Where possible, long term measures identified for Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 will be consistent with the framework.

Short term progress measures: It is acknowledged that improving public health and wellbeing can take many years and requires ongoing and collective effort across a range of sectors. Measuring progress over the shorter term provides feedback on whether efforts are on track. Short term and longer term, progress measures will be identified for each action within the Healthy Wellington - Annual Action Plan (to be completed by October 2021, and by end of December the following years).

The shared measures will be shown in the below format within each priority area:

Health Priority and Objectives	Approach	Focus	Action Area	Short-term progress measure	Long-term shared measure
<i>What do we want to achieve?</i> Mental Health Active Living Equity Health in Climate Change	<i>What is going to guide our work?</i> Place based. People centred. Social determinant to health Public Health model	<i>Whole population, with extra attention to support?</i> Early Years Positive Youth Development Active Aging ATSI CALD Living with a Disability	<i>What type of work are we going to do?</i> Health in all policies Built Environment Capacity building within a setting Advocacy Programs and Events	<i>Example – Action complete or Number of activities delivered.</i>	<i>What long term measures/s or indicators are we working towards achieving?</i>

IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The **implementation** of Healthy Wellington 2021 - 2025 will be the responsibility of many business units across Council and in partnership with external agencies.

An **annual action plan** will be developed, which will include all health and wellbeing projects council will lead or support as part of this plan. An internal and external steering committee will assist in overseeing the implementation of the action plan and assist in the reporting. The development of the steering committee/s will reflect the key stakeholders who are partnering with Council to achieve the identified community outcomes.

At the completion of each year a **review** will be undertaken to determine achievements, ongoing work and identify areas requiring further action. This will contribute to the overall evaluation at the conclusion of the plan.

Councillors, partnering agencies and community will be updated on an annual basis on the progress of this plan.

Communications and promotion (such as media releases and social media) will inform the community of achievements of the plan as well as projects and events that are occurring because of the plan.

An **evaluation framework** will be developed which will identify how we can assess the success of implementation plan and overall strategy.

Due to the breadth and scope of the health plan, specific projects will be selected for individual evaluation on process and project outcomes.

Overall, we intend to evaluate using the following questions:

- Have we achieved the change we sought? Were the health priority objectives and community outcomes realised?
- Are we having the influence we expected? What evidence is there that partners, community groups, businesses and agencies are utilising the Healthy Wellington 2021-25 framework to guide their work?
- Have we done what we said we would do?
- What worked well and what needs improvement?
- How effective is the way we plan?

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 –

Meeting declared closed at:

The live streaming of this Council meeting will now come to a close.

17. IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

That the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider matters under Section 66(5)(b) as defined by Section 3(1) being:

- a) Council business information*
- b) Security information*
- c) Land use planning information*
- d) Law enforcement information*
- e) Legal privileged information*
- f) Personal information*
- g) Private commercial information*
- h) Confidential meeting information*
- i) Internal arbitration information*
- j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information*
- k) Information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information*
- l) Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989*

IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

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