



Image: archdaily.com

Rotary Club of Ballarat South

The Rotary Club of Ballarat South, part of Rotary District 97890, is dedicated to community service and humanitarian efforts. The club's initiatives aim to improve community welfare through various projects and partnerships, including the Ballarat Community Care Centre. This facility will be used to receive, sort, repurpose, store, and distribute household goods to citizens of Ballarat who have experienced life trauma, such as fleeing domestic violence or losing their house due to flood or fire. Goods will be distributed to individuals referred by partner welfare organisations.

Key Outputs:

- The Community Care Centre Ballarat (CCCB) has been established as a company limited by guarantee with a Board comprised of Rotarians and individuals experienced in the governance of not-for-profit organisations.
- A warehouse has been sourced and provided by the City of Ballarat, with storage racks installed to facilitate the storage and distribution of emergency relief goods.
- Agreements are being established with Ballarat-based welfare organisations to support their clients.
- Many goods that would have been sent to landfill have been secured and prepared for distribution to vulnerable residents.
- Medical aids have been distributed to Shannon's Bridge, a charity organisation that supports home-based care at the end of life.

Community Benefits:

- The centre fosters greater collaboration among community welfare organisations and government agencies, enhancing the delivery of emergency relief goods and services.
- The centre provides material aid to people experiencing trauma or loss, including those affected by long-term illness, unemployment, domestic violence, and homelessness.

- Active involvement of volunteers from Rotary and the community, providing training and work experience opportunities, especially for women and refugees.
- By recycling and distributing goods, the centre reduces waste and supports civic health.
- Partnered with the Nappy Collective for the storage and redistribution of nappies, benefiting financially vulnerable families.
- Donation of medical aids to individuals in end-of-life care.

Sustainability and Legacy:

- The centre will serve as a model for community material aid support, encouraging other municipalities to adopt similar initiatives.
- The centre aims to secure funding through memberships, sponsorships, grants, and donations to cover operational costs.
- The centre will enhance the capacity of welfare organisations, enabling them to focus more on delivering services rather than sourcing and storing material aids.
- Substantial community support has been received in the form of donated equipment and household goods.
- The CCCB business model incorporates ongoing financial support from Ballarat-based welfare organisations and Rotary.

Milestones and Acquittal: All milestones have been completed, and the 2023/24 acquittal report was received and approved by Executive Manager Engaged Communities, Pete Appleton on 31 July 2024.

Total Funding Amount: The total funding amount over the three-year agreement will be \$120,000.



Image: westvicsport.org.au

WestVic Academy of Sport

The WestVic Academy of Sport (WVAS) is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation based at Federation University, Mt. Helen. WVAS supports athletes and families across western Victoria, providing a pathway for talented athletes to achieve success. The Academy is one of six Regional Academies in Victoria, sitting beneath the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) in the State's talented Athlete Pathway. The strategic partnership with the City of Ballarat focuses on providing ongoing support to elite and developing athletes in the region. This partnership helps facilitate high-performance programs, athlete development, and community engagement initiatives.

Key Outputs:

- Established a new scholarship program targeting individual athletes across the region to offer 1:1 tailored support across the disciplines of performance services, wellbeing support and an athlete support fund.
- Engaged with local community business and organisations to provide the relevant tailored support to the scholarship athletes.
- Continued delivery of the athlete education program educational sessions focusing on a range of different areas athlete media training, nutrition, and mental health.
- Strengthened partnerships with local schools and sports organisations to support the development of young athletes in the region.

Community Benefits:

- The programs and scholarship support engage with local businesses and organisations to provide services, contributing and giving back to the local economy.
- Athletes benefit from access to state-of-the-art training facilities, professional coaching and further connection into the high-performance pathway.

- WVAS promote the health and wellbeing of young athletes through various programs and support services:

- **Athlete Education Program:** This series runs throughout the year and covers topics such as injury prevention, nutrition, sports integrity, and sport psychology.

- **Strength and Conditioning Program:** These sessions aim to enhance physical capabilities, prevent injuries, and improve overall sporting performance.

- **Wellbeing Network:** WVAS offers access to consultants in various areas, including nutritionists and sport psychologists.

- **Sport-Specific Training and Coaching:** These sessions are conducted by highly experienced coaches and are designed to develop sport-specific skills.

Sustainability and Legacy:

- Ongoing financial and infrastructural support from the City of Ballarat ensures the sustainability of high-performance programs.
- The partnership has established a clear pathway for athletes to progress from regional to state and national levels.
- The initiatives foster long-term community engagement and support for local sports, creating a legacy of athletic excellence in western Victoria.

Milestones and Acquittal: The 2023/24 acquittal report is yet to be reviewed.

Total Funding Amount: The total funding amount over the three-year agreement will be \$120,000.



Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society

The Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society (BAPS) is dedicated to fostering agricultural and pastoral excellence and innovation through a variety of events, competitions, and educational programs. Since its establishment during the Victorian gold rush era, BAPS has remained a steadfast institution in Ballarat's dynamic social landscape. The strategic partnership with the City of Ballarat is aimed at ensuring the continuity of services and facilitating the relocation of BAPS to its new site on Rosehill Road, Mt Rowan.

Key Outputs:

- Civil Construction: Roads, drainage, and walking paths are 70% complete.
- Site Road Upgrades: Upgrades include the Midland Highway, Rose Hill Road widening, and internal roadworks.
- Building Projects: The new multi-purpose South Pavilion, poultry, and storage sheds are well underway.
- Equestrian Centre Usage: Increased usage of the indoor equestrian centre by horse clubs and individual riders.
- Infrastructure Construction: Commencement of power upgrades, sewer, water and fire services, fencing, and landscaping.

Community Benefits:

- New and improved facilities and ovals to host the Ballarat Show.
- Ongoing opportunities for hiring and hosting various events.
- Modern facilities and amenities to cater to the broader Ballarat community upon completion. Enhanced safe family-oriented spaces, all-abilities access, improved equestrian facilities, and additional agricultural facilities.
- Opportunities for more community groups to become involved.

Sustainability and Legacy:

- Development of an improved and modern facility available for hire.
- Creation of recreation spaces for community groups and organizations to increase participation.
- Delivery of a more inclusive Ballarat Show, increasing community participation opportunities.
- Commitment to creating an environmentally friendly complex with alternative energy sources and sustainable practices.

Milestones and Acquittal: The 2023/24 Acquittal report was received by Director Development & Growth, Natalie Robertson on 19 August 2024 and is currently being reviewed.

Total Funding Amount: The total funding amount over the one-year agreement was \$100,000.00.



Image: thecourier.com.au

Ballarat Basketball Association

Basketball Ballarat is committed to delivering community-based basketball programs to grow participation and support the basketball pathways and competitions which exist throughout Ballarat and the Western Victoria Region. Basketball Ballarat also provides opportunities for the community to participate in other sports such as netball, volleyball, and badminton. The organisation partners with various not-for-profit groups to deliver programs for groups such as older residents and the disability sector, promoting inclusivity and community well-being.

Key Outputs:

- Continued growth in participation with more than 700 teams competing in local sports each week.
- Delivered 154 community programs to local schools.
- Successfully hosted the Australian Junior Championships, bringing athletes and families from across Australia.
- Hosted the Victorian Country Championships, held over 5 days.
- Developed elite pathway programs for athletes from Ballarat and the Western District.
- High-Profile Events:
 - Hosted the Harlem Globetrotters, attracting over 3000 participants.
- Developed partnerships with key stakeholders to promote healthy eating habits among participants. Actively participated in community events such as NAIDOC Week, IDAHOBIT Day, and promoted key events like the Begonia Festival.

- Hosted various basketball tournaments and games, including the Women's National Basketball League game with Perth Lynx in January 2022, the Australian Under-18 Championships & Kevin Coombs Cup in April 2022, and the Ballarat Junior Basketball Tournament in June 2023, which attracted over 3,500 attendees, 94% of whom travelled from outside the Ballarat region.

Community Benefits:

- With over 700 teams and participants ranging in age from 4 to 60 years old, there are increased opportunities for inclusive community involvement.
- Worked with 39 schools in Western Victoria, conducting basketball and healthy living programs.
- Developed grassroots programs impacting over 6000 participants weekly.
- Achieved a 17% increase in female participation in basketball.

Sustainability and Legacy:

- Basketball Ballarat continues to attract tournaments and events, delivering over \$10 million in economic output annually, significantly benefiting the local economy.
- The organisation's initiatives and partnerships ensure the sustainability of community programs and the legacy of increased participation in sports and healthy living activities.

Milestones and Acquittal: The 2023/24 Acquittal report was received by Executive Manager Recreation Services, Mark Patterson, on 13 August 2024 and is currently being reviewed.

Total Funding Amount: The total funding amount over the three-year agreement will be \$300,000.00.



Ballarat Evolve Creative Industries

Ballarat Evolve is dedicated to supporting the creative industries within the Ballarat region. The organisation works to transform underutilised spaces into lively hubs for creative practitioners, fostering a sustainable and inclusive creative community. Their programs link creative industries to business services, skills, and commercial spaces, optimizing empty locations in the city centre.

Key Outputs:

- Successfully activated several underutilised spaces in Ballarat, providing opportunities for local artists and creative practitioners.
- Assisted over 150 local creatives through space provision, commissions, mentoring, and training.
- Welcomed new board members and refined strategic plans, including marketing, quality management, and fundraising plans.

Community Benefits

- Enhanced community engagement and economic activity through the activation of creative spaces.
- Provided material aid and support to people experiencing trauma, loss, and financial vulnerability.
- Fostered active volunteer participation, providing training and work experience opportunities, especially for women and refugees.

Sustainability and Legacy:

- Established a legacy of continuous community engagement and economic growth through creative industry support.
- Secured funding through memberships, sponsorships, grants, and donations to cover operational costs.
- Encouraged collaboration among community welfare organisations, government agencies, and creative practitioners, enhancing the delivery of services and creative projects.

Milestones and Acquittal: The 2023/24 acquittal report has been received and approved by Executive Manager Economic Growth, Kelli Moran on 11 July 2024.

Total Funding Amount: The total funding amount over the three-year agreement will be \$75,000.00.



Image:royalsouthstreet.com.au

Royal South Street Society

The Royal South Street Society (RSSS) is dedicated to promoting performing arts through the Ballarat Eisteddfod. This annual event significantly contributes to the cultural and economic vibrancy of Ballarat, engaging schools, students, families, teachers, and theatre companies. The partnership with the City of Ballarat aims to ensure a sustainable future for the eisteddfod, historically contributing over \$14 million annually to the Ballarat economy.

Key Outputs:

- Creation and hiring of a Business & Marketing Manager to professionally manage and promote the eisteddfod.
- Successful execution of the 2023 program with over 1,000 participants and increased audience numbers.
- Increased promotion and entries for the 2024 season despite the continued closure of Her Majesty's Theatre.

Community Benefits:

- Significant economic benefits from visitor stays and local supplier engagement, with over \$600,000 spent with local suppliers.
- Enhanced community involvement through robust promotion of the 2024 season.
- Active volunteer participation ensuring the preservation and support of one of Ballarat's notable historical and cultural events.
- Support for hospitality and accommodation venues, and venue providers from the influx of participants, adjudicators, and supporters.

Sustainability and Legacy:

- The partnership has facilitated the RSSS Ballarat Eisteddfod's recovery from the impacts of COVID and the ongoing closure of Her Majesty's Theatre.
- The Royal South Street Society Ballarat Eisteddfod continues to promote engagement, participation, and enrichment through performing arts, contributing to the region's cultural and economic vitality.

Milestones and Acquittal: The 2023/24 acquittal report was received and approved by Executive Manager Arts & Events, Jeff Johnson on 1 July 2024.

Total Funding Amount: The total funding amount over the three-year agreement will be \$349,528.00.



The Sovereign Hill Museums Association Ltd.

Sovereign Hill is one of Victoria's premier tourist attractions at the 1850's goldfields site. The Sovereign Hill Events Pipeline Project aims to create and sustain a series of signature events that enhance economic impact by increasing visitation to Ballarat through the Heritage Harvest Weekend, Winter Wonder lights and Lunar New Year events.

Key Outputs:

- The Lunar New Year (February 2024) at Sovereign Hill is a vibrant celebration featuring dragon and lion parades, cultural performances, traditional food, and family-friendly activities, honouring the legacy of the Chinese community in Ballarat.
 - › Attendance: Approximately 7,500 visitors.
- The Heritage Harvest Weekend (May 2024) is a weekend-long event celebrating traditional and contemporary culinary practices with live cooking demonstrations, local produce markets, and engaging family activities, highlighting the rich history of the goldfields.
 - › Celebrity chefs like Julie Goodwin, Darren Purchase and Tim Bone headlined the event, providing cooking demonstrations and engaging with visitors.
 - › Attendance: 5,000 visitors.
- The Winter Wonderlights (July 2024) at Sovereign Hill, now in its 10th year, is a dazzling event featuring immersive light displays, festive entertainment, and seasonal activities, attracting visitors to Ballarat during the winter season.
 - › Attendance: TBA

Community Benefits:

- Working in partnership with the Chinese Australian Cultural Society, Sovereign Hill's Lunar New Year deepened the community's knowledge of the historical and cultural contributions of the Chinese community in Ballarat.
- Collaborates with local organisations and stakeholders to deliver successful events and programs.
- Significant volunteer involvement with 130 hours for Lunar New Year and 548 hours for Heritage Harvest Weekend.
- Collaboration with local vendors and suppliers, spending significant funds on local procurement for these events.
- Drives significant tourism to Ballarat, contributing to the local economy through increased visitation.

Sustainability and Legacy:

- The project is projected to generate a \$17.65 million economic impact over three years.
- Emphasis on local sourcing minimises environmental impact and supports local economies.
- Strengthening of existing partnerships with local cultural organisations like the Chinese Australian Cultural Society and the Country Women's Association, ensuring cultural accuracy and community engagement in event planning.

Milestones and Acquittal: The acquittal report has been received and approved by Executive Manager Visitor Economy, Sarah Pilgrim on 22 July 2024.

Total Funding Amount: The total funding amount over the three-year agreement will be \$600,000.

Community Impact Grants Program

The Community Impact Grants Program is for local community projects and initiatives aimed to increase community participation, encourage connected communities, promote healthy lifestyles and build resilient communities.

The Community Impact Grants Program remains a cornerstone of community support offering grant funding of up to a maximum of \$20,000 per applicant.

Addressing the Council Plan 2021-2025, the key priorities for the Community Impact Grants Program are:

- A healthy, connected, inclusive community
- An environmentally sustainable future
- Community capacity building

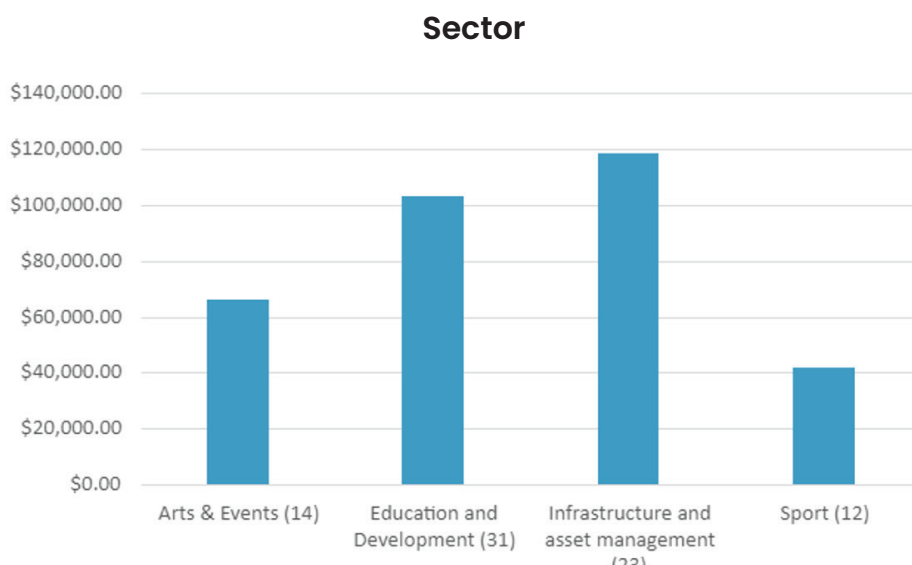
In 2023/24, the Community Impact Grant Program received a total of 80 applications across two rounds; 55 applications in Round 1 and 25 applications in Round 2 with a total amount of funding requested of \$630,026.73. Of the 80 applications received, 58 applications were funded for an approval rate of 73 percent, an increase from 61 percent in 2022/23 and, receiving a total of \$293,467.84 from a budget of \$300,000.

The following table provides a comparison of funding over the past four financial years, illustrating the program’s expansion and support for valuable community projects.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of applications received	90	72	75	80
Number applications awarded	56	44	47	58
Approval rate	62%	61%	62%	72%
Funding allocated	\$253,494*	\$241,623*	\$277,927*	\$293,468

*Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Funding for the Community Impact Grants Program can be categorised into relevant sectors that the funding benefits. The below table outlines the spend in each sector across the 2023/24 Community Impact Grants.



The following section of this report contains a profile on each of the successful Community Impact Grant recipient and provides an overview of the project, the community benefits and the amount of funding that was allocated.

99.9 VOICE FM

Project: Fit out of Recording Studios

Objective: 99.9 Voice FM, Ballarat's independent not-for-profit community broadcaster led by volunteers, will use the funding to purchase equipment for two of the studio's recording booths.

Community Benefit: The new equipment will enhance the quality and reliability of the station's broadcasts, supporting the Ballarat community by providing a robust platform for diverse voices and local content.

Allocation Amount: \$5056.36

ALFREDTON BASEBALL CLUB INC.

Project: Club Defibrillator

Objective: The Alfredton Baseball Club will use the funding to purchase a defibrillator for baseball competitors and other nearby sports players.

Community Benefit: The addition of a defibrillator at the Alfredton Baseball Club will significantly enhance the safety of the sports facility and surrounding clubs. This equipment will ensure rapid response in the event of a cardiac emergency.

Allocation Amount: \$2,238.50

BALLARAT AFRICAN ASSOCIATION INC

Project: Strategies to deal with racism

Objective: The Ballarat African Associations will use the funding to host three workshop sessions led by an experienced psychologist to assist African children and families dealing with racism.

Community Benefit: These workshops will provide support and resources for families, promoting mental health and well-being within the community.

Allocation Amount: \$2,659.10

BALLARAT BONSAI SOCIETY INC.

Project: Ballarat Bonsai Society Website

Objective: The Ballarat Bonsai Society will set up a website as a focal point for communication with members, interested parties, and the wider national bonsai community.

Community Benefit: The new website will enhance the Society's ability to connect with its members and reach out to enthusiasts across Australia. It will provide a centralised platform for sharing information, resources and event updates.

Allocation Amount: \$2,000.00

BALLARAT CITY ROWING CLUB

Project: Spin Bikes

Objective: The Ballarat City Rowing Club will purchase two spin bikes for their gym, addressing the increase in members.

Community Benefit: The addition of spin bikes at the Ballarat City Rowing Club's gym will enhance the training facilities available to members, supporting the club's growth. Improved fitness equipment will also aid rowers in their fitness, contributing to better performance and overall health.

Allocation Amount: \$4,425.00

BALLARAT CLOVERS GAA CLUB INC.

Project: Gaelic Games Equipment and Playing Kits

Objective: To purchase equipment including Gaelic footballs, ball bags, and free-standing Gaelic and hurling goals to support the club's growth.

Community Benefit: The new equipment will enable the club to expand its activities and enhance the experience for current and new members. By providing the necessary resources, the club will promote Gaelic Games, encouraging participations and fostering a sense of community.

Allocation Amount: \$5,855.00

BALLARAT EAST COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED

Project: Technology Upgrade

Objective: The Ballarat East Community Men's Shed will use the funding to purchase two new desktop computers and associated equipment, including reliable internet access, for members and groups that utilise the space.

Community Benefit: Enhanced digital access will foster skill development, improve communication, and broaden the range of services Ballarat East Community Men's Shed can offer, thereby strengthening community ties and providing a supportive environment.

Allocation Amount: \$6,153.00

BALLARAT HOSPICE CARE INC.

Project: Creating Legacies: A Biography Program for Palliative Care Patients

Objective: Ballarat Hospice Care Inc (BHCI) is a Community Palliative Care service. Grant funds will be used to purchase equipment and stationary to enable palliative care patients to share their life stories, experiences, and reflections through a personalised biography program.

Community Benefit: The 'Creating Legacies' biography program offers palliative care patients a meaningful way to document and preserve their life stories, providing emotional and psychological comfort. This initiative will not only benefit patients by preserving their legacy but also enrich their families and the wider community by preserving personal history.

Allocation Amount: \$4,342.72

BALLARAT MENTAL HEALTH COLLECTIVE - BALLARAT ACTION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Project: Free Community Event & Circle of Solidarity 2024

Objective: The Ballarat Mental Health Collective, a consortium representing groups across the Greater Ballarat Region, will host the 2024 Free Circle of Solidarity at Lake Esmond. This event will bring together local services, businesses, and volunteers to support those experiencing mental health distress, their families, carers, and supporters.

Community Benefit: The 2024 Free Circle of Solidarity will provide a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals facing mental health challenges, along with their families and carers. By connecting attendees with local services and resources, the event will promote awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage community solidarity. This gathering will strengthen the network of support within the Greater Ballarat Region.

Allocation Amount: \$5,577.10

BALLARAT NEPALI SAMAJ INC.

Project: 'Dashain, Tihar, Chhat Event'

Objective: Ballarat Nepali Samaj aims to support new Nepalese migrants and the existing Nepalese community of nearly 700 individuals. The groups promote Nepalese culture through various community activities and celebrations.

Community Benefit: By organising these important cultural events, Ballarat Nepali Samaj will foster cultural exchange and understanding, providing Nepalese migrants with a sense of belonging while enriching the cultural diversity in Ballarat.

Allocation Amount: \$9,824.00

BALLARAT PETANQUE CLUB

Project: 'Marquee Wind Rain and SunSmart'

Objective: The Ballarat Petanque Club, established in 2020 with 70 members, will use the grant to purchase three marquees to provide sufficient shelter from the elements.

Community Benefit: The acquisition of three marquees will ensure that events can proceed regardless of weather conditions. This improvement will encourage greater participations in club activities, promote regular attendance and strengthen community bonds.

Allocation Amount: \$8,460.00

BALLARAT POLICE AND CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB (PCYC)

Project: Youth Outreach - Mobile Activity Centre

Objective: Ballarat PCYC will purchase a trailer, BBQ and related equipment to commence a Mobile Activity Centre operation in Ballarat. Additionally, a website and social media presence will be launched to communicate its activities.

Community Benefit: The Mobile Activity Centre operation will enable Ballarat PCYC to connect with youth across the community, offering recreational activities and fostering positive interactions. This initiative will promote engagement and strengthen community ties.

Allocation Amount: \$10,000.00

BALLARAT REGIONAL MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Project: Ballarat Welcome Centre - Community Hall Activation

Objective: Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council will use grant funds to purchase chair trolleys and stacking chairs for the Community Hall at Barkley Square.

Community Benefit: The acquisition of chair trolleys and stacking chairs will enhance the functionality and accessibility of the Community Hall, supporting the activities of 30 cultural associations, faith and interfaith groups and members affiliated with Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council.

Allocation Amount: \$9,000.00

BALLARAT RENEGADE BOOTSCOOTERS**Project:** Defibrillator Attainment**Objective:** The Ballarat Renegade Bootscooters teach and perform line dancing. Grant funds will be used to purchase a portable defibrillator to be held at the hall and taken out during performances.**Community Benefit:** The acquisition of a portable defibrillator will enhance the safety and emergency preparedness of the group. The equipment will ensure rapid response in the event of a cardiac emergency, benefiting both the bootscooters and the community they engage with.**Allocation Amount:** \$2,414.50**BALLARAT SOCIAL TRAIL HORSE RIDERS CLUB INCORPORATED****Project:** Defibrillator and CPR Training Equipment**Objective:** The Ballarat Social Trail Horse Riders Club has 170 registered members who ride in isolated bush. Funds will be used to purchase a small portable defibrillator to be taken on rides and to train volunteer riders in CPR.**Community Benefit:** The addition of trained volunteers and a portable defibrillator will significantly enhance the safety of the riders in isolated bush during a cardiac emergency.**Allocation Amount:** \$1,789.00**BALLARAT SOUTHERN WARRIORS KARATE CLUB INC.****Project:** Summer Facility Improvements**Objective:** The Ballarat Southern Warriors Karate Club, a community karate club that has operated in Ballarat for 27 years, will use grant funds to purchase a split system air condition and two dehumidifiers to provide a more comfortable training space for its 60 students, ranging from children to adults.**Community Benefit:** The installation of a split system air conditioner and two dehumidifiers will improve the training environment for members of the club. This enhancement will ensure a comfortable and conducive atmosphere for practice.**Allocation Amount:** \$5,232.00**BALLARAT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA INC.****Project:** Orchestral Connections**Objective:** The Ballarat Symphony Orchestra will hold a concert aimed at attracting and engaging young families with performances of music pieces of well-known films.**Community Benefit:** The concert will promote the appreciation of live symphonic and orchestral music among young families. By featuring well-known film music, the event will create an accessible and enjoyable cultural experience for children and their parents, fostering a love for orchestral music, supporting the growth of local arts.**Allocation Amount:** \$5,000.00**The Ballarat Symphony Orchestra has returned the grant funds to the City of Ballarat due to a change in circumstances.***BALLARAT TAMIL SANGAM INC.****Project:** Integration Workshops**Objective:** Ballarat Tamil Sangam will use grant funds to conduct workshops focusing on the migrant community and bringing together members of the wider Ballarat community. The project includes a Tamil cultural showcase and a migrant interactive workshop.**Community Benefit:** The workshops will facilitate cultural exchange and mutual understanding within the Ballarat community. By showcasing Tamil culture and providing interactive opportunities, the workshops will promote inclusivity, cultural appreciation, and social cohesion.**Allocation Amount:** \$1,975.00**BALLARAT WESTERN CROQUET CLUB****Project:** Creating a Flexible Space**Objective:** The Ballarat Western Croquet Club will purchase stacking chairs for their club rooms, allowing the space to be easily set up or cleared for various activities. The club rooms, built in 1914 and recently renovated by the City of Ballarat, serve 50 club members, and are utilised by community groups.**Community Benefit:** The acquisitions of stacking chairs will create a more flexible and versatile space within the club rooms, enhancing their functionality for both members and other community groups. This improvement will enable the space to accommodate a wider range of activities and events, promoting greater community use and engagement.**Allocation Amount:** \$3,120.00

BIGGER HEARTS DEMENTIA ALLIANCE BALLARAT

Project: Community Consultation/ Codesign Project

Objective: Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance Ballarat will conduct two community consultation and co-design workshops. These workshops aim to facilitate connection and engagement with people living with dementia and their families/carers, helping the group better understand their ongoing needs and preferences for community initiatives.

Community Benefit: The workshops will enhance the support and services provided to people living with dementia. By directly engaging who those affected, Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance Ballarat will gain valuable insights, ensuring that future programs and initiatives are tailored to improve quality of life. This inclusive approach will foster a more dementia-friendly community, promote understanding, and strengthen the network of support available to those impacted by dementia.

Allocation Amount: \$3,863.00

BOOTBLACK PLUS

Project: APATT '24 (formerly: A Place at The Table)

Objective: Bootblack Plus will use grant funds for the APATT '24 event, an expo-style event to be held in June 2024 at Barkly Square. The event aims to connect LGBTQIA+ community with community organisations and policymakers in Ballarat, fostering understanding of the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Community Benefit: The APATT '24 event will bring together the LGBTQIA+ community, community organisers, and policymakers, creating an inclusive environment for dialogue and connection. This initiative will enhance social cohesion, support diversity, and strengthen community bonds.

Allocation Amount: \$9,965.27

**Bootblack Plus cancelled their event and has returned the grant funds to the City of Ballarat.*

BUNINYONG COMMUNITY GARDEN

Project: Buninyong Community Garden Engagement

Objective: The Buninyong Community Garden will use grant funds to continue the garden's completion at Royal Park at Buninyong. This project will include the installation of park signage and pathways, as well as the creation of a communication strategy and the engagement of experts to assist with establishing an online presence.

Community Benefit: Finalising the Buninyong Community Garden will enhance its accessibility and usability for the local community. The installation of signage and pathways will make the gardens

more navigable and welcome, encouraging greater community participation and engagement. The development of a communication strategy and online presence will promote the garden's activities, attract volunteers, and facilitate knowledge sharing.

Allocation Amount: \$20,000.00

BURRUMBEET SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL

Project: Defibrillator and Outdoor AED Storage Cabinet

Objective: The Burrumbeet Soldiers Memorial Hall will use grant funds to install an Automated External Defibrillator in an outdoor storage cabinet. This installation will ensure the AED is accessible to the entire community.

Community Benefit: The installation of an AED will enhance safety and emergency preparedness for the community. This initiative supports the Hall's mission to offer a high-quality, fully maintained meeting place and strengthens the community's connectivity and well-being through increased safety measures.

Allocation Amount: \$3,435.00

CENTRAL WENDOUREE BOWLS CLUB INC.

Project: New Bowling Greens Mower

Objective: The Central Wendouree Bowls Club will use grant funds to purchase a new bowling greens mower to replace their current 25-year-old mower that requires regular repairs.

Community Benefit: The acquisition of a new bowling greens mower will ensure that the Central Wendouree Bowls Club can maintain high quality greens for its members and visiting sporting groups. The investment will support the club's ability to host regional events and provide a well-maintained facility for the community. Improved greens will enhance the playing experience, attract more participants and promote the sport of bowling.

Allocation Amount: \$9,045.45

CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH

Project: 4YOUTHFEST Youth Event

Objective: The Centre for Multicultural Youth will use grant funds to deliver the 4YOUTHFEST project, a free youth-led festival focused on promoting mental health and suicide prevention for young people in Ballarat and surrounding areas aged 12-25. The festival will consist of a series of events co-facilitated and designed by local youth organisations and young people.

Community Benefit: '4YOUTHFEST' will provide a supportive and engaging platform for young people to interact with mental health services and support organisations in a low-stakes, safe, and inclusive environment. By demystifying these services and fostering open dialogue, the festival will increase the

likelihood of young people seeking help when needed. This initiative will promote mental well-being, reduce stigma around mental health issues, and empower young people to take proactive steps towards their mental health, ultimately strengthening the community's overall resilience and support networks.

Allocation Amount: \$6,780.16

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY BALLARAT INC.

Project: 2024 Chinese New Year Gala Concert

Objective: The Chinese Australian Cultural Society of Ballarat will use grant funds to assist in providing the 2024 Chinese New Year Gala Concert in February 2024. The event will feature performances by the Society's dance and artistic groups and will re-engage with the Melbourne Chinese community to bring outstanding cultural performances to Ballarat.

Community Benefit: The 2024 Chinese New Year Gala Concert will celebrate and showcase Chinese culture, fostering a sense of community and cultural pride among the 200 members of the Chinese Australian Cultural Society and the broader Ballarat community. By bringing in performers from the Melbourne Chinese community, the event will enhance the cultural vibrancy of Ballarat and provide an enriching experience for all attendees. This concert will highlight the contributions of the Chinese community to the cultural diversity of Ballarat.

Allocation Amount: \$5,030.00

CITY OVAL BOWLING CLUB INC

Project: Barefoot Bowls

Objective: The City Oval Bowling Club will use grant funds to purchase six sets of bowls specifically designed for youth, the elderly, and people with special needs. These bowls will be used for hosting barefoot bowls events, catering to the needs of community groups that find standard commercial bowls too large and heavy.

Community Benefit: The acquisition of appropriately sized bowls will make barefoot bowls more accessible and enjoyable for users. This initiative will encourage greater participation in recreational activities, promoting physical activity, social interaction, and inclusivity within the community. By accommodating a wider range of participants, the City Oval Bowling Club will foster a more welcoming and supportive environment.

Allocation Amount: \$2,670.00

FOREST RANGERS SOCCER CLUB

Project: Equipment to support the club's growing participation and use of facilities

Objective: The objective of this grant is to provide the Forest Rangers Soccer Club with the necessary equipment to accommodate the anticipated increase in player participation and enhance the use of club facilities.

Community Benefit: The grant will benefit the local community by enabling the Forest Rangers Soccer Club to cater to a larger number of participants, particularly in light of the increased interest in soccer following the Women's World Cup. By improving equipment and facilities, the club will offer a more inclusive and supportive environment for players of all ages and skill levels.

Allocation Amount: \$9,874.00

HEARTBEAT VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH PROJECT

Project: Cardiac Peer Support Promotional Video

Objective: Heartbeat Victoria Ballarat Branch will use grant funds to develop an educational promotional video. This video will aim to raise awareness about the support and resources available to patients, families and caregivers affected by heart disease.

Community Benefit: The creation of this promotional video will provide substantial benefits to the community by increasing awareness and understanding of heart disease and the support services available. This resource will help to connect more individuals and families affected by heart disease with vital peer support, improving overall well-being.

Allocation Amount: \$4,620.00

HOCKEY BALLARAT

Project: Junior Development for Girls & Gender Diverse Individuals

Objective: To enhance the skills and leadership of girls and gender diverse individuals aged 12-17 through the Hockey Ballarat Junior Development program.

Community Benefit: This program will benefit the community by fostering inclusivity, skill development, and confidence among girls and gender diverse individuals. Participants will not only enhance their hockey skills but also develop leadership abilities and a sense of belonging within the Ballarat Hocket community.

Allocation Amount: \$3,116.90

LAKESIDE ANGLERS CLUB INC.

Project: Fishing Brag Mats

Objective: To promote sustainable fishing practices by providing fishing brag mats, enabling anglers to quickly and accurately measure their catch and release it back into the water.

Community Benefit: The fishing brag mats will benefit the community by encouraging responsible and sustainable fishing practices. This initiative supports conservation efforts and ensures the long-term health of local fish populations.

Allocation Amount: \$2,000.00

LITTLE DREAMERS AUSTRALIA

Project: School Holiday Program

Objective: To support young carers by providing engaging and enjoyable activities through the Ballarat School Holiday Program.

Community Benefit: The School Holiday Program will benefit the community by offering young carers much-needed respite and opportunities for social interaction. Activities such as cooking, workshops, sports, and community events like visits to water parks and laser tag will help young carers build friendships, develop new skills and enjoyed a well-deserved break from their responsibilities, enhancing their overall well-being.

Allocation Amount: \$5,969.82

**Little Dreamers declined grant funding, citing the inability to run the program on partial funding.*

MT CLEAR CRICKET CLUB

Project: Inspiring All-Abilities, Girls, Women and Gender Diverse People to play Cricket

Objective: To create inclusive and accessible opportunities for young people with disabilities, girls' women, and gender diverse individuals to participate in cricket by providing suitable equipment and promoting diverse pathways.

Community Benefit: This project will benefit the community by fostering inclusivity and diversity in sports. By providing a safe and supportive environment tailored to the needs of all participants, the Mt Clear Cricket Club will encourage more individuals to engage in physical activity, build confidence, and develop a sense of belonging. The investment in appropriate equipment and promotional efforts will ensure that everyone, regardless of ability or gender, has the chance to experience the benefits of cricket.

Allocation Amount: \$3,407.00

PAX HILL SCOUT CAMP

Project: Archery Renewal 2023

Objective: To renew and expand archery equipment and improve safety measures at Pax Hill Activity and Accommodation Centre.

Community Benefit: The renewal and expansion of archery equipment will benefit the community by enhancing recreational opportunities for youth groups. By providing new bows, safety equipment, and removing hazards from the course, the project ensures a safe and enjoyable experience for young participants. Additionally, the new storage shed will protect the equipment, ensuring its longevity and availability for future use.

Allocation Amount: \$7,889.97

PROBUS CLUB OF BALLARAT NEW GENERATION

Project: Vicennial Celebration Book

Objective: To commemorate the Probus New Generation Club's 20th anniversary by creating a memorial pamphlet celebrating the fellowship and activities of current and past members.

Community Benefit: The creation of the Vicennial Celebration pamphlet will benefit the community by preserving the rich history and achievements of the Probus New Generation Club. It will highlight the positive impact of the club on its members, fostering a sense of pride and belonging. By distributing the pamphlet for free, it will also engage and inform potential new members, promoting continued community involvement and participation in club activities.

Allocation Amount: \$1,900.00

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Project: Reverse Advent Calendar & Big Blessing Day

Objective: To provide essential supplies and Christmas gifts to people in need through the distribution of reverse advent calendar boxes and by hosting the "Big Blessing Day" event.

Community Benefit: This project will benefit the community by offering critical support to individuals and families in need during the holiday season. The reverse advent calendar boxes, filled with non-perishable food, toiletries, and Christmas gifts, will provide much-needed relief to recipients. Additionally, the "Big Blessing Day" will bring the community together, with welfare agencies and volunteers collaborating to offer free activities, fresh food, and practical supplies, fostering unity within the community.

Allocation Amount: \$8,985.40

SCOUTS VICTORIA

Project: Digitising the Heritage Centre Collection

Objective: To digitally record the collection of scouting memorabilia at the Ballarat Heritage Centre to Museums Victoria standards.

Community Benefit: This project will benefit the community by preserving and making accessible the rich history of scouting in Ballarat. Digitising the collection ensures that valuable historical artifacts are protected and can be easily accessed by the public, researchers, and future generations. This initiative will enhance cultural heritage preservation and education, fostering a deeper appreciation for the contributions of Scouts Victoria to the community.

Allocation Amount: \$4,155.00

SEBASTOPOL MENS SHED INC.

Project: Improved Computer Skills for Members

Objective: To enhance computer skills and provide digital access to members of the Sebastopol Mens Shed by equipping the facility with two computers and internet connection.

Community Benefit: This project will benefit the community by bridging the digital divide for members who lack computer access at home. By providing computers and internet access, the initiative will enable members to stay connected with family and friends, access essential online services, and develop valuable computer skills.

Allocation Amount: \$2,136.00

SEEDING VICTORIA INC.

Project: Banking on a Greener Future: A Seeding Victoria and Leigh Catchment Group Initiative

Objective: To deliver a seed knowledge project in partnership with Leigh Catchment Group, aimed at enhancing biodiversity and environmental sustainability in the Buninyong and surrounding community.

Community Benefit: This project will benefit the community by promoting environmental sustainability and biodiversity through the dissemination of seed knowledge. By partnering with the Leigh Catchment Group, Seeding Victoria will provide valuable resources and education to support indigenous restoration efforts. This initiative will help the community adapt to climate change, preserve local ecosystems, and foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of native plant species.

Allocation Amount: \$6,978.00

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BALLARAT EAST

Project: Publication of 'Lives of Honour: Ballarat East and the Great War.'

Objective: To publish the book 'Lives of Honour: Ballarat East and the Great War,' which documents the stories of the 177 men from St Paul's Anglican Church who served in World War One.

Community Benefit: This project will benefit the community by preserving and sharing the historical legacy of Ballarat East during World War One. The book, researched and written by local historian Dr. Anne Doggett, will provide valuable insights into the lives and sacrifices of the 177 men commemorated on the church's honour board. By making this history accessible, the publication will foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the community's heritage.

Allocation Amount: \$10,000.00

THE HIDDEN ORCHARD

Project: Pruning Workshops and Storage Shed Building Workshop

Objective: To assemble two donated sheds and host pruning workshops to enhance the skills of The Hidden Orchard members.

Community Benefit: This project will benefit the community by improving the operations of The Hidden Orchard, a volunteer group that harvests and redistributes unwanted fruit to local food relief charities. By assembling the sheds, the group will have better storage facilities, enhancing their efficiency. The pruning workshops will upskill members, leading to increased fruit yields and higher quality produce. This initiative supports food security in Ballarat and promotes community involvement in sustainable food practices.

Allocation Amount: \$3,207.97

THE LAB BALLARAT

Project: Supporting Neurodiverse Individuals in Social Sessions

Objective: To provide autism-specific equipment to support the delivery of social sessions for neurodiverse individuals at The Lab Ballarat.

Community Benefit: This project will benefit the community by enhancing the support available for autistic young people in Ballarat. By providing sensory toys and autism-specific equipment, The Lab can better manage anxiety in social situations, creating a more inclusive and supportive environment. This initiative will help neurodiverse individuals develop social skills, build friendships, and gain confidence, contributing to their overall well-being.

Allocation Amount: \$1,215.46

THE SALVATION ARMY (VICTORIA) PROPERTY TRUST

Project: The Salvation Army - Karinya Support Services Ballarat

Objective: The funding aims to create a safer, more engaging, and supportive environment for children at Karinya Support Services through upgrades to the outdoor childcare area and the installation of a safety fence.

Community Benefit: The community will benefit significantly from this project as it addresses both immediate safety concerns and the overall quality of the childcare environment at Karinya Support Services. By replacing the artificial grass and cleaning and repairing the rubber and soft flooring, the outdoor area will become safer and more enjoyable for children. Additionally, installing a 3-meter-high chain mesh safety fence opposite the basketball court will prevent balls from entering a busy road, ensuring the safety of children during play.

Allocation Amount: \$9,209.10

VRI DELACOMBE CRICKET CLUB

Project: Empowering the VRI Delacombe Cricket Club

Objective: The objective of this project is to enhance the training capabilities and safety measures at VRI Delacombe Cricket Club. By acquiring a modern bowling machine and an Automated External Defibrillator, the club aims to improve the skill level of its members and ensure the safety and wellbeing of players, spectators, and the broader community.

Community Benefit: The community will benefit from this project through improved sports training and increased safety at the club. The modern bowling machine will enable consistent and targeted practice sessions, helping players to hone their skills and improve their performance. The addition of an AED will provide critical support in case of cardiac emergencies, ensuring that both members and visitors have access to lifesaving equipment if needed.

Allocation Amount: \$7,163.30

1ST MOUNT CLEAR SCOUT GROUP

Project: Gearing up Mount Clear Venturers for four season adventures

Objective: The objective of this project is to equip the 1st Mount Clear Scout Group with the necessary gear to ensure safe and comfortable participation in outdoor activities throughout all seasons.

Community Benefit: The 1st Mount Clear Scout Group's new equipment will allow the scouts to safely engage in outdoor adventures year-round, fostering skills in leadership, teamwork, and environmental

stewardship. Additionally, the emergency beacons will enhance safety during expeditions, ensuring quick location and rescue if needed.

Total allocated: \$6,502.73

1ST WENDOUREE SCOUTS

Project: Jamboree Equipment

Objective: The objective of this project is to equip the 1st Wendouree Scouts with necessary gear for the upcoming Jamboree in January 2025, to be held in Maryborough, QLD. The funding aims to reduce the overall cost of the event for participants by providing essential equipment, ensuring that more young people can take part in this enriching scouting opportunity.

Community Benefit: The Jamboree is a significant weeklong event that offers valuable experiences in leadership, teamwork, and outdoor skills for young scouts. The equipment purchased will not only support the scouts during the Jamboree but will also be available for future scouting activities, benefiting the broader community. By reducing the financial burden on participants and their families, this grant ensures that more young people can engage in the Jamboree, promoting personal development and community spirit.

Allocation Amount: \$6,267.00

BALLARAT AUTISM NETWORK

Project: 'Autism Fest 2024'

Objective: To create an inclusive and secure environment for families, caregivers, and neurodiverse individuals to connect and celebrate autism through a day of fun activities.

Community Benefit: The festival promotes autism awareness, fosters social connections, and provides a safe, inclusive space for neurodiverse individuals and their families, benefiting the entire community. Funding will be used for entertainment and venue hire.

Allocation Amount: \$9,994.00

BALLARAT BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Project: Wheelchair for Ballarat Wheelchair Badminton League

Objective: To establish the Ballarat Wheelchair Badminton League at the Ballarat Badminton Stadium, providing a social league for wheelchair users.

Community Benefit: The league promotes inclusivity and physical activity for wheelchair users, fostering community engagement and supporting local sports. Funding will be used to purchase a sports wheelchair from a local supplier.

Allocation Amount: \$7,788.72

BALLARAT BLAZE HOCKEY CLUB

Project: Player Shirt Library

Objective: To establish a library of team shirts for the Ballarat Blaze Hockey Club, allowing players to borrow shirts for up to a season.

Community Benefit: The shirt library enhances community participation by providing accessible team attire, reducing financial barriers for players. Funding will be used to purchase 45 playing tops in various sizes from a local company.

Allocation Amount: \$1,554.75

BALLARAT COMMUNITY GARDEN

Project: Storage shed to secure assets and provide enhanced community space

Objective: To purchase a storage shed to secure assets and enhance the community space at the Ballarat Community Garden.

Community Benefit: The storage shed will provide a secure place for tools and equipment, supporting garden operations and improving the overall functionality and accessibility of the community garden. Funding will be used in line with the Master Plan, enhancing the garden's appeal and usability for all members.

Allocation Amount: \$5,896.00

**Ballarat Community Garden declined grant funding, due to a change of circumstances.*

ROWING BALLARAT INCORPORATED

Project: Portable shelters for volunteers

Objective: To purchase portable shelters for volunteers at regattas held by the Rowing Ballarat on Lake Wendouree.

Community Benefit: The portable shelters will provide protection and comfort for volunteers, enhancing the experience and supporting their vital contributions to rowing events. This funding will improve the efficiency and enjoyment of the regattas, benefiting both volunteers and participants.

Allocation Amount: \$5,000.00

BLOC MUSIC THEATRE

Project: 2024 Junior Production

Objective: To support the 2024 Junior Production by providing local lighting and sound design and operation.

Community Benefit: The funding enhances the quality of the junior production, offering young performers a professional theatrical experience and fostering community interest in musical theatre. This supports the development of local talent and provides entertainment for the Ballarat community.

Allocation Amount: \$4,545.45

COMMITTEE FOR MINERS REST

Project: Miners Rest Creative Christmas

Objective: To organise the Miners Rest Creative Christmas event, featuring wooden Christmas trees decorated by the local community.

Community Benefit: The event fosters community spirit and engagement by involving local schools, businesses, and organisations in creative activities, enhancing festive celebrations. Funding will be used for materials, storage costs, and hosting the community Christmas event.

Allocation Amount: \$2,000.00

INTERCLUB DROP-IN CENTRE

Project: Connecting Senses Workshops

Objective: To run Connecting Senses Workshops for adults with disabilities, providing activities in woodwork, leather work, and sound therapy.

Community Benefit: The workshops offer therapeutic and skill-building activities, fostering social inclusion and enhancing the well-being of participants. Funding will be used to purchase the necessary equipment for these sessions.

Allocation Amount: \$3,958.00

Scotsburn Hall Community Asset Committee

Project: An AED for the Scotsburn Hall

Objective: To enhance the safety and emergency preparedness of Scotsburn Hall by equipping it with an Automated External Defibrillator and related emergency response tools.

Community Benefit: This project aims to ensure the safety of all hall users by providing life-saving equipment and resources. The installation of an AED, along with an alarmed mounting cabinet, wall sign and first responder kit, will enable immediate and effective response in case of cardiac emergencies, significantly increasing the chances of survival for anyone experiencing a cardiac event at the hall.

Allocation Amount: \$2,295.00



Image:vicparkfc.com.au

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A) BALLARAT

Project: U3A Creative Arts and Computer Access Initiative

Objective: To enhance U3A Ballarat's capacity to offer manual and creative arts classes and improve computer access for ageing well programs.

Community Benefit: This project will support U3A Ballarat in providing valuable learning opportunities for older adults. The purchase of a kiln, printing press, and computers will expand the range of creative arts activities and improve access to technology for educational and administrative purposes. This initiative, in partnership with the Ballarat Special School, will help meet the high demand for manual and creative arts classes and promote lifelong learning and social engagement for the community.

Allocation Amount: \$8,672.73

VICTORIA PARK FOOTBALL CLUB

Project: Expansion of the Women and Girls Teams

Objective: To support the growth of women and girls' soccer teams by providing uniforms and equipment.

Community Benefit: This project aims to promote women's and girls' participation in soccer by providing essential equipment such as uniforms and footballs. The initiative supports the expansion of the club's teams, fostering inclusivity and physical activity within the community.

Allocation Amount: \$6,313.74

WAT THAI BHAVANA BALLARAT AUSTRALIA INC.

Project: Songkran Community Wellness

Objective: To foster community wellness and cultural celebration through the Songkran event.

Community Benefit: This half-day event will bring together community members to honour their elders, engage in cultural activities, and strengthen social bonds. The initiative promotes cultural awareness, respect for traditions, and community cohesion, enhancing the well-being and cultural richness of the community.

Allocation Amount: \$1,772.73

Tourism Events Grants

The Tourism Events Grants Program is intrinsically linked to the implementation of Council’s Ballarat Events Strategy 2018-2028 and the Visitor Economy Strategy. This program provides funding for festivals, events, and activities that promote increased visitation, participation, and economic yield. Additionally, it supports initiatives that contribute to the presentation and marketing of Ballarat as a tourism destination.

The primary goal of the Tourism Events Grants Program is to curate a balanced calendar of events that offer compelling reasons for tourists to visit Ballarat while enhancing the city’s vibrancy for both visitors and residents. By funding a diverse range of events, the program aims to create a dynamic and engaging environment that attracts new visitors and encourages repeat tourism.

Aligned with the strategic objectives of the Ballarat Events Strategy 2018-2028, the program focuses on several key outcomes:

- 1. **Increased Visitation:** Supporting events that draw visitors to Ballarat, thereby boosting the local economy through tourism spending on accommodation, dining, shopping, and other activities.
- 2. **Enhanced Participation:** Encouraging community involvement and active participation in events, fostering a sense of local pride and community spirit.

3. **Economic Yield:** Funding events that provide substantial economic benefits, including job creation, business growth, and increased investment in the local area.

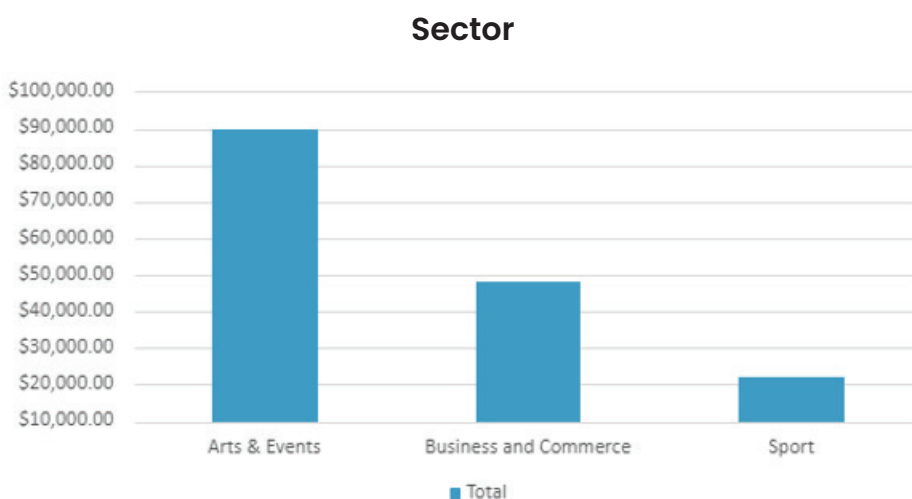
4. **Brand Promotion:** Elevating Ballarat’s profile as a destination of choice through high-quality events that receive regional, national, and international attention.

5. **Diverse and Inclusive Programming:** Ensuring a variety of events that cater to different interests and demographics, enhancing the cultural fabric of the city and promoting inclusivity.

The program supports a wide array of events, from large-scale festivals and sporting events to smaller, niche activities that offer unique experiences. By aligning with the strategic priorities outlined in the Ballarat Events Strategy 2018-2028, the Tourism Events Grants Program plays a crucial role in realising the vision of Ballarat as a vibrant, dynamic, and economically robust city. Through targeted funding and support, the program helps to create memorable experiences for visitors, foster community engagement, and drive sustainable economic growth.

In 2023/24, 21 applications were received, with 13 events being funded, resulting in a 62 percent approval rate, an increase of one percent from 2022/23. A total budget allocation of \$155,000, \$153,500 was allocated.

The below graph outlines the spend in each category across the 2023/24 Tourism Events Grants Program.



This section of the report contains a profile on each of the Tourism Events Grant agreements in place and provides an overview of the project, how the project has benefited the community and the amount of funding that was allocated for each project.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM AND GALLERY ASSOCIATION (AMAGA)

Objective: The annual AMaGA National Conference is the major national symposia event for the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector, covering all areas of visual arts, material culture and heritage sites. As this is the only Australian conference that encompasses issues relating to the whole sector, it is a significant professional development and networking opportunity, particularly for participants from rural and remote locations and smaller organisations.

Economic Impact: \$272,330.00

Allocation Amount: \$20,000

Number of participants: 700

SPIRITS VICTORIA ASSOCIATION

Objective: The SVA Conference 2024 is the annual conference of the Spirits Victoria Association, the peak body for distillers in Victoria. The event will comprise of a welcome night drinks, full day of presentations and workshop, followed by a day of local distillery tours.

Economic Impact: \$55,900

Allocation Amount: \$15,000

Number of participants: 150

FORESTRY AUSTRALIA SYMPOSIUM

Objective: The Forestry Australia Symposium is a biennial event that attracts more than 300 delegates from across Australia and internationally. Healthy forests deliver a range of environmental, cultural, social, and economic benefits and values. Healthy forests are diverse and resilient. They can be achieved through active and adaptive forest management. A healthy and resilient forest should be a primary objective for forest and land managers regardless of land tenure. The Symposium is a focussed three-day gathering, consisting of two days of plenary and concurrent sessions and a Field Trip day. The two-day program will feature a range of Keynote and Invited Speakers, who are experts and thought leaders in their field.

Economic Impact: \$201,200

Allocation Amount: \$15,000

Number of participants: 375

POCO FILM FESTIVAL

Objective: POCO is a short film competition, open to students and professional filmmakers, with eligible entries - Australian made films under 20 minutes - accepted from around Australia across all genres including documentary, fiction, music videos, animations and more. Filmmakers are competing for the major award, POCO Best Short, with a prize of \$8,000, Best Student Award (\$3,000) and a jury prize. Finalists' films are judged by a panel of 3 industry experts, including some major names in the Australian film industry. The 2024 festival has events across two days: Day one sees the event 'POCO Talks' taking place at a 300-seat theatre - live keynote speakers from the Australian film industry. Day two is the screening of approximately 20 finalist films at The Regent Cinema, Ballarat, in the magnificent, 600 seat; Cinema One. A chance for filmmakers to watch their work on the big screen in front of a live audience. POCO attracts an audience from Ballarat, Regional Victoria, Melbourne and Interstate, with many visitors staying overnight in Ballarat.

Economic Impact: \$62,000

Allocation Amount: \$20,000

Number of participants: 800

THE RED SERIES

Objective: The Red Series brings together the top cellar doors from the Grampians, Pyrenees and for the first time, the Ballarat wine regions under one roof at the ambient, heated indoor space of the Mining Exchange. Located in the heart of Ballarat, just a two-minute stroll from the train station, it's the ultimate wine experience. 2024 marks the eighth edition of the Red Series, a testament to its enduring popularity with sessions consistently selling out over the years.

With the Grampians and Pyrenees wine regions right on Ballarat's doorstep, boasting over 160 years of winemaking tradition, breathtaking scenery, and a reputation for producing award-winning wines, it's no wonder the Red Series is a must-attend event. Plus, you'll get to rub elbows with some seriously talented yet approachable winemakers.

At the Red Series, guests can sample and purchase wines from 22 different wineries, each expertly paired with local charcuterie boxes for the ultimate tasting experience.

Economic Impact: \$109,025

Allocation Amount: \$13,000

Number of participants: 1200

U13/U17 YONEX AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & PARA BADMINTON COME AND TRY

Objective: Badminton Australia will host National Championship competitions across several age groups, these competitions are designed to promote badminton, align with high performance pathways, to crown national champions in all the different categories and is also a selection event for the national junior program called the Junior Falcons.

Badminton Australia – U13 National Team Championships
Badminton Australia - U13 National Individual Championships
Badminton Australia – U17 Australian National Team Championships
Badminton Australia – U17 Australian National Individual Championships
Badminton Australia – Para Badminton Come & Try.

Economic Impact: \$387,850.00

Allocation Amount: \$10,000

Number of participants: 600

U15 BOYS & GIRLS NATIONAL LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Objective: Lacrosse Victoria in conjunction with Lacrosse Australia and the Ballarat and Goldfields Lacrosse League are hosting the National Under 15 Boys and Girls Junior Tournament at Morshead Park, Ballarat. The week-long tournament will host approximately 20 boys and girls teams from around Australia and New Zealand. Each team will have 17 players with coaches and team managers who will all be staying in Ballarat for the week.

Economic Impact: \$749,600

Allocation Amount: \$10,000

Number of participants: 8,000

BALLARAT ROCK 'N' ROLL FESTIVAL 2023

Objective: The Ballarat Rock 'N' Roll Festival will be a two-day event. The aim of the event is to provide an opportunity to celebrate everything Rock 'n' Roll and highlight the 50's and 60's eras including the dancing, the 50's and 60's music, the fabulous fashion and the classic cars. The Saturday of the festival will include a daytime event open to the general public from 10am to 4pm and feature Rock 'n' Roll and line dancing lessons, fashion parade, stalls with Rock 'n' Roll/Retro merchandise, food and coffee trucks and multiple live bands. The Saturday will also include an evening

ticketed dance event from 6pm to 11.30pm featuring two of Victoria's iconic Rock N Roll bands.

Economic Impact: \$619,500

Allocation Amount: \$15,000

Number of participants: 4000

AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL OF QUEER THEATRE

Objective: The Festival of Australian Queer Theatre will invite leading Australian artists and thinkers amongst the queer theatre making community to participate in a daytime program of talks and panel discussions. The daytime offering will include script readings of classic queer Australian plays by local performers, open rehearsals of a new text or production in development, and performance workshops lead by some of Australia's leading queer theatre makers. The evening program will follow a format of a short early show, followed by a major/headline work and a late show. This would likely also include a social program including networking events, opening night party, closing night party and a festival bar. The Festival of Australian Queer Theatre will also seek to commission new works to be created, developed and refined for staging in the following year. It is envisioned that Festival of Australian Queer Theatre is scheduled to occur in Ballarat during the fourth weekend of August each year.

Economic Impact: \$52,300

Allocation Amount: \$10,000

Number of participants: 500

MINITUBE DOG TECHDAYS 2024

Objective: Minitube Dog TechDays 2024 aims to bring together the respective parts of the dog breeding industry – veterinarians, veterinary nurses, dog breeders, academics and industry - for discussion and further learning on canine reproduction, obstetrics and neonatal care, through multiple prestigious speakers. The event is run over two days at the Mercure Ballarat Hotel & Convention Centre, Ballarat, Victoria.

Economic Impact: \$45,920

Allocation Amount: \$5,000

Number of participants: 120



Image:thecourier.com.au

THE GRUFFALO TRAIL

Objective: Gruffalo Trail is a family event that involves a virtual reality app that is downloaded onto a mobile device. Over the month that the festival will be held in Ballarat, the trail will change many times to include the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and The Ballarat Wildlife Park. When the family follows the trail, place markers trigger the software to show the different characters in the story. Through the app, the children can have their photo taken with them. There will be prizes each day for those completing the trail. Changing the trail regularly will encourage people to stay in Ballarat longer to undertake the trail numerous times.

Economic Impact: \$3,260,000

Allocation Amount: \$15,000

Number of participants: 20,000

BALLARAT ROCK 'N' ROLL FESTIVAL 2024

Objective: The Ballarat Rock 'N' Roll Festival will be a two day event. The aim of the event is to provide an opportunity to celebrate everything Rock 'n' Roll and highlight the 50's and 60's eras including the dancing, the 50's and 60's music, the fabulous fashion and the classic cars. The Saturday of the festival will include a daytime event open to the general public from 10am to 4pm and feature Rock 'n' Roll and line dancing lessons, fashion parade, stalls with Rock 'n' Roll/Retro merchandise, food and coffee trucks and multiple live bands. The Saturday will also include an evening ticketed dance event from 6pm to 11.30pm featuring two of Victoria's iconic Rock N Roll bands.

The event will aim to attract 3000 people.

Economic Impact: \$350,400

Allocation Amount: \$15,000

Number of participants: 3000



Our Commitment to Continuous Improvement

At the heart of our grants program lies a commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring that our processes are efficient, effective, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of our community.

Some of the key initiatives that were undertaken in 2023/24 to enhance the grants programs include:

Gender Impact Assessment: A Gender Impact Assessment was developed to ensure grant programs were equitable and accessible to all genders. This assessment helped identify potential biases and implement strategies to promote gender inclusivity in our grant opportunities. As a result, hard copy application forms were introduced, and applications were able to be submitted in different languages. Additionally, the Community Inclusion Officer reviewed the grant guidelines, and amendments were made to encourage more inclusive applications and promote overall inclusion.

Transition to a New Grants Platform: A procurement process was undertaken to find a suitable online grants management system. Good Grants was the successful tenderer, and the migration was undertaken mid-way through 2023/24. This transition aims to streamline the application and management processes, making it easier for applicants to navigate and for Officers to administer grants efficiently.

Business Improvement Initiatives: Building on the 2022/23 initiative, refining of the reporting system has continued. The system captures a detailed breakdown of grant program data, including amount requested, categories, sectors, and alignment with our strategic priorities. The enhanced reporting capabilities enable better understanding of the community impact of the grants programs and provide a benchmark to make informed recommendations about future funding.

Incorporating these continuous improvement measures, the aim is to enhance the effectiveness, transparency, and accessibility of the City of Ballarat Partnerships and Grants program, ensuring it meets the evolving needs of our community. Our commitment to ongoing evaluation and refinement of our processes will help Council achieve its goals and priorities and foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for all grant recipients.

Appendices A – Strategic Partnerships funded for 2023/24

Partnership	Start Date	End Date	Total Amount Funded or to be Funded	Comments
Ballarat Mechanics Institute	July 2021	July 2024	\$135,000	Agreement Complete
Ballarat International Foto Biennale	July 2020	June 2024	\$800,000	Agreement Complete
Ballarat Cricket Association	July 2020	August 2025	\$500,000	Ongoing partnership
Ballarat Sports Foundation	March 2023	June 2025	\$15,000	Ongoing partnership
Clemente Program	July 2020	July 2025	\$45,000	Ongoing partnership
Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Inc.	March 2022	June 2025	\$333,784	Ongoing partnership
Rowing Victoria	August 2018	August 2028	\$420,000	Ongoing partnership

Appendices B – City Partnerships funded for 2023/24

Community Stream	Start Date	End Date	Total Amount Funded or to be Funded	Comments
Bridge Mall Business Association Inc	1 September 2023	30 June 2024	\$70,000.00	Agreement complete
Committee for Ballarat	1 September 2023	30 June 2024	\$20,000.00	Agreement complete
Western United Football Club	1 September 2023	30 July 2025	\$140,000.00	Ongoing partnership
Ballarat Athletic Club Inc.	1 September 2023	30 June 2026	\$63,050.00	Ongoing partnership
Ballarat Carols by Candlelight	15 September 2023	30 June 2026	\$90,000.00	Ongoing partnership
Rotary Club of Ballarat South	15 September 2023	30 June 2026	\$120,000.00	Ongoing partnership
WestVic Academy of Sport	1 September 2023	30 June 2026	\$90,000.00	Ongoing partnership
TOTAL			\$593,050.00	

Commercial Stream	Start Date	End Date	Total Amount Funded or to be Funded	Comments
Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society	1 November 2023	30 June 2024	\$100,000.00	Agreement complete
Ballarat Basketball	1 September 2023	30 June 2026	\$300,000.00	Ongoing partnership
Ballarat Evolve Creative Industries	15 September 2023	30 June 2026	\$75,000.00	Ongoing partnership
Royal South Street Society	15 September 2023	30 June 2026	\$349,528.00	Ongoing partnership
Sovereign Hill Museums Association	12 October 2023	30 June 2026	\$600,000.00	Ongoing partnership
TOTAL			\$1,424,528.00	

Appendices C – Community Impact Grants funded for 2023/24

Community Group or Organisation	End Date	Total Amount Funded
ROUND 1		
99.9 Voice FM	\$5,056.36	November 2024
Alfredton Baseball Club Inc.	\$2,238.50	November 2024
Ballarat African Association Inc	\$2,659.10	November 2024
Ballarat Bonsai Society Inc.	\$2,000.00	November 2024
Ballarat City Rowing Club	\$4,425.00	November 2024
Ballarat Clovers GAA Club Inc	\$5,855.00	November 2024
Ballarat East Community Mens' Shed	\$6,153.00	November 2024
Ballarat Hospice Care Inc	\$4,342.72	November 2024
Ballarat Mental Health Collective – Ballarat Action for Mental Health	\$5,577.10	November 2024
Ballarat Nepali Samaj Inc.	\$9,824.00	November 2024
Ballarat Petanque Club	\$8,460.00	November 2024
Ballarat Police and Citizens Youth Club	\$10,000.00	November 2024
Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council	\$9,000.00	November 2024
Ballarat Renegade Bootscooters	\$2,414.50	November 2024
Ballarat Social Trail Horse Riders Club Incorporated.	\$1,789.00	November 2024
Ballarat Southern Warriors Karate Club Inc.	\$5,232.00	November 2024
Ballarat Symphony Orchestra Inc	\$5,000.00	*Due to this event not proceeding, funds have been returned.
Ballarat Tamil Sangam Inc.	\$1,975.00	November 2024
Ballarat Western Croquet Club	\$3,120.00	November 2024
Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance Ballarat	\$3,863.00	November 2024
Bootblack Plus	\$9,965.27	*Due to this event not proceeding, funds have been returned.
Buninyong Community Garden Engagement	\$20,000.00	November 2024
Burrumbeet Soldiers Memorial Hall	\$3,435.00	November 2024
Central Wendouree Bowls Club Inc.	\$9,045.45	November 2024
Centre For Multicultural Youth – Ballarat	\$6,780.16	November 2024
Chinese Australian Cultural Society Ballarat Inc.	\$5,030.00	November 2024
City Oval Bowling Club Inc	\$2,670.00	November 2024
Forest Rangers Soccer Club	\$9,874.00	November 2024
Heartbeat Victoria Ballarat Branch	\$4,620.00	November 2024

Community Group or Organisation	End Date	Total Amount Funded
Hockey Ballarat	\$3,116.90	November 2024
Lakeside Anglers Club Inc	\$2,000.00	November 2024
Mt Clear Cricket Club	\$3,407.00	November 2024
Little Dreamers Australia	\$5,969.82	*Little Dreamers declined partial funding.
Pax Hill Scout Camp	\$7,889.97	November 2024
Probus Club of Ballarat New Generation	\$1,900.00	November 2024
Reverse Advent Calendar	\$8,985.40	November 2024
Scouts Victoria	\$4,155.00	November 2024
SEBASTOPOL MENS SHED INC.	\$2,136.00	November 2024
Seeding Victoria Inc.	\$6,978.00	November 2024
St Paul's Anglican Church, Ballarat East	\$10,000.00	November 2024
The Hidden Orchard	\$3,207.97	November 2024
The Lab Ballarat	\$1,215.46	November 2024
THE SALVATION ARMY (VICTORIA) PROPERTY TRUST	\$9,209.10	November 2024
VRI Delacombe Cricket Club	\$7,163.30	November 2024
ROUND 2		
1st Mount Clear Scout Group	\$6,502.73	June 2025
1st Wendouree Scouts	\$6,267.00	June 2025
Ballarat Autism Network	\$9,994.00	June 2025
Ballarat Badminton Association	\$7788.72	June 2025
Ballarat Blaze Hockey Club	\$1,554.75	June 2025
Ballarat Community Garden Inc	\$5,896.00	*Due to a change of circumstances, Ballarat Community Garden declined grant funding.
Rowing Ballarat Incorporated	\$5,000.00	June 2025
BLOC Music Theatre	\$4,545.45	June 2025
Committee For Miners Rest	\$2,000.00	June 2025
InterClub Drop-In Centre	\$3,958.00	June 2025
Scotsburn Hall Community Asset Committee	\$2,295.00	June 2025
University of the Third Age (U3A) Ballarat	\$8,672.73	June 2025
Victoria Park Football Club	\$6,313.74	June 2025
Wat Thai Bhavana Ballarat Australia Inc.	\$1,772.73	June 2025

Appendices D – Tourism Event Grants funded for 2023/24

Event	Total Amount Funded	Date of Event
U15 Boys & Girls National Lacrosse Championship	\$10,000.00	27 September 2023
U13/U17 Yonex Australian National Championships & Para Badminton Come and Try	\$10,000.00	25 September 2023
Ballarat Rock 'N' Roll Festival	\$15,000.00	11-12 Nov 2023
Australian Museum and Gallery Association (AMaGA) 2024	\$20,000.00	17 September 2024
Australian Festival of Queer Theatre	\$10,000.00	22 August 2024
Minitube Dog TechDays 2024	\$5,000.00	22 February 24
Golden City Classic - Disc Golf	\$2,000.00	20 – 21 January 2023
The Gruffalo Trail	\$15,000.00	9 March – 14 April 2024
Spirits Victoria Association	\$15,000.00	4 – 6 August 2024
Forestry Australia Symposium 2024	\$15,000.00	29- 31 October 2024
Ballarat Rock 'N' Roll Festival	\$10,000.00	6 – 7 April 2024
Poco Film Festival 2024	\$20,000.00	2 – 3 August 2024
The Red Series*	\$13,000.00	26 – 27 July 2024

**The Tourism Events Assessment Committee fully funded the Red Series 50 percent of the budget allocation was funded from the 2023//24 budget and the remaining 50 percent is to be funded from the 2024/25 budget.*



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September 2024

8.3. RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR ADOPTION

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Fiona Stevenson – Coordinator Sustainable Environment

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to present 'Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy 2024-2028' to Council for adoption.

BACKGROUND

2. The City of Ballarat Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2018-2022 (RRWMS) was adopted by Council in July 2018 (R178/18). Council Plan action 1.1.2.7 is to update the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy in 2023-2024.
3. To assist inform the development of an update to the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy, community consultation was undertaken during October 2023 and feedback was presented at the Councillor briefing on 6 December 2023.
4. Key themes and ideas resulting from the community engagement included:
 - Additional measures to address litter and illegal dumping.
 - Greater community promotion, education and behaviour change around recycling and reuse.
 - A household collection service for hard to dispose of items.
 - Reducing contamination in comingled recycling bin.
 - Advocacy for product stewardship.
 - Engagement with the building industry to reduce litter during construction.
5. The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy (now called Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy) (the Strategy) was developed based on the community feedback as part of consultation in 2023. It contains specific aims and targets as well as an action plan that clearly identifies how we can work with our community over the next four years to achieve five key goals:
 1. Create less waste
 2. Increase reuse and recycling
 3. Deliver circular waste and recycling services
 4. Protect our environment
 5. Empower our community.

KEY MATTERS

6. The MySay survey was viewed 621 times and 35 residents provided a response. Key themes in response to the survey questions are detailed below:

Q1. Do you support the draft strategy goals?

79% of respondents were in support, 17% did not support and 4% did not comment.

Q2. If you answered ‘no’ to Question 1, how would you improve the draft strategy’s goals?

Respondents not supportive of goals wanted to see waste problems tackled at the source including advocacy for less packaging and better packaging options. Other comments related to the frequency of residential bin collection.

Q3. The draft includes targets that are aligned with the Victorian Government’s Recycling Victoria Strategy and some are specific to Ballarat. Do you think the strategy is ambitious enough to meet the targets?

Respondents generally thought the strategy was ambitious enough to meet the targets. Specific comments related to the speed of action delivery and the frequency of residential bin collection.

Q4. Tell us what you think about the actions? Is there anything missing that you’d like to see?

Respondents were supportive of the actions asking for more on:

- Residential hard waste collections
- Greater accessibility to services
- Consideration for waste to energy
- A focus on tackling waste problems at the source
- An increase in education

Q5. Do you have any further comments?

Respondents would like to see a faster roll out the residential 4 bin system and improved separation at the transfer station.

7. The feedback received on the draft strategy largely resulted in minor changes to the final strategy including a greater focus on accessibility for all members of the community, stronger actions on tackling waste problems at the source, providing additional detail on regional processing solutions that could include waste to energy, and providing clarity on the four bin residential decision (for example, when the decision was made and what it includes).

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

8. That Council:

- 8.1 **Adopt the attached ‘Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy 2024-2028’.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. Governance Review [8.3.1 - 2 pages]
2. Waste Strategy Waste as a Resource 2024-2028 FINAL [8.3.2 - 43 pages]

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ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL VISION, COUNCIL PLAN, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

1. The Council Plan (2021-2025) provides strong support for a circular economy and the development of a circular economy strategy.
2. Goal 1: An environmentally sustainable future
 - 1.1 Transition towards zero emissions
 - 1.2 Transition towards zero waste
 - 1.3 Support communities to be adaptive and resilient to a changing climate
 - 1.4 Provide lower carbon transport options
 - 1.5 Improve stewardship of our natural resources and protection and enhancement of our biodiversity
 - 1.6 Adopt more sustainable practices in our core business and operations
3. Goal 3: A city that fosters sustainable growth
 - 3.4 Ensure environmental sustainability outcomes are embedded in new developments
 - 3.5 Ensure better quality sustainable design outcomes in both City of Ballarat and private developments

COMMUNITY IMPACT

4. The Strategy was developed based on community feedback from waste workshops and online surveys.
5. The Strategy will assist the Ballarat community to reduce waste and transition to a circular economy.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

6. The Strategy is based on creating less waste, increasing recycling and protecting the environment. A decrease in waste to landfill will result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7. The delivery of the Strategy actions is expected to offer environmental and economic benefits.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Additional funding will be sought in each financial year of the budget as it aligns with the relevant action and indicative cost.

LEGAL AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

9. Strategy targets are in alignment with State Government targets and each action will undergo a risk assessment as part of its project management.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

10. It is considered that the report does not impact on any human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

11. The Strategy was developed in conjunction with the Ballarat community with a specific focus on industrial and business sectors and community with an interest in waste and resource management.

GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

12. There are no gender equality implications identified for the subject of this report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT HAVE ARISEN IN PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

13. Council officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the matter of this report.

OFFICIAL



CITY OF BALLARAT

Waste as a Resource

Our Circular Economy Strategy
2024-2028





—

The City of Ballarat acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

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Message from the Mayor



“Waste not, want not.”

Discarding and burying waste in landfills is unsustainable in the face of our growing environmental challenges.

Viewing waste as a resource means recognising the potential value embedded in what we throw away. Materials such as plastics, metals and food organics can be reused, recycled and repurposed.

We must view waste as a resource in order to benefit our environment, economy and our overall quality of life.

The City of Ballarat is committed to reducing waste going to landfill and creating a circular economy, that keeps materials in use for as long as possible.

We are focussed on reducing waste, recycling materials and seeking local opportunities for product development and support for local innovations.

The transition to a circular economy is not just an environmental necessity but an economic opportunity and a pathway to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

By rethinking our approach to waste and recognising it as a valuable resource, we can create a resilient, innovative and thriving community for generations to come.

‘An environmentally sustainable future’ is Goal One of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and is a key priority for the City of Ballarat and our community.

We look forward to implementing the Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy and achieving outcomes that will ensure waste becomes a thing of the past, and, instead, resources are continually cycled back into our economy.

**Cr Des Hudson
Mayor, City of Ballarat**



Circular economy and Country

The Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples have a connection to Country, called *Dja* and *Djandak* respectfully, that means they view natural resources differently, only taking what they need and ensuring they give back to *Dja* and *Djandak* to keep it healthy.

Historically, tools and materials were made from the earth and able to be returned to the earth. They were biodegradable, often after being used and reused over multiple generations. There was no waste. As a result, Country was kept healthy, sustainable and resource rich.

In contrast, since European settlement, much of the Ballarat's wealth and ongoing prosperity comes from taking resources from Country at unsustainable rates in a non-regenerative fashion, making Country sick.

When Country is sick, the community is sick.

This simple but poignant fact is evidenced in the enduring damage caused by the Gold Rush, turning Country upside down and leaving watercourses laced with heavy metals in the quest for gold.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation's Country Plan *Paleert Tjaara Dja*, and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation's Country Plan *Dhelkunya Dja* speak to circular and regenerative ideologies.

Ensuring the correct disposal of waste, chemicals and mining contaminants to minimise pollution of waterways, groundwater and Country are key priorities, as is active collaboration to remediate contaminated land.

Furthermore, opportunities are encouraged that support enterprise and increase capacity for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation to restore Country, safely practice culture, recognise women as the holders of relevant cultural knowledge and support Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People.

Executive summary

The City of Ballarat is proud to present Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy 2024-2028.

This Strategy provides a practical framework for how the City of Ballarat and the community will work together to advance our shared goal to reduce waste and support Victoria's transition to a circular economy.

The Strategy outlines a future waste management vision that reflects community attitudes and expectations for sensible and sustainable practices that move away from traditional 'take – make – waste' patterns and embrace the full potential of a circular economy.

Our Strategy aligns with global waste principles, Victorian Government policy and local priorities to deliver a circular economy to the City of Ballarat.

This is an important and exciting transition happening across the state. Here in Ballarat, it will lead to some big changes to the services the community relies on the City of Ballarat to provide in the future.

The City of Ballarat recognises that it will take new learning, behaviour change, mindset shifts, adaptation and innovation for this Strategy to be implemented successfully. Fortunately, we are a local government organisation and a community of caring, resilient and resourceful people who will be key in its successful rollout.

This Strategy contains specific aims and targets as well as an Action Plan that clearly identifies how we can work together over the next four years to achieve five key goals:

1. Create less waste
2. Increase reuse and recycling
3. Deliver circular waste and recycling services
4. Protect our environment
5. Empower our community.

The City of Ballarat acknowledges the climate emergency and the threat that climate change poses to our local community and environment. Our current unsustainable patterns of consumption with high levels of resource extraction, production and waste generation contribute to excessive greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. Addressing the climate challenge requires a fundamental shift towards a more sustainable consumption model where resource use is avoided, where possible, and where resources are reused and recycled.

The way we think about waste, consumption and the future is changing as we become more aware of the consequences for the generations set to inherit the planet and consideration of the unequal burden globally on women and girls as a result of climate change.

The way we manage waste must change.

This Strategy is the City of Ballarat's commitment to change – for good.



1. Drivers of Change

> Victoria’s waste management transformation

The Victorian Government’s *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* strengthens oversight and regulation of Victoria’s waste and recycling services. It’s the foundation for the state’s transition to a circular economy and is the legislative framework for *Recycling Victoria: A new economy*.

The City of Ballarat’s existing *Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy (2018–2022)* was written prior to the release of the Recycling Victoria policy and action plan in February 2020.

The Recycling Victoria policy and action plan outlines a new four-stream waste and recycling system, a Container Deposit Scheme, a stronger waste and recycling industry and new recycling laws and governance. To achieve its targets, the City of Ballarat must make changes to its waste services to better support a circular economy.

In line with the Act, the City of Ballarat will introduce a four-bin system to sort general waste, comingled recycling, glass, and food organics and garden organics (FOGO) separately.

Despite Victorian Government direction on circular economy and waste (including kerbside collection), there is still a need for a local Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy to cover other waste issues important to our community including:

- Local waste reduction and diversion targets

- Waste education
- City of Ballarat waste service offerings, including hard waste collections
- Litter and illegal dumping

> Guiding principles

The management of waste in Australia is guided by several principles designed to minimise environmental impact, promote sustainability and embrace resource recovery. These principles are used to shape national, state and local policy and strategy.

> Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. At the heart of the goals is the need for a global partnership to ensure our collective future.

Waste management and resource recovery support the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular ‘Gender Equity’ (Number 5), ‘Sustainable cities and communities’ (Number 11), ‘Responsible consumption and production’ (Number 12), ‘Climate action’ (Number 13), ‘Life below water’ (Number 14), ‘Life on land’ (Number 15) and ‘Partnerships for the goals’ (Number 17).

The City of Ballarat recognises the importance of realising these goals and will use them as a reference in future planning.



> Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy prioritises waste management practices with an emphasis on avoiding waste and maximising resource recovery.



- Avoid creating waste in the first place.
- Keep waste to a minimum. Consider waste when purchasing.
- Reuse or repurpose items.
- Repair items rather than replacing.
- Process waste into something new.
- Turn waste into energy.
- Dispose of waste to landfill.

> Circular economy

At the heart of this Strategy is the concept of a circular economy: an economy that is restorative and regenerative by design, and aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times. A circular economy follows the above waste hierarchy, prioritising management practices that avoid and reduce waste, maximise resource recovery and ensure treatment or disposal options are safe and environmentally responsible.

“The circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. Products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling and composting.

In our current economy, we take materials from the Earth, make products from them and eventually throw them away as waste – the process is linear. In a circular economy, by contrast, we stop waste being produced in the first place.”

– Ellen MacArthur Foundation



> Precautionary principle

The precautionary principle states that if a product, an action or a policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, protective action should be supported before there is complete scientific proof of a risk.

> Intergenerational equity principle

The intergenerational equity principle is a fundamental principle of environmental law that states that present generations have a duty to protect the environment for the benefit of future generations. Our current resource consumption should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

> Shaping resource recovery and waste in Australia

Resource recovery and waste management is governed in Australia through legislation and policy across the three levels of government. This Strategy was developed within a framework of the relevant national, state and local government acts, legislation, policies, regulations and plans.

> Waste legislation and policy. Who is responsible for what?



Legislation and policy	Responsibilities
Federal – Australia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Waste Policy</i> • <i>National Waste Action Plan 2019</i> • <i>Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Product stewardship > Waste export regulations • <i>National Food Waste Strategy</i> • <i>National Plastics Plan</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set national policy • Administer product stewardship legislation and schemes
▼ ▼	
State – Victoria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i> • <i>Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021</i> • <i>Statewide Waste & Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plans</i> • <i>Recycling Victoria: A new economy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste legislation and management (residential, commercial and industrial) • Plan statewide infrastructure • Support investment in the resource recovery and waste • Regional circular economy plans
▼ ▼	
Local – City of Ballarat	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Vision • Council Plan 2021-2025 • Waste as a Resource: Our Circular Economy Strategy 2024-2028 • Circular Ballarat Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource recovery and waste collection, processing and disposal services to households • Advocate to other levels of government on policies and strategies on behalf of residents • Community education and empowerment on a circular economy

In addition to governments, there are other important players in the waste space:

<p>Circular economy industries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate infrastructure and technology to process resource recovery and waste. • Advocate for changes to the industry.
<p>Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on resource consumption, reuse and recycling for their businesses.
<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide to purchase or not purchase products. Decide how to recycle or dispose of these products. Change consumption habits and waste behaviours for 'small changes-big impact' on the planet.



Do you know how much waste goes to landfill?

- > Locally, Ballarat residents and businesses fill a hole with waste each year that is equivalent to filling Mars Stadium almost six metres deep.
- > Victorians currently send more than 4.7million tonnes of waste to landfill every year.
Source: Recycling Victoria dashboard 2020-21
- > Valuable resources within waste are being lost to landfill while raw materials continue to be sources to make new products (the linear economy), which is not sustainable.



> Federal – Australia

National Waste Policy Action Plan (2019)

The National Waste Policy Action Plan is the national framework for waste and resource recovery in Australia. It outlines five key principles for waste management to transition Australia to a circular economy:

1. Avoid waste
2. Improve resource recovery
3. Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products
4. Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
5. Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

The *National Waste Policy Action Plan* has seven targets:

1. Regulate waste exports
2. Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030
3. Recover 80% of all waste by 2030
4. Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry
5. Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025
6. Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030
7. Provide data to support better decisions.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 (Cth)

This Act provides a national framework for industry to take a greater responsibility for the environmental impact of the products that they produce through the product lifecycle, from design to disposal.

Product stewardship schemes

Product stewardship is an approach to manage the environmental and human health and safety of products and materials over a product's lifecycle. It involves manufacturers, importers, retailers and consumers sharing responsibility.

They can be industry-led voluntary schemes, co-regulatory between industry and government or mandatory under the law.

Under the Act, the Minister provides a priority list of products and materials considered to be most in need of product stewardship action that may need regulatory intervention if industry does not take voluntary action.

Australia has several product stewardship programs for items including oil, televisions and computers, plastics and packaging, mobile phones, tyres and batteries.

Waste export regulations

The Act bans the export of unprocessed waste including glass, plastics, tyres, paper and cardboard outside of Australia. These materials must be ready for further use prior to being exported.

National Food Waste Strategy

The *National Food Waste Strategy* provides a framework to support collective action towards halving Australia's food waste by 2030. It adopts a circular-economy approach to capture food waste as a resource, encouraging food waste avoidance over reuse, recycling, reprocessing, energy recovery and disposal. It has four priority areas:

1. Policy support – Policies are supportive of food waste avoidance, reduction and repurposing.
2. Business improvements – Improvement and adoption of technologies, processes and actions to avoid and reduce food waste.
3. Market development – Development of markets to support the repurposing of food waste.
4. Behaviour change – Practices and attitudes towards avoiding and reducing food waste are adopted and sustained.

National Plastics Plan 2021

The National Plastics Plan outlines ways to increase plastic recycling, find alternatives to unnecessary plastics and reduce the impact of plastic on the environment.

The goals of the plan are to:

- Reduce plastic waste and increase recycling rates
- Find alternatives to the plastics we don't need
- Reduce the amount of plastics impacting our environment.

> State – Victoria

Environment Protection Act 2017

The Act and subordinate legislation take a prevention-based approach to protect and minimise the risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste. The centrepiece of the Act is the general environmental duty which requires all Victorians to take reasonable and practical steps to reduce the human and environmental health risks of their activities.

Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021

The Act strengthens oversight and regulation of Victoria's waste and recycling services. It's the foundation for the state's transition to a circular economy and is the legislative framework for Recycling Victoria: A new economy.

Recycling Victoria: A new economy

Recycling Victoria is the Victorian Government's circular economy plan. It aims to cut waste and increase recycling and reuse. Key actions in the plan that have a strong influence on the City of Ballarat's resource recovery and waste management include:

- A new four-stream waste and recycling system for all households:
 - Combined food organics and garden organics
 - Glass recycling
 - Plastics, paper, cardboard and metal recycling
 - Household waste
- A Container Deposit Scheme offering a 10 cent refund for used cans, cartons and bottles
- Support for a stronger waste and recycling industry
- New recycling laws and governance
- A state-wide ban of single-use plastics.

Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

A 30-year roadmap to improve Victoria's waste and recycling infrastructure. The aims of the plan are to:

- Reprocess and use recycled materials
- Reduce the need for raw materials
- Send less waste to landfill.

This plan will be replaced by the *Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan (VRIP)* which is currently under development and expected to be released in 2024. Similarly, the objective of the incoming Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan is to provide long-term strategic infrastructure planning to guide and inform decision-making in relation to waste, recycling and resource recovery infrastructure at a state, regional and local level over the next 30 years.

Regional Circular Economy Plan Grampians Central West

The Grampians Central West *Regional Circular Economy Plan (RCEP)* is one of five regional circular economy plans that have been developed for regional Victoria. The *Regional Circular Economy Plans* support the delivery of the Recycling Victoria Policy and outline the circular economy aspirations for each region to 2030 and the priorities to achieve these aspirations. Grampians Central West's circular economy aspirations to 2030 are:

- Local demand and supply of recycled materials is strong.
- Consumers and manufacturers are informed and empowered.
- The circular economy is a key part of life in the region.
- There are clear legislative, policy and funding conditions to drive investment in recycling in the region.
- Regional research and development leads to innovation, pilots and new market entrants in the sector.

> Local - City of Ballarat

City of Ballarat Community Vision

The Community Vision has an outlook of at least 10 years and describes the community's aspirations for the future of Ballarat.

This is our Community Vision:

Ballarat, Victoria's heritage city: leading the way as a sustainable, innovative and inclusive community.

In 2031...

Ballarat is a city that has risen to the challenges of climate change. We lead in sustainable practice, development and industry. Our city is well-designed to adapt to changes in weather patterns and our people live in sustainable and energy-efficient homes. Our natural environment thrives and is home to a diverse range of plants and animals.

Ballarat is a city where challenges are faced with a curious and creative eye. We are known for identifying opportunities and delivering innovative solutions to health, social, economic and environmental issues. We are committed to learning from the experiences of others and building on those learnings to deliver outcomes suited to our community.

Council Plan

The plan outlines how the City of Ballarat will achieve Council's vision and fulfil the Community Vision to shape and deliver:

- an environmentally sustainable future
- a healthy, connected and inclusive community
- a city that fosters sustainable growth
- a city that conserves and enhances our natural and built assets
- a strong and innovative economy and city
- a Council that provides leadership and advocates for its community.

Circular Ballarat Framework

This framework builds the foundations required for Ballarat to transition to a strong circular economy with the aim of a 100% circular economy by 2050.

It commits the City of Ballarat to:

- advocate for a circular economy
- support local businesses
- build a supportive consumer base
- circulate Council activities.



> **Circular economy targets**

Transitioning to a circular economy is a significant shift away from how things currently are. The below table summarises national, state and local targets and outlines how the different levels of government plan to achieve these targets.

Federal – Australia	State – Victoria	Local – City of Ballarat
Target 1: Ban the export of waste, plastic, paper, glass and tyres, commencing in the second half of 2020.	15% reduction in total waste generation per capita between 2020 and 2030.	Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030. *
Target 2: Reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030.	Divert 80% of waste from landfill by 2030, with an interim target of 72% by 2025.	Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.
Target 3: 80% average resource recovery rate from all waste streams following the waste hierarchy by 2030.	Cut the volume of organic material going to landfill by 50% between 2020 and 2030, with an interim target of 20% reduction by 2025.	Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.*
Target 4: Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry.	100% of households have access to a separate food and organics recovery service or local composting by 2030.	Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.*
Target 5: Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025.		100% of City of Ballarat serviced households have access to a separate food organics and garden organics recovery service.*
Target 6: Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030.		Increase City of Ballarat circular economy initiatives by 20% each year to deliver a Circular Ballarat by 2050.
Target 7: Make comprehensive, economy-wide and timely data publicly available to support better consumer, investment and policy decisions.		100% compliance with the operational practices at the Ballarat Regional Landfill and Gillies Street Transfer Station (excluding events outside of the City of Ballarat’s control).
		Reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and illegal litter instances by 30% by 2030.

* Adopted from State target

2. This is Ballarat

> Our city

- > **Ballarat or Ballaarat (historical spelling)**
- > **740km² and the 3rd largest City in Victoria**

'balla' meaning 'elbow' or 'reclining on the elbow' + 'arat' meaning 'place': from two aboriginal words signifying a camping or resting place.



122,002

Population in 2024

Source: forecast.id



10%

Population growth 2018-2023

Source: profile.id



142,624

Population forecast for 2036

Source: forecast.id



9,952

Businesses in 2022

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics



7%

Ballarat residents who speak a language other than English at home

Source: Australian Bureau of statistics



1.8%

Ballarat residents who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Source: profile.id



49,410

Household in 2024

Source: forecast.id



59,485

Household forecast for 2036

Source: forecast.id



Household composition

- 28.0% couples
- 27.5% lone person
- 24.6% couples with children
- 10.1% one-parent families
- 2.8% group households
- 7.0% other household configurations



Housing type

- 88.9% separate houses
- 9.4% medium density
- 0.3% high density

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Above: Three ward boundaries correct as of September 2024. The Ballarat municipality will move from three wards to nine wards as part of the 2024 local council elections.



> Our services

In line with the State Government’s *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* (the Circular Economy Act), all Local Government areas are required to transition to a separate glass service and a separate food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service.

The State Government’s draft Waste and Recycling Service Standards indicate that councils will be required to introduce kerbside FOGO and glass collection services by 1 July 2027.

Following extensive community consultation, at the October 2023 Council meeting, City of Ballarat Councillors endorsed the following kerbside collection services:

1. Introduction of a weekly food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection.
2. Household waste collection frequency changed from weekly to fortnightly.
3. Introduction of a monthly residual kerbside glass bin collection.
4. Comingled recycling collection unchanged (remain a fortnightly frequency).

Preparations are currently underway for the introduction of the new kerbside FOGO service which is planned to commence in May 2025.

After evaluating the community’s usage of the Pass on Glass sites, officers are undertaking the early planning to rollout the kerbside glass service in November 2025.

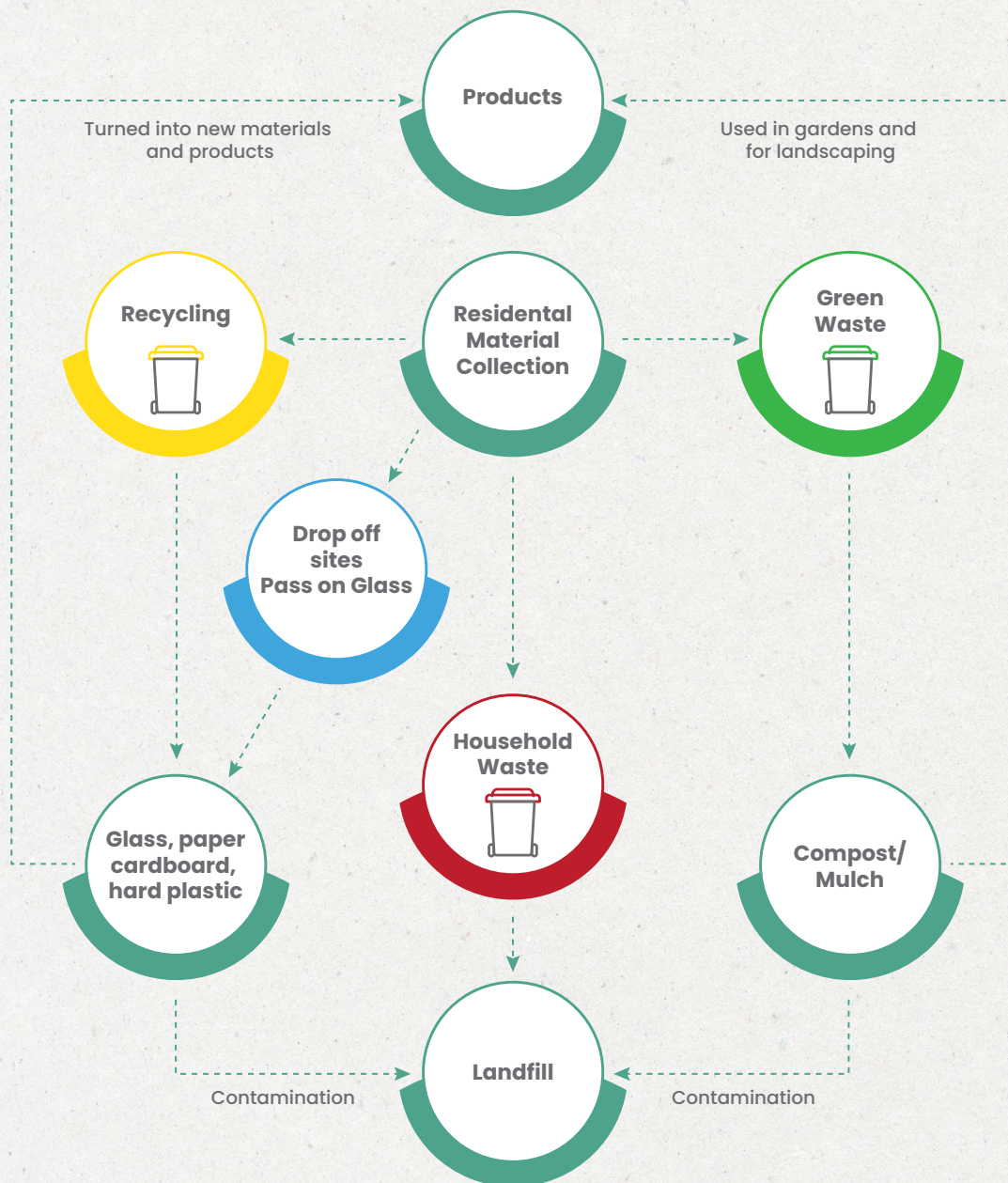
Service	Description
Kerbside comingled recycling collection (yellow bin)	Fortnightly collection and processing.
Kerbside green waste collection (green bin)	Fortnightly collection and processing. ¹
Kerbside household waste collection (red bin)	Weekly collection and disposal. ²
Drop-off residential glass sites	Eight 'Pass on Glass' drop-off sites located across the municipality. ³
Landfill	Management of the Ballarat Regional Landfill in Smythesdale. The site accepts all municipal waste from the City of Ballarat and some municipal waste from Golden Plains Shire, Pyrenees Shire and commercial operators.
Rehabilitation and aftercare of closed landfills	Management of closed landfills at Whitehorse Road, Black Hill, Pennyweight Park, Wendouree, Trekardo Park and White Flat Oval.
Transfer Station	Contract management of the operation and management of the Gillies Street Transfer Station.
Drop-off sites	City of Ballarat offices (The Phoenix Customer Service and Libraries) offer drop-off collection of household batteries, mobile phones, light globes, needles and syringes.
Waste vouchers	Two free waste vouchers each year for residential properties to help with disposing hard waste items.
Street cleaning	Programmed and reactive sweeping of Ballarat's streets and footpaths, along with pressure washing outdoor furniture and public spaces. Maintenance and cleanliness of Ballarat's extensive bluestone gutter and drain network.
Public place waste collection	Collection of waste and recycling from public places across Ballarat including City of Ballarat facilities, sports clubs and caravan parks. Programmed and reactive public place loose litter collection.
Autumn leaf collection	Programmed and reactive collection of fallen leaves throughout Autumn.
Festivals and sporting events waste service	Support for City of Ballarat and community events, providing waste and resource recovery advice, facilities and collection.
Litter and illegally dumped rubbish	Investigation and removal of dumped rubbish from City of Ballarat property. Litter removal.
Waste education	Social media campaigns, workshops and events, bin inspection program, annual waste calendars and A-Z guide.
Planning referrals	Review of waste management plans and assessment of waste services for new development.
Nappy rebate	Rebate for Ballarat residents to claim some of the cost of buying cloth nappies, reusable period products, and reusable maternity breast pads.
Charity and community group support	Transfer Station vouchers and/or on-site collection of waste generated by approved charities and community group clean-up events.
Deceased animal collection	Collection and appropriate disposal of domestic animals, wildlife and livestock.
Free green waste week and half price mattress week	An opportunity for residents to dispose of their green waste for free and mattresses for half price at the transfer station.

¹ Expansion to a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) in 2025, subject to being able to engage a suitable processor in the region.

² Collection frequency change to fortnightly when the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service commences in 2025.

³ A monthly kerbside glass collection service is expected to be implemented, once the impact of the State Government's Container Deposit Scheme has been assessed.

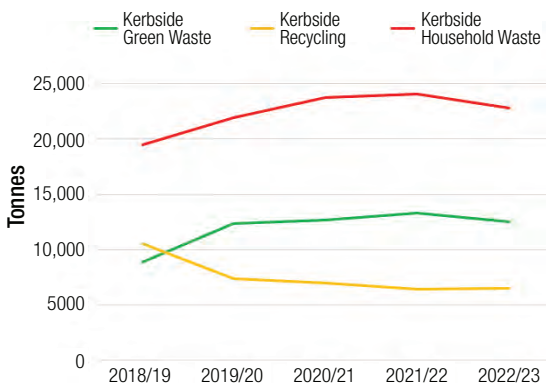
> Where our waste goes



> **Our waste and resources**

Our kerbside collection

The City of Ballarat currently provides residential fortnightly kerbside collections for green waste and mixed recycling, and a weekly kerbside collection for household waste.



A snapshot of kerbside waste collected 2022/23



> **What’s in our bins?**

An analysis of the yearly volumes of waste and recyclable materials collected by the City of Ballarat kerbside services over the past five years reveals:

GREEN WASTE

The total volume of green waste collected each year is influenced by seasonal conditions and has averaged 12,500 tonnes per year.

MIXED RECYCLING
(paper, cardboard, plastic)

About 6,500 tonnes of mixed recycling is collected from Ballarat residents each year. The volume of materials collected via the kerbside recycling each year declined by over 3,000 tonnes after the introduction of a drop-off glass collection service in 2019. Glass was removed from the mixed recycling collection as a result of our current recycling processor not accepting glass. The removal of glass from the mixed recycling collection has significantly improved the quality of the recyclables collected as they are not contaminated by broken glass.

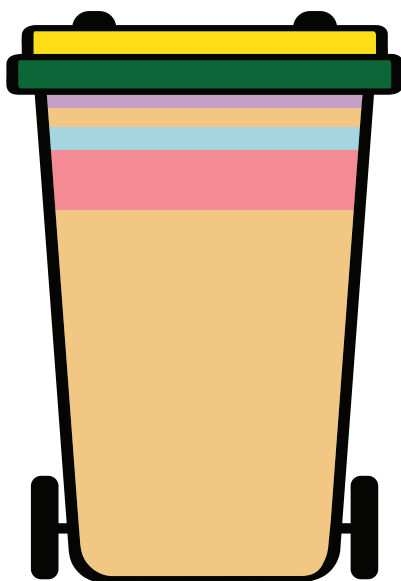
HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Almost 23,000 tonnes of household waste is collected from Ballarat residents each year. The volume of household waste collected increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and began to return to pre-COVID levels in 2022/23.

Our recycling

On average, each Ballarat household sorts 130kg of recyclable materials into their recycling bin each year.

Based on audit data collected since 2019 (when glass was removed from the City of Ballarat’s kerbside mixed recycling service) the average recycling bin in Ballarat contains:

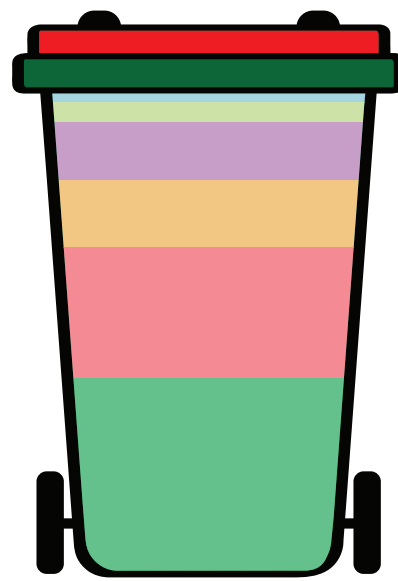


- 2% DIY waste**
(e.g. concrete, timber, metal, soil)
- 4% bagged recycling**
- 5% glass**
- 9% household waste**
- 80% recycling**

Our household waste

On average, each Ballarat resident throws out 193kg of household waste each year, which ends up in landfill.

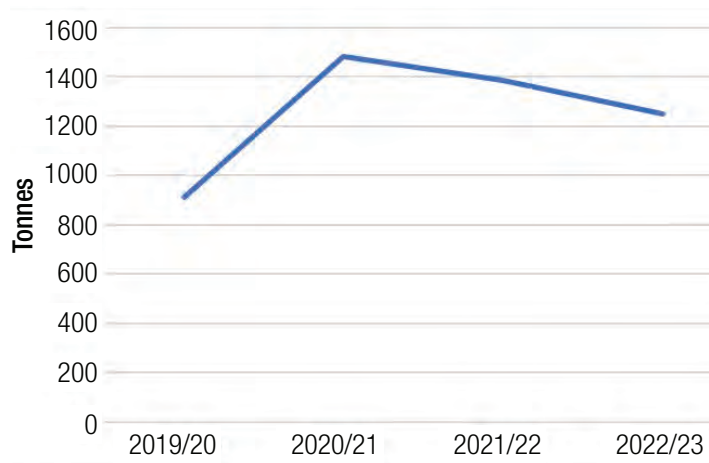
Based on audit data collected since 2019, the average household waste bin in Ballarat contains:



- 2% glass**
- 4% garden**
- 12% DIY waste**
(e.g. concrete, timber, metal, soil)
- 14% recycling**
- 27% household waste**
- 41% food**

In October 2023, Ballarat City Council endorsed the introduction of a weekly residential kerbside food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection. Planning for the introduction of the new FOGO service is underway and the service will be implemented after a suitable regional processor has been engaged.

Drop-off sites Pass on Glass



The City of Ballarat introduced a glass recycling drop-off service for residents in September 2019. In 2022/23, more than 1200 tonnes of glass were collected for recycling via the eight Pass on Glass drop-off sites located across the municipality.

In October 2023, Council endorsed the introduction of a monthly residential kerbside glass collection. During 2024, officers will assess the impact the Victorian Government’s Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) has on how residents dispose of their glass containers before implementing the kerbside glass collection.





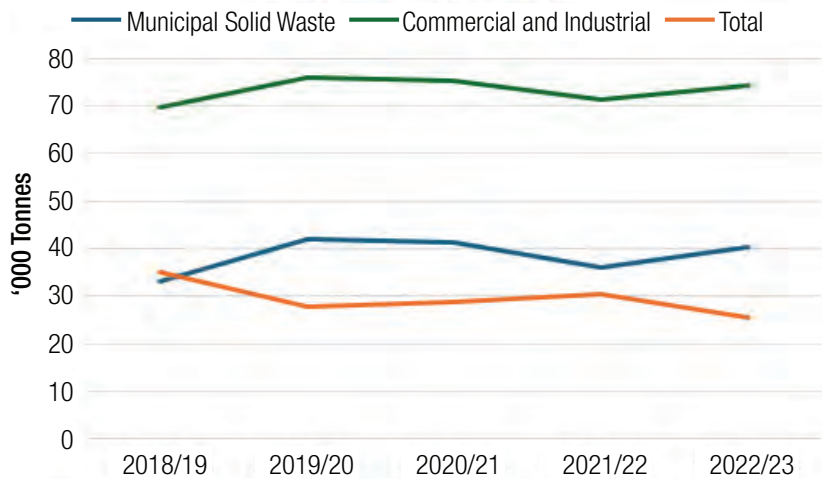
Our public place waste collection

The City of Ballarat provides and services public place waste bins across the municipality in parks, recreational reserves and public spaces.

In FY22/23, 288 tonnes of general waste was collected from public place litter bins.

Our landfill

Ballarat Regional Landfill, located in Smythesdale, is owned by the City of Ballarat. It is operated under a licence issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to ensure compliance with regulatory legislation that mitigates and minimises risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste. The site accepts all municipal waste from the City of Ballarat, Golden Plains Shire, Pyrenees Shire and commercial operators.



Over the past five years, the volume of materials disposed of at the Ballarat Regional Landfill has remained reasonably consistent.

In 2022/23, a total of 74,000 tonnes of material was deposited on-site. The two largest waste streams were 40,000 tonnes of municipal waste (from City of Ballarat, Golden Plains Shire and Pyrenees Shire) and 26,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste.



Our closed landfills

Closed landfills can pose a wide range of risks to environmental and human health, and their impacts can remain for a significant period after waste has stopped being accepted. The City of Ballarat considers closed landfill risks during any land use planning decisions. The City of Ballarat manages the closed landfills in accordance with Environment Protection Authority guidelines and the EPA-appointed environmental auditor, an independent auditor who carries out regular environmental audits and verifies monitoring programs and various plans such as the Rehabilitation and Aftercare Management Plans.

Case Study

Rehoming e-waste to those in need

In 2023, volunteers from the Ballarat Repair Café and the City of Ballarat Circular Economy team partnered on a project to retrieve a small number of televisions and computers from the eWaste skips at the Ballarat Transfer Station and, if possible after assessment, repair them. The project team connected with Peplow House and rehomed three televisions that had been returned to full working order. The aim is to further this collaboration to expand the project to rehome more electrical items as well as other household goods.



Our Transfer Station

The Ballarat Transfer Station is located in Gillies Street South, Alfredton, and accepts various waste and recyclable materials from residents and small commercial businesses. Residents are encouraged to sort their loads and make use of all the recycling and reuse services offered at the Transfer Station to minimise waste going to landfill. Current services offered at the Transfer Station include:

Recycling (no charge)	Recyclable (for a cost)	Disposal (for a cost)	Not accepted
Whitegoods (excluding refrigerators and air conditioners)	Rubble Rock, brick, concrete (No metal or plastic)	General waste Hard waste, wood, plastics, household waste, building waste (including plastic, metal, plasterboard), treated timber	Chemicals used by businesses for industrial and commercial purposes.
Empty/dry paint cans, small auto parts	Green waste Prunings, grass clippings, leaves and branches		Farm chemicals
Residential quantities of paints	Timber Clean hard and soft wood (excludes treated, laminated and painted)		Asbestos
Engine/motor oil	Mattresses		Ammunition
Batteries (car and household)	Refrigerators, air conditioners		Soil
Fluorescent tubes	Tyres		Car bodies
Gas bottles (BBQ, household/camping)	eWaste – Commercial loads and non-scheme (small household electrical appliances)		
Household mixed recyclables			
Paper and cardboard (excluding waxed cardboard)			
Glass Drinking bottles/food containers			
eWaste under the National Scheme items e.g. personal computers, tablets, computer monitors, personal computer parts and electrical accessories and printer and TVs (residential quantities)			
Reusable household items in good condition			
Household chemicals			
DrumMuster (drums must be triple rinsed)			

Please visit Council's website for a current list of what can be recycled.

A snapshot of some of the waste and recycling materials collected at the Ballarat Transfer Station in 2022/23:



eWaste
60 tonnes



Batteries vehicle
20 tonnes



Whitegoods/ fridges/ air con
700 tonnes



Household chemicals
20 tonnes



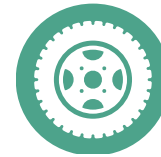
Mattresses
4,800 units



Green waste
5,000 tonnes



Timber
12,000m³



Tyres
3,600 tonnes

Our waste vouchers

Residential properties in Ballarat receive two free waste vouchers each year to help with the disposal of hard waste items. The two vouchers are included in the Waste and Recycling Collection Calendar delivered to residents in July each year. In 2023/24, waste vouchers were issued to more than 50,000 residential properties.



> Challenges and opportunities

Our local waste challenges

Challenges	Opportunities
<p>Population growth</p> <p>The City of Ballarat’s population is growing at about 2% per year and is expected to reach 142,624 people by 2036. A growing population increases the volume of waste and recyclable materials that needs to be managed within the municipality.</p>	<p>Community engagement</p> <p>A new and growing population is an opportunity to educate our community about resource recovery and our Circular Economy Targets. Education and behaviour change programs can reduce waste, increase resource recovery and hasten achievement of circular economy goals and targets.</p>
<p>Climate change</p> <p>Our current unsustainable patterns of consumption with high levels of resource extraction, production and waste generation contribute to excessive greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.</p>	<p>A different way</p> <p>Addressing the climate challenge requires a fundamental shift towards a more sustainable consumption model where resource use is avoided, where possible, and where more resources are reused and recycled. It is time to acknowledge that we cannot recycle our way out of this. It is important to consider what we consume and realise that there are opportunities to do things differently, and we do not need to go without.</p>
<p>Contamination</p> <p>Contaminants in recycling streams can reduce the quality and value of recyclable materials. Contamination can lead to unnecessary transport, higher greenhouse gas emissions, higher processing costs and can result in the disposal of recyclables into landfill.</p>	<p>Auditing and community education</p> <p>Education campaigns and behaviour change engagements play an important role in addressing contamination issues in our kerbside bins. Information can be tailored to appeal to a wide range of audiences in a manner that is accessible, engaging and positively reinforces good waste practices.</p>
<p>Litter and illegal dumping</p> <p>Litter and illegal dumping can result in pollution, soil degradation and health hazards for people and animals.</p>	<p>Community surveillance</p> <p>We can all be the eyes and ears for our local environment when it comes to litter and illegal dumping. Education, surveillance and enforcement are opportunities to reduce these issues and unite the community around a common good.</p>
<p>Lack of regional recycling infrastructure</p> <p>A lack of recycling and remanufacturing infrastructure is a challenge for the Grampians Central West region. The majority of recoverable and recyclable materials, and their value, must currently be transported outside of the region for processing.</p>	<p>Bringing it to the regions</p> <p>Facilitate development of local and regional scale recycling and remanufacturing services, new business opportunities and market development for goods made from recycled content.</p>
<p>Capacity of Ballarat Regional Landfill and Transfer Station</p> <p>The Ballarat Regional Landfill is currently estimated to have capacity up until 2040. This timeframe could be reduced with increasing rates of consumption and population growth. The Gillies Street Transfer Station is considered a medium size site and can store a maximum of 10,000m³ of waste at any given time under its EPA permit. When these capacity limits are combined with the region’s forecast population growth, the City of Ballarat may be forced to place limits on the types of waste this site can accept.</p>	<p>Expansion and renewal</p> <p>Master planning for the landfill will confirm airspace available and suggested improved operational practices. A new contract for the Transfer Station is an opportunity to implement circular economy strategies. Consideration for a second transfer station or move of the current Transfer Station to the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ).</p>



Community engagement discussions

> Community engagement

During 2023, the City of Ballarat engaged with a cross section of the Ballarat community to understand opportunities and challenges to managing waste and resource recovery across residential and business sectors.

The following engagement was undertaken:

Codesign workshop to develop engagement strategy

A codesign workshop was held with community waste champions from the previous 'Waste to Wellbeing' program and City of Ballarat staff involved in the management of waste. The aim of the workshop was to codesign the community engagement strategy, essentially asking the community to tell us the best way to engage with the community. The following approach was then developed.

Resource recovery and waste management workshops

A series of five workshops asked the community where they thought Ballarat should be focussing their efforts. The engagement centred on several key questions:

- How should we remove waste, that doesn't go into your bins, from residential dwellings?
- What opportunities are there to change the way we reuse, repair and recycle?

- What type of waste and resource recovery services do commerce and industry want from the City of Ballarat?
- How do we effectively manage waste in our public spaces?

MySay survey 1 (entire community)

A survey to understand the waste challenges being faced by the local community.

MySay survey 2 (business)

A survey to understand the waste challenges being faced by businesses.

Key themes and ideas resulting from the community engagement included:

- Additional measures to address litter and illegal dumping
- Greater community promotion, education and behaviour change around recycling and reuse
- A household collection service for hard to dispose of items
- Reducing contamination in comingled recycling bin
- Advocacy for product stewardship
- Engagement with the building industry to reduce litter during construction.

The key themes from the community engagement have been used to form the goals, aims and associated actions of this Strategy.



3. The Strategy

> Overview

This Strategy is intended to be a functional guide to direct the work of City of Ballarat teams and a practical plan that empowers the community to participate and support our future waste management goals.

We are committed to achieving the strategic objectives of our Council Plan (2021-2025) for an environmentally sustainable future with:

- a transition towards zero emissions
- a transition towards zero waste
- improved stewardship of our natural resources and protection and enhancement of our biodiversity
- adoption of more sustainable practices in our core business and operations.

This Strategy outlines how we will expand on and achieve these objectives as they relate to waste and resource recovery.

This Strategy has five key goals:

1. Create less waste
2. Increase reuse and recycling
3. Deliver circular waste and recycling services
4. Protect our environment
5. Empower our community.

Each goal has an associated aim and targets we intend to achieve. We outline what Council will do, what you can do and share some interesting facts, including examples of impressive, innovative things the Ballarat community is doing to reduce waste and increase resource recovery.

The Action Plan will tell you what we will do over the next four years to reach these goals and deliver a circular economy to Ballarat.

Each year we will review and refresh the Action Plan to keep it up-to-date with the latest technology and innovations in the sector.

A mid-term review of the Strategy will be undertaken in 2027.



GOAL 1 – Create less waste

AIM: Avoid generating waste and minimise waste wherever we can.

The first and most important goal is to create less waste in the first place, addressing the issue of waste before it becomes a problem. Creating less waste conserves resources, lessens the impact on the environment, helps to avoid costs associated with waste management and puts much less pressure on waste management systems including landfills.

Avoiding waste generation and minimising waste can be as simple as borrowing an item from a library instead of purchasing one, or as complex as designing products that require fewer resources to manufacture and use.

We all have a role to play in creating less waste and you can have an impact.

What you can do

Residents

Consider alternatives to buying new. Do you really need it? Could you borrow it?

Swap, sell, rent or buy second-hand and save yourself some money!

Consider repairing items.

Try to avoid buying disposable and single-use items.

Businesses

Design for durability.

Reduce packaging.

Promote or incentivise sustainable consumption habits to your customers.

Participate in a take-back program.

Conduct a waste audit. This could save you in waste disposal fees!

What City of Ballarat will do

Continue to offer the reusable nappy, period and sanitary products rebate.

Support the avoidance of single-use plastics at City of Ballarat events and for events on City of Ballarat land.

Deliver a food waste reduction behaviour change program.

Try to avoid buying disposable and single-use items.



Our target

Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030.



Did you know?

Ballarat residents are able to claim some of the cost of buying cloth nappies, reusable period products and reusable maternity breast pads. Visit ballarat.vic.gov.au/reusable-rebate

The Ballarat Tool Library is a volunteer-led initiative that provides access to the tools needed to repair and care for your home and belongings. They have over 1,000 tools! Visit ballarattoollibrary.org



GOAL 2 – Increase reuse and recycling

AIM: Maximise reuse and recycling and minimise waste that goes to landfill.

Reusing items maximises their lifespan and reduces their immediate need for recycling. When products can no longer be reused, recycling is the next option to ensure materials are recovered and made into new products. Reuse and recycling minimises waste and resource consumption, reduces environmental damage and supports economic development.

There are challenges to reusing and recycling, including contamination of recyclable materials, inadequate local infrastructure to process materials and a lack of consumer awareness.

A staged community engagement and education campaign is currently being rolled out to improve understanding around how to use current kerbside waste and recycling services and to keep the community informed about the upcoming changes to kerbside collection services. The focus of the campaign is to reduce common causes of contamination in the mixed recycling bin. As planning progresses for the implementation of the new FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) service, the campaign focus will shift towards informing the community about how the service will work and how to correctly use the service.

The development of local and regional scale recycling and remanufacturing services is being facilitated by working with six neighbouring councils and Central Highlands Water to release three market processes seeking industry proposals to improve the management of organics recycling and residual waste in our region. The industry proposals have been evaluated and the tender process for the project is expected to be released later in 2024.

The City of Ballarat is supporting the developing market for goods made from recycled content by exploring ways to incorporate recycled materials into City of Ballarat projects and operations. In January 2024, the City of Ballarat commenced a trial to incorporate a locally produced recycled plastic substitute for steel mesh into a 250m footpath in Miners Rest.

A Master Plan of Ballarat Regional Landfill is underway to provide the City of Ballarat with a framework for the long-term management and development of the site. A previous study in 2017 gave the landfill a life expectancy to 2040. The Master Plan will update this study based on changes in the waste industry, updated government targets, tonnage variances on the site and changes in landfill practices.



What you can do

Residents

Find out more about what can go in each of your kerbside bins to maximise recycling and reduce contamination.

Compost your food and garden waste at home to help your garden grow and turn your neighbours green with envy.

Use the Container Deposit Scheme to get 10 cents for your bottles and cans!

There are lots of materials that can be recycled! Get to know the [Ballarat Transfer Station](#).

Businesses

Implement and/or participate in a take-back program.

Design and purchase products for reuse.

Promote and use reusable packaging.

Join the ASPIRE program, an online marketplace where you can exchange your waste as a resource. Excess waste materials can be sold online. This diverts excess waste resources from landfill and can create new revenue streams.

What City of Ballarat will do

Continue to progress the establishment of Circular Economy Precinct, anchored by the Materials Recovery Facility, in the Ballarat West Employment Zone.

Advocate for Victorian and Australian government policy settings that promote practical solutions to improve circular economy outcomes.

Improve resource recovery at the Transfer Station.

Continue to explore regional processing solutions to improve the management of organics, recyclables and residual waste streams.



Our targets

- Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.
- Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.
- Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.
- 100% of City of Ballarat serviced households to have access to a separate Food Organics and Garden Organics recovery service.
- Increase the City of Ballarat's circular economy initiatives by 20% each year to deliver a Circular Ballarat by 2050.



Did you know?

Businesses can join the ASPIRE platform for free! Join here -

ballarat.vic.gov.au/business/circular-ballarat/aspire-online-platform

Find out what can be recycled within the City of Ballarat with our [A-Z Waste and Recycling Guide](#)

It is possible to drop off toxic household, e-waste, metal, paints, oils, gas bottles, batteries, fluorescent globes, household kerbside recycling (residential quantities), paper, cardboard, glass, and plastic container items at no cost at the Gillies Street [Transfer Station](#).



GOAL 3 – Deliver circular waste and recycling services

AIM: Deliver waste and recycling services that responsibly meet the community's waste needs and lead to a circular economy.

The City of Ballarat plays an important role in the delivery of circular waste and recycling services across the municipality. We are committed to reviewing existing services and investigating the expansion of services to help deliver a local circular economy.

What City of Ballarat will do

Implement a residential kerbside Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service.

Develop Waste Services Guidelines to establish guidance and standards for waste management practices within the municipality.

Complete a Hard Waste Collection Options Assessment and present to Council for consideration, following community requests.



Did you know?

The City of Ballarat collects leaf litter on a street-by-street basis and we also respond to individual enquiries during Autumn. You can make a request for leaf collection, by calling Customer Service on 5320 5500 or by using the Snap, Send, Solve app. [snapsendsolve.com](https://www.snapsendsolve.com)

Each Spring you can participate in Free Green Waste Week and Half Price Mattress Week at the Transfer Station. Keep an eye on our social media pages and on our website for more details.

It's not just businesses which have a duty to do the right thing. Under Victoria's environmental laws, we all have a general environmental duty to protect human health and the environment. You can report illegal dumping by calling Customer Service on 5320 5500 or via the Snap, Send, Solve app or to the Environment Protection Authority at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution.

Our local environmental friends' groups run clean-up days across the municipality. You can find out about local environmental groups at mycommunity.ballarat.vic.gov.au/EnvironmentalGroups



Our targets

- Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030.
- Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.
- Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.
- Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.
- 100% of City of Ballarat serviced households have access to a separate Food Organics and Garden Organics recovery service.
- Increase the City of Ballarat's circular economy initiatives by 20% each year to deliver a Circular Ballarat by 2050.



GOAL 4 – Protect our environment

AIM: A litter and rubbish-free City of Ballarat. Management of Ballarat Regional Landfill and closed landfills.

Protecting our environment is a key focus of the Council Plan and our first Biodiversity Strategy – *Caring for Country*.

Managing litter and illegal dumping is essential to protect environmental health. Waste can harm wildlife and natural habitats and, in the longer term, can pollute soil and water.

Litter and illegal dumping impacts on the liveability and the look and feel of our communities. Litter-free environments improve community wellbeing and encourage more time spent in the outdoors.

Areas of litter and illegal dumping can attract disease-spreading pests such as rodents. These areas can also suffer economically due to decreased property values and reduced business patronage.

Safe and compliant management of active and closed landfills prevents pollutants from leaching into soil and groundwater, minimising unpleasant odours for surrounding residents and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (methane) produced by decomposing organic waste, helping to mitigate climate change.



What you can do

Residents

Participate in community clean-ups. Get to know your local 'Friends of' group.

Report illegal dumping to the City of Ballarat or the Environment Protection Authority

Reduce, reuse and recycle. Get broken items repaired and choose second hand.

Recycle right, check the City of Ballarat's website if you are unsure about what goes in each bin.

Make sure to place your mixed recyclables loose in your yellow lid recycling bin, and not in a bag.

Make use of the Transfer Station.

Make choices to buy items made from recycled materials that are also recyclable.

Recover your food waste – get a compost bin.

Teach your friends about the environmental impact of litter and illegal dumping.

Secure your load when transporting waste and recyclables to prevent them falling off your vehicle.

Businesses

Provide waste disposal and recycling options in and around your business for your customers and employees.

Set up a circular economy culture, educating your customers and employees about appropriate waste disposal. Consider incentives such as discounts and loyalty points.

Secure any skip bins to prevent illegal dumping and scattering of waste.

Participate in community environmental clean-ups.

Maintain a clean business site to prevent litter accumulation.

What City of Ballarat will do

Environment Protection Authority training with City of Ballarat litter enforcement officers, establishing a coordinated approach to investigating litter and illegal dumping.

Education and enforcement program for building sites focussing on litter and stormwater management.

Increase the capacity for stormwater treatment at the Ballarat Regional Landfill to improve and control the quality of treated wastewater discharged into the Woody Yalook River.



- abate about 96,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (~ 85,000 from methane destruction and 11,000 from green energy offset). This is equivalent to removing about 38,700 average Australian cars from the road for a year.



Our targets

- 100% compliance with the operational practices in Ballarat Regional Landfill and Gillies Street Transfer Station (excluding events outside of the City of Ballarat's control).
- By 2030, reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and illegal litter instances by 30%

Did you know?

Landfill gas, leachate and loose waste are the three main challenges for landfills today.

Landfill gas contains many different gases. Landfill gas is typically made up of 99% methane and carbon dioxide. Methane can be formed from biological processes that occur when micro-organisms chemically break down organic matter in the absence of oxygen. This is the type of methane production that commonly occurs in landfills. The Ballarat Regional Landfill generates methane that is captured and turned into energy by two 800kW on-site engines. They can:

- combust 4.47 million m3 of methane (equivalent to 1,800 Olympic sized swimming pools)
- generate about 13,500 MWh. This is equivalent to powering about 2,800 average Victorian homes for a year.

Leachate is the liquid formed when waste breaks down in the landfill and water filters through that waste. This liquid is highly toxic and if it is not adequately contained and removed from the landfill, it can pollute the land, groundwater and waterways. There can also be odour issues from leachate if it's not managed properly.

Over the past three years, the Ballarat Regional Landfill produced about 30,000m3 of leachate that is contained in two ponds and was transported and treated in another EPA-licenced facility. The City of Ballarat spends more than \$1 million per year to transport and treat the liquid off-site. Options to decrease the amount of the leachate produced include capping the landfill and completing rehabilitation works.

The City of Ballarat's first landfill cell capping project using geosynthetic materials is underway, with more than two hectares of land being capped. Fully-funded by the City of Ballarat, the large-scale \$2.6 million project will cap the closed cells (large spaces dug at a landfill site where waste is compacted and layered within the ground with Environment Protection Authority requirements).

Landfills can attract disease-carrying vermin of all types and loose litter can fly away in the breeze. This is managed by placing a cover over the waste daily, by installing litter fences around the active tipping area and by collecting any rubbish that escapes the tipping area.



GOAL 5 – Empower our community

AIM: Empowering our community to take responsibility for their waste and make informed decisions about what they can do to reduce waste to landfill.

The City of Ballarat is committed to delivering honest, clear and accessible waste and resource recovery education and behaviour change programs.

The success of the Strategy and the transition to a circular economy are everyone’s responsibility. We can do this by understanding the waste and resource recovery options available to us and taking responsibility for the waste that we generate.

What you can do

Residents

Avoid and reduce waste where you can.

Keep informed about the ever-changing local opportunities to reuse and recycle.

Become a waste wise champion in your local community. Share what you know with your family and friends.

Support waste-conscious businesses.

Advocate for buy-back schemes.

Businesses

Advocate for buy-back schemes for your business or industry.

Teach your employees and customers about waste disposal and recycling options relevant to your business.

Offer recycling programs to your customers, such as electronic waste, batteries and other items that are challenging to recycle.

Promote the benefits of reusable products to your customers.

Work with schools and community groups to sponsor waste education, clean-up events and waste-reduction initiatives.

What City of Ballarat will do

Develop and deliver Ballarat Regional Landfill and Transfer Station tours.

Deliver a year-long communication and education campaign promoting local waste and resource recovery services and programs.

Explore implementing an app to provide residents with information about the City of Ballarat’s waste and recycling services and other local waste and resource recovery and upcycling opportunities.



Our target

- Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030.
- Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.
- Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.
- Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.
- By 2030, reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and illegal litter instances by 30%.

Did you know?

The Hidden Orchard community group finds unloved fruit trees around Ballarat and redistributes the fruit to the community. They are reducing waste, building community connection and improving food security! Over the last year they have harvested over 4 tonnes of fruit!

Find out more here - hiddenorchard.org






























Do you need an item repaired or mended? Don't toss it, fix it! The Ballarat Repair Café can help you fix it with their amazing group of volunteers. Check them out here - facebook.com/ballaratrepaircafe





4. The Action Plan









Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
GOAL 1 - Create less waste								
	Deliver a food waste reduction behaviour change program for residents.		✓			\$	Sustainable Environment	Neighbourhood Houses Libraries Community Centres
	Continue to support the Central Highlands Water Choose Tap program for drinking water fountains in public places.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Central Highlands Water
	Continue to offer the reusable nappy, period, and continence products and breast pad rebate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Sustainable Environment	Communications Maternal and Child Health
	Support the avoidance of single-use plastics: • Implement waste-free, sustainable City of Ballarat events • Minimise waste at events on City of Ballarat land through event permits • Support events on private property to be waste free and more sustainable.		✓			EOB	Sustainable Environment Circular Economy	Events Communications
	Promote community groups that encourage waste avoidance and resource recovery, including share libraries, repair cafes, food waste reduction and purchasing second hand.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Communications
	Promote City of Ballarat and broader grant opportunities to encourage waste reduction and resource recovery projects.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Economic Development Strategic Grants
	Support the community to run a series of waste reduction workshops for residents.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Local Community Groups
	Continue to explore opportunities to support the community to reduce waste.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	
GOAL 2 - Increase reuse and recycling								
	Provide a home composting/worm farm rebate for residents.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Sustainable Environment	Communications
	Continue to investigate recycling solutions for problematic waste materials, including soft plastics, textiles and polystyrene.	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Circular Economy	Transfer Station Waste Collections Waste and Resource Recovery Industry
	Increase City of Ballarat use of recyclable materials collected from residents, for example old tyres used in asphalt.	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Circular Economy	Infrastructure City Design Major Projects Community Infrastructure
	Advocate for Victorian and Australian government policy settings that promote practice solutions to improve circular economy outcomes and reduce waste at the source including: - expand national product stewardship schemes - reduce consumer packaging	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Advocacy
	Investigate increasing community drop-off options for common household items, including batteries, light globes and mobile phones.		✓			\$	Circular Economy	Transfer Station Customer Service
	Continue to progress the establishment of Circular Economy Precinct, anchored by Materials Recovery Facility, in the Ballarat West Employment Zone.	✓	✓	✓		ECB \$\$\$	Circular Economy	Victorian Government
	Continue to help local businesses to develop and implement circular economy practices, including the promotion of the ASPIRE program to businesses, the online marketplace for business to exchange their waste as a resource.	✓				\$	Circular Economy	Economic Development

✓ = for action this year

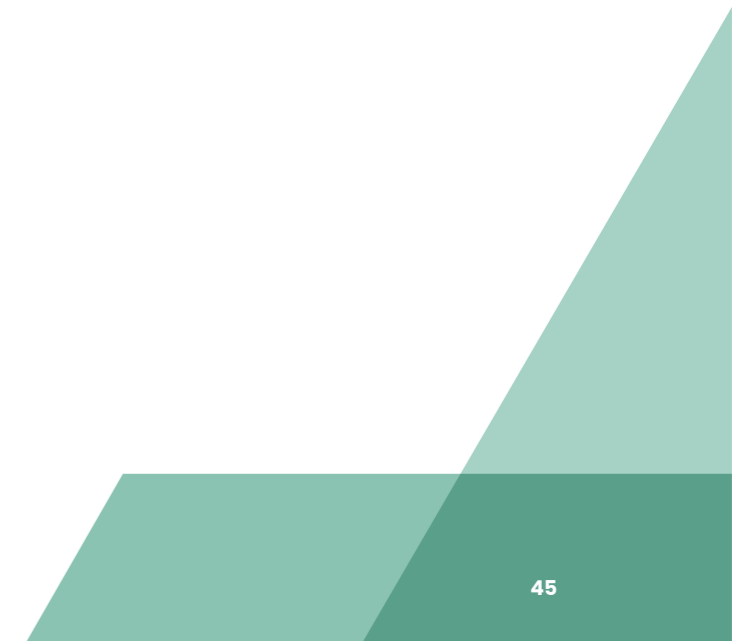
Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
3. Deliver circular waste and recycling services								
	Explore additional recycling options in public places.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Waste and Environment	
	Kerbside collection route digitisation and optimisation.	✓				ECB \$130000 \$\$\$	Waste and Environment	Software Provider
	Pilot a smart technology kerbside recycling program to improve contamination reporting.	✓				EOB \$15000 \$	Waste and Environment	Software Provider
	Implement In Truck solution to maximise efficiency of collection operations.	✓				ECB \$270000 \$\$\$	Waste and Environment	Hardware Provider
	Develop Waste Services Guidelines to establish guidance and standards for waste management practices within the municipality.	✓				EOB	Waste and Environment	Local Laws Finance Governance Community Inclusion
	Complete a Hard Waste Collection Options Assessment and present to Council for consideration.	✓				EOB	Sustainable Environment	Consultant
	Continue to explore regional processing solutions to improve the management of organics, recyclables and residual waste streams including waste to energy technologies.	✓	✓			ECB \$\$\$	Circular Economy	Six Neighbouring Councils Central Highlands Water
	Continue to explore ways to improve waste management and resource recovery by small businesses.	✓				\$	Circular Economy	Economic Development
	Investigate the feasibility of a City of Ballarat kerbside collection for small businesses.	✓						Economic Development
	Implement a residential kerbside FOGO service.	✓	✓			\$\$\$	Circular Economy	Communications Environmental Business Support Waste Collections
	Implement a residential kerbside glass service, subject to a review of the impact of the CDS on household glass volumes.		✓			NOB \$\$\$	Circular Economy	Communications Environmental Business Support
	Review and modernisation of transfer station services for the municipality, including a resale shop.	✓	✓	✓		ECB \$\$\$	Circular Economy	Transfer Station Major Projects

Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
4. Protect our environment								
	Advocate for bans on products such as polystyrene.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Advocacy
	Advocate for the Environment Protection Authority levy (a levy collected at landfills) to be reinvested by the Victorian Government into the regional circular economy.	✓				EOB	Circular Economy	Advocacy
	Environment Protection Authority training with City of Ballarat litter enforcement officers, establishing a coordinated approach to investigating litter and illegal dumping.		✓			EOB	Compliance Waste and Environment	EPA
	Investigate CCTV options for illegal dumping hot spots.		✓			EOB	Compliance Waste and Environment	Suppliers
	Education and enforcement program for building sites focussing on litter and stormwater management.			✓		EOB	Compliance Waste and Environment	EPA
	Make information on land management publicly accessible.	✓				EOB	Waste and Environment	Information and Communication Technology
	Investigate and define position on supporting charity and community groups' clean-up events.	✓				EOB	Waste and Environment	Information and Communication Technology
	Deliver an education campaign on illegal dumping of soil, including how to report soil being dumped.			✓		EOB	Compliance Waste and Environment	Environment Protection Authority
	Continue to provide and expand on key industry programs at the Ballarat Transfer Station such as DrumMuster.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB Transfer Station \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Sustainability Victoria DrumMaster and other programs that may take place in the future
	Develop and implement the Master Plan actions for the Ballarat Regional Landfill.	✓	✓	✓	✓	ECB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Major Projects Waste and Environment Team Contractors Consultants EPA appointed auditor Other Stakeholders
	Complete landfill works including capping of used cells and the design of new cells.	✓	✓	✓	✓	NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Major Projects Team Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Improvement of the operational practices of the landfill to maximise airspace of the landfill.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Modernise and automate of environmental data systems of the Ballarat Regional Landfill to report against compliance service delivery.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants
	Implement the recommendations of the Leachate Management Plan, reducing the need to transport leachate off-site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Increase the capacity for stormwater treatment at the landfill to improve and control the quality of water discharged in the Woody Yalook River.	✓	✓	✓	✓	NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed auditor

Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
4. Protect our environment								
	Implement the recommendations of the biannual compliance Landfill Operation Audit.		✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB – BRL and Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Maintain the environmental monitoring investigations in the closed landfills that are not under EPA notice but are considered City of Ballarat land.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB – BRL and Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants
	Implement the procedures of Operational Manual and Risk Management and Monitoring Program (RMMP) – Landfill and Transfer Station – and implement the procedure of the Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) – closed landfills.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB – BRL and Closed Landfills NCB – BRL and Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants EPA appointed Auditor
	Design for a new entrance bridge at the Ballarat Regional Landfill to ensure access to the site and meet OHS requirements.			✓	✓	NCB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Infrastructure Team Contractors Consultants
	Control and ongoing management of vegetation including revegetation and removal of noxious weeds at all landfill sites.			✓	✓	EOB BRL \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants
	Continually address the aftercare and rehabilitation plans of the closed landfills.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Major Projects Team Contractors Consultants
	Improve the management and facilities and increase resource recovery at the Transfer Station as part of the new management contract.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB Transfer Station \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors Consultants
	Transfer Station contract management and facility improvements to increase the number of resource recovery streams.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB and NCB Transfer Station \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	Contractors and Consultants Other Stakeholders
	Undertake a resource plan review that responds with the operational requirements of the Landfills and Transfer Station team to meet current and future demands for the project's delivery.	✓	✓	✓	✓	NOB BRL; Transfer Station; Closed Landfills \$\$\$	Landfills and Transfer Station	People and Culture
	Install gross pollutant traps along the Yarrowee River to remove litter and improve water quality.		✓	✓	✓		Sustainable Environment	Major Projects

Goal	Action	Year				Budget	Lead	Partners
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28			
5. Empower our community								
	Develop and deliver Landfill and Transfer Station tours.	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Landfills and Transfer Station Sustainable Environment	
	Collaborate with the Victorian Government in the delivery of school waste education initiatives.	✓				EOB	Sustainable Environment	Circular Economy Communications
	Explore implementing an app to provide residents with information about the City of Ballarat's waste and recycling services and other local waste and resource recovery and upcycling opportunities.	✓				EOB \$	Circular Economy	
	Promote Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB \$	Circular Economy	Communications
	Share the City of Ballarat's waste advocacy stance with the community and local Members of Parliament.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Circular Economy	Advocacy and Communications
	Deliver a year-long communication and education campaign promoting local waste and resource recovery services and programs (Transfer Station, Landfill, free drop-off days, opportunity shops, community waste reduction initiatives).	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB \$	Waste and Environment	
	Work with leaders from diverse and First Nation communities, facilitating information sharing and service linkages.	✓	✓	✓	✓		Waste and Environment	Engaged Communities
	Undertake contamination reduction campaigns to address key contaminants in waste and recycling streams managed by the City of Ballarat.	✓	✓	✓	✓	EOB	Waste and Environment	Communications

EOB – Existing Operational Budget
 ECB – Existing Capital Budget
 NOB – New Operational Budget
 NCB- New Capital Budget
 \$ <\$50,000
 \$\$ <\$100,000
 \$\$\$ >\$100,000



Delivering the Strategy

> Implementation

The Strategy has goals, aims and targets to help us shape the future direction of waste management and resource recovery and to put us on the path towards a circular Ballarat.

The four-year Action Plan details what we will do and what you can do to help us meet our circular economy goals. The Action Plan will be reviewed annually based on the previous year's successes and learnings. It will be refreshed to keep it up-to-date with the latest policy changes, technology and innovations in the sector.

> Funding

Funding for actions will be subject to the City of Ballarat's standard budgeting process, with the cost of many actions wrapped into existing operational budgets.

The City of Ballarat will take a proactive approach to applying for external grant opportunities to improve waste and resource recovery services.

Future residential waste charges will include the cost of implementing actions from the Strategy where appropriate.

> Monitoring and reporting

Progress on action will be reported to Council annually along with industry trends. A mid-term review of the Strategy will be undertaken in 2027.



> Evaluating target delivery

We will monitor and evaluate the delivery of the Strategy and achievement of targets using the below information.

#	Target	Data Source	Baseline	2030 Target
1	Reduce total kerbside waste generation per person in Ballarat by 15% between 2020 and 2030.	Kerbside collection data	196.3 kg/person (2019/2020 baseline)	166.9 kg/person (15% lower than 2020 baseline)
2	Divert 80% of waste in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030.	Kerbside collection data	43% diversion (2019/20 baseline)	80% diversion of waste
3	Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from kerbside collections between 2020 and 2030.	Waste Audit data Kerbside collection data	44% of organic material (2019/20 baseline)	22% of organic material
4	100% of City of Ballarat serviced households have access to a separate Food Organics and Garden Organics recovery service.	Rates data	0% (2020 baseline)	100%
5	Increase the City of Ballarat's circular economy initiatives by 20% each year to deliver a Circular Ballarat by 2050.	No. of circular economy initiatives undertaken by City of Ballarat per year	11 initiatives (2023/24 baseline)	33 initiatives
6	100% compliance with the operational practices in Ballarat Regional Landfill and Gillies Street Transfer Station (excluding events outside of City of Ballarat control).	Number of penalties issued by the EPA	0 penalties (2023/2024)	0 penalties
7	Reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and illegal litter instances by 30%.	Customer service requests	982 requests (2022/2023)	687 requests
8	Reduce the level of contamination in the mixed recycling bin to below 15% by 2030.	Waste audit data	20% (2021/2023 average baseline)	Less than 15%



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September 2024

8.4. FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION STRATEGY FOR ADOPTION

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Matthew McNamara – Traffic Engineer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the Footpath Construction Strategy.

BACKGROUND

2. Footpaths provide significant benefits to the community in terms of health, access, and inclusion. The ability of members of the community to access benefits can be affected by differences in mobility patterns and safety needs, among other things.
3. The Footpath Construction Strategy (the Strategy) will guide how the City of Ballarat prioritise and fund where new footpaths are built. The Strategy outlines a framework that prioritises where new footpaths are needed most, where sealing of existing unsealed footpaths should take place, and how missing links in our footpath network are identified.

KEY MATTERS

4. The City of Ballarat is served by an extensive footpath network spanning almost a thousand kilometres, including 45km of walking trails. However, footpath provision varies across the municipality. Most existing footpaths can be found within the township of Ballarat, with limited provision in outlying townships across the municipality.
5. A key component of the Strategy is to identify locations where footpaths *should* be. These locations are referred to as 'gaps' and will be the basis of a prioritised construction plan for new footpath delivery. Gaps can vary in scale, from a corner of an intersection to an entire street.
6. The Strategy focuses on prioritising footpath network connectivity improvements across the City of Ballarat to achieve a range of benefits such as improving:
 - a. Safety.
 - b. Transport choices.
 - c. Health and wellbeing.
 - d. Local economic activity and productivity.
7. The Strategy presents the basis and approach that the City of Ballarat will adopt to ensure future construction of footpaths maximises benefits in an equitable way. Central to the achievement of this aim is a community-informed prioritisation framework for identifying which gaps in the footpath network should be addressed first.
8. The framework has been designed to ensure that the City of Ballarat is able to proactively allocate investment in new footpaths in locations where need is greatest and to support the equal distribution of benefits across the municipality.

9. Development of the Strategy has included:
 - a. Background review – Existing strategies and information collation.
 - b. Community and stakeholder engagement – Round 1
 - i. Online survey and pin drop map (5 February to 4 March 2024)
 - ii. Stakeholder engagement workshops (11 January 2024 and 7 February 2024)
 - iii. In person events (10 February 2024)
 - c. Community and stakeholder engagement – Round 2
 - i. Stakeholder engagement workshop (3 April 2024)
 - ii. Online survey (MySay) seeking feedback on the draft Strategy following endorsement at the May Council meeting (27 May to 23 June 2024)
10. Specifically, feedback collected during the exhibition of the draft Strategy during May/June 2024 is outlined below:
 - a. There were 81 total responses to the second round of community engagement for the draft Strategy.
 - b. Of the total responses, 46 residents requested specific paths in their area.
 - c. Eighteen responses provided feedback on the Strategy. Eight of these responses were negative towards the Strategy. Four were positive and in full support for the strategy.
 - d. Six responses raised concerns that had been covered within the Strategy.
 - e. The final 17 requests had concerns unrelated to the Strategy.
11. Based on feedback from the process, only minor changes to the draft Strategy were made when finalising the Strategy.
12. Although not included in the Strategy, a footpath construction list which includes all the road segments eligible for footpaths in the entirety of Ballarat and ranked in order of priority was developed. This list resulted in over 18,000 total entries.
13. A prioritised footpath construction list (top 100) has subsequently been developed to help guide the City of Ballarat's investment in new footpaths in the coming years.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

14. That Council:

14.1 Adopt the attached Footpath Construction Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Governance Review [8.4.1 - 2 pages]
2. Ballarat Footpath Construction Strategy [8.4.2 - 58 pages]
3. Ranked Footpath Prioritisation List FINAL [8.4.3 - 2 pages]
4. Footpath Construction Strategy Infographic Report v.2.0 - Round 1 Community Engagement Summary [8.4.4 - 4 pages]
5. Footpath Construction Strategy - Round 2 Community Engagement Summary [8.4.5 - 2 pages]
6. Principal Pedestrian Network - Draft V 1.0 [8.4.6 - 1 page]
7. Identified Gaps - First 5 Years - Ballarat Ranking v 2.6 A 0 (no aerial) [8.4.7 - 1 page]
8. Gender Impact Assessment - 24.04.17. Ballarat Footpath Strategy [8.4.8 - 26 pages]

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ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL VISION, COUNCIL PLAN, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

1. This strategy will assist in providing for the delivery of Ballarat footpaths and enhance sustainable transport options.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

2. The Strategy will have a positive community effect once construction component commences in 2024.
3. There will be minimal disruption to community during construction of new footpaths.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

4. The Strategy will enhance the ability to use alternative transport means other than cars, which is a positive climate emergency and environmental sustainability impact.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

5. Completing Ballarat footpath networks will allow efficiencies for people movement and improve local economic outcomes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Footpaths will be funded through annual infrastructure budgets and grant funding.

LEGAL AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

7. There are no legal and risk considerations to the Strategy.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

8. It is considered that the report does not impact on any human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

9. Extensive consultation was carried out during the development of the Strategy. Strategy outcomes were community led.

GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

10. There are gender equality implications identified for the subject of this report. A Gender Impact Assessment is attached.

OFFICIAL

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT HAVE ARISEN IN PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

11. Council officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the matter of this report.

OFFICIAL



CITY OF BALLARAT
**Footpath Construction
Strategy**



Document Revision History

Version	Date	DOCUMENT Type
Version 3.1	8 August 2024	.docx
Version 2.0	18 April 2024	.docx
Version 1.0	14 April 2024	.docx

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Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Ballarat acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Message from the Mayor

Footpaths are fundamental to our community. They play a vital role in keeping our residents and visitors active, safe and connected to others, as well as to community facilities, services, public transport and open spaces.

The City of Ballarat has 844 kilometres of existing footpaths. The Footpath Construction Strategy will guide how we prioritise and fund where new footpaths are built.

The strategy will outline a framework that prioritises where new footpaths are needed most, where sealing of existing unsealed footpaths should take place and identifying missing links in our footpath network.

Informed by our community's feedback, it prioritises footpath connections based on important links to residents and gaps in the footpath network that impact our community's footpath use.

The strategy will also improve accessibility for communities most in need including, but not limited to, carers, people with disability and those without access to private transport.

The strategy aligns with City of Ballarat *Council Plan 2021-2025* Goal 4 - 'A city that conserves and enhances our natural and built assets'.

We look forward to implementing the Footpath Construction Strategy and ensuring that our community has access to footpaths that encourages them to walk to local destinations and better connects them to all that our community has to offer.



Cr Des Hudson
Mayor, City of Ballarat

Executive Summary

The City of Ballarat is served by an extensive footpath network spanning almost 1,000 kilometres, including 45km of walking trails. The people of Ballarat have told us that promoting opportunities for active transport is a key priority, as expressed in the Ballarat Community Vision 2021 – 2031. However, with a road network extending over 1,500km, footpath coverage lags behind what is needed, to ensure safe and equitable opportunities for active travel and enjoyment of our municipality.

This Footpath Construction Strategy (the ‘Strategy’) develops a community-driven framework for prioritising the construction of new footpaths in a manner that maximises the benefits of each investment for the whole community. The Strategy focusses on prioritising footpath network connectivity improvements across the City of Ballarat to improve safety, transport choices, health and wellbeing and local economic activity.

It has been developed with the people of Ballarat and stakeholders from the City of Ballarat. Community consultation took place over two stages, first to understand how the people of Ballarat use the footpath network, and secondly to gather feedback on the proposed decision-making framework and Construction Plan.

What we heard was that footpaths are used in a variety of ways by the people of Ballarat. This feedback highlighted the importance of footpaths providing access to a variety of local destinations. That is why this framework has been developed to promote local living. Ballarat’s Principal Pedestrian Network has been developed in parallel with this Strategy. We can now prioritise footpath gaps in a way that strives to provide a complete network between activity centres.

However, this is not enough. To ensure that footpaths are accessible to all, it is important to consider the range of user needs and remove barriers to access. This means prioritising footpath construction not only in areas where local connectivity is high, but also where coverage is poor and in locations with populations of users with strong reliance on footpaths for mobility.

For this reason, the decision-making framework developed as part of this Strategy prioritised footpath construction based on:

- Local connectivity: paths that serve destinations essential for daily living
- Pedestrian safety: paths in low-speed environments that provide opportunities for safe and comfortable path use
- Suburb and locality index of need: areas with poor coverage and relatively high numbers or proportions of populations who are more likely to rely on footpaths for mobility.

Footpath construction will first be prioritised where gaps coincide with the primary or secondary Principal Pedestrian Network, with small, isolated gaps given precedence. This Strategy will be used to develop a multi-year Footpath Construction Plan based on these principles to ensure that the benefits of investment in new footpaths are maximised while increasing equity of opportunity to use footpaths throughout the municipality.

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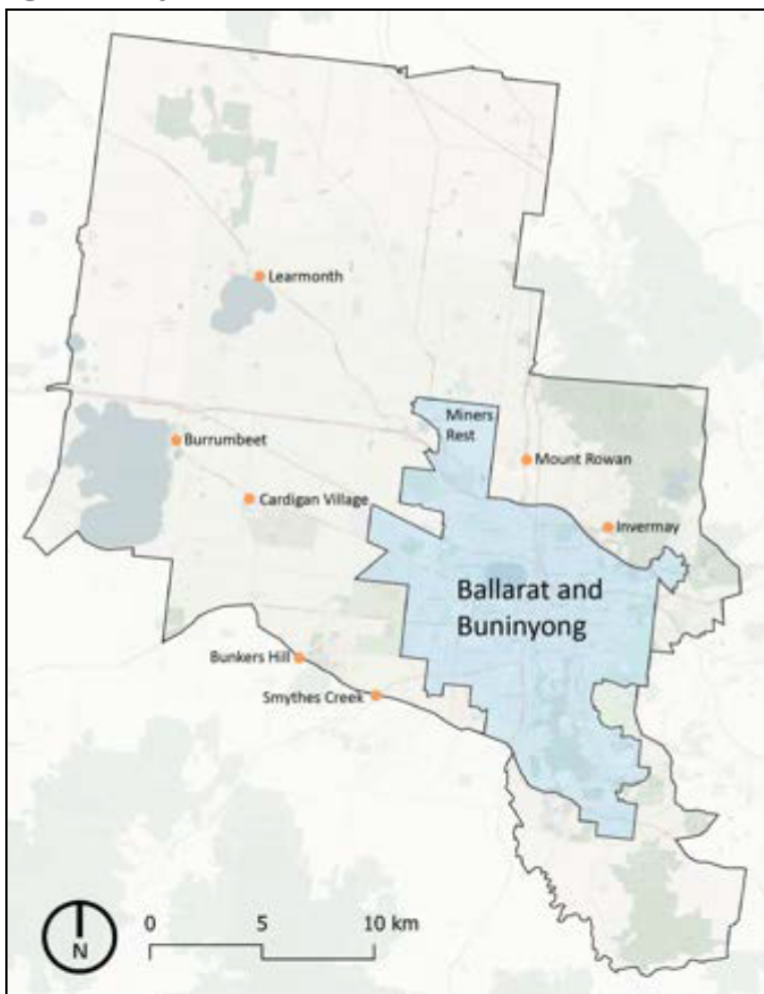
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1 Introduction

The City of Ballarat is Victoria's third largest city with a population of around 116,000 residents in 2022¹. The majority of the population lives within Ballarat's urban area, and various towns across the municipality. Key population centres are shown in Figure 1-1 below.

Figure 1-1: City of Ballarat urban area and towns



Source: M&PC (2024)

1.1 Background to this Strategy

The City of Ballarat is served by an extensive footpath network of almost 1,000 kilometres. However, with a road network extending almost 1,500km (not including highways), many roads are without footpath coverage. This Footpath Construction Strategy (the 'Strategy') develops a community-driven framework for prioritising the construction of new footpaths in a manner that

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2022) Estimated Resident Population – Ballarat, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population/latest-release>, accessed 19 March 2024

maximises the benefits of each investment for the whole community. The Strategy focusses on prioritising footpath network connectivity improvements across the City of Ballarat to achieve a range of benefits such as improving:

- Safety
- Transport choices
- Health and wellbeing
- Local economic activity and productivity.

The prioritisation framework outlined in this Strategy has been developed to assist decision-making for all footpath construction and sealing of unsealed paths. However, the construction plan intended to be produced from this first version of the Strategy will be based on available data for footpaths and therefore is limited in its application to paths adjacent to roads and does not include surfacing of unsealed paths.

Key factors that influenced the prioritisation framework include access to key destinations such as schools, shops and workplaces. Other attributes of footpath quality, including condition and supporting infrastructure, are also important for maximising access to footpaths among the community. The community was asked to value the importance of these other attributes; which although not part of the present Strategy, should be considered as part of a broader approach to remove barriers to footpath use in the City of Ballarat.

1.2 Report structure

The structure of this Strategy is as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Context
- Chapter 3: Prioritisation framework
- Chapter 4: Options
- Chapter 5: Recommendations and conclusion

Appendices included at the end of this document:

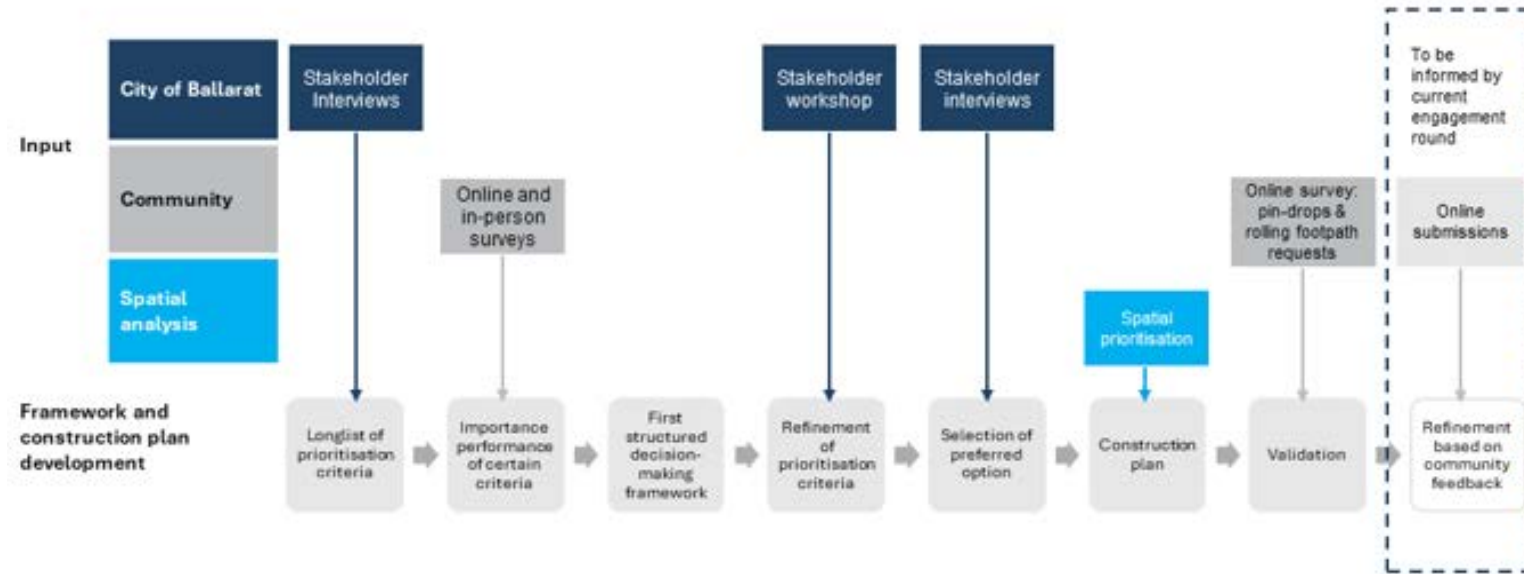
- Community engagement summary
- Proposed Construction Plan methodology

A separate Technical Appendix details the assumptions and approach to mapping and analyses.

1.3 Approach

This Strategy presents findings from community engagement (including stakeholder meetings), analysis of existing footpath conditions in the City of Ballarat and an exploration of the equity implications of Ballarat's demographic characteristics and the needs of different footpath users. These insights have been combined to produce a decision-making tool for prioritising investment in the construction of new footpaths. The prioritisation framework will be applied to known road-adjacent footpath gaps to produce a multi-year pipeline for construction. Figure 1-2 summarises the iterative nature of developing the prioritisation framework, drawing on evidence and feedback from the three key sources: community, internal City of Ballarat stakeholders, and spatial and demographic data.

Figure 1-2: Overview of inputs to the footpath construction prioritisation framework



1.3.1 Community Engagement

Local knowledge of the municipality and key areas of need were explored through the community engagement activities, including user surveys, pin drop map, and stakeholder interviews.

Each round of engagement used different engagement touchpoints to gather different types of feedback from the community. Figure 1-3 below outlines the different touchpoints and dates for community and stakeholder engagement used in each round of engagement during the development of this Strategy.

Figure 1-3: Summary of engagement activities



Stakeholder engagement

Prior to the release of the survey, representatives of key stakeholder groups were met with to discuss the design of the survey and other engagement activities to maximise participation across the community. Stakeholders consulted were:

- City of Ballarat Ageing Well team
- City of Ballarat Community Inclusion team
- City of Ballarat LGBTIQ+ team
- City of Ballarat Youth Services team
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

Round 2 engagement workshops were used to gain consensus around the design of the prioritisation framework and discuss any other relevant evaluation criteria which should be considered when evaluating options.

Survey and pin-drop map

The survey aimed to develop a strong understanding of:

- How the community uses the existing footpath network, including
 - Types of trips made using the footpath network
 - The destinations commonly accessed by the footpath
- Geographic areas of concern among the community
- Specific barriers to using the footpath network
- Actions or improvements which will encourage increased use of the footpath network.

The survey delved into the individuals' specific use of the footpath network, and their demographics which may influence how they use the network. Table 1-1 outlines the types of information collected and explains their use in developing the Footpath Construction Strategy.

Table 1-1: Summary of survey scope and purpose

Theme	Questionnaire	Relevance to Footpath Construction Strategy
Footpath use baseline	Q1 - Q2	Establishes how equitably the Ballarat footpath network is used and for what purpose (segmenting trip types by individual characteristics).
Propensity by trip type	Q3	Establish destinations by type that people access by using the footpath network. This information was used to prioritise footpath segments based on latent demand for using the footpath by user group.
Footpath quality importance	Q4	Establish factors that people value when considering using the footpath network. This information was used to assign relative importance to the footpath quality criteria for different user groups.
Individual characteristics	Q5 – Q15	Information is collected so that responses could be disaggregated and considered to ensure prioritisation reflects the needs of different population segments. This in turn ensures that benefits of investment are distributed equitably among the population.

Source: M&PC (2023)

Hard copies of the survey were provided at City of Ballarat sites across the municipality, including libraries and leisure centres. This survey was open to respondents from 5 February to 4 March 2024.

Staff of Movement & Place Consulting (M&PC) attended two in person community events on 10 February 2024, being the Ballarat Farmers Market at Lake Wendouree, and the Skate Parks League Competition at Ballarat Skate Park, Bakery Hill. Attendance to these events was designed to gather community feedback in person, complete the survey in-person, have conversations with the community and increase the visibility of the Strategy.

To complement the survey, a pin drop map was also provided so that respondents could provide location-specific feedback or comments about the footpath network. Pins could have one of three categories:

1. New path
2. Seal existing
3. Other.

The results from the online survey are summarised in Section 2.5 Footpath use in the City of Ballarat.

Summary of reach of community engagement

The first round of community engagement reached hundreds of residents across the City of Ballarat. Statistics of participation are as follows:

- Online survey: 264 (31% of total contributions)
- Pin drop: 580 (69% of total contributions).

A physical version of the survey was created and distributed across City of Ballarat sites such as City of Ballarat offices, libraries and community centres, however, no hard copy responses were

Recommendation #1: Prioritise in-person assistance for those not able to participate online such as through focus groups or in-person event attendance.

received.

1.3.2 Spatial analysis of footpath context and attributes

This Strategy used spatial information to increase visibility of existing footpath conditions and gaps; and to explore accessibility and safety features of the network to inform the indicative construction pipeline.

Footpath network data is not routinely mapped by jurisdictions across Victoria. The City of Ballarat has a spatial record of the footpath network; however the current file is known to be incomplete². No complete record of existing paths, or aspirational (future) paths exists for the City of Ballarat. To facilitate identification of priority footpath gaps for construction, the City of Ballarat's road network was used as the basis of a complete network of road-adjacent footpaths. The City of Ballarat's road network is made up of individual road segments. These are used as the unit of analysis for the footpath network. Roads with signed speeds of 80km/h or above are not considered to be eligible for footpaths and are thus excluded from consideration for footpath construction. This assumption does not reflect nuances in the provision of footpaths that might be desirable, such as:

- Shared paths adjacent to arterial roads or highways connecting towns (speeds greater than 80km/h).
- Central or median-running paths on some roads, such as main streets.
- Locations where local character or other justification dictate that paths are not desirable on every street.
- Locations where the provision of paths conflicts with other kerbside or adjacent land use function and would not serve the community.
- Recreation trails and informal paths.

The process for identifying footpath gaps involved joining existing footpath data to the road network, and assuming provision in recently constructed new estates. A detailed methodology is outlined in a separate technical.

The prioritisation framework outlined in this Strategy can be reapplied as needed to update the Construction Plan, as data improves or new aspirational footpath links are planned. A few key steps could be followed to ensure that the Footpath Construction Plan reflects the aspiration for a complete network of road-adjacent and recreational paths in the City of Ballarat:

² Most of the unmapped footpath data is known to be located in estates built between 2019 and 2022. These estates are being built to design standards set out in the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM), which ensures that footpaths are provided along traversable roads. To identify footpath gaps for this analysis, it is assumed that all roads within these estates are serviced by footpaths on both sides of the road.

- Ensure spatial data for existing footpath infrastructure is up to date
- Create an aspirational footpath network map that includes links that are currently missing and incorporates shared paths and trails. Ensure existing and aspirational surfaces are recorded in this file
- Track footpath gaps as the difference between existing and aspirational footpath networks

Recommendation #2: Reapply the prioritisation framework as data is updated and aspirations for footpath provision evolve.

1.3.3 Demographic inputs and equity assessment

Without clear and accessible public spaces, members of the community may be restricted from certain spaces and unable to move freely around the municipality. This discrimination extends to the design of public spaces, access into premises and footpaths³.

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was conducted alongside this project to:

1. Explore the extent to which the project benefits are accessible to members of the community irrespective of different mobility patterns and needs, and
2. Identify opportunities to promote equitable access to Ballarat's footpath network.

As a part of this GIA, demographic analysis of the City of Ballarat has been undertaken. The assessment considers gender and other attributes that may be associated with systemic barriers. This includes:

- Under 24-year-olds
- Over 65-year-olds
- Those with caring responsibilities⁴
- Those with physical or mental impairments
- Car ownership
- Relative socioeconomic advantage.

The results of this analysis are presented in Section 2.2- City of Ballarat demographic profile. The analysis of options for prioritising footpath construction, the focus of Chapter 4, was based on equity considerations and mirrors the options assessment approach applicable to Gender Impact Assessments, set out by Victorian Commission for Gender Equality.

³ The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person in public life based on their disability.

⁴ People with caring responsibilities is defined as persons completing unpaid domestic work, unpaid childcare and caring for others according to the 2021 Census.

2 Context

Footpath construction is a key service of all local governments. Footpaths provide significant benefits to the community in terms of health, access and inclusion. However, the ability of members of the community to access benefits can be affected by differences in mobility patterns and safety needs among other things.

2.1 Strategic context

Encouraging and prioritising active transport is a key priority for the City of Ballarat and its community. Strategies and Plans which highlight the need for accessible footpaths are highlighted below.

- **Council Plan 2021 – 2025:** Council identifies the need to move away from car travel and towards active travel to reduce emissions and increase physical activity. The Plan commits to deliver priority active transport infrastructure.
- **Ballarat Integrated Transport Plan 2020:** An immediate priority has been recognised to deliver footpath routes and pedestrian improvements throughout the municipality, with the incomplete footpath network identified as a key transport issue in Ballarat.
- **Active Ballarat Strategy 2019:** Seeks to improve participation in active recreation. This includes walking, which was the most popular activity for active recreation in 2019 (39,000 participants).
- **Ageing Well Strategy 2022 – 2026:** Transport is a key focus area to improve accessibility and independence of older people in Ballarat, with improving the pedestrian experience stated as a priority.
- **Youth Strategy 2022 – 2026:** Safe, affordable and convenient transport options is a key priority to ensure that young people can get to where they want to go, and that they are provided with opportunities to be active.

2.1.1 Community values

Engagement with the community for the Ballarat Community Vision 2021 – 2031 identified active travel as a key priority for the community. A key theme of the community vision is for a 'Well-planned and interconnected city', which includes well-connected active transport by 2031. According to the Vision, the community wants:

- Ballarat to become a sustainable city, with reduced transport emissions
- Compulsory infrastructure to be included with all new developments, including footpaths and kerb ramps
- Planning which supports active lifestyles.

2.2 Footpaths and Healthy Country

Representatives from the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation met online with consultant from the project team on 7 February 2024. This discussion brought to light many interactions between footpaths landmarks or sightlines of cultural significance. Many existing or potential tracks connect areas of cultural significance or sightlines, as well as waterways. It is important that the natural flow of waterways not be interrupted or degraded. The City of Ballarat's network of paths should consider ways to enhance community learning about the many culturally significant sightlines and songlines. The Woookarung Regional Park dementia-friendly trail is a precedent for a high-quality path that uses art, signage, sculpture and information to help

connect people to place in an accessible way. The identification of appropriate sites and treatments is best achieved through regular consultation with Traditional Owners.

Recommendation 3: Engage with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners prior to confirming year-ahead construction plan to identify opportunities to:

- Support increased awareness of significant cultural associations in the vicinity of planned footpath construction, and
- Engage the community in the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan through ancillary features and information alongside footpath construction.

2.3 City of Ballarat demographic profile

The City of Ballarat is home to a diverse population. Certain sociodemographic characteristics, either at the individual or area-level, may relate to the potential access the people of Ballarat may have to footpaths. Individual needs can vary on the basis of certain economic, occupational, physical and identifying characteristics. Area-level trends in population may also correlate with footpath provision or overall access to services.

The tables that follow summarise the distribution of the population according to six attributes that influence way that residents or visitors may use footpaths. These factors may affect the physical mobility needs, access to alternatives or mobility patterns of users:

- Population age (under 24)
- Population age (over 65)
- Caring responsibilities
- Persons needing assistance
- Car ownership
- Socioeconomic disadvantage.

These summaries are based on the Australian Census of population and housing; which does not reflect the entire population. These categories are also not an exhaustive reflection of factors that might affect individual opportunities to benefit from footpaths, and measured by the ABS census area, Suburb and Locality (SAL). Table 2-1 below outlines the areas where the most residents under the age of 24 are located, in number and percent of population.

Table 2-1: Top 10 locations with people under 24 (total number and percent)

Rank	Top 10 by segment population		Top 10 by share (%)	
	SAL name	Pop.	SAL name	%
1	Alfredton	4403	Cardigan Village	47%
2	Wendouree	3098	Bunkers Hill	40%
3	Sebastopol (Vic)	2984	Cardigan	40%
4	Delacombe	1661	Scotsburn	39%
5	Ballarat East	1518	Winter Valley	39%
6	Ballarat Central	1437	Lucas	39%
7	Miners Rest	1420	Bonshaw (Vic)	38%
8	Brown Hill (Vic)	1380	Mount Helen	37%
9	Winter Valley	1337	Alfredton	37%
10	Mount Clear	1219	Miners Rest	37%

Source: M&PC analysis of ABS Census (2024)⁵

Table 2-2 below outlines the areas where the most residents over the age of 65 are located, in number and percent of population.

Table 2-2: Top 10 locations with people over 65 (total number and percent)

Rank	Top 10 by segment population		Top 10 by share (%)	
	SAL name	Pop.	SAL name	%
1	Wendouree	2557	Addington	41%
2	Sebastopol	2205	Burrumbeet	33%
3	Alfredton	1667	Lake Wendouree	32%
4	Ballarat East	1517	Mount Rowan	31%
5	Delacombe	1165	Lake Gardens	29%
6	Ballarat Central	1017	Mount Bolton	27%
7	Ballarat North	938	Invermay Park	26%
8	Lake Wendouree	932	Scotchmans Lead	26%
9	Buninyong	803	Ballarat East	26%
10	Canadian	801	Wendouree	25%

Source: M&PC analysis of ABS Census (2024)⁶

Caring activities influence the nature, frequency, location and needs that individuals have for transportation and access. Mobilities of care is defined to include travel that is in service of another, such as accompanying a dependent to an activity or undertaking an errand, including shopping, on behalf of another⁷. The Census collects information on three activities related to the definition of mobilities of care:

- Unpaid domestic work
- Unpaid assistance
- Unpaid childcare.

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021. Census General Community Profile 2021: G04 Age by sex, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>. Accessed 12 January 2024.

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021. Census General Community Profile 2021: G04 Age by sex, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>. Accessed 12 January 2024.

⁷ UN Habitat 2024. Mobility of Care, <https://unhabitat.org/mobility-of-care-ines-sanchez-de-madariaga>. Accessed 12 January 2024.

Table 2-3 below outlines the areas where the most residents with caring responsibilities are located, in number and percent of population.

Table 2-3: Top 10 locations of people with caring responsibilities

Rank	Top 10 by segment population		Top 10 by share (%)	
	SAL name	Pop.	SAL name	%
1	Wendouree	10,855	Mount Pleasant (Vic.)	81%
2	Sebastopol (Vic.)	9,590	Scotsburn	77%
3	Alfredton	9,112	Mount Helen	76%
4	Mount Clear	6,378	Mitchell Park (Vic.)	56%
5	Mount Helen	5,314	Invermay (Vic.)	54%
6	Ballarat East	5,035	Winter Valley	53%
7	Mount Pleasant (Vic.)	4,428	Mount Clear	49%
8	Soldiers Hill (Vic.)	4,117	Soldiers Hill (Vic.)	49%
9	Winter Valley	4,090	Black Hill (Vic.)	42%
10	Ballarat Central	3,870	Warrenheip	41%

Source: M&PC analysis of ABS Census (2024)⁸

Table 2-4 below outlines the areas where the most residents who require assistance are located, in number and percent of population. To identify where populations of people who may have a mental or physical impairment are located, the Census classification of people who need assistance is used.

Table 2-4: Top 10 locations with people needing assistance (total number and percent)

Rank	Top 10 by segment population		Top 10 by share (%)	
	SAL name	Pop.	SAL name	%
1	Sebastopol (Vic.)	812	Winter Valley	18%
2	Wendouree	683	Mount Pleasant (Vic.)	18%
3	Ballarat East	639	Ballarat North	12%
4	Mount Pleasant (Vic.)	495	Mitchell Park (Vic.)	11%
5	Winter Valley	393	Invermay (Vic.)	11%
6	Lake Wendouree	347	Lake Wendouree	10%
7	Ballarat North	346	Mount Clear	10%
8	Mount Helen	330	Scotsburn	10%
9	Mount Clear	306	Sebastopol (Vic.)	8%
10	Ballarat Central	304	Mount Pleasant (Vic.)	8%

Source: M&PC analysis of ABS Census (2024)⁹

Table 2-5 represents the ten SALs with the greatest magnitude and share of households in the municipality without cars.

⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021. Census General Community Profile 2021: G24 Unpaid domestic work: number of hours by age by sex; G25 Unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, health condition or due to old age by age by sex; G26 Unpaid child care by age by sex, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>. Accessed 12 January 2024.

⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021. Census General Community Profile 2021: G18 Core activity need for assistance by age by sex, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>. Accessed 12 January 2024.

Table 2-5: Top 10 SALs by magnitude and share of households with zero cars

Rank	Top 10 by segment population		Top 10 by share (%)	
	SAL name	Pop.	SAL name	%
1	Wendouree	465	Redan	11%
2	Sebastopol (Vic.)	391	Wendouree	10%
3	Ballarat Central	215	Eureka (Vic.)	10%
4	Ballarat East	206	Golden Point (Ballarat - Vic.)	10%
5	Redan	155	Ballarat Central	9%
6	Ballarat North	154	Sebastopol (Vic.)	9%
7	Alfredton	131	Ballarat North	9%
8	Soldiers Hill (Vic.)	104	Soldiers Hill (Vic.)	8%
9	Golden Point (Ballarat - Vic.)	98	Ballarat East	8%
10	Delacombe	95	Mount Pleasant (Vic.)	7%

Source: M&PC (2024) Analysis of ABS 2021¹⁰

Table 2-6 below identifies the suburbs and localities with the lowest score on the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD), signifying the greatest levels of socioeconomic disadvantage.

Table 2-6: SALs with lowest Index of Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD) score

Rank (ascending scores)	SAL name	IRSD
1	Wendouree	856
2	Sebastopol	877
3	Redan	900
4	Mitchell Park	930
5	Delacombe	930
6	Eureka	941
7	Mount Pleasant	942
8	Ballarat East	944
9	Golden Point	976
10	Burrumbeet	979

Source: M&PC (2024) Analysis of ABS 2021¹¹

The location of population segments with higher need for the footpath network are often located in similar areas across the municipality. Areas where these population segments represent higher percentage shares of the population are often located in townships outside of Ballarat, such as Cardigan Village, Coghills Creek, and Scotsburn, or areas on the fringes of Ballarat, such as Bunkers Hill, Cardigan, Invermay, Mitchell Park, and Mount Helen. Some suburbs of Ballarat are also represented, such as Ballarat North, Invermay Park, Mount Pleasant, and Winter Valley, however these are less common than the areas listed above. The SALs with the greatest magnitude and share of households with zero cars were located more centrally than the spread of SALs across other categories, generally not outside of suburban Ballarat.

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021. Census General Community Profile 2021: G34 Number of motor vehicles by dwelling, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>. Accessed 12 January 2024.

¹¹ ABS 2021. Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release#data-downloads>. Accessed 11 April 2024

While some areas of Ballarat, such as Alfredton, Sebastopol, and Wendouree have higher populations of these segment groups, it is generally a smaller percentage of the total population. Areas where the percentage of the total population is highest should be recognised because these areas will have higher needs from the footpath network. These areas, particularly townships outside of Ballarat, also often have higher gaps in the footpath network as a proportion of their existing network.

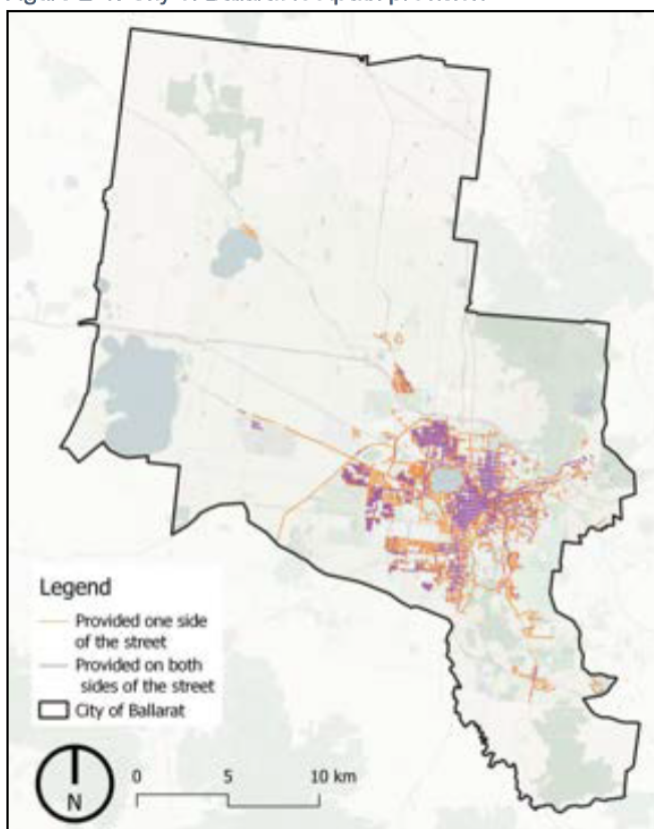
Due to the nature of this analysis, these findings will change over time as people move in and out of these areas. These figures are accurate as of April 2024.

Recommendation #4: The City of Ballarat should undertake regular demographic analysis of population segments to ensure a clear understanding of which communities may have greater needs from the footpath network.

2.4 Existing footpath conditions

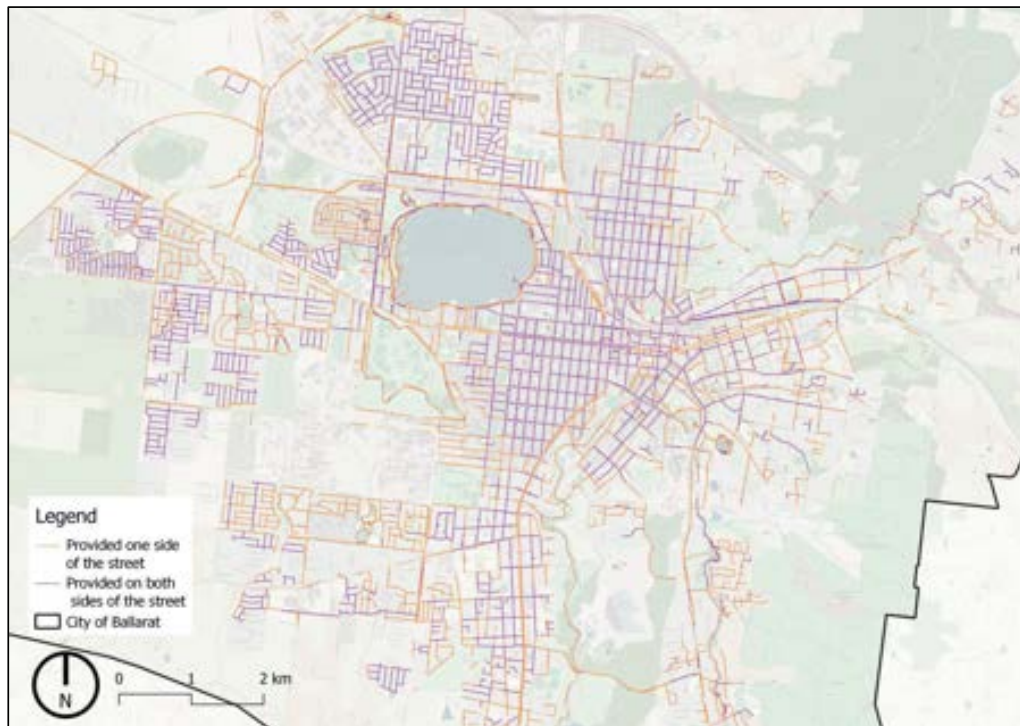
To inform the future multi-year Footpath Construction Plans, footpath provision across the City of Ballarat is shown in Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2 below.

Figure 2-1: City of Ballarat footpath provision



Source: M&PC (2024)

Figure 2-2: Central Ballarat footpath provision



Source: M&PC (2024)

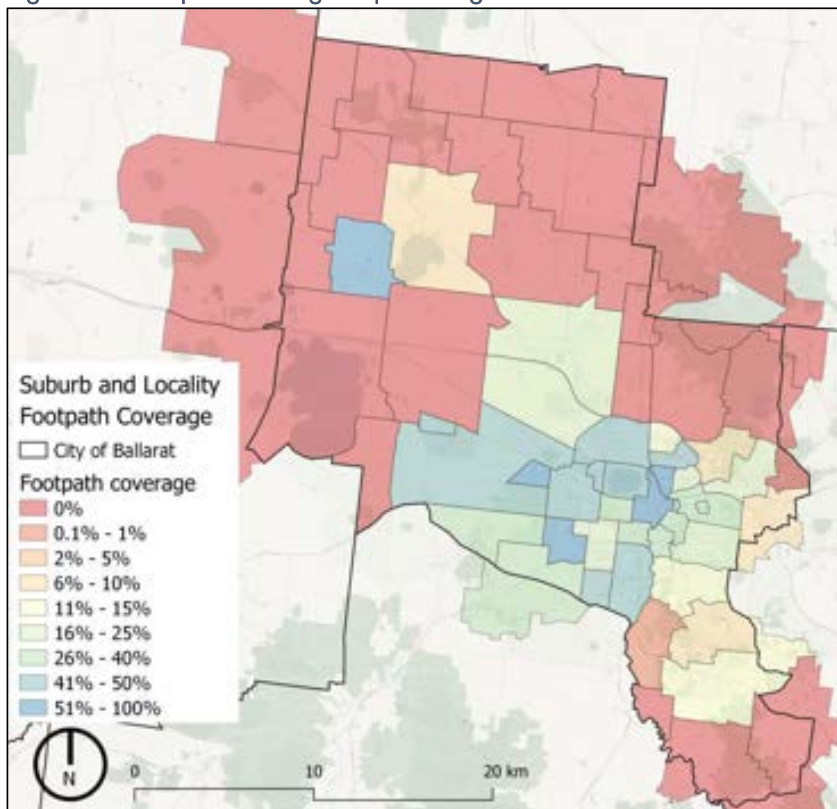
The images above suggest that footpath provision varies across the municipality. The majority of existing footpaths can be found within the township of Ballarat, with limited provision in outlying townships across the municipality. Areas where footpaths are provided on both sides of the street can be found generally in centralised suburbs such as Central Ballarat or Soldiers Hill and new subdivisions, such as Lucas, have greater dual-sided coverage of footpaths than other parts of Ballarat.

2.4.1 Footpath network gaps

A key component of this Strategy is to identify locations where footpaths *should* be. These locations are referred to as 'gaps' and will be the basis of a prioritised multi-year Construction Plan for new footpath delivery. Gaps can vary in scale; from a corner of an intersection to an entire street. To understand how gaps were identified for this Strategy, please refer to the separate Technical Appendix for more detail.

Figure 2-3 below depicts the share of footpath gaps in each suburb and locality throughout the City of Ballarat.

Figure 2-3: Footpath coverage as percentage of suburb network across the City



Source: M&PC (2024)

Areas with the highest footpath coverage in the City of Ballarat are:

- Soldiers Hill (66%)
- Lucas (59%)
- Ballarat Central (55%)
- Winter Valley (53%).

These figures show that inner Ballarat, where first development in Ballarat occurred, and new estates, where providing footpaths on both sides of each street is now mandatory, have the greatest provision of footpaths. Provision varies throughout suburban Ballarat, for example, Invermay Park has 13% coverage, whereas neighbouring Ballarat North has 41% coverage. Eastern suburbs of Ballarat, where the terrain becomes more varied and tree cover is higher have lower footpath coverage than the suburban west. For example, Canadian has 17% coverage compared to Newington’s 30% coverage despite both being similar distances from the Ballarat CBD.

Most of the rural areas of the municipality have very low to no footpath coverage. These areas can be overlooked due to low population; however, footpaths play an important role in linking

these communities. Some communities, such as Miners Rest, have local destinations located on main roads, which can be dangerous for pedestrians to use without footpaths.

However, it is recognised that not all townships will want footpaths in all locations due to the valued country charm of wide footpath-less verges. The City of Ballarat will ensure that when footpaths are considered for construction in these townships, the community will be consulted to ensure the footpaths are wanted.

Recommendation #5: Where the City of Ballarat is aware of community concern regarding the installation of footpaths in townships, these communities should be consulted if a new footpath is being considered for construction.

2.5 Footpath use in the City of Ballarat

Round one of community engagement on the Footpath Construction Strategy ran from 5 February to 4 March 2024, and gathered community thoughts and feedback through a survey and online pin drop mapping software. The survey has allowed an understanding of how the Ballarat community generally uses footpaths and what they need from a footpath network into the future.

Of the total 264 survey respondents, 66% identified as female, 31% identified as male, and 0.76% identified as non-binary. Majority of respondents were aged between 35 and 44 years old (36%), with 3% under 24 and 12% over 65 years old. Other key demographic statistics which have helped identify how different population segments use the footpath are:

- 57% identified as having caring responsibilities
- 29% identified as having a physical disability or mental health condition.

User groups and population segments used to analyse data from the engagement were:

- Gender
- Under 24 years old
- Over 65 years old
- Living with a physical disability or mental health condition
- Identified as having caring responsibilities.

2.5.1 How do we use footpaths?

Across all user groups, the most common uses for the footpath network are:

1. Exercise
2. Leisure, nature
3. Transport.

Those under 24 also identified as accessing public transport as the second most common use of the footpath network.

When using footpaths, the primary way people move is by walking. Excluding walking, the top three ways of travelling on footpaths generally are:

- Riding a (manual) bicycle: 36%
- Running (35%)
- Pushing a pram (31%).

Between different user groups, there was some change in way of travel, with other key insights being:

- Women are more likely to travel with a pram than men (36% compared to 23%)
- Carers are the most likely user group to travel with prams (46%) and use manual bicycles (43%)
- Men are the most likely to run on the footpath network (46%)
- People with a physical disability or mental health condition are most likely to use walking aids, but also use other vehicles such as bicycles or scooters as or more often
- Under 24s are likely to use active transport vehicles such as bicycles, scooters, skateboards or rollerskates.

2.5.2 Where do we go on footpaths?

According to the survey, the top three destinations accessed by footpaths in the City of Ballarat are:

1. Shops and hospitality (87% of responses)
2. Nature, parks and open space (78% of responses)
3. Local food and fresh produce (62% of responses).

Across all user groups, there were some differences in key destinations accessed by footpaths, including:

- Carers and those under 24 are the most likely to use footpaths to access schools or places of work or study
- Those under 24 are the most likely to use footpaths to access public transport and sports and recreation facilities.

2.5.3 What do we prioritise in footpaths?

Respondents were asked to identify features which they prioritise when choosing to use footpaths. The top three features identified as most important when choosing to use footpaths were generally common across user groups:

- “Footpaths are available where I want to go”
- “Footpaths are in good condition”
- “Using footpaths feel safe”

Footpaths being sealed is also of importance, with it being the second most popular choice for under 24s, and generally in the top five responses across all user groups. However, for many residents and visitors to the municipality, the presence of a footpath alone may not be enough to enable its use. The condition of footpaths, proximity between origins and destinations and the feeling of personal security, are other factors that affect an individual's opportunity to use a footpath.

Table 2-7 overleaf outlines the top survey responses from all respondents, and any differences in the population segments.

Table 2-7: Survey responses from all responses and population segments

	All respondents (top responses)	Over 65s	Carers	Mental or physical impairment	Youth
Access and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise • Leisure, nature • Transport • Shops and produce • Nature, parks and open space 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health services • Places to play, meet, and gather 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Childcare centres • Games/play 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health services • Community hubs • No specific destination 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Access public transport • Sport and recreation facilities • Places to work and study
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available • In good condition • Safe 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cater to a variety of physical mobility requirements 	<p>Aligned with average</p>	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cater to a variety of physical mobility requirements 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealed footpaths
Ways to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Running • Bicycle 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking aid • Assisting someone in a wheelchair 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pushing a pram • Bicycle (manual) 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking aid • Wheelchair • Assisting someone in a wheelchair 	<p>More than average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle (manual) • Scooter (manual) • Roller-skates • Skateboards
Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of connectivity to key destinations such as schools • Poor condition of paths • Narrow width 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor condition restricts use due to reduced mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of connectivity and related infrastructure (pram ramps) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor condition • Lack of connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of connectivity to key destinations (recreation, open space, schools) • Unsealed paths restrict alternate micro-mobility

Source: M&PC (2024)

Individual characteristics are associated with different frequencies of access to various destinations. For example, respondents aged over 65, youth, carers or people identifying as having a mental or physical impairment are more likely to use footpaths to access key destinations, rather than just for leisure and recreation. Therefore, footpaths being available to access these key destinations is vital for these segments of the community.

Inclusivity of the design of the footpath network is critical for some users. Ensuring the network is surfaced and of a good quality allows people with increased mobility needs or who use additional devices, such as walking aids, prams, or skateboards, to also use the footpath network. Designing the network for these users will ensure that everyone can use the footpath.

Safety was another important feature for all population segments. Lack of footpath provision can force pedestrians to walk on the nature strip. Some users are physically unable to walk on the nature strip (such as those with physical impairments or people with prams), or the nature strip can often be damp, leading to an uncomfortable experience. This then forces pedestrians on to the side of the road, significantly impacting safety, and increasing the chance of a crash between a pedestrian and driver.

Personal security was not commonly recorded as one of the top features of the footpath network that users value. This may be due to a perceived lack of impact that footpath design can have on personal security. However, this may also be due to some users not considering personal security, as they have already changed their behaviour to avoid travelling when or where they feel their security is threatened. Therefore, it is important to always consider how the design and provision of footpaths impact personal security.

It is important that other factors which may cause systemic barriers to footpath use are addressed alongside footpath construction. This will ensure that individuals are not prevented from using footpaths based on physical characteristics, safety perception or location.

Recommendation #6: The City of Ballarat should move toward an integrated approach to footpath provision that considers footpath construction alongside other planning decisions, such as the spatial distribution of services, security through passive surveillance and traffic

2.5.4 General feedback

Specific sentiments came across from the survey through individual comments. Key insights include:

- General concern around the lack of footpaths and related infrastructure throughout the City of Ballarat
- Poorly maintained footpaths create trip hazards and cause injuries
- Children should be able to access school safely using the footpath network
- Footpaths are too narrow, particularly in established areas around Central Ballarat
- Footpaths should be provided on both sides of the street.

These general comments reinforce the sentiment that footpath provision is not the only barrier to footpath use. While new footpaths will be built to standards pertaining to width and slope, legacy paths may not meet such standards of accessibility. The Draft Ballarat Road Management Plan sets in place a hierarchy of responses to maintenance requests of footpaths. It is important that this Strategy and the Road Management Plan collectively provide a mechanism to ensure accessibility issues associated with footpath condition and physical features are able to be addressed in a timely way. Furthermore, issues outside of the City of Ballarat's jurisdiction, such as maintenance of private gardens, also appears to affect footpath safety.

Recommendation #7: Ensure that the Footpath Construction Strategy and Road Management Plan provide for pro-active and strategic upgrades and maintenance of footpath condition to remove barriers to footpath use.

3 Prioritisation framework

This Strategy presents the basis and approach that the City of Ballarat will adopt to ensure future construction of footpaths maximises benefits in an equitable way. Central to this aim is a community-informed prioritisation framework for identifying which gaps in the footpath network should be prioritised first. The framework has been designed to ensure that the City of Ballarat is able to proactively allocate investment in new footpaths in locations where need is greatest and to ensure that benefits are equitably distributed across the municipality.

The prioritisation framework was developed in consultation with City of Ballarat representatives, community feedback and equity assessment underpinned by demographic analysis (See Section - 1.3.3). Key objectives considered in the design of the framework include:

- Transparent and easy to replicate with available data
- Does not contribute to further entrenchment of inequalities in access; and where possible, removes systemic barriers.

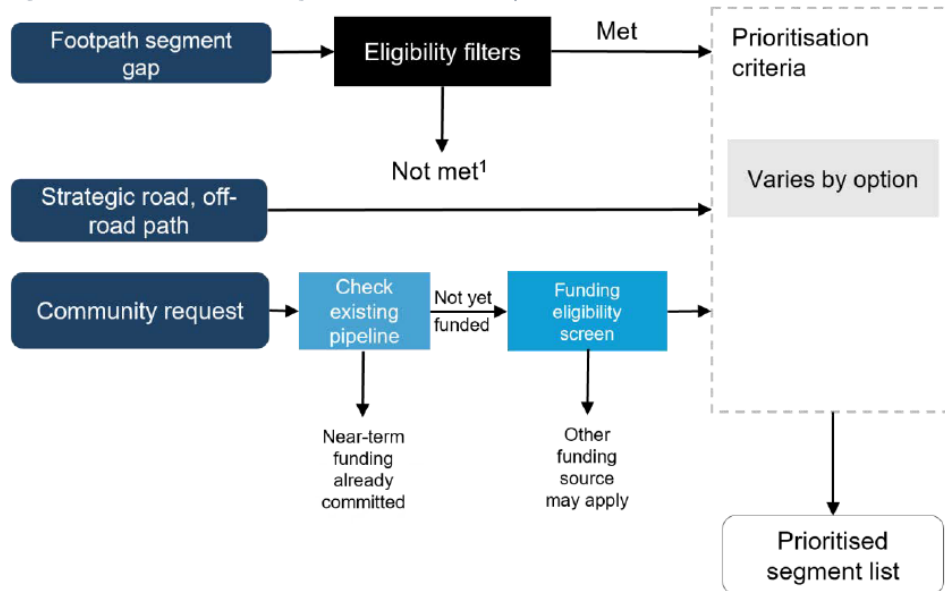
Figure 3-1 overleaf presents the general structure of the decision-making process. The criteria used to prioritise gaps are detailed in the following section. Four options have been developed for the composition of the prioritisation criteria. These are evaluated according to their equity implications in Section 4, and the preferred set of criteria presented.

As of current writing, this framework has been applied to a dataset of footpath network gaps for footpaths adjacent to the road network. The method used to identify these gaps, including assumptions, is outlined in the technical appendix to this Strategy.

The framework itself is versatile in its applicability. A key recommendation of this report (Recommendation 2) is to reapply the prioritisation framework to a future aspirational footpath network for the municipality, as new data is obtained that captures the extent of possible paths in the municipality. Furthermore, as captured in Figure 3-1, the framework can also be applied to requests that are brought by members of the community or their elected representatives. If a footpath request brought by the community or their elected representative does not correspond to a gap that has been identified for near-term construction, other funding mechanisms could be considered to expedite construction. Many municipalities across Victoria have adopted special rate and charge schemes for footpath construction. Case studies are explored overleaf.

Recommendation #8: Explore opportunities to apply special rate and charge schemes to footpath provision.

Figure 3-1: Decision-making framework for footpath construction



Legend	Approach
Trigger for review	
Eligibility criteria	Spatial analysis
Eligibility criteria	City of Ballarat strategic review
Prioritisation criteria	Spatial analysis

Source: M&PC in collaboration with City of Ballarat (2024)

Note (1) – Footpath segment gaps filtered to exclude new estates (missing data) non-traversable roads and suspected processing errors

Case Study: Special rate and charge schemes (SRC) for footpath construction

Should a footpath gap fall outside of the Footpath Construction Plan, one method to speed up its construction can be to develop a special rate and charge scheme (SRC) for the City of Ballarat. This will allow residents of a community to fund the construction of a section of footpath which may not be in the upcoming year's construction plan.

Many local governments across Victoria have already introduced an SRC, including:

- City of Greater Geelong
- Mitchell Shire
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Murrindindi Shire
- Strathbogie Shire
- Surf Coast Shire
- Yarra Ranges Shire.

These schemes allow for a co-funding arrangement between the local government in which the scheme takes place, and residents. It allows for both the local government and residents to fund the construction of a piece of infrastructure ahead of when it may have otherwise been constructed. Property owners are consulted as a part of this process, and pieces of infrastructure identified as possibly being funded by this scheme will generally come from resident requests which fall outside of the planned capital works program.

For example, when the City of Greater Geelong gets feedback from the community regarding a new footpath request, should the request not be programmed into the operational or strategic programs over the next five years, the City of Greater Geelong then assesses the willingness of residents in co-funding the footpath.

This has proved a success in places such as Ocean Grove, which had significant gaps in the footpath network. Residents agreed to fund 35% of this scheme being \$333.87 per property, with the scheme as a whole totalling over \$6 million. These funds have allowed for the construction of 24.3km of new footpaths, more than doubling the town's existing footpath network. As the City of Ballarat's current footpath construction budget is approximately \$900,000, a scheme such as this could transform Ballarat's footpath network at a rapid rate.

3.1 Application of the prioritisation framework

The first step in applying the prioritisation framework is to filter out footpath gaps that are ineligible for works. These criteria may vary over time depending on financing mechanisms, scope of works being considered, and robustness of the data to which it is applied. Due to the assumptions associated with the development of the present dataset, the following filters will be applied to generate the multi-year Construction Plan:

- Gap is outside a new estate¹²
- Gap is larger than 10 metres¹³
- Road is considered traversable (Speeds <80km/h).

¹² New estates presumed to have complete footpath networks but lack footpath network datasets.

¹³ Gaps smaller than 10 metres may be attributable to spatial processing errors

Gaps not meeting these criteria were excluded from ranking.

Subsequent prioritisation involves assessing the spatial context and properties of the road network to which the footpath is adjacent. Table 3-1 summarises the criteria considered for inclusion in the prioritisation framework.

Table 3-1: Summary of footpath construction prioritisation indicators

Indicator	Definition	Rationale
Local connectivity	Identifies whether a segment is within the catchment of a destination that is important for everyday life.	Footpaths that serve destinations that the community often use footpaths to access should be prioritised. The closer the link to the destination the more important.
Pedestrian safety	Speed zone in which the segment is located.	Pedestrians should have opportunity to travel adjacent to lower speed roads where safety and amenity are higher.
Local index of need	Combined indicator of relative local transport-related exclusion	Suburbs and localities with smaller or more sparse populations are more likely to have less complete footpath networks and may comprise high proportions of populations that face exclusion on the basis of social, mobility or economic factors; thereby justifying a high need for investment irrespective of other criteria.
Existing provision	Indicator of whether footpath gap is on one or both sides of the road.	Roads with no path on either side warrant priority over roads with a path on one side.
Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN)	Network of primary and secondary routes which support walking, wheeling and other modes of access via footpaths to key destinations ¹⁴ .	A connected network of routes to destinations essential for meeting daily needs should be established first before filling in surrounding links.
Gap size and context	Indicator of gap isolation which size of individual segment gap and share of adjoining segments that are missing.	Smaller, more isolated gaps can bring greatest return on investment by virtue of removing a barrier to use of an area with otherwise well-connected footpaths.

Source: M&PC in collaboration with City of Ballarat (2024)

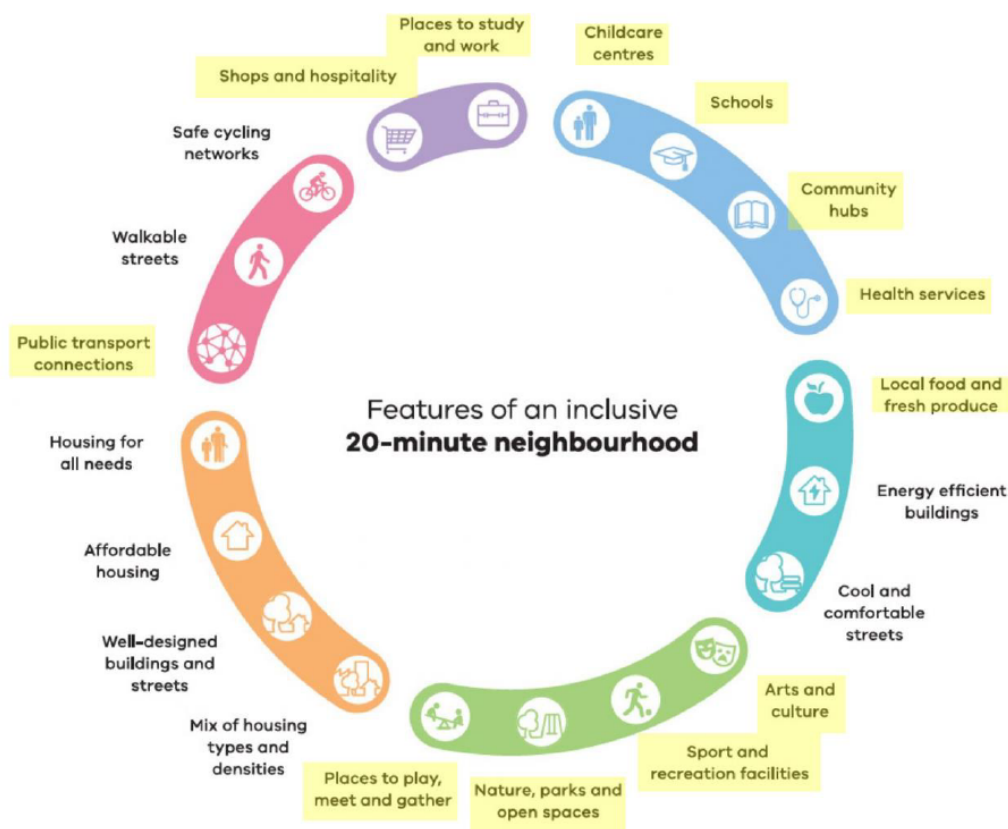
3.1.1 Local connectivity

Victoria's 20-minute neighbourhood framework identifies the suite of destinations that are necessary for meeting people's daily needs. Six themes are identified as essential to meeting

¹⁴ Definition adapted from State Government of Victoria, 2015. *Guidelines for developing Principal Pedestrian Networks: July 2015*. <https://www.victoriawalks.org.au/Assets/Files/PPN%20Guidelines%202015.pdf>. Accessed 9 April 2024.

daily needs. Within these a range of destinations are identified, which collectively provide access to employment, education, social opportunities, leisure, healthy food and opportunities for exercise. Individuals should be able to access these destinations (highlighted yellow in Figure 3-2) within a 20-minute round trip. At an average walking speed, this equates to an 800 metre one way radius of walking distance to each destination.

Figure 3-2: 20-minute neighbourhood destinations relevant for local connectivity



Source: M&PC Analysis of DTP 2024¹⁵

The strategic importance of individual footpath segments for local connectivity can be estimated by counting the number of local destinations within walking distance. Place of interest data was used to quantify the number of features related to each 20-minute neighbourhood destination, within the vicinity of individual footpath segments. Following stakeholder input, fresh produce and shops and hospitality were merged into a single category. However, data for this category was lacking in the place of interest datasets available.

Recommendation #9: Incorporate alternate sources of place data for shops and hospitality to provide a more complete picture of the provision of these types of destinations (including local food and produce) in the City of Ballarat.

¹⁵ DTP 2024. 20-minute neighbourhoods, <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/strategies-and-initiatives/20-minute-neighbourhoods>, Accessed 12 December 2023.

The places of interest that were used to estimate local connectivity scores are summarised in Table 3-2 below.

Table 3-2: Destination types and associated features of interest

Destination type	Source	Features of interest subtypes
Shops and hospitality	1	Shopping centre
Places to study and work	1	Office, tertiary institution, university
Childcare centres	1	Child care
Schools	1	Education complex, primary school, primary/secondary school, secondary school, special school
Community hubs	1	Community centre, library, municipal office, senior citizens
Health services	1	Hospital complex, hospital complex, day procedure centre, disability support centre, general hospital, general hospital (emergency)
Local food and fresh produce	1	Not applicable
Arts and culture	1	Tourist attraction Showground, art gallery, historic site, monument, museum, tourist attraction, tourist information centre
Sports and recreation facilities	1	Athletic field, baseball field, basketball court, BMX track, bowling green, croquet green, equestrian facility, golf course, hockey ground, horse racetrack, motor track, netball court, racecourse, skate park, sports complex, sports ground, tennis court, training track, velodrome, club house, swimming pool, trailhead
Nature, parks, and open spaces	1	Conservation park, gardens, park, picnic site
Places to play, meet, and gather	1	City square, church, hall, playground, rest area, rotunda
Public transport	2 & 3	

Source: M&PC analysis of (1) DTP 2024¹⁶, (2) Government of Victoria 2024¹⁷, (3) Government of Victoria 2024¹⁸.

Victoria’s 20-minute neighbourhood policy suggests that local destinations should be accessible within a 20-minute round trip. However, the mode of access for destinations does vary under this policy. At an average walking speed, each destination would have to be accessible within 800 metres. Considering that not all City of Ballarat residents have access to private vehicles or public transport, an 800-metre walking catchment is assumed to be the preferred catchment for local destinations.

The Ballarat Housing Strategy provides an alternate grouping of strategic destinations and their accompanying maximum walking catchment. A summary of the alignment of 20-minute neighbourhood destination classes with the Housing Strategy destinations is provided in the

¹⁶ DTP 2024, Vic Map Features of Interest, <https://www.land.vic.gov.au/maps-and-spatial/spatial-data/vicmap-catalogue/vicmap-features-of-interest>, Accessed 12 December 2023.

¹⁷ Government of Victoria 2024. PTV Regional Bus Stops, <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/ptv-regional-bus-stops>, Accessed 25 March 2024.

¹⁸ Government of Victoria 2024. Victorian Railway Stations, <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/victorian-railway-stations>, Accessed 25 March 2024.

technical appendix. The 'policy relevant catchment' is the smaller of that suggested by the Housing Strategy or 20-minute neighbourhood policy.

In addition to policy relevance, the size of the priority catchment buffer for local access has meaningful implications for community benefit. Members of the community arriving by alternate modes will interact with the footpath network within 400 metres of destinations. This could include members of the community with mobility impairments, for whom the absence of a footpath may cause a significant barrier.

As such, the 400-metre footpath catchment of destinations serves the largest share of the population and may create the most insurmountable access barrier. However, the 800-metre footpath catchment is important for providing the opportunity for people to travel safely on footpaths for more door-to-door journeys. Safe, independent opportunities for physical activity are out of reach for many in the community due in part to a lack of footpath infrastructure.

Therefore, the 800-metre catchment is necessary for enabling a greater share of the population to participate in physical activity by accessing footpaths to travel from their home to their destination. With these considerations in mind, both the 800 and 400-metre connectivity scores were used to rank each footpath gap; with the 400-metre score assigned higher precedence to reflect the greater short-term priority.

A second consideration in formulating the local connectivity indicator was the weighting of destination type. The online survey of footpath use in Ballarat asked respondents to indicate which local destinations they had accessed using footpaths in the past week.

The most common response was shops and hospitality (87% of respondents indicated they had accessed shops and hospitality using footpaths in the past week), followed by nature, parks and open space (78%) and local food and fresh produce (62%). Sports and recreation facilities (44%); places to play, meet and gather (44%); places to study and work (41%); schools (39%) and health services (38%) were accessed by footpaths by slightly less than half the respondents in the past week.

Slightly different patterns emerge when segmenting responses by population segments that may have particular mobility needs such as youth, carers and people with physical or mental impairments. For example, according to different identifying characteristics of the respondents. Table 3-3 overleaf outlines the findings of destinations accessed by population segment.

Table 3-3: Share of sample reporting access to destinations by footpath in past week

Destination type	Share of respondents							Weight
	All respondents	Carers	Mental or physical impairment	Over 65	No Car	Under 24	Women	
Sample size	264	151	78	32	6	9	174	
Shops and hospitality	87%	87%	87%	78%	83%	78%	84%	1
Places to study and work	41%	45%	40%	13%	33%	67%	43%	1
Childcare centres	16%	28%	13%	3%	0%	0%	20%	1
Schools	39%	53%	40%	9%	50%	56%	41%	1
Community hubs	16%	15%	23%	28%	67%	0%	15%	1
Health services	38%	44%	47%	31%	33%	33%	43%	1
Local food and fresh produce	62%	61%	68%	59%	67%	33%	64%	1
Arts and culture	19%	21%	29%	16%	17%	11%	22%	1
Sports and recreation facilities	44%	46%	46%	34%	33%	78%	43%	1
Nature, parks, and open spaces	78%	78%	79%	78%	83%	89%	77%	1
Places to play, meet, and gather	44%	51%	53%	41%	17%	44%	17%	1
Public transport	26%	25%	31%	28%	67%	67%	22%	2

Source: M&PC (2024)

Variability is most pronounced for childcare centres, schools, and places to study and work. These three types of destinations can be associated with particular life stages. A much larger share of respondents under the age of 24 accessed sport and recreation facilities via footpaths than the rest of the population.

Sixty-seven percent of people with no car accessed community hubs, whereas the sample average response was just 16%. Individual circumstances and characteristics are related to the types of destinations that individuals access frequently by footpaths. This data does not account for trips not made due to barriers; nor does it provide a representative picture of population trends due to the relatively small sample. However, what it suggests is that varying importance is placed on all 20-minute living destinations.

Noting some variation based on individual attributes, there is reasonable grounds to consider all destinations as important. However, public transport connectivity has strategic importance for its role in expanding the accessible catchment of all destinations without relying on private vehicle use.

Promoting active and sustainable travel choices through intermodal connections between footpaths and public transport aligns with Ballarat's strategic priorities. As such, public transport stops are assigned twice the weighting of other destination types in estimating the local connectivity score.

For ranking purposes, scores for each destination type were normalised before being added together. The formula for estimating local connectivity is denoted below.

$$2^*(\epsilon \hat{X}_{i,400m} + 2\hat{X}_{PT,400m}) + (\epsilon \hat{X}_{i,800m} + 2\hat{X}_{PT,800m})$$

Where:

- $\hat{X}_{i,400m}$ is the standardised weighted count of destination i within a 400m buffer
- $\hat{X}_{i,800m}$ is standardised weighted count within 800m buffer
- $\hat{X}_{PT,400m}$ is the standardised weighted count of public transport points within a 400m buffer
- $\hat{X}_{PT,800m}$ is standardised weighted count of public transport within 800m buffer.

3.1.2 Pedestrian safety

Pedestrians should be able to use footpaths in comfortable and safe environments. Footpath users should be available to travel on footpaths adjacent to low-speed roads where possible. Road hierarchy and road speed were both considered as possible indicators of the road speed and traffic environment. Of these two indicators, road speed was chosen as the preferred indicator of pedestrian safety. Road speed for individual footpath segments was obtained from Victoria's speed zone data¹⁹.

Segments with a speed zone of 999 were assumed to be shared or emergency access; however the speed value was not adjusted for this analysis. Segments are ranked from smallest (lowest speed) to highest (highest speed).

3.1.3 Principal Pedestrian Network

Principal Pedestrian Networks (PPNs) aim to identify routes within the built environment that are likely and have the potential to carry more pedestrians walking to key destinations and improve the quality of these routes to encourage more walking. A PPN is an important planning and policy tool for the development and promotion of walking as a mode of transport, recognising that walking has a valuable role to play in creating a more effective and resilient transport system.

The identification and delineation of PPNs enables effective, strategic network planning for pedestrians in the broader context of transport and land use planning. PPNs can reinforce the strengths of existing land use and transport patterns by encouraging pedestrian movement in desired areas. A PPN provides pedestrians with a higher level of service by making the shortest route also the highest quality route, and thereby encouraging walking trips. PPNs are intended to assist and guide investment in and development of pedestrian infrastructure in the public realm over several years.

Some elements that constitute a PPN and contribute to attractive walking environments are:

- Accessible footpaths

¹⁹ Data Vic 2024. Speed Zones February 2024, <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/speed-zones>. Accessed 11 March 2024.

- High quality public spaces and streetscapes
- Pedestrian crossings and signage
- Street furniture
- Street lighting
- Trees and vegetation

The following elements frame and guide the development of a PPN:

- Destinations (amenities and facilities), such as activity centres, retail, transport hubs, employment clusters, education and health facilities, etc.
- Definition of a catchment
- Population density and likely pedestrian activity/intensity on the routes
- Current and future land uses
- Prioritisation of pedestrian links, delineated in two levels – primary and secondary pedestrian routes. Primary routes generate regular and high levels of travel demand daily, such as to residential, retail, educational and commercial destinations. The balance of the walkable catchment is categorised as a secondary route.
- The quality of the pedestrian environment and pedestrian priority

3.1.3.1 Draft Ballarat Principal Pedestrian Network (BPPN)

Ballarat's Council Plan 2021 – 2025 outlines a community vision of leading the way as a sustainable, innovative and inclusive community, with ecologically sound neighbourhoods where people can:

- Meet their daily needs within a short walk, ride or bus trip.
- Have easy access to parks and gardens, community facilities and education for all ages.

Additionally, Goals 1 and 2 from the Council Plan reinforce the aim to move away from car travel to active transport (cycling and walking), encouraging the community to use walking and cycling paths more often and feel safe to do so. Also, a key indicator of the plan is an increase in community satisfaction for how easy it is to walk and cycle in Ballarat.

Further, the Integrated Transport Action Plan emphasises the aim to build and manage places for people, considering walking as an important part of the transport mix, and sets an action (2.1) to establish a PPN. According to the plan, planning and constructing a PPN with routes that pedestrians use more often will improve connections to key destinations and would also assist with potential new funding sources.

The Draft Ballarat Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) is a strategic network of pedestrian routes that encourage walking for transport, the key goal of which is to increase walking trips. It was developed alongside the Footpath Construction Strategy to help identify the links that are most important to the community, and through the Strategy, channel funding to footpaths with the greatest benefit to the community.

The methodology applied to develop the first stage of the Draft Ballarat PPN followed the guidance provided in the document [Guidelines for Developing Principal Pedestrian Networks](#), from the former Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, available here:

<https://www.victoriawalks.org.au/Assets/Files/PPN%20Guidelines%202015.pdf>

The Draft Ballarat Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) comprises three separate categories of routes:

1. **Primary Network** – These are the key links (primary routes) around the city and link up all our most important destinations. These form the backbone of the PPN with the intent in the long term to provide a higher standard for the pedestrian experience on these routes, looking at walkability, comfort, and safety for pedestrians.
2. **Secondary Network** – These are the secondary routes that link the primary routes back towards secondary destinations. The intent is to link important routes within residential areas and connect to infrastructure such as bus stops.
3. **Off Road Network** – These links comprise of the existing off-road trails around the municipality. These routes are separated from the road and provide a higher quality experience for most pedestrians and serve as great strategic links. These paths are pre-existing and will not come up for construction under the Footpath Construction Strategy, which is for new paths in areas that have none currently. However, the PPN recognises their strategic importance where funding may be available from other sources. It is also recognised that these trails are often harder to traverse for people with disabilities. As such, parallel routes on the Primary Network, adjacent to the road, will aim to provide more suitable disability access.

This first iteration of the PPN is a great tool to assist in selection of footpath projects that will have the greatest positive impact for the community. This network is intended to be a living document and will be updated in line with the needs of the community as they change over time.

3.1.4 Suburb and Locality Footpath Need Index

A combined index of footpath need was developed for suburbs and localities, to explore the spatial interaction between population characteristics and footpath coverage.

The index is defined using the equation below.

$$\text{Suburb and Locality Footpath Need Index} = \frac{\sum \widehat{Tot} + Share}{10} + \frac{Rank_{IRSD}}{62} (1 - \%FP)$$

Where:

- The expression $\sum \widehat{Tot} + Share$ represents the sum of the normalised total plus the share of the population within each SAL identifying as a person in each of the five user categories outlined in Table 2-1 to Table 2-6 above.
- $Rank_{IRSD}$ is the rank of each SAL when ordered from highest IRSD score to lowest (greatest disadvantage), with a higher rank signifying greater disadvantage.
- %FP, or footpath coverage, is the proportion of traversable roads within the SAL that have an adjacent footpath

Segments located within Chapel Flat automatically received a score of 0 due to no population being reported on Census night (2021).

3.1.5 Gap size and context

Three prioritisation criteria relate to gap size and isolation:

- Eligible context gap length: Prioritises gaps that are small and isolated, in terms of the sum of gaps on adjoining segments. Sort in ascending order of context gap size.

- Eligible gap on both sides: Prioritises segments that have sections with no footpath on either side of the road. A categorical variable is created to denote whether a segment has any sections missing footpaths on both sides (1) or not (0). Sort in descending order.
- Total eligible segment gap length <50m: Prioritises segments with total gap length less than 50m first. A categorical variable denotes whether the total gap length is below 50m (1) or not (0).

'Eligible' gap values represent single-sided segment gaps greater than or equal to 10 metres in length. Total and context gaps are then the sum of individual eligible segment gaps.

4 Options assessment

This Strategy considered four possible sets of criteria that could be used to prioritise footpath construction. These are referred to as options. The four options in the context of the prioritisation framework are shown in Figure 4-1 overleaf. The numbering of prioritisation criteria refers to the order in which each is applied. The criteria applied last is given precedence over preceding criteria.

4.1 Evaluation approach

The options were evaluated based on their anticipated ability to deliver the objectives of the project and meet the functionality requirements for the prioritisation framework. The evaluation criteria include:

1. **Replicability:** Transparent and easy to replicate with available data
4. **Benefit:** Maximises the benefits of each investment
5. **Equity:** Benefits are distributed equitably across the community.

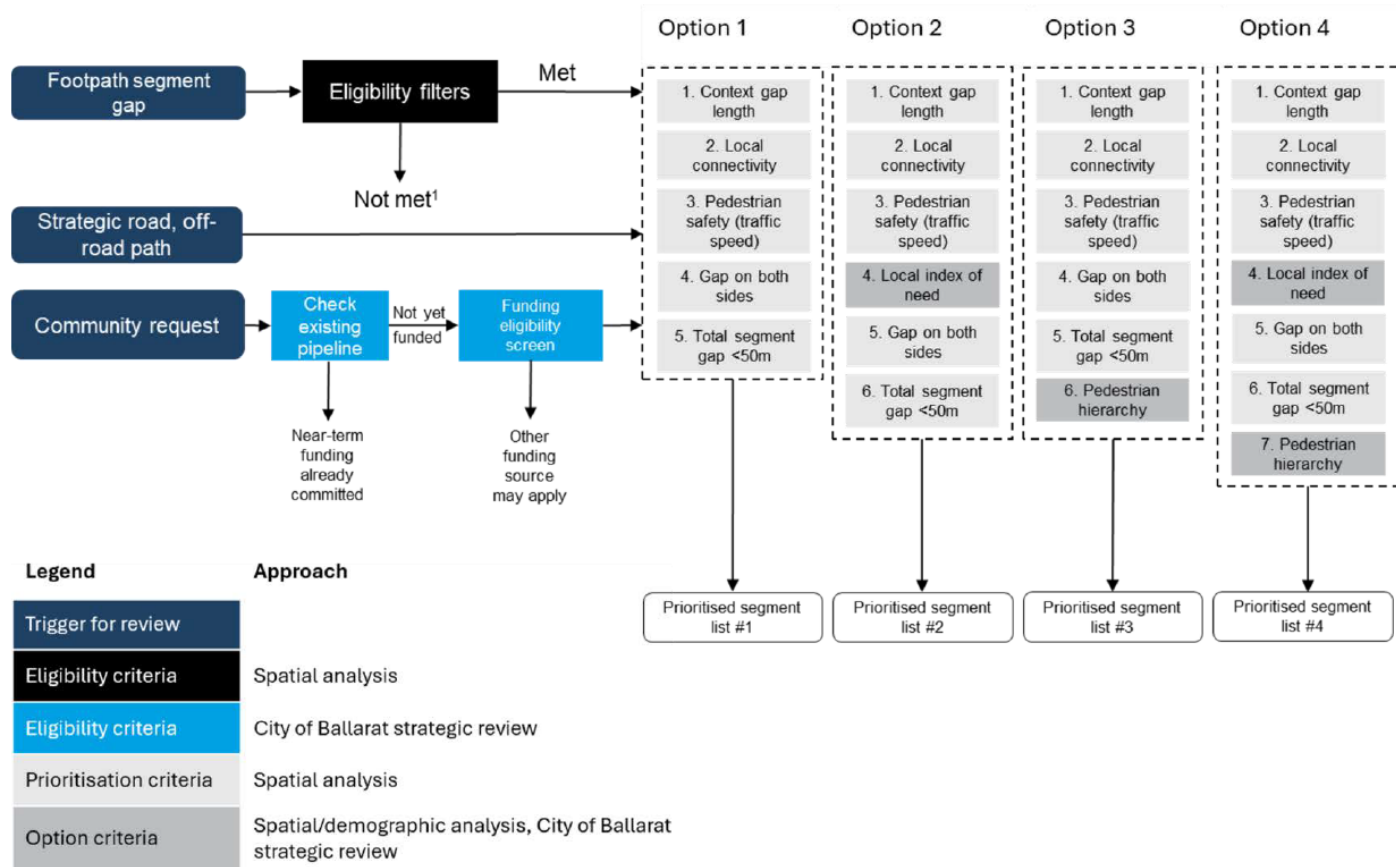
The four options were developed and discussed in consultation with City of Ballarat stakeholders over a series of workshops and discussions. During these engagements, the merits and drawbacks of each option were discussed relative to the three objectives listed above. Feedback from these discussions was a contribution to the options assessment. This was supplemented by an analysis of demographic characteristics and user needs, compiled from community feedback and a review of evidence for differences in footpath mobility needs. This information is presented in Section 2.3.3 - City of Ballarat demographic profile and 2.2.5 - Footpath use in the City of Ballarat.

Two questions guided assessment of the extent to which each options delivered equitable benefits across the community²⁰:

- How well does each option meet the needs of different users?
- Which option distributes benefits most equitably among different population groups?

²⁰ Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector 2020. *Gender Impact Assessment Toolkit*, [DPC 2011 CGEPS GIA-Toolkit FA-Web 0 \(4\) \(6\).pdf \(content.vic.gov.au\)](#). Accessed 7/10/2023.

Figure 4-1: Four decision-making framework options for prioritising footpath construction



Source: M&PC in collaboration with City of Ballarat (2024)

Note (1) – Footpath segment gaps filtered to exclude new estates (missing data) non-traversable roads and suspected processing errors

4.2 Discussion of options and relative performance

The four options are distinguished by the inclusion of one or more prioritisation criteria, as follows:

- **Option 1** prioritises footpath gaps that are isolated and small, in areas with good connectivity to local living destination
- **Option 2** balances the accessibility imperative of Option 1 by including the local index of need
- **Option 3** focusses on local connectivity with an added strategic overlay to prioritise a connected network of primary and secondary footpaths
- **Option 4** includes all criteria: gaps size and isolation, local connectivity, local index of need and strategic pedestrian hierarchy.

4.2.1 Replicability

Option 1 is the simplest in its formulation and therefore the easiest to replicate. Nevertheless, the gap context and size estimates require complex spatial assumptions and processes. The replicability of all options could be improved by developing a dedicated footpath network dataset (Recommendation 2).

The local index of need is a composite indicator of sociodemographic attributes (described in Section 0), requiring up to date Census data. In contrast, the pedestrian hierarchy criteria, which is based on the Principal Pedestrian Network, would be subject to change only as the City of Ballarat evolves its Principal Pedestrian Network. Therefore Option 3 is likely to be simpler in terms of application than Option 2. Option 4 is the most complex option, comprising all criteria featured in Options 1 – 3.

4.2.2 Benefits

Benefits pursued through the Strategy include safety, transport choices, promotion of health and wellbeing and local economic activity and productivity. Feedback from the online community engagement survey suggests that there are a range of destinations that the people of Ballarat choose to access using footpaths every week; and that these destinations vary by user group. For this reason, local connectivity is embedded across all four options.

Similarly, all options give priority to streets with lower stress traffic environments, measured in terms of inverse speed. The benefits vary across the options in terms of the precedence ascribed to providing a connected network of paths. Options 3 and 4 give priority to routes that are recognised as primary pedestrian corridors under the City of Ballarat's Principal Pedestrian Network; followed by the secondary network of footpaths. In this way, Options 3 and 4 maximise walking connectivity to key destinations.

Prioritising the interconnected network of pedestrian routes first is likely to maximise the size of the population catchment that receives the above listed benefits. Therefore Options 3 and 4 are likely to maximise the project benefits slightly more than Options 1 and 2.

4.2.3 Equity

The ability of members of the community to access benefits can be affected by differences in mobility patterns and safety needs among other things. A review of global evidence for differences in potential usage patterns and barriers to footpath use among women, gender diverse people and users whose identifying characteristics may affect the way they travel, is provided below.

Four key characteristics of gender-equitable footpath provision emerge:

- **Connectivity:** Women's travel patterns are more likely to consist of short, interconnected trips related to household and caring responsibilities. Paths should maximise convenient and effective movement between local destinations²¹.
- **Accessibility and inclusivity:** Paths should be wide, clear, accessible, and well-paved enough to allow for the comfortable movement of people who are accompanied by adult dependents or children and people who are performing household errands that involve carrying shopping bags or other goods²².
- **Safety from accidents:** Women are generally more perceptive to threats to their own or their dependent's safety and tend to be more risk averse²³. Therefore, close attention should be paid to minimise potential stress to footpath users by ensuring footpaths are provided in low-speed environments with good separation from traffic.
- **Personal security:** Women often change route choice due to issues of safety and harassment²⁴. Access to a range of different paths should be prioritised and these should be clearly signposted and connected to one another. Paths should be provided in areas with active frontages that offer natural/passive surveillance. Art installations can increase feelings of safety.

The Gender Impact Assessment completed for this project revealed considerable variability in the spatial distribution of population segments with needs that are not presently met by footpath infrastructure. This includes carers, young people and people aged over 65, people with a need for assistance, people without access to a car and areas of high socio-economic disadvantage. The different needs of these user groups can, to some extent, be understood in the Ballarat context by examining responses to the online survey, segmented by identifying characteristics of survey respondents. Responses to the online community survey were segmented by a range of identifying characteristics.

To inform this assessment, an understanding of the needs and barriers of footpath use for specific user segments is also needed. Evidence was collected through surveys of the residents of the City of Ballarat. These results are detailed in Table 2-7 of Section 2.5.3, which describes footpath use in Ballarat. Findings from population segments which were above the average from all survey responses are also listed in this table to highlight the unique needs and responses from each segment. These findings show that while the community value different things about

²¹ Cahill, R. et al. (2020). *Travelling in a Woman's Shoes*. Transport Infrastructure Ireland; Burns, T., Oram, M.-Y. M., & Claris, S. (2020). *Cycling for everyone*. Sustrans, Arup; Perez, C. C. (2019). *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*. Abrams Press.

²² Australian Human Rights Commission. (2018). *Face the Facts: Gender Equality 2018*. Sydney: Australian Human Rights Commission. Buehler, R., & Pucher, J. (2008). *Cycling for Everyone: Lessons from Europe*. Transportation Research Record Journal of the Transportation Research Board 2074 (1), 58-65. Terraza, H. et al. (2020). *Handbook for Gender-Inclusive Urban Planning Design*. Washington, DC: World Bank; Kunieda, M., & Gauthier, A. (2007). Module 7a- Gender and Urban Transport: Smart and Affordable in *Sustainable transport: A Sourcebook for Policy-makers in Developing Cities*. Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

²³ Aldred, R. et al. (2017). *Cycling Provision separated from motor traffic: a systematic review exploring whether stated preferences vary by gender and age*. Transport Reviews, 29-55; Pearson, L. et al. (2022). *The Potential for bike riding across entire cities: Quantifying spatial variation in interest bike riding*. Journal of Transport and Health; AitBihiOuali, L., & Klingen, J. (2022). *Inclusive roads in NYC: Gender differences in responses to cycling infrastructure*. Cities.

²⁴ Burns, T., Oram, M.-Y. M., & Claris, S. (2020); Matthews, A., Carey, K., & Evans, R. (2012). *Getting Home Safely*. Australian Journal of Dementia Care; Terraza, et al. 2020

footpaths, the need for them to be available, connected to where they want to go, and safe to move on were found across all segments.

The Suburb and Locality Footpath Need index, outlined in Section 0, was developed to summarise the prevalence of need based on the distribution of these population segments; combined with current footpath coverage. Table 4-1 below provides a ranked summary of suburb and locality footpath need index in order of highest to lowest need.

Table 4-1: Ranked Suburb and locality footpath need index (highest to lowest)

Rank	Suburb Name	Index Score	Population density (p/sqkm)	Footpath Coverage (approx.)
1	Wendouree	63.0	1091.3	50%
2	Sebastopol	62.0	1196.2	47%
3	Redan	60.8	1364.6	38%
4	Mitchell Park	60.0	44.8	17%
5	Delacombe	59.1	1017.3	20%
6	Eureka	57.8	1491.7	33%
7	Mount Pleasant	56.9	1091.8	28%
8	Ballarat East	56.0	991.8	32%
9	Golden Point (Ballarat - Vic.)	52.8	1196.9	32%
10	Burrumbeet	52.1	4.6	0%
11	Bo Peep	51.0	2.4	0%
12	Black Hill	49.9	1209.0	23%
13	Ballarat North	48.9	1519.3	41%
14	Mount Clear	48.1	361.5	12%
15	Canadian	47.1	525.3	17%
16	Bakery Hill	45.6	745.3	46%
17	Ercildoune	45.1	8.3	0%
18	Warrenheip	44.0	103.3	8%
19	Ballarat Central	42.7	1422.6	55%
20	Learmonth	42.0	11.4	10%
21	Soldiers Hill	40.5	1832.0	66%
22	Alfredton	40.0	1476.4	46%
23	Bonshaw	38.6	294.1	46%
24	Winter Valley	37.6	700.7	53%
25	Lucas	36.6	1304.9	59%
26	Brown Hill	36.0	605.4	23%
27	Mount Rowan	35.1	34.2	0%
28	Durham Lead	34.1	21.5	0%
29	Miners Rest	32.9	127.4	24%
30	Invermay Park	32.0	673.8	13%
31	Scotchmans Lead	31.1	24.9	0%
32	Bunkers Hill	29.8	21.7	28%
33	Tourello	29.1	2.5	0%
34	Mount Bolton	28.1	1.0	0%
35	Glendonald	27.0	0.4	0%
36	Glendaruel	26.1	3.5	0%

Rank	Suburb Name	Index Score	Population density (p/sqkm)	Footpath Coverage (approx.)
37	Coghills Creek	25.1	4.7	0%
38	Ascot (Ballarat - Vic.)	24.1	2.6	0%
39	Lake Gardens	22.7	1501.9	42%
40	Newington	21.9	770.3	30%
41	Scotsburn	21.1	18.8	0%
42	Smythes Creek	19.8	209.9	36%
43	Blowhard	19.1	2.9	0%
44	Wattle Flat	18.1	118.8	0%
45	Sulky	17.1	45.1	0%
46	Bald Hills	16.1	10.0	0%
47	Windermere	15.1	2.2	0%
48	Addington	13.1	3.7	0%
49	Weatherboard	13.1	3.4	100%
50	Mount Helen	12.1	244.2	7%
51	Magpie	11.1	37.1	0%
52	Lake Wendouree	9.8	631.0	49%
53	Buninyong	9.1	189.3	10%
54	Cardigan Village	7.6	552.2	47%
55	Cardigan	6.7	26.1	43%
56	Nerrina	6.0	143.2	9%
57	Invermay	5.1	40.2	0%
58	Gong Gong	4.0	2.6	0%
59	Glen Park	3.1	6.7	0%
60	Chapel Flat	-	No recorded population	0%

Source: M&PC (2024)

The distribution of footpath coverage, population density and footpath need index is illustrated in Figure 4-2 overleaf.

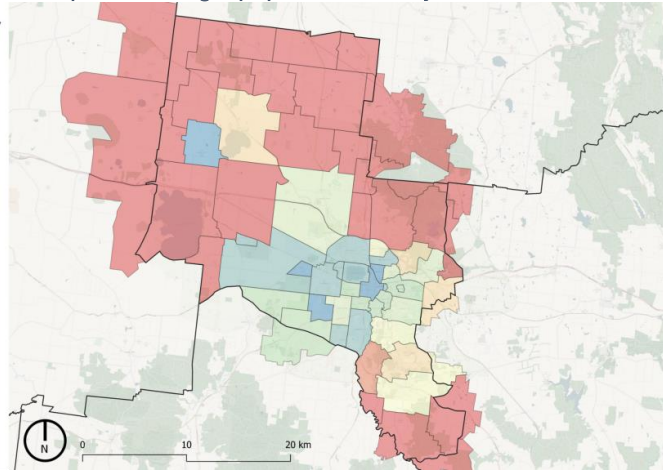
Figure 4-2: Spatial distribution of footpath coverage, population density and index of need

**Suburb and Locality
Footpath Coverage**

□ City of Ballarat

Footpath coverage

- 0%
- 0.1% - 1%
- 2% - 5%
- 6% - 10%
- 11% - 15%
- 16% - 25%
- 26% - 40%
- 41% - 50%
- 51% - 100%

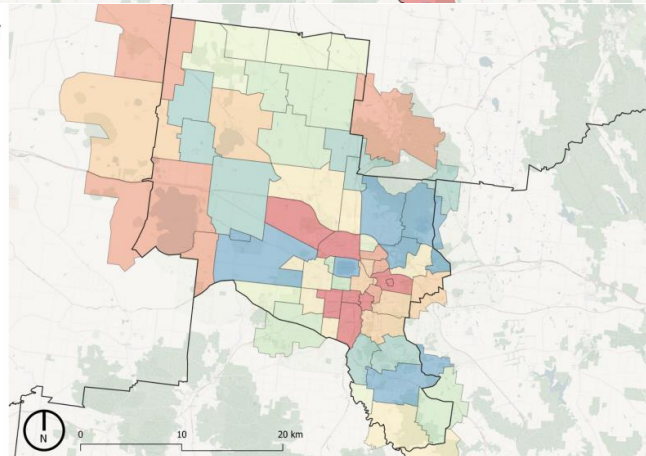


**Suburb and Locality
Index Score**

□ City of Ballarat

Index Score

- 0 - 10
- 11 - 18
- 19 - 25
- 26 - 32
- 33 - 40
- 41 - 48
- 49 - 55
- 56 - 63

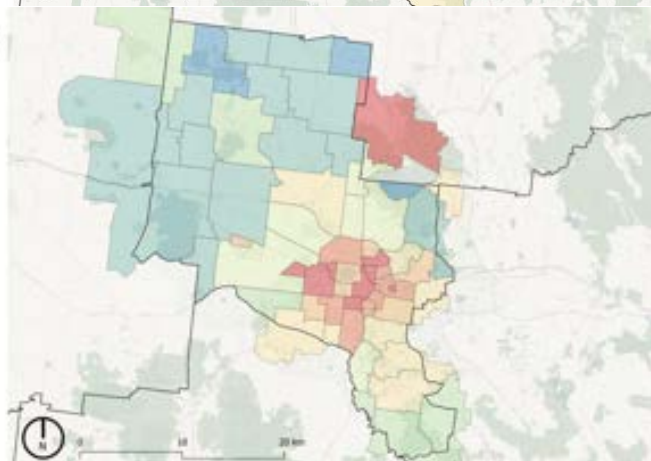


**Suburb and Locality
Population Density**

□ City of Ballarat

Population Density

- 0 - 2
- 3 - 10
- 11 - 25
- 26 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 900
- 901 - 1300
- 1301 - 1900



Source: M&PC (2024)

It is evident from the figures that there is not a linear relationship between footpath needs, coverage and population density. The index of need can therefore ensure that footpath construction does not further entrench disadvantage in areas where accessibility is poor. Whereas options 1 and 3 might herald considerable benefits to the Ballarat community, they may also reduce equity by further disadvantaging users who already face complex barriers. Options 2 and 4 are more likely to distribute benefit equally among the population.

The prioritisation criteria is limited by data that cannot capture the nuances of individual users. It is for this reason that it remains important for the City of Ballarat to proactively solicit and address individualised needs and requests for footpath.

Recommendation #10: Where certain needs are not able to be met by the existing Strategy, consider alternate funding mechanisms to prioritise footpath provision.

Furthermore, the scope of the Footpath Construction Plan will not include features of the footpath which may present barriers to some users, such as pedestrian crossing points.

Recommendation #11: Investigate opportunities to improve personal security, physical safety, accessibility and connectivity of footpaths to ensure women have equal opportunities to benefit from footpath construction.

4.3 Summary of assessment

The options and their performance against the three criteria are summarised in Table 4-2 below. Options 1 and 3 are the most replicable options, however the benefits associated with Option 1 are anticipated to be relatively lower than Option 3 due to the introduction of the Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) to Option 3.

Although Option 3 also scores highly for benefit delivery, it may exacerbate inequalities in footpath access due to the emphasis it places on proximity to destinations. Although Option 4 demands more regular data updates, it is anticipated to maximise benefit delivery in a way that improves equity of access to footpaths for the people of Ballarat.

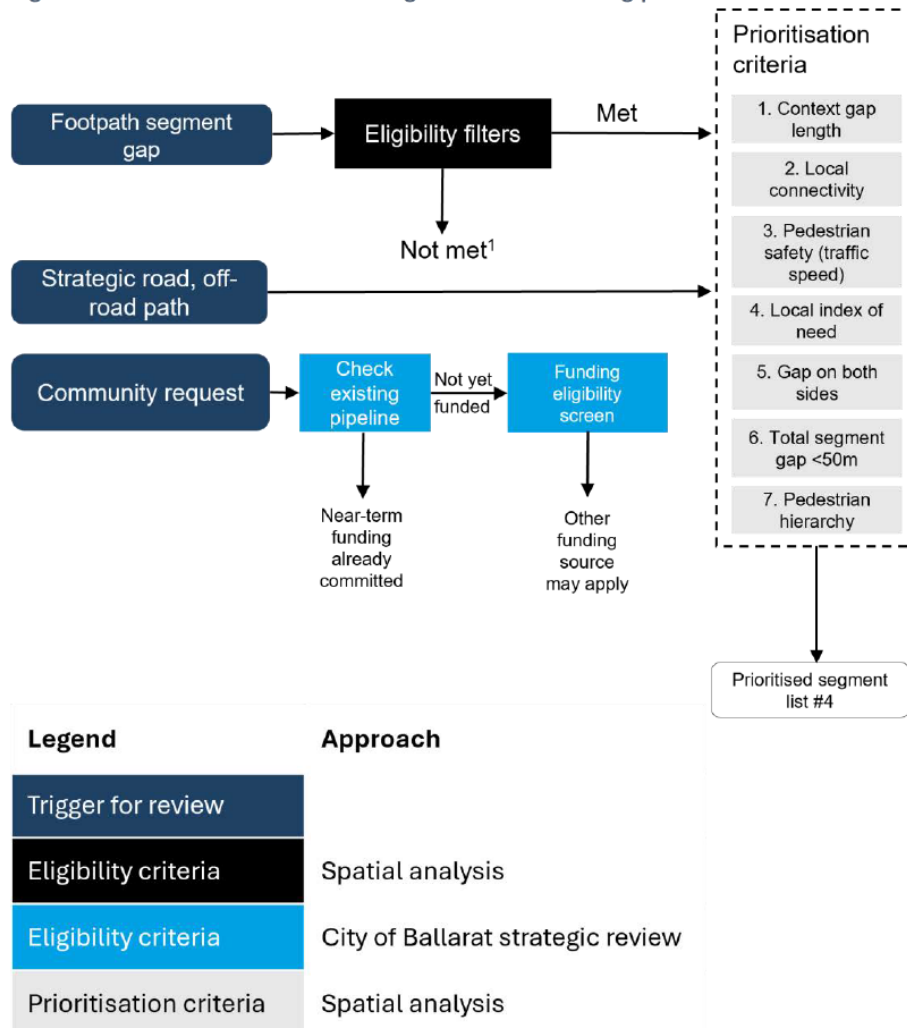
Table 4-2: Summary of options assessment

		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Criteria included	Local connectivity	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Pedestrian safety	✓	✓	✓	✓
	PPN			✓	✓
	Index of Need		✓		✓
	Gap size and context	✓	✓	✓	✓
Replicability	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low	
Benefits	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	
Equity	Minor negative impact	Minor positive impact	Minor negative impact	Minor positive impact	

Source: M&PC (2024)

Recommendation #12: Gaps in the City of Ballarat’s footpath network should be prioritised for construction according to a decision-making framework that prioritises primary and secondary pedestrian routes aligned to the Principal Pedestrian Network, as well as local connectivity, adjacent road speed and suburb and locality footpath index of need (see Figure 4-3 below).

Figure 4-3: Preferred decision-making framework showing prioritisation criteria



Source: M&PC in collaboration with City of Ballarat (2024)

Note (1) – Footpath segment gaps filtered to exclude new estates (missing data) non-traversable roads and suspected processing errors

Option 4 will be adopted to develop the multi-year Footpath Construction Plan.

5 Recommendations

Recommendations have been provided throughout this Strategy to suggest ways to continue to improve the provision of footpaths in a manner that is efficient and reflects the needs and desires of the community. The twelve recommendations are summarised below.

- **Recommendation #1:** Prioritise in-person assistance for those not able to participate in online consultation, such as through focus groups or in-person event attendance.
- **Recommendation #2:** Reapply the footpath prioritisation framework as data is updated and aspirations for footpath provision evolve.
- **Recommendation #3:** Engage with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners prior to confirming year-ahead construction plan to identify opportunities to: support increased awareness of significant cultural associations in the vicinity of planned footpath construction and engage the community in the Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan through ancillary features and information alongside footpath construction.
- **Recommendation #4:** The City of Ballarat should undertake regular demographic analysis of population segments to ensure a clear understanding of which communities may have greater needs from the footpath network.
- **Recommendation #5:** Where the City of Ballarat is aware of community concern regarding the installation of footpaths in townships, these communities should be consulted if a new footpath is being considered for construction.
- **Recommendation #6:** The City of Ballarat should move toward an integrated approach to footpath provision that considers footpath construction alongside other planning decisions such as the spatial distribution of services, security through passive surveillance and traffic calming.
- **Recommendation #7:** Ensure that the Footpath Construction Strategy and Road Management Plan provide for pro-active and strategic upgrades and maintenance of footpath condition to remove barriers to footpath use
- **Recommendation #8:** Explore opportunities to apply special rate and charge schemes to footpath provision.
- **Recommendation #9:** Incorporate alternate sources of place data for shops and hospitality to provide a more complete picture of the provision of these types of destinations (including local food and produce) in the City of Ballarat.
- **Recommendation #10:** Where certain needs are not able to be met by the existing strategy, consider alternate funding mechanisms to prioritise footpath provision.
- **Recommendation #11:** Investigate opportunities to improve personal security, physical safety, accessibility and connectivity of footpaths to ensure women have equal opportunities to benefit from footpath construction.
- **Recommendation #12:** Gaps in the City of Ballarat's footpath network should be prioritised for construction according to a decision-making framework that prioritises primary and secondary pedestrian routes aligned to the Principal Pedestrian network, as well as local connectivity, adjacent road speed and suburb and locality footpath index of need.

5.1 Conclusion

This Strategy develops a framework for prioritising the construction of new footpaths in a manner that maximises the benefits of each investment for the whole community. It has been developed with the people of Ballarat and stakeholders from the City of Ballarat. Community consultation took place in two stages - first to understand how the people of Ballarat use the footpath network, and secondly to gather feedback on the proposed decision-making framework and Construction Plan.

What we heard was that footpaths are used in a variety of ways by the people of Ballarat. This feedback highlighted the importance of footpaths providing access to a variety of local destinations. That is why this framework has been developed to promote local living. Ballarat's Principal Pedestrian Network has been developed in parallel with this Strategy. Footpaths can now be prioritised in a way that strives to provide a complete network between activity centres.

To ensure that footpaths are accessible to all, it is important to consider the range of user needs and remove barriers to access. This means prioritising footpath construction not only in areas where local connectivity is high, but also where coverage is poor and in locations where there are higher than average populations of users with strong reliance on footpaths for mobility.

Four sets of prioritisation criteria were discussed with stakeholders and evaluated to assess their **replicability**, and extent to which the resulting multi-year Footpath Construction Plan would **maximise benefits** while improving **equity of access** to footpaths. The key recommendation of this Strategy is to prioritise the construction of footpaths according to the combination of:

- Alignment to the Principal Pedestrian Network
- Local connectivity
- Pedestrian safety (adjacent road speed)
- Suburb and locality footpath index of need.

This framework ensures that benefits are maximised while increasing equity of opportunity to use footpaths throughout the municipality.

Appendix A Community engagement summary

The graphic features a stylized illustration of a park with a city skyline in the background. In the foreground, a path is shown with various people using it: a runner, a cyclist, a jogger, and a person walking a dog. The path is highlighted with a white line and a double arrow pointing right, suggesting forward movement or progress.

Footpath Construction Strategy What We Heard

The Ballarat Footpath Construction Strategy prioritises future footpath network improvements across the municipality. Access to key destinations such as schools, shops, meeting places and playgrounds are considered by the Strategy. Improving connections, community health, economic activity and safety are key outcomes of the Strategy.

The City of Ballarat gathered community insights about the use of footpaths in Ballarat to inform its first Footpath Construction Strategy, to better understanding the needs of the community.

This document provides an overview of the responses we received.

What's next?

The draft Footpath Construction Strategy will be a robust evidence-based framework for prioritising future footpath improvements. The aim is to maximise the community benefit from each investment Council makes in Ballarat's footpath network.

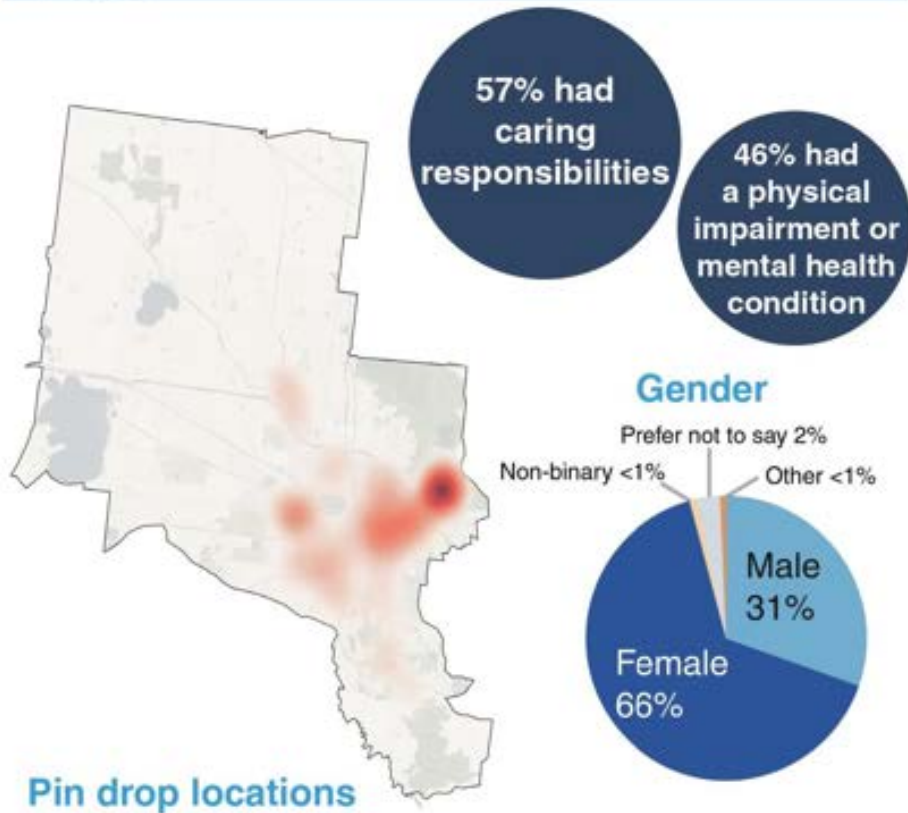
Following public exhibition, the Strategy will be revised based on community feedback and presented to Council for adoption in July/August 2024.

Customer Service: 25 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat
(03) 5320 5500 ballarat.vic.gov.au

CITY OF BALLARAT

Footpath Construction Strategy - What We Heard

465 Ballarat residents shared their thoughts on the footpath network





Age groups



Footpath Construction Strategy - What We Heard

Top 5 ways we move

-  **Walking**
-  **Bicycle (manual)**
-  **Scooter (manual)**

-  **Running**
-  **Pushing a pram**

Why we use footpaths



Exercise



Leisure, Nature



Transport

Parents and carers of children often use footpaths for games and play

Those under 24 very often use footpaths to access public transport

Top features we value in footpaths

The Footpath Construction Strategy is about gaps



Although connectivity is a key issue, there are other issues which affect the network



Condition



Surface



Proximity



Safety

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Footpath Construction Strategy - What We Heard

Where we go



Other comments we heard

Streets that do not have footpaths in the immediate vicinity of aged care, and similar facilities, and that create a link to facilities, shops, and parks need to have a high priority

We have very limited access to footpaths in Warrenheip. Considering how dangerous people drive around our area, I just want to feel safe when I walk the dog and pushing my daughter in the pram.

People should have the option to choose walking wherever they go in our city - and it should be a safe option

Footpaths need to be both sides of the street, sick of crossing the road to use the footpath

It's imperative that all schools have safe footpath access if we are to keep our children fit, healthy, and to reduce our environmental impact

I feel that paving missing links between populated/residential areas and shopping centres is important

We encourage physical activity and would like all children to have the best opportunities to getting to and from school in a safe way

How we reached the community

31% survey
264 contributions

69% social map
580 contributions

Appendix B Proposed construction plan methodology

B.1 Ranking of segment gaps

A multi-year Footpath Construction Plan will be identified by applying the prioritisation framework illustrated in Figure 4-3, and then identifying annual tranches of construction according to the ranking of segment gaps. Table 5-1 below outlines the procedure followed to rank segments in order of priority for footpath construction to address gaps.

Table 5-1: Ranking procedures and order of application by indicator

Order applied	Indicators (unit if applicable)	Function
1	Gap overlapping estate (m)	Filter (exclude if >0)
2	Speed (km/h)	Filter (exclude if $80 \leq x < 999$)
3	Any gap > 10 (1 = TRUE, 0 = FALSE)	Filter (exclude if = 0)
4	Context gap length (m)	Sort: ascending
5	Local Connectivity Score	Sort: Descending
6	Pedestrian safety – speed (km/h)	Sort: Ascending
7	Local index of need	Sort: Descending
8	Existing provision – eligible gap both sides (1 = TRUE, 0 = FALSE)	Sort: Descending
9	Total segment gap <50 (1 = TRUE, 0 = FALSE)	Sort: Descending
10	Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) (Values of 0, 1, 2, 3)	Sort: Ascending
11	Part of the PPN? (1 if PPN = 1, 2, 3, 0 if PPN = 0)	Sort: Descending

Source: M&PC (2024)

B.2 Construction tranches

Once segments are prioritised, the total eligible segment gap length (sum of eligible gaps on one or both sides) will be used as the input to identify tranches for construction. As construction costs vary, an approximate annual quota in construction length of 6km is anticipated to be used. However, this overestimates the current deliverable path length based on annual budget. Segments will be added to the pipeline in order of priority, and in keeping with the 6km per year construction quota.

B.3 Manual checks

The procedures described so far are automated based on assumptions outlined in this document and a separate technical appendix. As noted in Recommendation 2, the prioritisation framework can be readily applied to new data for footpaths as more nuanced network information is made available. In the absence of complete data for footpaths, manual checking of the Construction

Plan is required to validate footpath gaps. Following are some considerations that require manual checking for each gap in the pipeline before finalising construction planning:

- Is the gap real? In cases where there is a centre-running path, a median or a service road, there may not need to be footpaths on each side of the road 'segment'.
- Is a footpath desirable? In some townships there are local character considerations that may warrant rerouting pedestrian right of way to alternate roads.
- Gap start- and end- location. The Construction Plan will identify gap-containing segments, defined by a road name and XY coordinates at the start and end of the segment. However the specific location of gaps is not set out in the plan and must be determined by manual inspection.



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Street Name	Suburb	Road Desc	Rank	Gap Length
Grevillea Road	# Wendouree, Victoria	Dowling Street to Grandview Grove	2	40
Adair Street	# Redan, Victoria	Park Street to La Trobe Street	4	50
Gladstone Street	# Golden Point, Victoria	Yarrowee River Reserve to Humffray Street South	5	40
Princes Street N	# Ballarat East, Victoria	Humffray Street North to Scott Parade	6	10
Unnamed	# Wendouree, Victoria	Lake Street to School Lane	12	20
School Lane	# Wendouree, Victoria	Howitt Street to Wendouree Primary School reserve	13	30
Gillies Street N	# Wendouree, Victoria	McKenzie Drive to Giot Drive	19	100
Dowling Street	# Wendouree, Victoria	Cambridge Street to Grevillea Road	20	60
Unnamed	# Sebastopol, Victoria	Hertford Street to Gray Street	22	40
Bala Street	# Sebastopol, Victoria	Mountview Drive to east extent	25	30
Walker Street	# Sebastopol, Victoria	Robilliard Way to Grant Street	27	180
Adair Street	# Redan, Victoria	Darling Street to Lonsdale Street	30	80
Adair Street	# Redan, Victoria	Lonsdale Street to Bell Street	31	80
Foster Street	# Redan, Victoria	Adair Street to Pleasant Street South	33	200
Ring Road	# Wendouree, Victoria	Liberator Drive, Trewin Street (complex inter)	35	40
Ring Road	# Wendouree, Victoria	Trewin Street to Mentay Way	37	30
Goolwa Drive	# Delacombe, Victoria	Greenhalghs Road to Merinda Court	39	30
Whitelaw Avenue	# Delacombe, Victoria	James Drive to WBL 255 Whitelaw Avenue	40	10
Whitelaw Avenue	# Delacombe, Victoria	WBL 103 Whitelaw Avenue to EBL 1 Royale Street (Front of Lumen Christi School)	42	10
Whitelaw Avenue	# Delacombe, Victoria	Pentlands Court to Wiltshire Lane	43	80
Trethowan Street	# Mount Pleasant, Victoria	WBL 4 Trethowan Street to Tress Street	44	100
Peady Street	# Mount Pleasant, Victoria	Cobden Street to Trethowan Street	45	80
Humffray Street S	# Mount Pleasant, Victoria	Barkly Street to Prest Street	47	50
Magpie Street	# Golden Point, Victoria	Cobden Street to lookout entrance	48	240
Humffray Street S	# Mount Pleasant, Victoria	Prest Street to Elsworth Street West	49	70
Magpie Street	# Golden Point, Victoria	Cobden Street to lookout entrance	52	190
Joseph Street	# Ballarat East, Victoria	Eureka Street to Kingsley Court	53	60
Humffray Street N	# Ballarat East, Victoria	Corbett Street inter	54	10
Joseph Street	# Ballarat East, Victoria	York Street to Levy Street	55	150
King Street N	# Ballarat East, Victoria	Humffray Street North to Scott Parade	56	30
Joseph Street	# Ballarat East, Victoria	Eureka Street to Kingsley Court	57	30
Fussell Street	# Canadian, Victoria	Stockade Street to York Street	58	200
Fortune Street	# Warrenheip, Victoria	End of seal to Warrenheip Road	59	343
Grant Street	# Golden Point, Victoria	Wainwright Street to Bradshaw Street	60	170
Chisholm Street	# Black Hill, Victoria	The Outlook to Sim Street	64	110
Moola Street	# Ballarat North, Victoria	Robert Drive to Lake View Court	65	50
Norman Street	# Wendouree, Victoria	Norman Street inter	66	5
Simpson Street	# Ballarat North, Victoria	Woodside Court to Norman Street	67	100
Norman Street	# Ballarat North, Victoria	Simpson Street to Daintree Close	68	10
Unnamed	# Mount Clear, Victoria	Common Property entrance to rear Midavle Shopping Centre Car Park	69	60
Unnamed	# Mount Clear, Victoria	Haymes Road to Mount Clear College	71	30
Hermitage Avenue	# Mount Clear, Victoria	Hocking Avenue to Sangria Court	72	120
Regency Drive	# Mount Clear, Victoria	Sainsbury Court inter	73	110
Geelong Road	# Mount Clear, Victoria	Hocking Avenue, Canadian Gully Court to Glenvale Road	74	100
Elsworth Street W	# Mount Pleasant, Victoria	Brittain Street to Main Road	77	110
Tinworth Avenue	# Mount Clear, Victoria	Geelong Road to Brittain Street	78	90
Steinfeld Street N	# Ballarat Central	Humffray Street South to Barkly Street	79	90
Eyre Street	# Ballarat Central	Eyre Street inter (roundabout)	82	90
Macarthur Street	# Soldiers Hill, Victoria	Macarthur Street inter	83	10
Coffee Palace Lane	# Ballarat Central	Mair Street to end	84	60
Kallioota Street	# Alfredton, Victoria	Almurta Street to Sturt Street service road	86	90
Ningana Street	# Alfredton, Victoria	Coonatta Street to Balyarta Street	88	40
Gillies Street S	# Wendouree, Victoria	Winter Street to Sturt Street	89	50
Ningana Street	# Alfredton, Victoria	Cuthberts Road to Coonatta Street	90	50
Daylesford Road	# Brown Hill, Victoria	Observation Court to Elm Street	99	180

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Street Name	Suburb	Road Desc	Rank	Gap Length
Norman Street	# Wendouree, Victoria	Margaret Street, Lake Street inters (complex inter)	1	20
Yarrowee Street	# Sebastopol, Victoria	Kyle Street to Bridge Street	3	10
Dorset Drive	# Alfredton, Victoria	Wexford Street to Alfredton Drive	7	20
Tunbridge Street	# Lucas, Victoria	Merz Street to Turnbridge Street	8	40
Messenger Parade	# Lucas, Victoria	Loresini Road to Heathcote Drive	9	10
Forest Street	# Wendouree, Victoria	Forest Court to Rowan Parade	10	20
Ulswater Road	# Wendouree, Victoria	Langstaffe Drive to Langham Drive	14	30
Norman Street	# Wendouree, Victoria	Daphne Street, Daffodil Street inters (complex inter)	15	10
Forest Street	# Wendouree, Victoria	Edwin Street to Cambridge Street	16	50
Forest Street	# Wendouree, Victoria	Edwin Street to Cambridge Street	17	30
Norman Street	# Wendouree, Victoria	Creswick Road to Dowling Street	18	60
Giot Drive	# Wendouree, Victoria	Forest Street to Ulswater Road	21	290
Hill Street	# Sebastopol, Victoria	Tuppen Drive to Harbour Drive	24	130
Hertford Street	# Sebastopol, Victoria	Albert Street to Beverin Street	26	10
Crown Street	# Sebastopol, Victoria	Grant Street to Ilvia Way	28	120
Crown Street	# Sebastopol, Victoria	Kossuth Street to Morgan Street	29	60
Pleasant Street S	# Redan, Victoria	Cooke Street to Rubicon Street	32	130
Rubicon Street	# Redan, Victoria	Sutton Street to Cromwell Street	34	10
Ring Road	# Wendouree, Victoria	Ring Road inter (roundabout)	36	30
Banyule Drive	# Delacombe, Victoria	Greenhalghs Road to Earls Square	38	100
Sutton Street	# Delacombe, Victoria	Leawarra Crescent (north) to Whitelaw Avenue	41	20
Humffray Street S	# Mount Pleasant, Victoria	Morton Street to Barkly Street	46	190
Cobden Street	# Mount Pleasant, Victoria	Magpie Street to Fraser Street	50	30
Brittain Street	# Mount Pleasant, Victoria	Fraser Street inter	51	10
Magpie Street	# Golden Point, Victoria	Gladstone Street to Bradshaw Street	61	20
Magpie Street	# Golden Point, Victoria	Gladstone Street to Bradshaw Street	62	70
Sherrard Street	# Black Hill, Victoria	Howitt Street to Killeen Avenue	63	60
Olympic Avenue	# Mount Clear, Victoria	Yarra Gum Place to Mount Clear College	70	80
Joseph Street	# Canadian, Victoria	Wilson Street to Glendenning Street	75	120
Joseph Street	# Canadian, Victoria	Wilson Street to Glendenning Street	76	10
Windsor Avenue	# Alfredton, Victoria	Meredith Court to Elaine Avenue	85	40
Windsor Avenue	# Alfredton, Victoria	Sturt Street service road to Lansell Court	87	80
Dyson Drive	# Alfredton, Victoria	Cuthberts Road to Chase Boulevard	91	20
Unnamed	# Lucas, Victoria	Eleanor Drive to Dyson Drive	92	20
Unnamed	# Lucas, Victoria	Eleanor Drive to Dyson Drive	93	20
Harris Drive	# Lucas, Victoria	Dyson Drive to Turnbridge Street	95	10
Dyson Drive	# Lucas, Victoria	Coltman Plaza to Liburne Street	96	60
Dyson Drive	# Alfredton, Victoria	Boulevard Drive to Merz Street	97	50
Dyson Drive	# Alfredton, Victoria	Boulevard Drive, Harris Drive, Scarborough Crescent inters (complex inter)	98	20
Thompson Street	# Brown Hill, Victoria	Water Street to Canterbury Street	100	10

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Footpath Construction Strategy

What We Heard



The Ballarat Footpath Construction Strategy prioritises future footpath network improvements across the municipality. Access to key destinations such as schools, shops, meeting places and playgrounds are considered by the Strategy. Improving connections, community health, economic activity and safety are key outcomes of the Strategy.

The City of Ballarat gathered community insights about the use of footpaths in Ballarat to inform its first Footpath Construction Strategy, to better understanding the needs of the community.

This document provides an overview of the responses we received.

What's next?

The draft Footpath Construction Strategy will be a robust evidence-based framework for prioritising future footpath improvements. The aim is to maximise the community benefit from each investment Council makes in Ballarat's footpath network.

Following public exhibition, the Strategy will be revised based on community feedback and presented to Council for adoption in July/August 2024.

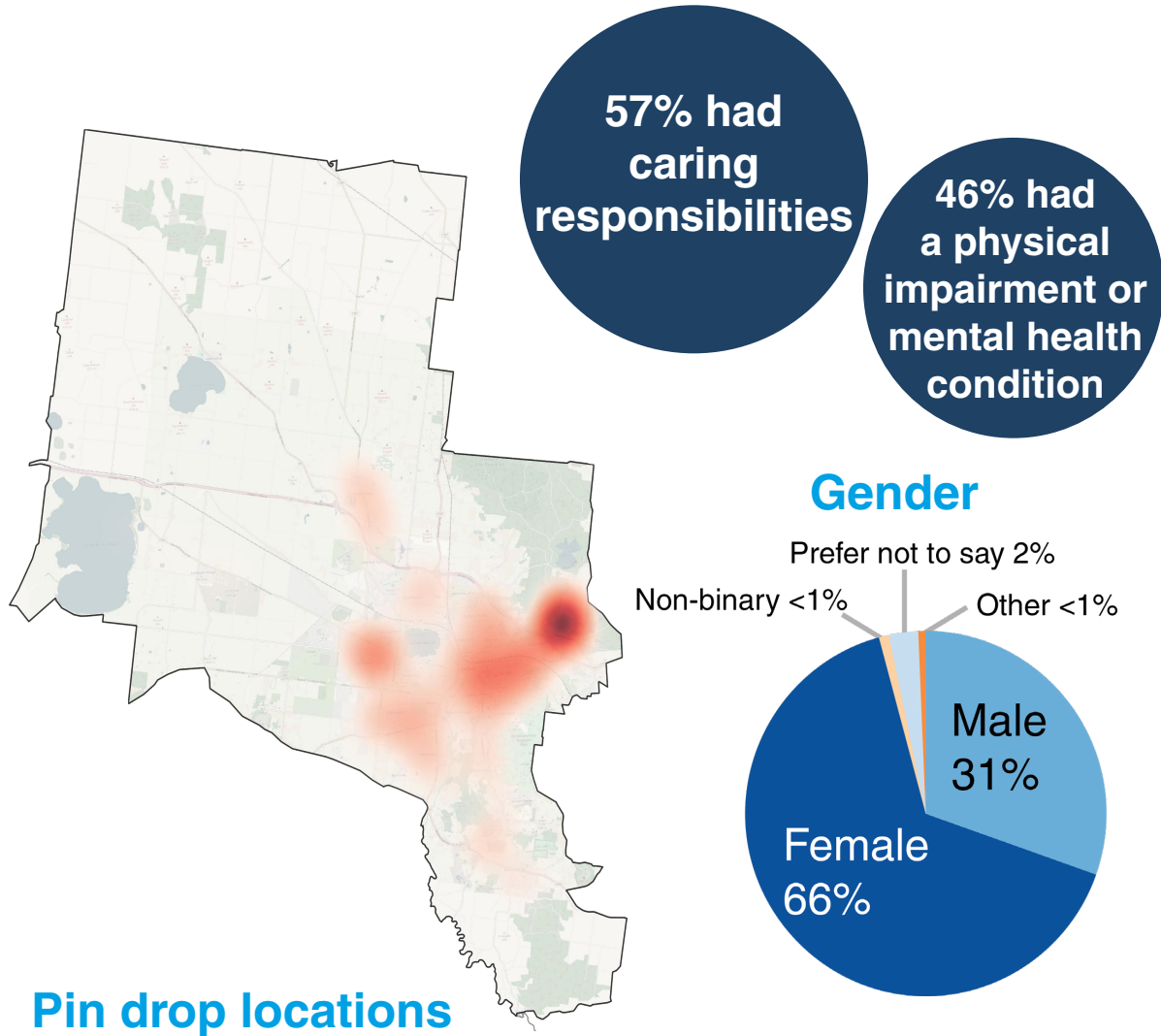
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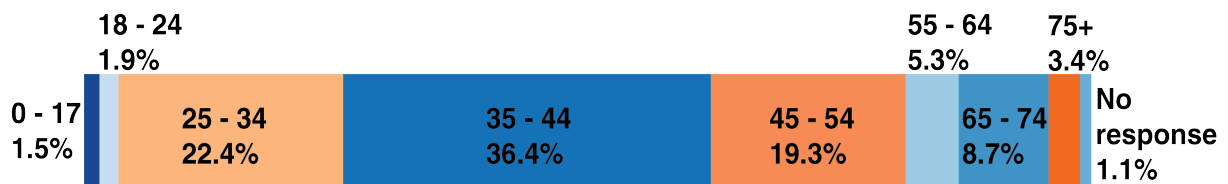
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Footpath Construction Strategy - What We Heard

465 Ballarat residents shared their thoughts on the footpath network



Age groups



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Footpath Construction Strategy - What We Heard


Top 5 ways we move



Walking



Bicycle (manual)



Scooter (manual)



Running



Pushing a pram

Why we use footpaths



Exercise



Leisure, Nature



Transport

Parents and carers of children often use footpaths for games and play

Those under 24 very often use footpaths to access public transport

Top features we value in footpaths

The Footpath Construction Strategy is about gaps



Although connectivity is a key issue, there are other issues which affect the network



Condition



Surface



Proximity

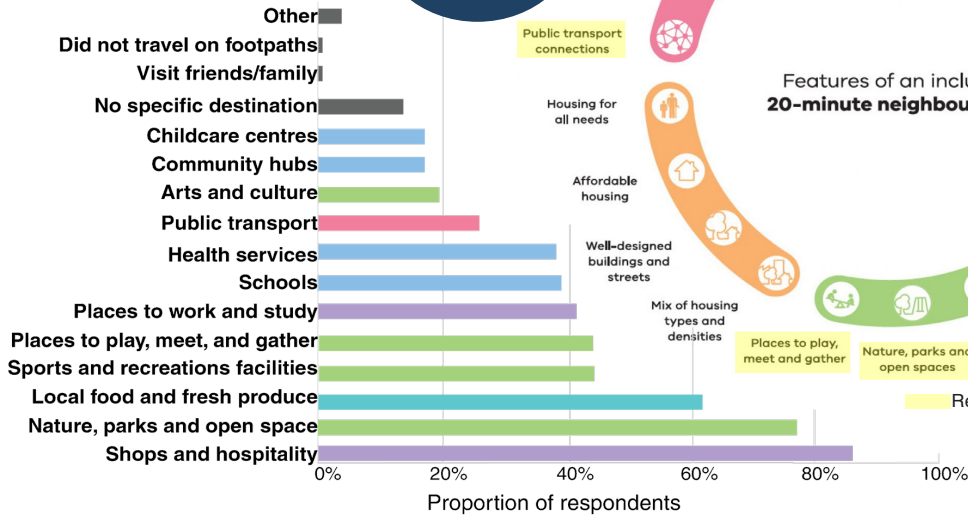


Safety

Footpath Construction Strategy - What We Heard

Where we go

We heard that you regularly travel to a variety of destinations on the footpath, consistent with the Victorian Government's 20-Minute Neighbourhood framework



Source: The State of Victoria Department of Transport and Planning (2023)

Other comments we heard

Streets that do not have footpaths in the immediate vicinity of aged care, and similar facilities, and that create a link to facilities, shops, and parks need to have a high priority

We have very limited access to footpaths in Warrenheip. Considering how dangerous people drive around our area, I just want to feel safe when I walk the dog and pushing my daughter in the pram.

People should have the option to choose walking wherever they go in our city - and it should be a safe option

Footpaths need to be both sides of the street, sick of crossing the road to use the footpath

It's imperative that all schools have safe footpath access if we are to keep our children fit, healthy, and to reduce our environmental impact

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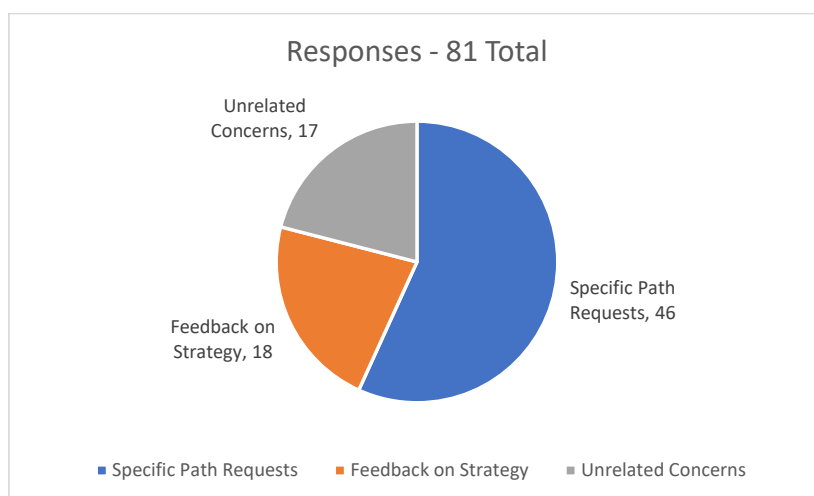
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Footpath Construction Strategy – Round 2 Community Engagement Summary

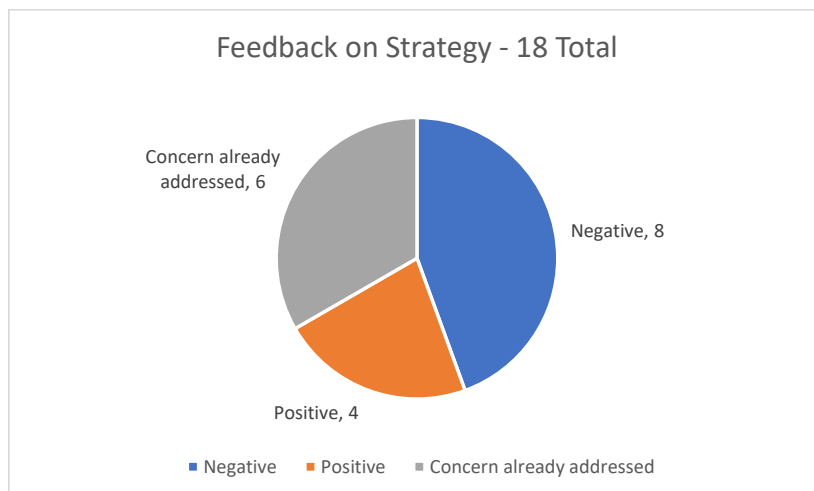
There were 81 total responses to the second round of community engagement for the Footpath Construction Strategy. The consultation presented the Draft Strategy to the community and invited any feedback through the MySay portal or through contacting Customer Service.



Of the total responses, 46 residents requested specific paths in their area. The paths requested were from across the whole municipality and shows that in most cases, people perceive the area of greatest need as the one nearest to their home.

Only 18 responses provided feedback on the Strategy. 8 of these were negative and against the strategy, ranging from wanting the footpath budget allocated to other areas such as green spaces, to believing the report was overly complex and difficult to understand. 4 responses were generally happy and in full support for the strategy.

The last 6 raised concerns that fortunately the Strategy has already answered. There was sentiment that our townships and historically disadvantaged areas have received little or no funding for new footpaths, and they did not want this to continue. The Strategy has addressed these concerns via the index of need calculation giving higher priority to these historically disadvantaged areas. This gives some confidence that the strategy is addressing community concern in this regard.



Lastly, the final 17 requests had concerns unrelated to the Strategy, however many of these were around the ongoing maintenance of footpaths and the management of E-Scooters, bikes and other devices on footpaths.