CITY OF WODONGA VIC

FEEDBACK REPORT

Building the Budget 2024-2025

Community engagement February 5 to March 4, 2024.



Wodonga Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of the Country. We also acknowledge them as Traditional Owners and Custodians across various lands. We pay our deepest respect to their Ancestors, Elders, children and young people. We acknowledge the strength and resilience of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Peoples and recognise their continuous connections to lands, waters and communities across the country.

DATA SOURCES

The data sources in this document come from the following unless otherwise stated.

- Social Pinpoint analytics
- Google Analytics
- Campaign Monitor insights
- Social media insights
- Media monitoring

INTRODUCTION

When building our annual budget, the council takes a two-stage approach, giving community members two opportunities to provide input and feedback on the budget for the next financial year.

This year, during stage one, there was additional information available regarding the council's financial position and service offering, empowering community members to make infromed decisions about what they would like to see in the 2024-2025 budget.

In response to a decision by council, Community Funding Requests were recieved and assessed seperately to budget feedback. Applications are assessed against a criteria for council support and then added into the budget process.

The feedback received from the community, along with supported Community Funding Requests, will inform the draft budget. The draft budget will be then taken back to the community for further feedback in stage two.

We asked people:

- What do you think the priorities should be in Wodonga's budget for 2024 to 2025; and,
- What are your ideas for Wodonga?

Our objectives

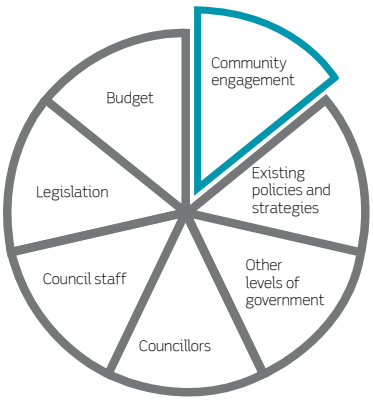
- To better inform the draft budget, get feedback from as many people as possible about what they would like to see prioritised; and,
- Grow awareness of opportunities to get involved in the budget process.

"Wodonga is ahead of Albury on anything community related. Engaging people is a positive thing."

More than 250 people provided feedback to help build the budget

How the budget is developed

- Community Consultation
- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Annual Action Plans



Community engagement is not the sole determinant in a decision-making process. There are many other stakeholders and factors that need to be taken into consideration. Some of these are shown in the chart pictured.

DECEMBER 2023

Council staff commence the budget process for the following year. Draft budgets are aligned to 2021-2025 Council Plan requirements and are also compared to the previous financial year, the current year-to-date, with detailed explanations and breakdowns for each line item in their business unit's budget.

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024

Community consultation undertaken to inform the council of the community's priorities to inform the building of the draft budget for 2024-2025. This feedback forms the basis of this report and was provided to councillors as part of budget workshops.

MARCH TO APRIL 2024

The councillors undertake a series of workshops to determine the draft budget that is presented to a Finance and Budget Delegated Committee meeting in May and is endorsed to go out to the community for a 21 day exhibition period. At the end of this period, a special meeting will be held for submitters requesting to be heard.

MAY 2024

The draft budget is presented to a council meeting to be endorsed for public exhibition and for community feedback.

JUNE 2024

Councillors consider the feedback and the budget is presented to the June council meeting for adoption.

HOW PEOPLE GOT INVOLVED



92 people had their say at the pop-ups

POP-UPS

- 16 people had their say at Whitebox Rise Shopping Centre (Wednesday, February 14, 2.30pm to 4.30pm)
- 1 person had their say at Coutts Lane Reserve, Killara (Thursday, February 15, 4pm to 6pm)
- 34 people had their say at Albury Wodonga Farmers Market (Saturday, February 17, 8am to 12pm)
- 10 people had their say at Baranduda Oval (Wednesday, February 21, 4pm to 6pm)
- 31 people had their say at Junction Square (Thursday, February 22, 8am to 10am)



15 people attended the meetings

MEETINGS WITH GROUPS

- FReeZA Youth Leadership group



161 people had their say online

ONLINE

On the Make Wodonga Yours website, people could choose a range of ways to have their say including completing a survey, sending an email or joining the conversation on the visioner board. Comments were also recieved through our social media channels.

	57 people commented on the visioner board
	81 individuals made comments on social media
	4 people emailed Make Wodonga Yours
	12 people used the online form
	7 people completed a survey

OTHER WAYS PEOPLE GOT INVOLVED

- The *Council Plan 2021-2025* was downloaded 14 times
- The *Wodonga Council Budget 2023-2024* was downloaded 17 times
- 23 people learnt about our service catalogue. The document was downloaded 20 times
- 13 people learned about financial sustainability and the *Financial Sustainability Review Report* was downloaded 32 times
- 198 people visited the Community Funding Requests page and 25 submissions were made

HOW WE PROMOTED THE OPPORTUNITY

ADVERTISING

86 ad spots on AM and FM radio

3 public notices

1 social media campaign

ONLINE CHANNELS

6442 emails sent*

53.95% average open rate

50 click-throughs

12 Facebook posts

37824 reach

405 likes and reactions

12 Instagram posts

2446 reach

15 likes and reactions

6 LinkedIn post

2420 unique impressions

241 likes

650 page views to Make Wodonga Yours

378 unique page views

THIRD PARTY CHANNELS

Building the Budget 2024-2025 consultation and the opportunity for community to have their say was promoted in third party channels including the Business Wodonga newsletter.

Emails included:

- Have Your Say subscription notifications;
- Wodonga Community Centres EDM;
- Community Conversations;
- CityLife; and,
- Active News.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

ONLINE SURVEY

14 service areas in order of priority

1. City Services
2. Sport and Recreation
3. Community Development
4. Child and Family Services
5. Cultural Services
6. Economic Development
7. Projects and Design
8. People and Safety
9. Business Services
10. Assets
11. Statutory Services
12. Marketing and Engagment
    Finance
13. Information Services

10 capital works categories in order of priority

1. Parks, open space and streetscapes
2. Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities
3. Footpaths and bike paths
4. Roads
5. Sustainability initiatives
6. Drainage and kerbs
7. Waste management
8. Bridges
9. Buildings
10. Technology

Top five advocacy projects

1. Efficient and safe transport
2. Housing
3. Junction Place
4. Gateway Island
5. Purpose-built hospital

100% of survey respondents (7) had not made a submission to the budget before

57% of survey respondents (7) do not support increasing rates to maintain present services

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

TOP 5

Community feedback was themed based on business areas and then each piece of feedback tallied to show the most prominent areas of community interest. The top five areas of feedback are noted below.



1. **Road works**
   - » Reconstruction of five different roads
   - » Intersection upgrades (eg. traffic lights, additional lanes, new access points) in nine locations
   - » Crossing improvements and additional crossing points (increased safety)
   - » General road maintenance
2. **Requests for recreational, leisure and community facility infrastructure**
   - » Free community splash pad
   - » Upgrade of WAVES and WSLC pools
   - » New playgrounds and upgrades of existing play spaces
   - » Additional shade in playgrounds and other public spaces
   - » Public toilets at two locations
   - » Additional power at Gateway Village to support the markets
3. **Foopaths and bike path improvements**
   - » New footpaths in four locations
   - » General footpath maintenance, addressing uneven surfaces for better accessibility
   - » Additional solar lighting on walking and bike paths for safety
   - » Remove the Pearce St bike lane
4. **Waste management**
   - » Hard rubbish collection
   - » Waste Transfer Station prices
   - » More bins along pathways
   - » More green bags
   - » Implement legislation requiring recycling and green waste bins at shopping centres and food courts
5. **Parks and gardens**
   - » Continue tree planting program
   - » Management of blackberry bushes and noxious weeds
   - » Management of overhanging branches
   - » Reconsider plantings neat intersections which restrict visibility
   - » Community garden
   - » Showcase and restore areas with native species

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

POP-UPS

Whitebox Rise Shopping Centre

- We should have free camping sites in Wodonga.
- Would like a hard rubbish collection.
- Concerned Gateway Village is losing historical value. Doesn't look like a customs house anymore. Refer to Cameron McNamara report, is shouldn't be called Gateway Village.
- Sumsion Gardens is beautiful.
- Upgrade Senior Citizens Centre to accommodate for growing population
- Carnivale was so good. Great to see things/events happening in Junction Square now.
- Would be good to see more signage encouraging cyclists to warn pedestrians when passing. Promote bike etiquette. The bike paths are amazing.
- Concerned about Streets Rd once connected. Greater monitoring, often motorists speeding. A safety issue.
- Would be good to see a connecting footpath between Streets Rd and Baranduda.
- Improved services at Kinchington/Leneva. More facilities and venues.

Killara

- Extend the shade over bubblers in reserves so they're not scolding hot on hot days. Put tap on the bubblers to fill water bottles

Albury Wodonga Farmers Market

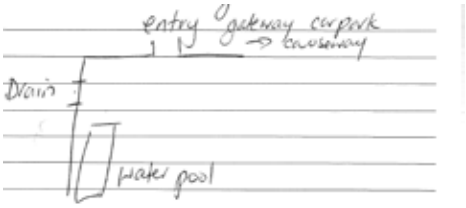
- Noxious weeds at Gateway Lakes, please remove. At the southern end of the lakes, the site boards are covered in blackberries and willows. Around the 500m mark barge.
- How does council support small business? What support and programs are available.
- Blackberry irradication near Baranduda Scout Hall.
- Connecting pathways to Baranduda from Baranduda Range
- Chaple St-Thomas Mitchell roundabout, please put a pictorial sign up early showing which lane to be in. Heading south



- More power at Gateway Village to power the market. Save the use of generators (3 people)
- Like the Sumsion Gardens dog park.
- Fridays on My Mind was amazing, sad it's no longer happening. Fridays in the Square isn't quite the same. Liked that you could sit and lounge and listen to a proper band and that there was a lot happening for everyone to do. Would be good to see more events at Junction Square, not just markets.
- Showcase and restore natural areas with native species
- Hungry Jacks entry from Pearce St needs a traffic island to stop people turning right into the car park. Currently two double lines to achieve this and causing a traffic block
- Mitchell St, Ebden. Seal the road with kerb and guttering.
- Can't direct debit with credit card, would like to be able to do this. Will keep hard copy notices over digital until it can happen.
- Overall council is doing a good job. Stop hospital advocacy whinging, it's not going to happen and it's a waste of time and energy. Invest in something more productive
- Cheaper rates. Upgrading of the parks is good. Streets are good, council are straight on top of potholes
- Melbourne Rd parking needs to be fixed, council have been saying they will but never have (near McRae)
- Solar lights in underppasses of footpaths ie. Pearce St/Willow Park area

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

- Fix water drainage issue at Gateway Village, not draining when it rains



- Would like to see a caravan park on the causeway.
  We need a cinema.
  Would be good to see a grandstand with shade for spectators at the tennis tournament.
  Replace the dead street trees in Canary Court area.
- Better taxis
- Better public transport infrastructure, specifically bus stops and routes that connect the housing estates to shopping and entertainment areas.
  Junction is amazing but we have to drive to get there and the rest of town is residential only
- Melbourne Rd parking needs to be fixed, council have been saying they will but never have (near McRae)
- Solar lights in underppasses of footpaths ie. Pearce St/Willow Park area
- Remove bike lane from Pearce St. We see so many potential accidents - elderly using them with electric scooter/chair, kids on scooters going wrong way and often - the build up at school time due to more, being reduced to single lane. Also, merging from Beechworth Td is russion roulette - and trees obstruct vision crossing over from adjoining streets
- Martin Park - needs a complete resealing - the gravel areas are an attraction to hoons who frequently do burn outs - we back on to Martin Park
- A tourist information and traveller and/or RV parking - we have travelled a lot and rely on these to get information on these towns. Small towns like The Rock, Coolah, Armidale (NSW) Dimboola..."
- Seal Huon Creek Road, there is agreeance from all neighbours. Full kerb and guttering is not required, just a seal. Grading is a bandaid fix and isn't great for nearby houses. Due to the slight slope to allow for water drainage, water floods our house to the point that we can't go away in winter for fear of damage to our property. As it stands out downstairs living areas are ruined and it has cost us more that $20k
  Also, dust creeps in to houses
  Please leave the trees in place when sealing the road, do not remove any
  Council staff have been great but more needs to be done.
- House creek - there is a drainage pipe that backflows when there is heavy rains and House Creek floods, Huon Creek can't clear. The pipe needs to be angled differently so that water can flow away.
- Gateway Lakes precinct: footbridge between Albury precinct and the lakes precinct, would help support concerts and events with better overflow parking, precinct is the jewel in the border crown. Chryslers on the Murray set to becoming largest Chryslers event in the country, build more facilties for families, needs shared pathway and barbecue facilities on trails in area, (Burleigh Heads example) fishing, remove invasive species, cafe, off-leash dog area, great spot for a driver reviver station and could seek TAC funding, MARS corporate volunteering support, The youth planting day around lake was a great thing
  Thinks council is doing a great job: urban planning is awesome. treescape and landscape of high standard. Magnificent work happening at Sumsion Gardens, (Noriuel is a disaster in comparison)
  Australia Day cancellation by Albury is a disgrace, Wodonga stood firm, true reflection. Australia Day is about unity
  Community gardens for connections.
  Support foodshare
  Wodonga is ahead of Albury on anything community related. Engaging people is a positive thing.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?



Baranduda

- A public treehouse at Baranduda and soccer nets
- Zipline and more swings at Baranduda. A big tunnel in the air with stairs all the way up
- More bike trails and jumps. A public treehouse. Another oval with soccer nets. Fishing dam. All at Baranduda
- More bike paths around Baranduda
- More outdoor stuff for kids to get them out and about.
  More basketball courts at parks for bigger kids.
  Love WAVES
- Better bike paths with safer access. Felltimber Rd crossing to connect to Victory Lutheran College
- More infrastructure supporting individual pursuits eg disc golf. These type of activities are often relaxed, social, low cost and get people active
  More walking trails, work with parklands, arrange access around Baranduda Hills
  Outlets/distractions for young teens. Support them to exert energy in positive ways.
  Pump track in Baranduda.
  Water park like Bright - splash park
  Bike path from fire station on Wodonga/ Yack Road through to Boyes Rd - something not on road

Junction Square

- More all day parking in the CBD - we're moving cars every 2 hours
- More shade at Junction. We bring participants over and it's a great space but realy hot
- Reserve at the end of Gillman Tce needs a playground. Reserve has been there a few years now but there is nothing to do and there are a lot of young kids in the area.
- School crossing on Parkers Rd, supervisor can't be seen because of trees. You don't see him until the very last minute and by then he's already on the crossing. For safety I wonder if he can stand on the opposite side so he's more visible.
- Will John Schubert playground get an upgrade soon? It's in real need, it's pretty average.
- Innisfree Dr is in need of repair. There is significant rain damage which is undermining the bitumen
- The playground at the back of the Belgrade kinder, on Chapple St (Graeme Sutherland Park) needs a clean up. It's quite yucky at the moment.
- Council is doing an excellent job with the hospital advocacy
- Junction looks great, we're here 7 days a week. Could the umbrellas be cleaned or replaced, there are a number of which are mouldy
- Concerned about the gaps in the tables and chairs at Junction. The wood planks and not straight, the gaps are inconsistent and quite large in places. Large enough that my dogs leg often gets stuck between them. It's just not good workmanship
- Disabled parking in Church St between Junction Square and Richardson Park would be good. The spots in the larger parking lot are still quite a way away.
- Is there a way to make Melrose Dr two lanes as it approaches Yarralumla Rd? Often it remains two lanes in peak times despite the lane marking asking traffic to merge. There is often road rage in this area and I think it is quite a dangerous roadway as is.
- Why aren't there any major music concerts here this year? Like a red hot summer tour? Do you have a person to encourage or support them to come here? Is there a reason they don't want to come?
- Brewer Dr - there has been significant increase in development and the road is not coping. Speed is an issue and there are a number of concerned residents. Would like to see a road upgrade, include traffic calming, proper road side parking and a footpath along the full length.
- Fund City2City moving forward so that it can continue

WHAT DID WE HEAR?



- Need more major events that are family friendly, support tourism and bring people to the region. For example, music events, NYE 9pm fireworks, red hot summer on causeway. If promoters won't come here can council hold something?
  At Christmas and New Year we had a number of people staying with us and there was nothing to do.
  We want people to come and support our local businesses.
  We use the weir frequently and have noticed a significant drop in the number of people out there. Even the caravan park has lowered visitation, it used to be difficult to get accommodation there as it was booked out and that is no longer the case.
- Better lighting on walking/bike paths and cameras so that all members of community feel safer walking at dusk and dawn
- Would like to see more shade at Junction Square and fencing for safety. We like the picket fence that gets put up for events. Shade cloth over the gantry to create shade for markets would be good.
- The Sumsion Gardens site is so good with the outdoor gym and access to flat walking tracks.
- There are issues with all day parking in the CBD, would like to see improved bike path connectivity and lock up sites to support more active travel
- Really like the green space at Junction, it's nice and clean and tidy. Sumsion Gardens is also great, often see lots of kids enjoying it.

"Great to see things/ events happening in Junction Square now."

"Earlier opening hours for hyphen would be greatly appreciated by people with tiny humans!"

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

VISIONER BOARD COMMENTS

- Wodonga must attract a cinema Entertainment complex. Albury CBD is thriving, compared to Wodonga. We should also have blood bank in Wodonga.

  10 up votes

- You need to build a new 25m outdoor pool at waves. If there is an event scheduled on a hot day there is no where else for the public to swim

  7 up votes

- Departments are accountable for costs. No new borrowings and pay down debt. External auditing on council finances.

  6 up votes

- Yaralumba Melrose drive roundabout is well over due for an upgrade with turning lanes in each direction.

  4 up votes

- Hard rubbish pick up once a year.

  4 up votes

- Make the Library Hyphen open from early morning to late evening and weekends. It's a key community asset and should be far more utilised.

  4 up votes

- Adding a footpath to sangsters road on the left hand side after the railbridge going up the hill. A very dangerous road cross for kids.

  4 up votes

- Should have free hard rubbish pick up once a year.
  Should have a free pick up for things like oil,batteries etc.
  Tip vouchers for renters.

  3 up votes

- Upgrade Melrose drive to Quadruple Carriageway
  Change The Melrose Drive/Lawrence Street intersection to Traffic lights.

  3 up votes

- Hard waste collection, once a year
  Pound for cats and dogs

  3 up votes

- Drainage improvement in Lawrence, Wigg, & Reid St area. We own 81 Wigg, Foodshare, after heavy rain flooding occurs regularly causing damage

  3 up votes

- Hard waste collection - once a quarter

  2 up votes

- Install traffic lights at all school crossings.
  Implement a 50kmh speed limit within all urban areas.

  2 up votes

- Create a bike path along Baranduda Boulevard from Baranduda to Wodonga. This would increase accessibility and encourage healthy behaviours.

  2 up votes

- Upgrade/ install shared walking cycle paths to CBD from satellite developments

  2 up votes

- Clean up the Lincoln causeway median strip. Our entrance to our city looks like a dump for years. Hard to have pride for Wodonga.

  2 up votes

- We need an updated youth strategy, the on created back in 2015 is extremely outdated since it was created pre-pandemic.

  1 up vote

- Provide dog poo bags with animal registration.

  1 up vote

- More bins along walking tracks and dog poo bags. Build another off lead dog park in Wodonga west.

  1 up vote

- Fix the road conditions

  1 up vote

- Get out of the entertainment business. Council is not responsible for that and employs too many staff there, save some money.

  1 up vote

NOTE: Votes shown in the report are a net result of votes received during this consultation activity.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

- Get rid of the under-utilised table tennis tables at Junction Square & replace them with a Half Basketball court. Great for all ages!

  1 up vote
- Fix the roads and curb then we won't have to spray roundup to keep the grass down when it rain it gets washed down the storm drains.

  1 up vote
- Get someone with a clue so the council isnt bankrupt. Otherwise in 5 years we will be broke like federation council. Cut the councillors

  1 up vote
- Please consider building Toilets in McLean park Wodonga.
  Every evening between 6.30 to 9 pm.
  More than 50 people spend their time in park

  1 up vote
- Earlier opening hours for hyphen would be greatly appreciated by people with tiny humans!

  1 up vote
- Traffic light request for Melrose Drive and Lawrence St.

  1 up vote
- I'd like to see an upgrade to Birrallee shopping Centre, the entrance is drab, cafe uninviting. The Centre feels scary at night.
- Some outdoor public basketball courts, basketball is a huge part of our community there are plenty of parks where the courts could be built.
- Please budget for the Killara estate whites road intersection
- -LGBTIQA+ support(s) and ALLY-ship from all councillors. To see diversity on the agenda, rather than swept under the carpet.
- Provide Safe Paths to all Bus stops in Baranduda
- Continue to upgrade playgrounds
- Fix the worst roundabout in wodonga... melrose and Melbourne road
- Lighting along running trails - willow park, along house creek
- Expanding waves - medium sized pool
- Something needs to be done about the intersection at Chapel st and Kane Rd. Also cars queuing on the road to get coffee at same intersection
- Change annual Animal registration fees to a one off fee. Only annual for breeders.
- Make all Bus stops wheelchair accessible.
- Curb side house numbering is used daily by many services providing support to the community. The numbers need repainting, many are faded.
- Stop vehicles exiting & turning right into Moorefield Park Drive from the APCO service station to improve traffic safety before an accident.
- A shared, walking/cycle pathway for Leneva, from near Streets Road and Kitchinton Estate, to be better connected with Baranduda and Wodonga.
- Let's get the Planning & Design works underway for the second body of water at Waves. It would be great to see the funds flow in 2024-25
- Segregated cycle infrastructure along Elgin Blvd, connecting the Rail Trail to House Creek.
- Partnering with AUSTSWIM to train more swim teachers! The waitlists are 18 months long due to not enough teachers. Swim lessons save lives.
- Redo Melrose Dr pot holes every winter that continually need to be repaired. Turning lane from Yarralumba Dr hill to Jevington Dr as dangerous

  1 down vote
- Upgrade beechworth road between Vic Cross parade and leneva

  1 down vote

NOTE: Votes shown in the report are a net result of votes received during this consultation activity.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

- Water splash Park for community to use. Fix air conditioning and roof leak at the leisure centre.
  Better seating at Junction square
  1 down vote
- Splash Park (free for public use)
  1 down vote
- Adopt and action a Dementia Friendly Community plan
  1 down vote
- I'd like to see a commitment to support initiatives needed by our business community - including programs delivered by Business Wodonga.
  1 down vote
- Invest in pedestrian crossing facilities at several points along Beechworth Road to improve walkability within Wodonga.
  1 down vote
- Allocate minimum 10% of entire transport budget to active travel, to match the 2033 10% mode share target established in the twin city ITS
  1 down vote
- Continue the tree planting program including deciduous/European trees to show the colours of the NE autumn. More shade sails for playgrounds
  1 down vote
- Pedestrian signals needed where rail trail intersects Victoria Cross Pde. Trying to cross here with a family on weekends can take minutes.
  2 down votes

"Imagine if we truly embraced the rich diversity of our community to truly understand what their needs are.."

"I've lived in Wodonga for 60 yrs & I think you all do a great job. I've travelled all over Australia & there's no where I'd rather live"

NOTE: Votes shown in the report are a net result of votes received during this consultation activity.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Dear Wodonga Council, I think Wodonga WAVES is just hopeless. You need more pools and shade for the growing population. It is not enjoyable to swim there when half the pool is taken up with lanse and the rest is jammed packed with people using for leisure. Hope to see something done about this in the future.
- Eftpos machines on buses would be so much easier! And more green bags as most people use 1 per day and they run out fast!
- Duplication of the Bandiana Link due to the rapid increase in traffic and the expansion of the Baranduda and Killara areas. But that might be a Vic Roads issue?
- Hard waste collection days for sure
- Hard waste collection days with no extra charge
- Bring back the council pick up twice a year.
- Stop closing down streets building single lane roads we once had double roads everywhere free flowing
- Fix the footpaths and make the kerb cuts level with a nice smooth slope for wheelchairs. I'm too scared to drive mine because of the uneven cracks jutting up everywhere
- Sadly recently Brian was killed at the crossing. Hopefully the council will push to have all the crossings removed and the roundabouts replaced with traffic lights. Win win for traffic and pedestrians in those areas.
- Second entry/exit from Killara
- 40km zones at ALL crossings ALL DAY.
- Can we extend the left turning lane at the Bandiana link round about turning left onto Anzac parade? Or ask the truck drivers to stop parking their trailers there?
- Beechworth road from the nursery out of town desperately needs adjustments for the increase of traffic including turning lanes and room for cyclists.
- You guys really need to focus on roads quality.
- We need red light speed cameras....
- Realistic prices for the waste transfer station.
- Better community consultation with regards to new developments and retail space, namely no more servos and bottle shops.
- Surveillance cameras in known dumping zones just out of town. It's pretty ordinary...
- more family friendly activities in town.
- You could have a go at resealing Warwick rd to a decent standard this time.
- Or Free kindergarten for all children
- No more petrol stations we have more then enough
- Free sports for kids ...
- Some wonderful gum trees are too close to homes. Maybe a check and some removal. Love our park lands we are SO fortunate
- Removal of pedestrian crossings near roundabouts would be great
- Free desexing for animals.
- More support to non profit animal rescues
- A splash park for the kids with cover for these hot days. Not all families can afford waves or have pools.
- A reduction in rates and council spending that pushes up rates. We are some of the highest rates in Australia!
- Should also get rid of the bricked up roundabouts near Elgins and Aldi can't see cars coming round till the last second
- Fix the roads.
- Traffic lights at dangerous roads instead of roundabout. That will save lives
- Doesn't cost much to listen to the ratepayers. After that, stick to the councils core roles roads, rubbish and rates seeing as you charge so much.
- New curb and guttering Lawrence St where pine trees where removed also new cement footpath and tennis fence

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

- A better indoor swimming pool, on one level. More showers & toilets.
- A few extra roundabouts instead of t intersections wherever congestion occurs especially at school time. Eg ; along Fell timber Creek road or Parker's Road.
- Lights at all school crossings. Introduce 50kph speed limit on all urban roads within the city boundaries. Keep it simple.
- Something for kids to do from ages 10 to 16, Laser tag, putt putt, swimming pool with water slides,
- Get rid of the roundabout on Melrose Dr/ Melbourne Rd and put in traffic lights, to much traffic now and very dangerous
- Able to go to the tip for free, especially with green waste.
- I've lived in WODONGA for 60 yrs & I THINK YOU ALL DO AGREAT JOB,I've travelled all over Australia & there's no where I'd rather live
- History , and Association footbal (soka)
- I don't see wattle trees. I understood that gum trees need wattles close by, some interaction of roots & fungus.
- Shade covers on playgrounds! Please
- Maybe another tourist attraction such as Silo art on the water tower.
- Lower rates
- Removal Gum tree in Conway Court it's dangerous
- Don't plant trees on nature strips that clearly block vision of oncoming traffic!
- Hard rubbish collections twice a year!
- Repair cycle/walking path between barandudah and wodonga, especially at the bridge.
- I would love to see the removal of the awful graffiti that is around town. It used to be cleaned up as quick as it happened but now it's out of control. Even the beautiful murals under the underpasses on footpaths/bikepaths are being ruined.
- Tree branches overhanging footpaths trimmed and gum trees assessed and trimmed when dangerous and close to power lines.
- New hospital in Wodonga,and don't get rid of the old one
- More parking at the Wodonga Station.
- A reduction in rates and council spending that pushes up rates.
- Secondly,the dual lane completion of the link road from whitebox. Pearce St should be double lanes (not a single with a bike lane during a population growth) all the way to Melrose drive,...
- Curb and guttering fixed Snowdon street.
- Toilets at the Kiewa river at Killara.
- Clean up the kids train area by the river.. and put seats there so you can enjoy the river and so people can fish like Albury has at noriel park.
- More kinders built....
- Cameras in ministry housing areas for tenants. Cars are being vandalized and homes robbed .. innocent tenants can't prove anything, hence left without transport to get to appointments for example.
- Charge us less and bigger bins. Fix pot holes.
- Standard house blocks not that crap in white box and lots of them to lower the price.
- smaller paid councils , public voting forums
- Stop charging for services you don't supply.. eg pet registration, if you don't maintain a pound in the electorate then why charge a fee, why as residents must we travel interstate and deal with a 3rd party!
- Reopen the Wodonga pound. Covid where 2 cities. No covid where one using the Albury pound??

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

EMAILS TO MAKE WODONGA YOURS

- **Submitter one**

  I submit a couple of ideas regarding Wodonga's road system.

  1. The two roundabouts with high brick walls opposite Wodonga Plaza (Elgin Street) are dangerous. As our city grows with more traffic on local roads these roundabouts pose a greater risk, especially with speeding drivers increasing. In fact all roundabouts in Wodonga should be modified to only grow small shrubbery so that driver's can see other driver's faces which gives them an indication of which way the vehicles will turn as some people are distracted and fail to indicate the direction in which they propose to travel. Another troubling spot is the roundabout on Huon Creek Road and Yarralumla because of the high shrubbery (this may be fine for a higher up bus or truck but is difficult for a small car travelling along Yarralumla towards Melrose Drive).

  2. The intersecting roads from Beechworth Road/High Street, Lawrence Street/Thomas Mitchell Drive and Hovell are a nightmare to cross during peak hour traffic. It would be possible to redirect the traffic from Thomas Mitchell Drive into Beechworth Road (removing the garden bed). The Council could run a competition from the community to re-design this bottleneck.

- **Danielle Tooley**

  I live on Memorial drive Wodonga which is a busy street and we do not have a footpath on either side of the street.

  I have 2 young children and a dog and go on daily walks: which requires a pram. The speed and frequency of the traffic on the street makes it dangerous and there are also alot of parked cars on the road. Having the pram it's difficult to push it on the grass so we are forced to walk on the road.

  We've had a number of near misses with cars and there are also trucks and alot of large tradesmans vehicals that frequent the street. It is a thoroughfare used by the whole neighbourhood and utilised by dog walkers, bike riders, children, the elderly.

  Wondering if a footpath could be considered in the budget? The footpath would link up to walking tracks already around the area and would make it a great deal easier to access the tracks safely.

- **Wodonga Aquatic Users**

  The Wodonga Aquatic Users have made a submission regarding the following for consideration.

  1. Consider planning and design works associated with a second body of water at WAVES for the purpose of additional community programming space
  2. Investigate future development options for the WSLC, including the future opportunities of the expansion of WAVES and future staged works at Baranduda Fields
  3. More shade at WAVES complex
  4. More storage at WAVES

  Please see appendix one for full submission

- **Carley Clark**

  Carley has requested that Ennis Rd, Leneva be sealed to increase safety and access.

  Please see appendix two for full submission

WHAT DID WE HEAR?



ONLINE FORM SUBMISSIONS

- We really need some more shaded areas and something like a free splash park. I am heavily pregnant with a toddler and I need to take him out every day to keep him entertained, exercised, to learn and get some fresh air. The summers are getting hotter and hotter and I am finding it extremely difficult to find places to take him on these hot summer days. I can't take him to the library every day as he will get bored, Waves costs money and gets very busy and he's too young for places like Bounce (which also costs money). The parks are way too hot.
- To have open forums inviting all community to engage. We are living in times where peoples needs are varying in terms of socioeconomic backgrounds and it is important council takes a step out of their buildings to engage with community. It seems a lot of decisions are made without proper consultation, engagement or really looking at the health factors of community, environments, access to services, health, social connection, food. Not all community identify as white, cis, Christian, heterosexual men and it is time this is taken into consideration. Imagine if we truly embraced the rich diversity of our community to truly understand what their needs are and to embed this into the values of councils mission statement.
- Focus on roads and rubbish. Keeps rates down. Reduce staff. Some are pushing for changes we don't need just to keep their job. Some don't do their job, eg the pedestrian lights at the hospital that have blocked the drive through drop off to allied health. Now those with reduced mobility are exposed to all weather and other vehicles. That crossing could have been located elsewhere, if only you had consulted the hospital.
- **Mike Donohue**
  There is a desperate need for another enclosed dog play area in the Western end of Wodonga. There is ample shaded space adjacent to Fell timber creek opposite the fire station on Moorefield Park Road at Gordon Craig Park to place a fenced park and parking off the road.
- **Hannah Leith**
  Wodonga Council need to implement legislation that states major shopping centres and food courts are required to have both recycling and green waste bins. They have neither of these at Mann central or Wodonga Plaza. So much recyclable packaging and food is heading straight to landfill.
  We have a responsibility to amend this as soon as possible!
- **Chris Phillips**
  The council needs to stop spending and pay down debt. Look at Ararat Council. Debt free.
- **Nicole Stephenson**
  Having another pool available for both the public and our many water sports participants. A day at the pool is a great family day and we have a huge number of swimmers and water polo players as well as parents wanting swim lessons. Ability to access and participate is restricted by the lack of available facilities.
- **Aaron Dominguez**
  I would like the Wodonga Ring Road project to be reconsidered. In particular the Havelock Street Extension project.
- Business is struggling now, the same as households, with rising energy, insurance and supplies. Business needs support to keep Wodonga's economy alive and growing.
  If businesses fail, people become unemployed, commercial buildings vacant and leave many other socio-economic damages behind.
- **Cathryn Hogarth**
  Learning to swim is life-saving and so many of our children are missing out - the waitlist for children's swim lessons through the Wodonga Leisure Center is 12-18 months long. The main cause is a lack of qualified teachers and extremely limited access to AUSTSWIM courses in our local area. This lack of available swim teachers also causes issues for school swimming programs. There are private swim schools but those have had to stop offering some classes due to a lack of teacher availability as well. It would be great if the Council could investigate whether it could partner with AUSTSWIM to offer more opportunities to qualify in swim teaching locally so that more qualified teachers become available.

APPENDIX

1. Wodonga Aquatic Users
2. Carley Clark

APPENDIX 1 - WODONGA AQUATIC USERS

4 March 2024

Wodonga Council
Feedback for consideration for the preparation of the budget for 2024-2025
Wodonga 2050 vision
Community Funding Requests
makewodongayours@wodonga.vic.gov.au

On behalf of the following Wodonga Aquatic Users, we submit the following to the Wodonga Council Building the Budget 2024-2025. The Wodonga Aquatic Users urge Wodonga Council to consider the information provided for the Wodonga 2050 vision and in support of the users Community Funding Request.

Wodonga Aquatic Users

- Wodonga City Swimming Club 114 members
- Wodonga Amateur Swimming Club 83 members
- Wodonga Water Polo Club 71 members
- Ovens & Murray Swimming Association 1,188 members (Victoria 888 and NSW 300)
- Ovens & Murray Water Polo Association 658 members

The above Wodonga Aquatic Users represent 1,846 members in the Wodonga and surrounding district. Wodonga City, Wodonga Amateur and the Wodonga Water Polo Club members access the Wodonga Aquatic Venue Exercise Space (WAVES) and the Wodonga Leisure Centre daily. The Ovens & Murray Swimming Association and Water Polo Associations play a key role in running district and state competitions at the swimming facilities. They also play a pivotal role in training and developing volunteer officials for swimming and water polo in Wodonga. These officials volunteer at competitions but also assist with the annual school competitions held at the Wodonga facilities.

Collectively, the five user groups have agreed on four main priorities for aquatic users in Wodonga

Priority 1. An indoor Aquatic Facility with access to a 50 and 25 metre pools.

Priority 2. A second body of water (pool) to be located at the WAVES complex.

Priority 3. More shade at the WAVES complex.

Priority 4. More storage at the WAVES complex.

Priority 5. Lane space

Priority 1. An indoor Aquatic Facility with access to a 50 and 25 metre pools &

Priority 2 A second body of water (pool) to be located at the WAVES complex.

The Wodonga Aquatic Users are pleased that collectively their vision aligns with two recommendations, points 3 and 4 from the 15 May 2023 Wodonga Council meeting. That the council:

1. Undertakes the required renewal works included in the existing 2022-23 building renewal budget, including repair works to Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre (WSLC) aquatics HVAC system at an anticipated cost of $700,000;
2. Undertakes works to upgrade the WSLC Aquatics changerooms, including the implementation of adult disability change facilities, at an estimated cost of $500,000;

3. Considers planning and design works associated with a second body of water at Wodonga Aquatics Venue and Event Space (WAVES), for the purpose of additional community programming space; and
4. Investigate future development options for the WSLC, including the future opportunities of the expansion of WAVES and future staged works at Baranduda Fields.

Focussing on Building the Budget 2024-25, the Wodonga Aquatic Users would like the Wodonga Council, in line with their recommendations 3 and 4 listed above, to place in the 2024-25 budget the allocated funds for the planning and design works associated with a second body of water at WAVES. Additionally, we would like to investigate the future development options for the WSLC, including the future opportunities of the expansion of WAVES.

The Wodonga Aquatic Users acknowledge that for such a project, thorough and diligent planning along with extensive design will need to be undertaken. This will require time. Starting this process in 2024-25 will be the start of an exciting project for the Wodonga Aquatic Users and the community of Wodonga. The project will also align with the Wodonga 2050 in setting a clear goal and priority for our community's aquatic growth and development.

By budgeting for Recommendations 3 and 4, the Wodonga Council will have actioned and placed in motion all four recommendations from the review and recommendations undertaken by consultants on the Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre (WSLC) and Wodonga Aquatics Venue and Event Space (WAVES). A great achievement. The Aquatic users would like to take this opportunity to thank Wodonga Council for actioning the project to upgrade the HVAC system and the WSLC Aquatics changerooms, including the implementation of adult disability change facilities. A community investment that all the aquatic users represented in this submission, as well as the community will benefit from.

Priority 3. More shade at the WAVES complex.

In addition to the big picture planning items, the Aquatic users would like Council to consider the safety and well-being of swimmers, families, officials, lifeguards and workers who utilise the WAVES complex. There is currently inadequate shade at the site for recreation swimming, club swimming and water polo events. Currently a lot of time is spent placing temporary structures up for swim and water polo events. Particularly for volunteer officials and administrators. It would be great to see an allocation in the 2024-25 Budget for further shade structures for the WAVES complex. There are some great examples and learnings from other regional pools on both sides of the border. Should council need advice on this, the aquatic users would happily provide assistance where needed.

Priority 4. More storage at the WAVES complex.

Lastly, as with all sport and recreation facilities storage is always an issue. With the growing memberships of all the assigned groups as part of this letter, storage has become an issue for the facility at WAVES. Collectively the clubs and associations along with Centre Management Aligned Leisure have got together and identified a space that does not impact on the future expansion and planning at the site. Wodonga Council Sport and Recreation staff have also been involved in this conversation and provided valuable feedback. Separate to this letter the aquatic users will submit a grant application through the Community Funding Requests program. We have taken learnings from other sport and recreation facilities in Wodonga, more recently the three-bay storage shed installed at Martin Park. Each user group is prepared to contribute financially and in kind through the support of their members. It is hoped that Wodonga Council will also assist with a contribution along with costs associated with planning, connections and underground works.

Priority 5. Lane Space

All aquatic users agree that lane space is an ongoing issue at both the WAVES facility but also at the WLSC. All aquatic users are growing their memberships, but it is becoming increasingly challenging to retain members when training times are scheduled later in the evenings during Winter. In the long-term, lane space can be addressed by the listed Priority 1 and 2. In the short term the Wodonga Aquatic Users would like the management of the Aquatic Facilities, Aligned Leisure with the support of Wodonga Council to extend the opening hours of Waves through the later part of Autumn, through winter and into Spring.

The undersigned users thank the Wodonga City Council for their support and leadership on future planning for our city. Wodonga has a very vibrant and active aquatic community who are representing the city weekly at local level but are also traveling Wodonga Ambassadors at District, State and National competitions.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Whitehouse
President
Wodonga City Swimming Club

Nicole Stephenson
President
Wodonga Amateur Swimming Club

Alyssa Finck
President
Wodonga Water Polo Club

Brendon Shiels
President
Ovens & Murray Swimming Association

(Judy Foley)
Secretary

Scott Walters
President
Ovens & Murray Water Polo Association

APPENDIX 2 - CARLEY CLARK

Dear Wodonga Council,

Ennis Rd, Leneva VIC 3691: Property Owners request increased safety and improved access.

As residents and primary producers, we would like to address unsafe conditions and low access of Ennis Road. We have conducted surveys (we can provide them if interested) and received feedback from concerned residents and business owners, and as a community, the overall consensus is to increase safety.

In general, We would like to discuss the following;

- Blind spots
- Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Road shoulder condition
- Drainage
- Steep grading
- Encroaching roadside vegetation
- Removal of cattle grids
- Removal of unused single gateway openings along the road
- The unsafe intersection at Ennis and Castle Creek Roads
- Minimal maintenance occurs, only acted upon by the resident's request. The last grading was on the 7th of February, 2024 and within two weeks, due to poor road design and lack of gavel, the road was back to having corrugations and silt accumulation on roadsides.

The desired outcome would be Ennis Road completely sealed, we understand this is a large project and would be happy to meet and discuss all possibilities.

Another consideration is the upcoming subdivision on Ennis Road, leading to further traffic on a poorly designed and managed road. Speaking with long-term residents, they have highlighted the road has deteriorated beyond the standard it was 10 years ago.

Below are sites listed from one to sixteen we would like these sections to be upgraded to facilitate the basic needs of primary producers, business owners, residents and emergency vehicle access.

Carley Clark - 0400 225 379 - 393 Ennis Rd - carleyjclark@gmail.com

Amy Thomas - 0403 619 878 - 399 Ennis Rd - aimes37@hotmail.com

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Site one and two Concerns :

- Measured width: 6.3m on entry and following turn, 4.8m, Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Roadside hazards include encroaching vegetation, blocked culvert pipes and shallow and blocked table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.
- Blindspot: sharp corner, narrow
- NIL turning lane on Castle Creek Rd to allow for slow traffic turning on Ennis Rd to take the U-turn.
- Trucks turning onto Ennis Rd from Castle Creek Rd make a three-point turn to compensate for the U-turn.
- Receiving a semi-trailer of hay to feed our cattle, our truck driver slid on the loose gravel, jackknifed and was towed onto Castle Creek Rd.

Site one and two Desired outcomes:

- Increase safety at this intersection by adding a turning lane on Castle Creek Rd to access Ennis Rd
- Seal section
- Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m)
- Create table drains to collect water runoff from the road surface.

Site Three and Four Concerns:

- Measured width: 4.8m, Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Roadside hazards include encroaching vegetation, blocked culvert pipes and NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.
- Blindspot: sharp corner, narrow
- Steep incline
- Signage: guide posts are covered with vegetation

Site Three and Four Desired outcomes:

- Seal section
- Increase carriage width for primary producer access (7.5m)
- Create table drains to collect water runoff from the road surface.
- Prune or remove vegetation that restricts sight and/or obscures regulatory signage.

Site Five Concerns:

- Roadside hazards include encroaching vegetation.
- Signage: guide posts are covered with vegetation

Site Five Desired outcomes:

- Clear Vegetation from encroaching onto the road to increase visibility and allow vehicles to drive along the edge of the road

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Site Six Concerns:

- Measured width: 5.4m, Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Road hazards: this location attracts site seers, and visitors park on the road to take in the scenery. When driving home at night, we encountered parked cars on the road.

Site Six Desired outcomes:

- Two options: remove the ability for vehicles to park here OR increase the area for sightseers to park off the road altogether to avoid parking across the road

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Site Seven Concerns:

- Measured width: 4.8m, Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Roadside hazards include encroaching vegetation, blocked culvert pipes and NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.
- Blindspot: narrow
- Signage: guide posts are covered with vegetation

Site Seven Desired outcomes:

- Clear Vegetation from encroaching onto the road to increase visibility and allow vehicles to drive along the edge of the road.
- Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m)
- Create table drains to collect water runoff from the road surface.

Site Eight Concerns:

- Measured width: 4.6m, Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- The sealed section needs to be repaired.

- Old rural fencing hazards on the side of the road
- Roadside hazards include encroaching vegetation, blocked culvert pipes and NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.
- Blindspot: sharp corner, narrow

Site Eight Desired outcomes:

- Resurface sealed section of road. Currently road maintenance teams cover the sealed road with gavel, making the road slippery and unsafe.
- Install Convex Mirrors and Dome Safety Mirrors to increase visibility on this corner.
- Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m)
- Create table drains to collect water runoff from the road surface.

Site Nine and Ten Concerns:

- Measured width: 3.8m, Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- The sealed section needs to be repaired.
- Roadside hazards include NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.
- Blindspot: crest of the hill, narrow, turning traffic into property
- Steep incline

Site Nine and Ten Desired Outcomes:

- Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m), especially at the apex of this hill to cater for oncoming traffic and turning traffic.
- Create table drains to collect water runoff from the road surface.
- Resurface sealed section of road. Currently road maintenance teams cover the sealed road with gavel, making the road slippery and unsafe.

Site 11 Concerns:

- Measured width: 4.8m, Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Roadside hazards include NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.
- Blindspot: sharp corner, narrow

Site 11 Desired Outcomes:

- Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m), especially at the apex of this hill to cater for oncoming traffic and turning traffic.

- Create table drains to collect water runoff from the road surface.

Site 12 Concerns:

- Measured width: 3m due to the narrow cattle grid (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Roadside hazards include NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.
- Blindspot: crest of hill, narrow
- Steep incline

Site 12 Desired Outcomes:

- Remove the cattle grid altogether - it's redundant and a legacy from the previous farming family. This narrow gateway causes the inability to accept wide loads.
- The cattle grid is situated on the ascending/ descending part of the road when towing or approaching with heavy machinery, it almost comes to a complete stop to cross. Completing the climb on a slippery gavel with little to no momentum is difficult and unsafe, especially as sharp corners bookend it with the low visibility of slow-moving vehicles.
- Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m)
- Create table drains to collect water runoff from the road surface.
- Seal the section

Site 13 Concerns:

- Measured width: 4.2m due to the narrow gateway (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Roadside hazards NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.
- Steep incline, with a narrow gateway followed by a sharp turn, causing the vehicle to slow and lose traction

Site 13 Desired Outcomes:

- Remove the gateway and Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m), especially at the apex of this hill to cater for oncoming and turning traffic.
- Roadside hazards NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side.

Site 14 Concerns:

- Measured width: 4.2m due to the narrow gateway, the further reduction to 3m over the culvert pipe (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Roadside hazards include NIL table drains, causing water to sheet along the road rather than to the side, after significant rain storms, this section of road floods
- Steep incline, with a narrow gateway followed by a sharp turn, causing the vehicle to slow and lose traction.

Site 14 Desired Outcomes:

- Remove the gateway and Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m)

Site 15 Concerns:

- Measured width: 5.1m, Narrow (insufficient width for 2 vehicles or trucks, etc.)
- Roadside hazards include NIL table drains, causing water to sheet across the road rather than to the side.

Site 15 Desired Outcomes:

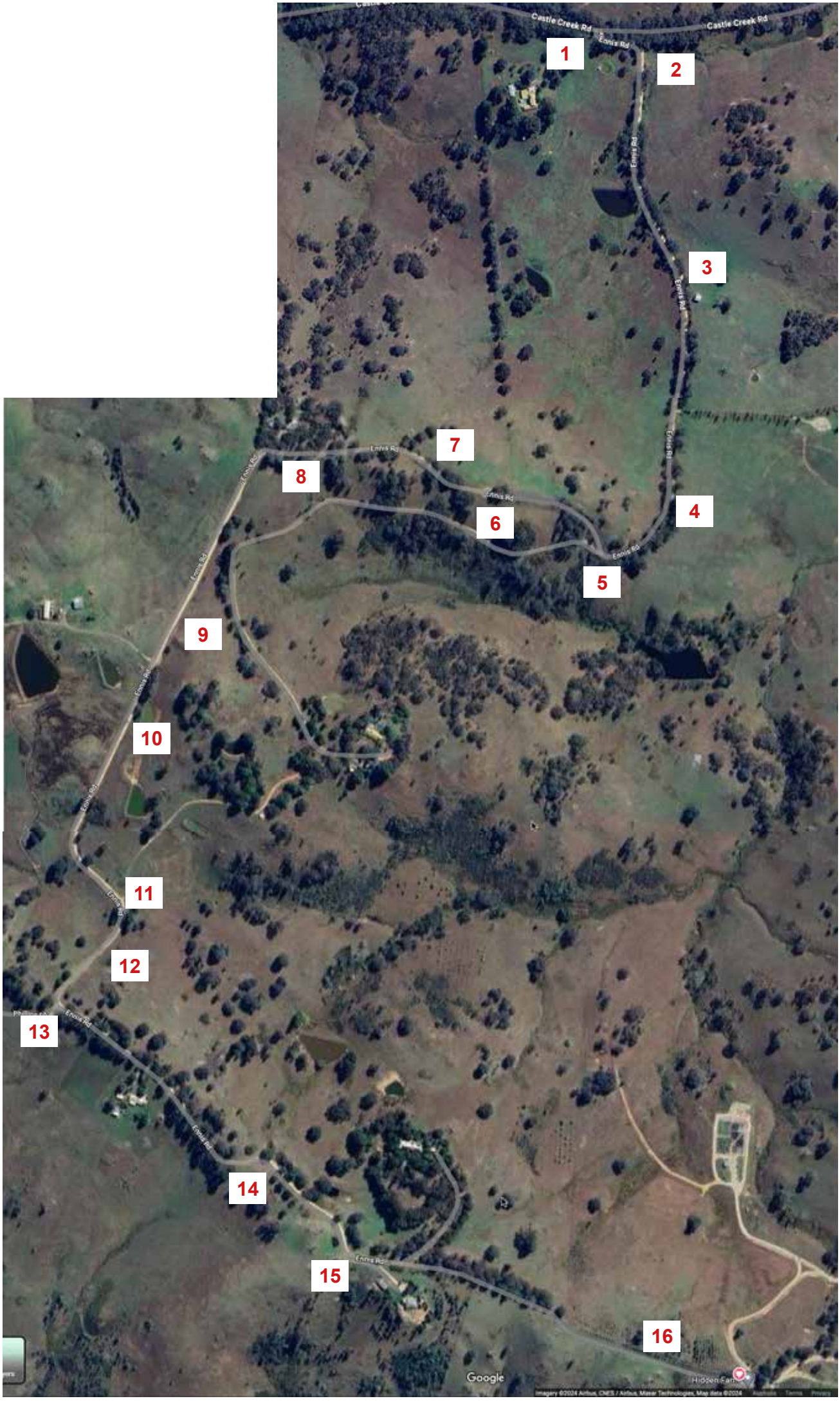
- Remove the gateway and Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m), especially at the apex of this hill to cater for oncoming and turning traffic.

Site 16 Concerns:

- End of the road, no turning circle
- A boundary fence is needed to stop sheep living on the road

Site 16 Desired Outcomes:

- Create a turning circle at the end of the road
- Paul Phillips (Neighbour) to install boundary fence, All three neighbours have requested this over many years to keep livestock off the road, and he continues to refuse.


Castle Creek Rd
Castle Creek Rd
Ennis Rd
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Google

SITE ONE









SITE TWO













SITE THREE













SITE FOUR



SITE FIVE









SITE SIX







SITE SEVEN













SITE EIGHT









SITE NINE













SITE TEN







SITE ELEVEN







SITE TWELVE













SITE THIRTEEN





SITE FOURTEEN









SITE FIFTEEN







SITE SIXTEEN











