AGENDA

Finance and Budget Delegated Committee

Meeting of the committee on April 22, 2024.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee will be held in the Council Chamber – 104 Hovell St, Wodonga, or by electronic means if required, on April 22, 2024, commencing at 1:00 pm.

The meeting will be livestreamed through the council website.

Matthew Hyde
Chief Executive Officer



104 Hovell St, Wodonga, VIC 3690
PO Box 923, Wodonga VIC 3689
Phone: (02) 6022 9300
info@wodonga.vic.gov.au
wodonga.vic.gov.au

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1 Welcome and acknowledgement of country

Wodonga Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of the Country and as traditional custodians of the land. We respect their Ancestors, Elders and young people and recognise their continuous connections to lands, waters, and communities across the Country.

2 Apologies and attendance by electronic means

3 Declaration of conflict of interest

Councillors
Councillors must disclose any conflicts of interest they have in matters being considered at meetings of the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee.

If you have a conflict of interest at a committee meeting, you must:

- disclose the conflict of interest immediately before the matter is considered;
- notify the chairperson you are leaving the meeting; and
- leave the room and any area where you can see or hear the meeting until the matter has been concluded.

When making your disclosure, you must state the class of interest as well as describing the nature of the interest. However, if this would mean disclosing information that is confidential or private, particularly if it is about another person, you can make a full disclosure to the CEO in writing before the meeting and then just disclose the class of interest in the meeting.

Staff
Staff in attendance at the meeting, and who have not otherwise disclosed a conflict of interest through the written officer report, may also make a declaration at this point in the agenda, for the purposes of transparency.

4 Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes for the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee meeting held on February 26, 2024, as attached, be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting of the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee held in the Council Chamber at 104 Hovell St, Wodonga on February 26, 2024.

Present

Cr R Mildren, Mayor

Cr D Chamberlain, Deputy Mayor

Cr L Hall

Cr D Lowe

Cr O Quilty

In attendance

Mr M Hyde	Chief Executive Officer
Ms D Mudra	Director Community
Ms D Vlekkert	Director Corporate
Mr L Schultz	Director Infrastructure
Mr B Quill	Manager Financial Services



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1 Welcome and acknowledgement of country

The meeting was called to order at 1pm by the Mayor, Cr Ron Mildren.

The Mayor read the acknowledgement of country.

2 Apologies and attendance by electronic means

Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer has previously been granted leave of absence for the period from 12 February to 24 March 2024.

An apology was received from Cr Poulton.

3 Declaration of conflict of interest

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

4 Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

MOTION

Cr Danny Chamberlain / Cr Libby Hall

That the minutes for the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee meeting held on January 29, 2024, as attached, be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty
Against:	Nil

5 Reports for determination

5.1 December 2023 Quarterly Budget Report

MOTION

Cr Olga Quilty / Cr Danny Chamberlain

The Finance and Budget Delegated Committee:

1. Note the December 2023 Quarterly Finance Report.

2. Recommend that Council approve the Budget Variations in Table 2 (Operating Variations) and Table 4 (Capital Variations) in the December 2023 Quarterly Budget Report.

3. Recommend that Council note the Chief Executive Officer's Statement that a Revised Budget for the purposes of s 95 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) is not currently required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5 / 0

For: Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty

Against: Nil

5.2 Financial Sustainability Review (FSR) Recommendation 6.2 Improve the Operating Position of Council

The FBDC resolved to close the meeting to the public in order to consider this item - refer items 6.0 and 6.1. This item had a confidential resolution and a public resolution. The public resolution can be found at item 7.2 of these minutes.

6 Confidential business

Closure of committee meeting to the public

MOTION

Cr Olga Quilty / Cr Libby Hall

That the committee meeting be closed to members of the public in order to consider matters pursuant to section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020,* in relation to personal matters of staff, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty
Against:	Nil

6.1 Financial Sustainability Review (FSR) Recommendation 6.2 Improve the Operating Position of Council - confidential discussion

Consideration of this item will be closed to members of the public as it contains matters listed under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

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

An explanation of why this report is being considered in confidential.

This item was considered in open council, and then resolved to be considered further in closed council. The closed council discussion was for the purpose of discussing personal staff matters in relation to the financial sustainability of the organisation.

7 Close of meeting

7.1 Return to open committee

MOTION

Cr Olga Quilty / Cr Libby Hall

That the committee meeting be resumed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty
Against:	Nil

7.2 Adopt the in-camera recommendations

MOTION

Cr Danny Chamberlain / Cr Olga Quilty

That the recommendations of the closed meeting of the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty
Against:	Nil

PUBLIC RELEASE OF INFORMATION

At this point the CEO read out the public component of the resolution adopted in confidential session.

Financial Sustainability Review (FSR) Recommendation 6.2 Improve the Operating Position of Council

That the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee:

1. Notes AECs estimated correction required of $2.8 million to achieve a sustainable operating position
2. Notes the $1.4 to $1.6 million in proposed recurrent savings through identifying efficiencies and minor adjustments to services to be included in the draft Budget 2024-25
3. Requests the CEO to make further corrections in preparing the draft Budget 2024-25 to achieve the estimated correction of the operating position (with the exception of legislated or contractual obligations) to the level recommended by AEC ($2.8m).

7.3 Chairperson to close the meeting

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee: 1pm on Monday, 22 April 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.05pm.

Minutes confirmed this …… day of …….. 2024.

…….
Chairperson

5 Reports for determination

5.1 Draft Budget 2024-2025 - Community Feedback

PURPOSE

To provide council with the community feedback from the consultation to inform the Draft Budget 2024-2025 and determine inclusions for the development of the draft budget.

SUMMARY

In February and March this year, the council undertook a community consultation to engage the community in providing feedback to inform the development of a draft budget.

More than 250 people were involved during the consultation with more than 170 responses and submissions presented for consideration in developing the budget.

The feedback has been considered by staff and workshopped by councillors.

Following this phase of the consultation, inclusions are being determined for the development of the Draft Budget 2024-2025 which will be presented to the community for further feedback in May.

RECOMMENDATION

That:
1. The report on the community feedback be received and noted;
2. The items noted for ongoing advocacy be supported; and
3. No change be made to the proposed Draft Budget 2024-2025 as a result of the community feedback.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Report - Building the Budget 2024-2025 [**5.1.1** - 48 pages]
2. Advocacy items [**5.1.2** - 1 page]
3. Infrastructure request (2) [**5.1.3** - 10 pages]
4. Operational items (2) [**5.1.4** - 12 pages]

DISCUSSION

Since 2022, the council has started the budget conversation early so that we could hear what the community thinks should be prioritised in the budget.

This year, the process also included the separate Community Funding Requests program which is the subject of another report.

The feedback received from the community is to inform the draft budget, which will be then taken back to the community for further feedback.

Feedback was received in-person at pop-ups, online, through social media and through submissions.

All feedback is included in the feedback report at Attachment 1.

Formal submissions are outlined in this report in accordance with our Community Engagement Policy.

Specific items taken into consideration are stepped out in Attachment 2. Some items were already part of the long-term financial plan. This is noted in the funding options column.

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

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. Footpaths 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

There were nine submissions that are considered formal submissions. These are summarised in the table below. The full submissions are included in the attached report.

Submitter	Officer recommendations
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 a lot 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 a lot of large tradesmans vehicles 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.	Not included in future works program. Native vegetation would either need to be removed or offset and the footpath would also have little clearance to the roadway. **Not currently budgeted.**
Wodonga Aquatic Users The Wodonga Aquatic Users have made a submission regarding the following for consideration: • Consider planning and design works associated with a second body of water at WAVES for the purpose of additional community programming space • Investigate future development options for the WSLC, including the future opportunities of the expansion of WAVES and future staged works at Baranduda Fields • More shade at WAVES complex • More storage at WAVES Please see appendix one for full submission.	Feasibility, planning, design, and a cost benefit analysis works all need to be undertaken initially. Followed by community and user groups consultation to inform what the full scope of works. Detailed design and full quantity surveyor costing will be required for a funding application. A council contribution of about $2 million would be required. Five additional shade sails were installed at WAVES in 2017. The facility currently has fives shades sails over the splash park, two over the main entry area and pathway, two over the seating and barbecues and a further six in and around the grassed areas on both sides of the pool. The council acknowledges storage at this location is at maximum capacity but additional works are not part of the current program. This is the subject of a Community Funding Request. **Not currently budgeted.**
Carley Clark Carley has requested that Ennis Rd, Leneva be sealed to increase safety and	Roads are inspected annually to determine the reseal and rehabilitation program with priorities determined by the intervention

access. Please see appendix two for full submission.	points as laid out in the Road Management Plan. Low traffic volumes do not warrant sealing. **Not currently budgeted.**
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 Felltimber Creek opposite the fire station on Moorefield Park Road at Gordon Craig Park to place a fenced park and parking off the road.	Council officers have investigated locations in West Wodonga previously with none found to be suitable. The area indicated on Felltimber Creek Road is private land and the other on Moorefield Park Road has no parking, water or other amenities and is located adjacent to a busy internal feeder road. Council is investigating potential sites for a second fenced dog park in new subdivisions in Baranduda or Leneva. **Not currently budgeted.**
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!	The council holds no enforcement powers regarding waste management options in private shopping centres. Feedback could be directed to centre managers for consideration. **No action required.**
Chris Phillips The council needs to stop spending and pay down debt. Look at Ararat Council. Debt free.	This has been considered as part of the development of the draft budget 2024-2025 and the Financial Plan. Debt servicing is included within the Budget every year. **No action required.**
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.	Feasibility, planning, design, and a cost benefit analysis works all need to be undertaken initially. Followed by community and user groups consultation to inform what the full scope of works. Detailed design and full quantity surveyor costing will be required for a funding application. A council contribution of about $2 million would be required. **Not currently budgeted.**
Aaron Dominguez	This project has a significant cost and is not

I would like the Wodonga Ring Road project to be reconsidered. In particular the Havelock Street Extension project.	currently a priority for the future works program. **Not currently budgeted.**
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.	Programs are run by the council's aquatics contractor which is responsible for the recruitment of swim teachers. **No action required.**

Persons whose rights will be directly affected by this decision

There are no people whose rights will be directly affected, however, decisions around the budget have an indirect effect on the whole community.

RELEVANT LAW

This report is providing a summary of the draft 2024-2025 budget community feedback following the process conducted under the council's *Community Engagement Policy*, as required by section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

N/A

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Accept recommendations - Recommended

The council can accept the officer's recommendation.

The first stage of the budget consultation is the opportunity for the community to share feedback on their priorities and ideas for the city. This is in line with our *Community Engagement Policy* which allows the community the opportunity to influence decision-making and outcomes.

The Officers recognise the time and effort the community has taken to provide their feedback and it is important to consider this in not moving ahead with any of the submissions raised by the community. However, officers consider that any increase

in operating expenditure would not be prudent for this draft budget, recognising the current financial position of the council. As such, no material requests have been recommended to be included in the budget.

The community will have a further opportunity to provide feedback on the presentation of the draft budget.

Option 2 – Accept some community submissions - Not recommended

The council can decide to accept some of the community submissions listed in the recommendation and choose different items from the feedback detailed in Attachment 2.

The community has provided extensive and constructive feedback during the consultation process and it is important to consider this when developing the budget. However, council should consider the current financial position of the council.

The community will have a further opportunity to provide feedback on the presentation of the draft budget.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The annual budget is compiled in conjunction with the 10-year Financial Plan, which is essential to providing economic sustainability for the council over the long term. All submissions have been considered in relation to the impact on the Financial Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was an extensive community consultation undertaken over six weeks with multiple ways to engage and provide feedback.

The activities and measures of this process are outlined in the feedback report at Attachment 1.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The council is continually exploring new ways and means for engaging with our community in ways that are timely, inclusive and accessible.

Following the inaugural process in 2022, changes and refinements were made and learnings acted upon.

Through each consultation, staff seek opportunities to revise, modify and improve engagement processes and we expect further improvements in future years.

COLLABORATION

Engaging the community early to provide feedback on their ideas and priorities for the draft budget provides an opportunity for the community to be involved and influence the development of the budget.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Following community feedback, the council is to determine what, if any, of the items raised are to be accepted as part of the draft budget.

With the Community Funding Requests a separate process, officers do not recommend any changes to be incorporated into the draft budget from this feedback.

Some of the items can be, or already are, incorporated in operating budgets or require further investigation. These are noted.

In context of the council's present financial sustainability, major capital projects are not considered a priority in the short-term.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICIES

Strategic objective
Provide transparent governance and strong leadership, demonstrating excellence in the way we do business by being innovative and responsive.
Strategy
Undertake responsible financial management and budgeting to ensure financial sustainability.

Strategic objective
Create a welcoming and inclusive city for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities that is well-connected, which supports people to meet, participate and move safely and access services and opportunities they need.

Strategy
Build a connected and inclusive community that has access to information and the opportunity to engage.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict of interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Manager Business Services – Kylie Gillison
Director Community & Corporate – Dena Vlekkert

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

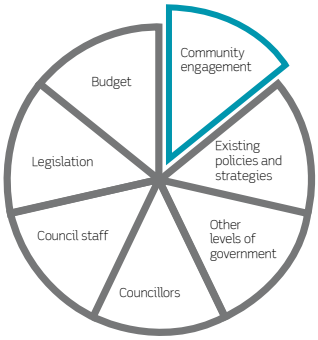
- To better inform the draft budget, get feedback from as many people as possible about what they would like to see prioritised; and,
- Grow awareness of opportunities to get involved in the budget process.

"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

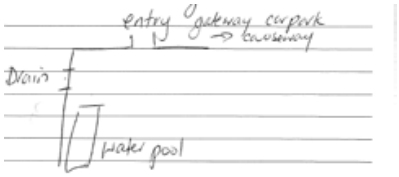
- Noxious weeds at Gateway Lakes, please remove. At the southern end of the lakes, the site boards are covered in blackberries and willows. Around the 500m mark barge.
- How does council support small business? What support and programs are available.
- Blackberry irradication near Baranduda Scout Hall.
- 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

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 -

Amy Thomas -

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:

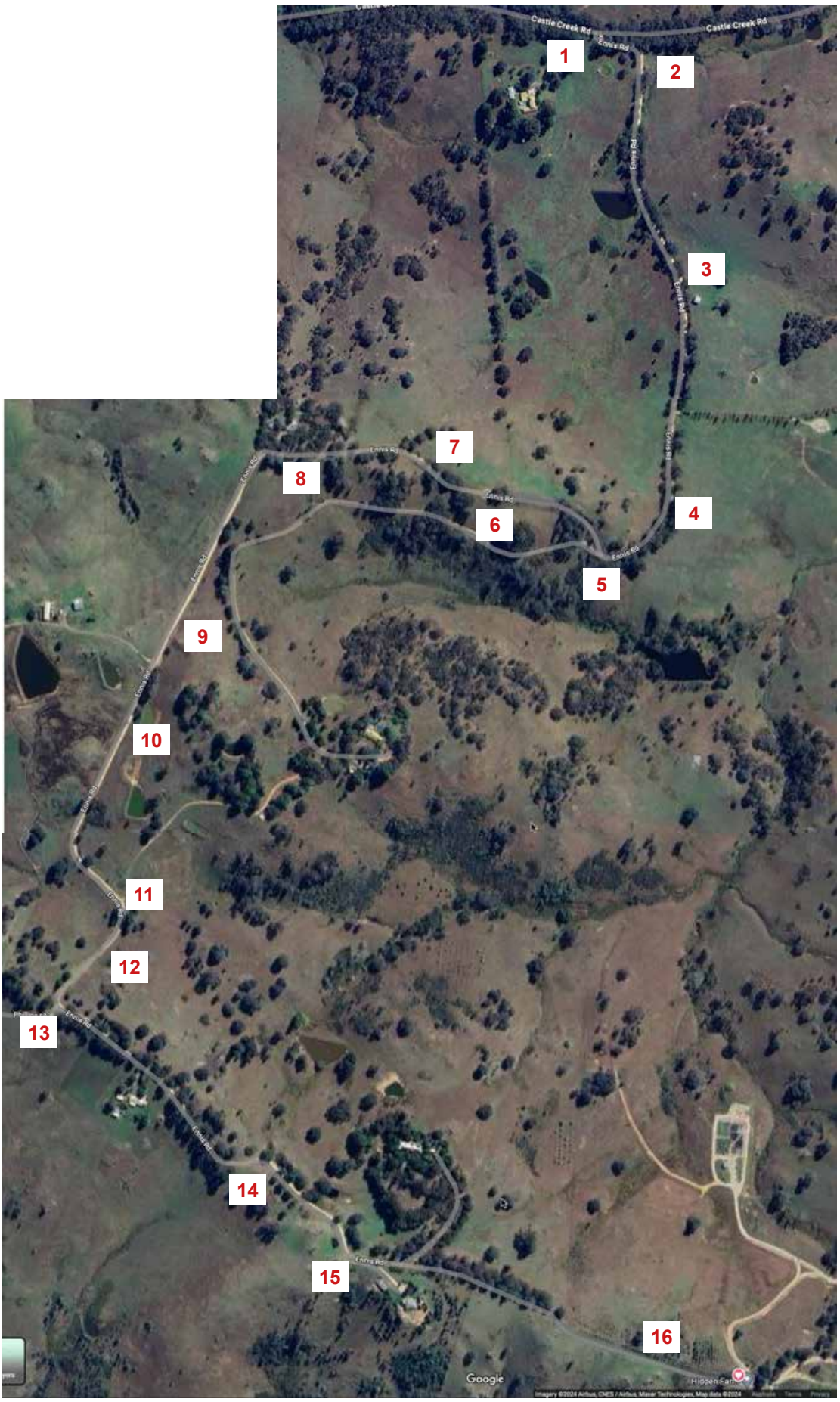
- Remove the gateway and Increase carriage width for primary product access (7.5m), especially at the apex of this hill to cater for oncoming and turning traffic.

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.


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Castle Creek Rd
Ennis Rd
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













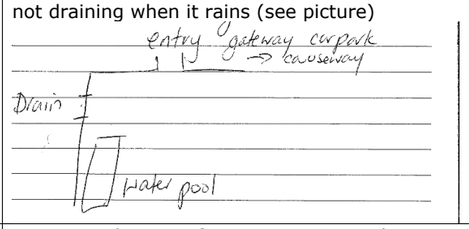


ADVOCACY

Submitters	Request	Officer response
1	Stop hospital advocacy, it's not going to happen and it's a waste of time and energy. Invest in something more productive	A purpose-built hospital is a priority project in the council's Advocacy Plan. Several reports outlining ongoing advocacy efforts have been presented to the council. The council recently hosted the regional health summit. **Ongoing advocacy**
1	Council is doing an excellent job with the hospital advocacy	
1	New hospital in Wodonga, and don't get rid of the old one	
1	Would like to see a caravan park on the causeway	The establishment of a new venture is subject to planning conditions on the Gateway Island site. **No action at this time**
1	We need a cinema	The council understands the community's desire for more entertainment options for all ages. A cinema would be a private enterprise and subject to market conditions. **No action at this time**
1	Better taxis	Public transport is a priority project in council's Advocacy Plan. **Ongoing advocacy**
1	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	
1	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	

INFRASTRUCTURE

Number of submissions	Request	Costings (subject to feasibility and costing assessment)	Funding options	Officer response
1	Upgrade Senior Citizens Centre to accommodate for growing population	$400,000 (next stage)	N/A	A feasibility has been undertaken on WSCC. The next phase to undertake is concept planning and detailed design. It is important this work is undertaken in timeframe when development is imminent, accordingly the timeframe is being explored. **Future project.**
2	Would be good to see a connecting footpath between Streets Rd and Baranduda. A shared, walking/cycle pathway for Leneva, from near Streets Road and Kitchington Estate, to be better connected with Baranduda and Wodonga.	Funded DCP	DCP funded - Future	The footpath will be funded as part of the Leneva Baranduda Contribution Plan and constructed at a future date. **Future project.**
1	Pedestrian signals needed where rail trail intersects Victoria Cross Pde. Trying to cross here with a family on weekends can take minutes.	N/A	VicRoads	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **Advocacy**
1	Invest in pedestrian crossing facilities at several points along Beechworth Road to improve walkability within Wodonga.	$300k each	Potential grant opportunity	Would need further investigation and planning. **Not a current priority.**
1	Segregated cycle infrastructure along Elgin Blvd, connecting the Rail Trail to House Creek.	$500k	DOT	Department of Transport have plans to conduct a trial of a separated cycle path along Elgin Boulevard. No action required until trial undertaken. **No action required.**
4	Second body of water at WAVES New 25m outdoor pool 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.	About $200k-400K in planning $5 million for construction	Sport and Recreation Victoria Indoor Stadium & Aquatics Facilities. Grants of up to $3 Million dollars. Regional Ratio 3:1	Feasibility, planning, design, and a cost benefit analysis works all need to be undertaken initially. Followed by community and user groups consultation to inform what the full scope of works. Detailed design and full quantity surveyor costing will be required for a funding application. A council contribution of about $2 million required. **Not currently budgeted.**
2	Traffic light request for Melrose Drive and Lawrence St. Change The Melrose Drive/Lawrence Street intersection to Traffic lights.	$2m to $5m	DOT	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**
1	Drainage improvement in Lawrence, Wigg, & Reid St area. We own 81 Wigg, Foodshare, after heavy rain flooding occurs regularly causing damage	N/A	N/A	Currently undertaking planning for a drainage review CBD area. This will inform future upgrades and improvement. **Awaiting review outcomes**
1	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.	$200,000	N/A	Council officers have investigated locations in West Wodonga previously with none found to be suitable. The area indicated on Felltimber Creek Road is private land and the other on Moorefield Park Road has no parking, water or other amenities and is located adjacent to a busy internal feeder road. Council is investigating potential sites for a second fenced dog park in new subdivisions in Baranduda or Leneva.

				Not currently budgeted.
1	Concerned about Streets Rd once connected. Greater monitoring, often motorists speeding. A safety issue.	N/A	N/A	Speeding and motorist behaviour should be reported to Wodonga Police. **No action required.**
3	More power outlets at Gateway Village, specifically where the market is held.	To be confirmed post investigation	Not budgeted	Requested previously by the Albury Wodonga farmers markets to allow additional stall holders to operate. Need to investigate if this is a viable option due to existing infrastructure restraints Upon Executive Leadership Team approval --> contractor to attend side and provide quote the Scope of Works for the installation of power outlets
1	Fix water drainage issue at Gateway Village, not draining when it rains (see picture) 	N/A	N/A	Small areas of water pooling are not a significant concern. **No action required.**
1	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	N/A	N/A	Department of Transport managed intersection which would require their investment and approval. **No action required.**
1	Mitchell St, Ebden. Seal the road with kerb and guttering.	$700,000	Not budgeted	A full reconstruction and upgrade including kerb and channel improvements and drainage is required which will include a significant amount of earthworks. **Not currently budgeted.**
1	Would be good to see a grandstand with shade for spectators at the tennis tournament.	Stage 2: $240,000 Stage 3: $6 million	Potential grant opportunity	An upgrade to the Wodonga Tennis Centre to be a multipurpose commercial and community complex is priority project in the council's Advocacy Plan. Signfiicant fundng is required. **Ongoing advocacy.**
1	Solar lights in underpasses of footpaths ie. Pearce St/Willow Park area	$20-30k	Community Safety Grants	Solar lighting for these underpasses has been costed. The council will look at future funding opportunities to undertake these works. **Awaiting funding.**
1	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	$150,000	Not budgeted	To be considered for a future capital or roads renewal budget allocation. **Not currently budgeted.**
1	Connecting pathways to Baranduda from Baranduda Range	N/A	DCP funded - Future	To be considered as part of the Leneva Baranduda Contribution Plan. **Future project.**
	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	$5m to $10m	Government partnership	**Not presently supported due to cost.**

	country, build more facilities 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			
1	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.	N/A	N/A	Under the Road Management Plan, considered an access road and traffic volumes do not warrant sealing. **No action required.**
1	House creek - there is a drainage pipe that backflows when there is heavy rains and House Creek floods, and Huon Creek can't clear. The pipe needs to be angled differently so that water can flow away.	N/A	N/A	Further investigation required. **Noted for future consideration.**
1	Better bike paths with safer access around Baranduda. Felltimber Rd crossing to connect to Victory Lutheran College	N/A Felltimber Pedestrian Crossing $200k	N/A	Wodonga has more than 80km of bike and walking paths across the city with a network of pathway loops. Specific issues including location details should be logged with customer service or through consultations for consideration. Pathways will be constructed as part of the Leneva-Baranduda Precinct Structure Planning works. A Felltimber Creek Rd crossing will be investigated further. **Investigation required. Not currently budgeted.**
1	Pump track in Baranduda	$250,000	Sport and Recreation Victoria	Pump track located in West Wodonga supports current need. **Not supported.**
4	Splash park Like Bright Not all families can afford waves or have pools.	Estimated $1m to $2m	N/A	Wodonga has a splash park at the WAVES facility and water play at Junction Square. **No action required.**
	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	N/A	N/A	Wodonga has a splash park at the WAVES facility and water play at Junction Square. Hyphen offers a way to beat the heat with Storytime and a children's area. A range of playgroups also operate in the city for young families. **No action required.**

	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.			
1	Bike path from fire station on Wodonga/Yack Road through to Boyes Rd - something not on road	N/A	N/A	At this stage this path connection would not be considered a priority. There is alternate path network throughout Baranduda that link to Boyes Road. This would require approval from VicRoads and involve potentially significant vegetation removal that would also require further investigations, approvals, and offset planting. **Not currently budgeted.**
1	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.	$120,000		Current playground budgets allocations are for renewal projects and high-risk replacement. There is no allocation for new playgrounds. **Not currently budgeted.**
1	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.	N/A	N/A	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**
1	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 roadside parking and a footpath along the full length. (note CSR #301935)	N/A	N/A	Speeding and motorist behaviour should be reported to Wodonga Police. Upgrade of Brewer Drive not part of future capital works. **No action required.**
1	Create a bike path along Baranduda Boulevard from Baranduda to Wodonga.	N/A	DCP funded	The footpath will be funded as part of the Leneva Baranduda Contribution Plan and constructed at a future date. **Future project.**
1	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.	$40,000	Council funded	To be considered as part of priorities for new footpaths. **$50k general allocation budgeted for new footpaths**
	Upgrade Melrose drive to Quadruple Carriageway	N/A	N/A	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**
	Upgrade/ install shared walking cycle paths to CBD from satellite developments	N/A	N/A	Wodonga has more than 80km of bike and walking paths across the city with a network of pathway loops. Specific issues including location details should be logged with customer service or through consultations for consideration. **No action required.**
	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	$150,000	N/A	The Wodonga Public Toilet Strategy would support due to the proximity to the nearest public amenities. However, this is not presently in the long-term capital works program. **Not currently budgeted**

	Stop vehicles exiting & turning right into Moorefield Park Drive from the APCO service station to improve traffic safety before an accident.	N/A	N/A	Centre median has been installed at this site and no further action is supported. **No action required.**
	Some outdoor public basketball courts, basketball is a huge part of our community there are plenty of parks where the courts could be built.	N/A	N/A	There are several of half-court basketball courts located in reserves throughout Wodonga. With two new ones recently being installed in Kinchington reserve Leneva. These can be located via the interactive map on our website at this link: Wodonga Council — Parks, gardens and playgrounds **No action required.**
2	Please budget for the Killara estate whites road intersection Second entry	$700,000	Developer	Responsibility of developer as part of the Riverside development and part of planning permit. **Not supported for council funding**
	Provide Safe Paths to all Bus stops in Baranduda	N/A	N/A	Specific issues including location details should be logged with customer service or through consultations for consideration. More site-specific information needed. **No action required.**
	More bins along walking tracks and dog poo bags. Build another off-lead dog park in Wodonga west.	N/A	N/A	Requests for additional bins and dog poop dispensers' bags can be logged with customer focus for consideration. Council officers have investigated locations in West Wodonga previously with none found to be suitable. Council is investigating potential sites for a second fenced dog park in new subdivisions in Baranduda or Leneva. **No action required.**
	Redo Melrose Dr pot holes every winter that continually need to be repaired. Turning lane from Yarralumba Dr hill to Jevington Dr as dangerous	N/A	N/A	VicRoads managed road and maintenance is their responsibility. **No action required.**
	Upgrade beechworth road between Vic Cross parade and leneva	N/A	N/A	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**
	Lighting along running trails - willow park, along house creek	N/A	N/A	Willow Park and House Creek paths have solar lighting. If these are not working, please report to customer focus for further investigation. **No action required.**
	Get rid of the under-utilised table tennis tables at Junction Square & replace them with a Half Basketball court. Great for all ages!	N/A	N/A	Due to proximity to high traffic areas (car, pedestrian, and bike), a basketball court is not deemed appropriate at this location. **No action required.**
	Install traffic lights at all school crossings. Implement a 50kmh speed limit within all urban areas.	N/A	N/A	Review into school crossings is being conducted with speed limits reviewed as required. **Awaiting review outcomes.**
	Yaralumba Melrose drive roundabout is well over due for an upgrade with turning lanes in each direction.	N/A	N/A	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**

	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	$2M	Not budgeted	Investigation and planning required to determine requirements. Not a priority in long-term works program. **Not currently budgeted.**
	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.	N/A	N/A	Road designs meet the standards set out in the Road Management Plan. Further information required for specific issues. **No action required.**
	Innisfree Dr is in need of repair. There is significant rain damage which is undermining the bitumen	N/A	N/A	Roads are inspected annually to determine reseal and rehabilitation program with priorities determined by the intervention points has laid out in the Road Management Plan. This not currently listed for reseal but will be monitored. **No action required.**
	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.	N/A	N/A	Shade is provided through the umbrellas and greenery at Junction Square. There are no plans for further works at this site. **No action required.**
	More bike paths around Baranduda	N/A	N/A	Wodonga has more than 80km of bike and walking paths across the city with a network of pathway loops. Specific issues including location details should be logged with customer service or through consultations for consideration. Pathways will be constructed as part of the Leneva-Baranduda PSP. More site-specific information needed. **No action required.**
	More bike trails and jumps. A public treehouse. Another oval with soccer nets. Fishing dam. All at Baranduda	N/A	N/A	Baranduda Fields is due to open on June 30, 2024, and will have soccer goals available for use. A public treehouse and fishing dam is not currently planned. **No action required.**
	Zipline and more swings at Baranduda. A big tunnel in the air with stairs all the way up	N/A	N/A	Imaginative ideas but not presently part of the long-term works program. **No action required.**
	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?	N/A	N/A	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**
	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	N/A	N/A	Footpath inspections are undertaken on a regular basis. Specific issues with footpaths including location details should be logged with customer service to be addressed as part of ongoing maintenance works. More site-specific information needed. **No action required.**
	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.	N/A	N/A	Review into school crossings is being conducted with speed limits reviewed as required. **Awaiting review outcomes.**
	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?	N/A	N/A	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**

	Beechworth road from the nursery out of town desperately needs adjustments for the increase of traffic including turning lanes and room for cyclists.	N/A	N/A	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**
	You could have a go at resealing Warwick rd to a decent standard this time.	N/A	N/A	Issues raised regarding this road have been discussed with residents. Resealing was inspected and was completed at an acceptable standard as per Road Mangement Plan. **No action required.**
	Traffic lights at dangerous roads instead of roundabout. That will save lives	N/A	N/A	Roundabouts are designed to make intersections safer and more efficient for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Studies have shown that roundabouts are safer than traditional stop sign or signal-controlled intersections reducing the likelihood and severity of collisions greatly by reducing traffic speeds and minimising T-bone and head-on collisions. **No action required.**
	New curb and guttering Lawrence St where pine trees where removed also new cement footpath and tennis fence	$700,000	Council	Project included in future works programs. **Awaiting budget**
	A better indoor swimming pool, on one level. More showers & toilets.	N/A	N/A	The council is currently undertaking redevelopment works on the Wodonga Sport and Leisure Centre aquatics changerooms. These works will include improved amenities and new family disability change spaces. No further aquatics works are planned. **Not currently budgeted.**
	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.	$2m per roundabout	Not budgeted	Further investigations would be required. Not in long-term works program. **Not currently budgeted.**
	Lights at all school crossings. Introduce 50kph speed limit on all urban roads within the city boundaries. Keep it simple.	N/A	N/A	Review into school crossings is being conducted with speed limits reviewed as required. **Awaiting review outcomes.**
	Fix the worst roundabout in wodonga... melrose and Melbourne road Get rid of the roundabout on Melrose Dr/Melbourne Rd and put in traffic lights, to much traffic now and very dangerous	N/A	N/A	This is a VicRoads managed road and would require state investment. **No action required.**
	Shade covers on playgrounds! Please	N/A	N/A	Council has installed five new shade structures in playgrounds this budget year and will continue to implement as budgets allows. **No action required.**
	Repair cycle/walking path between barandudah and wodonga, especially at the bridge.	N/A	N/A	Footpath inspections are undertaken on a regular basis. Specific issues with footpaths including location details should be logged with customer service to be addressed as part of ongoing maintenance works. More site-specific information needed. **No action required.**

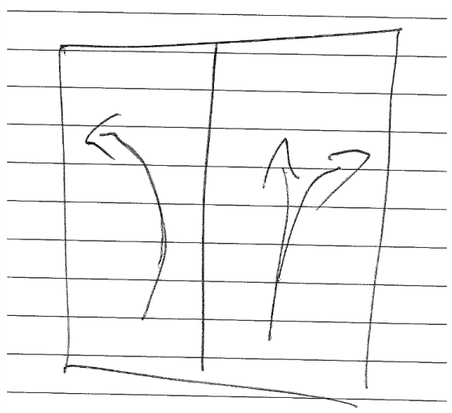
	I live on Memorial drive Wodonga which is a busy street and we do not have a footpath on either side of the street. I have 2 young children and a dog and go on daily walks: which requires a pram. The speed and frequency of the traffic on the street makes it dangerous and there are also alot of parked 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.	N/A	N/A	Not included in future works program. Native vegetation would either need to be removed or offset and the footpath would also have very little clearance to the roadway. **Not currently budgeted.**
	More parking at the Wodonga Station.	N/A	N/A	This location is the responsibility of the Department of Transport. **No action required.**
	Will John Schubert playground get an upgrade soon? It's in real need, it's pretty average.	N/A	N/A	Council is current updating the Play Space Strategy which will help set the playground renewal schedule for the next 10 years. **Awaiting strategy priorities.**
	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,…	N/A	N/A	Bandiana Link Rd is a VicRoads managed road. Pearce St traffic volumes to not necessitate dual lanes. **No action required.**
	Curb and guttering fixed Snowdon street.	N/A	N/A	Project included in future works programs. **Awaiting budget.**
	Toilets at the Kiewa river at Killara.	$150,000	N/A	Would require further exploration and discussions with NECMA considering flooding issues in area and is unlikely to be supported. **Not currently budgeted.**
	Build more kindergartens	N/A	N/A	There is a current body of work under way by the council reviewing the availability of kindergarten places in Wodonga to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the infrastructure (and staffing) needs to support the state government kindergarten programs (15hr/week for 3 year olds and 30hr/week for 4 year olds) in the coming decade. **Awaiting review outcomes.**
	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	N/A	N/A	The Elgin Boulevard roundabout is suitable for the conditions. Roundabouts work to signal to motorists to slow down and take caution and not rush through. Changing designs potentially increases motorists' speed through the roundabout and increases the chance for serious injury. The site lines for Huon Creek Rd and Elgin are suitable for the conditions.

	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). 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.			Beechworth Rd is a VicRoads managed road. **No action required.**
	The Wodonga Aquatic Users would like to see council budget for the following in the 24-25 budget 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 (See council meeting report, May 15, 2023)	About $200k-400K in planning $5 million for construction	Sport and Recreation Victoria Indoor Stadium & Aquatics Facilities. Grants of up to $3 Million dollars. Regional Ratio 3:1	Feasibility, planning, design, and a cost benefit analysis works all need to be undertaken initially. Followed by community and user groups consultation to inform what the full scope of works. Detailed design and full quantity surveyor costing will be required for a funding application. A council contribution of about $2 million required. **Not currently budgeted.**
	More shade at WAVES complex There is currently inadequate shade at the site for recreation swimming, club swimming and water polo events and a lot of volunteer time is spent erecting temporary shade structures for events	N/A	N/A	Five additional shade sails were installed at WAVES in 2017. The facility currently has fives shades sails over the splash park, two over the main entry area and pathway, two over the seating and barbecues and a further six in and around the grassed areas on both sides of the pool. **Not currently budgeted.**
	More storage at WAVES	$40k to $8k	This request is being considered under the Community Funding Requests Program.	The council acknowledges storage at this location is at maximum capacity but additional works are not part of the current program. **Not currently budgeted.**
	Ennis Road completely sealed	N/A	N/A	Roads are inspected annually to determine reseal and rehabilitation program with priorities determined by the intervention points has laid out in the Road Management Plan. Low traffic volumes do not warrant sealing. **No action required.**
	Should also get rid of the bricked up roundabouts near Elgins and Aldi can't see cars coming round till the last second	N/A	N/A	The Elgin Boulevard roundabout is suitable for the conditions. Roundabouts work to signal to motorists to slow down and take caution and not rush through. Changing designs potentially increases motorists' speed through the roundabout and increases the chance for serious injury.

				No action required.
	I would like the Wodonga Ring Road project to be reconsidered. In particular the Havelock Street Extension project.	N/A	N/A	Significant cost and not a priority for future works program. **Not currently budgeted.**

OPERATIONAL

Number of submissions	Request	Costings (subject to feasibility and costing assessment)	Funding options	Officer response
1	We should have free camping sites in Wodonga.	N/A	Not budgeted	Ludlows Reserve at Ebden offers 24-hour camping for caravans and motorhomes only, no tents or camper trailers. **No action required.**
1	More signage encouraging cyclists to warn pedestrians when passing. Promote bike etiquette.	N/A	Not budgeted	The council undertakes regular community messaging about shared path safety and etiquette. Wodonga has more than 80km of bike and walking paths and a signage rollout would be a significant cost. **Not currently budgeted.**
1	Allocate minimum 10% of entire transport budget to active travel, to match the 2033 10% mode share target established in the twin city ITS	N/A	Not budgeted	The Albury Wodonga Move Strategy has not been adopted by Wodonga Council. **Not currently budgeted.**
1	Continue the tree planting program including deciduous/European trees to show the colours of the NE autumn.	Is currently in renewal budget	Budget allocation	Will continue to deliver tree planting program in streets and reserves based on budget allocations. **Included in budget.**
1	More shade sails for playgrounds	N/A	N/A	Council has installed five new shade structures in playgrounds this budget year and will continue to implement as budgets allows. **No action required.**
1	Clean up the Lincoln causeway median strip.	Operating budget	Operating budget	Lincoln Causeway is a VicRoads managed road and is regularly maintained in partnership with VicRoads. **Included in budget.**
1	Earlier opening hours for hyphen would be greatly appreciated by people with tiny humans!	N/A	N/A	Hyphen is presently open seven days per week, offering a total of 50 hours per week. While we appreciate the desire to extend hours, we hope by being open a mixture of weekdays and weekends and to 6pm we can offer a service that cater for diverse community needs. **No action required.**
2	Partnering with AUSTSWIM to train more swim teachers! The waitlists are 18 months long due to not enough teachers.	N/A	N/A	Programs are run by the council's aquatics contractor which is responsible for the recruitment of swim teachers. **No action required.**
1	Wodonga must attract a cinema Entertainment complex. Albury CBD is thriving, compared to Wodonga. We should also have blood bank in Wodonga.	N/A	N/A	These are considered private developments or based on market demand and conditions. The council continues to work with prospective investors. **No action required.**
1	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.	N/A	N/A	Council has a dedicated Business Engagement Officer, and the council provides information and support through the business concierge, business forums, newsletters and the development of an economic development strategy to work with business and industry. **No action required.**

	If businesses fail, people become unemployed, commercial buildings vacant and leave many other socio-economic damages behind.			
1	Concerned Gateway Village is losing historical value. Doesn't look like a customs house anymore. Refer to Cameron McNamara report, shouldn't be called Gateway Village.			Sections of the former Customs House are protected under the heritage overlay. Plaques commemorating the site are in the process of being reinstated to recognise this historical marker. Gateway Village is presently the subject of a master planning process that is open to community consultation. **No action required.**
1	Improved services at Kinchington/Leneva. More facilities and venues.	N/A	N/A	The Leneva Baranduda Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) serves as a blueprint for the area's future urban development. This comprehensive plan lays out the locations for essential facilities like shops, schools, community centres, sports facilities (including Baranduda Fields), and parks. However, the construction of these amenities hinges on the population growth within the area. Currently, development around Kinchington Road is primarily residential, with parks and playgrounds serving as the main community facilities. **No action required.**
1	Chaple St-Thomas Mitchell roundabout, please put a pictorial sign up early showing which lane to be in. Heading south 	N/A	Funded through normal operating budgets	Will investigate and determined if required in line with Road Management Plan and legislative road signs. **Under investigation.**
1	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.	N/A	N/A	Fridays on my Mind will not be returning due to a reduced events budget. Council is currently designing the calendar of events for 2024-2025 which will continue to host events at Junction Square. **Included in budget**
1	Showcase and restore natural areas with native species	N/A	Funded through normal operating budgets	This is part of the council's native vegetation planting program. **Included in budget**
1	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.	N/A	Requires one off funding for system changes and configuration. Requires on	Considered but with budget constraints and resources unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future. Additionally, there have been very few requests for this. Therefore, needs to be prioritised in that context.

			going funding for fees from banks or recovery of those fees for rate payers opting into such an arrangement.	**No action required.**
1	Cheaper rates Upgrading of the parks is good Streets are good, council are straight on top of potholes	N/A	N/A	Feedback noted. **No action required.**
1	Melbourne Rd parking needs to be fixed; council have been saying they will but never have (near McRae)	N/A	N/A	Currently being investigated. **Under investigation.**
1	Extend the shade over bubblers in reserves so they are not scolding hot on hot days. Put tap on the bubblers to fill water bottles	N/A	Potential to fund in park furniture renewal budget	Will investigate to determine how many and cost. **Under investigation.**
1	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.	N/A	Funded through normal operating budgets	Will investigate and place on schedule if council owned and managed. **Under investigation.**
1	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...	N/A	Not funded	Albury Wodonga has one visitor information centre located at the Albury Library Museum. Not in the budget to support a centre in Wodonga **Not currently budgeted.**
1	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 Russian roulette - and trees obstruct vision crossing over from adjoining streets	N/A	N/A	Department of Transport project and initiative. They will undertake a review to inform if bike lane should remain. **No action required.**
1	How does council support small business? What support and programs are available.	N/A	N/A	Council supports small business through the business concierge one stop shop for business enquiries, business assistance information through the monthly business newsletter and the facilitation of other government assistance through industry groups. **No action required.**
1	More outdoor stuff for kids to get them out and about. More basketball courts at parks for bigger kids. Love WAVES	N/A	N/A	There are several of half-court basketball courts located in reserves throughout Wodonga. Two new playground including basketball and netball facilities have been installed in Kinchington reserve Leneva. These can be located via the interactive map on our website at this link: Wodonga Council — Parks, gardens and playgrounds **No action required.**
1	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	N/A	N/A	Wodonga Council has two booklets available on our website Wodonga Council — Walking and cycling tracks which outline the various locations and ways to enjoy the outdoor spaves in Wodonga. The **Wodonga Pathways booklet** is a convenient pocket-size booklet and is waterproof. It provides details on key pathway loops within the city of Wodonga. The **Active Living booklet** is another brochure that shows you the many opportunities where you can stay active in our community. It also contains handy

				tips and advice on how to maintain motivation so that people of all fitness levels can be physically and mentally healthy. **No action required.**
1	Outlets/distractions for young teens. Support them to exert energy in positive ways.	N/A	N/A	Windbreak 3690 has not long opened in the CBA, with a focus on activities for young people. A number of parks now feature equipment and play pieces aimed at young people, not just small children, with the idea of providing opportunities for physical activity and play. There has also been works undertaken to improve cycling facilities across the city, facilitating opportunities for people of all ages. **No action required.**
1	More shade at Junction. We bring participants over and it's a great space but really hot	N/A	Potential to fund in park furniture renewal budget	Will investigate to determine how many needed where and how and cost. **Under investigation.**
1	More all day parking in the CBD - we're moving cars every 2 hours	N/A	N/A	Previous studies have shown that parking availability is currently suitable and there is plenty of all day parking available. **No action required.**
1	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.	N/A	Funded through normal operating budgets	Request submitted for tree crew to inspect and prune as required (CSR 307469). **Submitted**
1	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.	N/A	Funded through normal operating budgets	Request submitted for crews to attend. (CSR 306195) **Submitted**
1	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	N/A	N/A	Street furniture is built to Australia standards. Routine inspections will highlight any concerns or maintenance requirements. Noted that benches and tables are for people not animals. **No action required.**
1	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.	N/A	N/A	Disabled parking is available in surrounding area, width of road makes it challenging to identify further locations. **No action required.**
2	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	N/A	N/A	Council's event attraction program continues to attract major events to the city throughout the year. Council will continue to support a calendar of events with a diverse activities for all of community. All events will be promoted through council's website and social media channels. **Included in budget.**

	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.			
	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	N/A	N/A	Pathway network include CBD linkages. Site specific information needed for further review. Construction of the CBD Bike hub is now under way. **No action required.**
	Better lighting on walking/bike paths and cameras so that all members of community feel safer walking at dusk and dawn	N/A	Potential grant opportunities	Wodonga Council, with financial support from the state governments Living Local Regional Grants Fund, has recently installed solar lighting into nine underpasses across the greenbelt allowing for safer connectivity across the city for cyclists and walkers. These nine plus two additional underpasses that are being completed in April are major links to schools, shopping centres, community centres and parklands. The solar lighting is activated by movement through the tunnels and operates from dusk to dawn. Many of Wodonga pathways have been fitted with solar lighting and we continue to look for future opportunities. **Awaiting further funding.**
	Fund City2City moving forward so that it can continue	N/A	N/A	The council has no plans to take over this event. It is not included in current budgets. **Not in current budget**
	Change annual Animal registration fees to a one off fee. Only annual for breeders.	N/A	N/A	Animal registration is a state legislated process which mandates an annual fee. **No action required.**
	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.	N/A	N/A	Hyphen is presently open seven days per week, offering a total of 50 hours per week. While we appreciate the desire to extend hours, we hope by being open a mixture of weekdays and weekends and to 6pm we can offer a service that cater for diverse community needs. **No action required.**
	Make all Bus stops wheelchair accessible.	N/A	N/A	While many of the bus stops in Wodonga are wheelchair accessible, an audit of bus stops has been undertaken and further work will be assessed/prioritised with the Wodonga Access Advisory Group. **Under investigation.**
	Adopt and action a Dementia Friendly Community plan	N/A	N/A	Aged friendly planning, including a dementia friendly agenda, is best incorporated into council's next Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan. Additionally, council has recently hosted Dementia Australia training to build capacity within the community. **Not currently budgeted.**
	Curb side house numbering is used daily by many services providing support to the community. The numbers need repainting, many are faded.	N/A	N/A	Kerbside numbering is not a council provided service and is not part of operational budgeted. **Not currently budgeted.**

	I'd like to see a commitment to support initiatives needed by our business community - including programs delivered by Business Wodonga.			Support and collaboration with Business Wodonga is conducted on a project-by-project basis. There were no specific business initiatives identified in the consultation to develop the draft Economic Development Strategy. **No action required.**
	more family friendly activities in town.	N/A	N/A	The council is currently designing the calendar of events for 2024-2025 which will continue to host events at Junction Square. Hyphen and The Cube Wodonga offer a range of programs for all ages. **Included in budgets.**
	Free kindergarten for all children	N/A	N/A	The Victorian state government funds kindergarten for all 3 and 4 year old children (15 hrs for each age group). Wodonga Council sessional kindergartens are free. Families accessing kindergarten programs in long day care services may have associated LDC fees (the kinder component is funded). **No action required.**
	No more petrol stations we have more then enough	N/A	N/A	This is a private market decision based on analysis and demand. **No action required.**
	Free sports for kids	N/A	N/A	Kids Active vouchers (up to $200) are available from the Victorian and NSW state government annually KIDs voucher program | Get Active Victoria **No action required**
	Some wonderful gum trees are too close to homes. Maybe a check and some removal. Love our park lands we are SO fortunate	N/A	Inspection funded through operating budgets, if removal approved would need to be costed as offset planting would be required	Many native gums are protected by native vegetation legislation which requires strict criteria and exemptions to remove. More site-specific information needed to assess individual trees. **No action required.**
	Removal of pedestrian crossings near roundabouts would be great	N/A	N/A	Pedestrian crossings are placed to attract the maximum number of pedestrians who would otherwise cross the street at random. They are often located near roundabouts and intersection to increase safety and give drivers enough time to stop safely. Drivers aren't required to give way to pedestrians when leaving a roundabout, unless there's a pedestrian crossing or zebra crossing. **No action required.**
	Free desexing for animals.	N/A	N/A	The council does not provide this service but has previously sourced funding to help low-income households desex their pets. **Not currently budgeted.**
	More support to non profit animal rescues	N/A	N/A	There are no registered animal rescue organisations in Wodonga. **No action required.**
	A reduction in rates and council spending that pushes up rates. We are some of the highest rates in Australia!	N/A	N/A	Points considered as part of development of draft budget 2024-2025. Decisions on any rate rise will be part of the presentation of the draft budget in May. Based on 2023-2024 budget data, Wodonga Council sits about 20th in Victoria on total rates and charges per assessment.

				No action required.
	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.	N/A	N/A	The council undertakes a range of consultation annually and aims to ensure activities are accessible to all. For major and site-specific consultations, pop-ups are planned to engage the community where they are at and away from the council offices. These are often spread across the city on differing days and at various times. For master planning opportunities, the council often has pop-ups on site to inform, answer questions and hear from the community and users on proposal. **No action required.**
	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.	N/A	N/A	Points considered as part of development of draft budget 2024-2025. Decisions on any rate rise will be part of the presentation of the draft budget in May. The pedestrian lights at the Wodonga Hospital were installed following extensive consultation with agreement to the final location. **No action required.**
	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!	N/A	N/A	The council holds no enforcement powers regarding waste management options in private shopping centres. Feedback could be directed to centre managers for consideration. **No action required.**
	The council needs to stop spending and pay down debt. Look at Ararat Council. Debt free.	N/A	N/A	Points considered as part of development of draft budget 2024-2025. Debt servicing is a part of the budget each year. **No action required.**
	I'd like to see an upgrade to Birrallee shopping Centre, the entrance is drab, cafe uninviting. The Centre feels scary at night.	N/A	N/A	The shopping centre is privately owned and any feedback should be directed to the centre managers. **No action required.**
	We need an updated youth strategy, the on created back in 2015 is extremely outdated since it was created pre-pandemic.	N/A	N/A	Key agendas for youth will look to be incorporated in the next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan due for renewal in 2024-2025. **Not currently budgeted.**
2	-LGBTIQA+ support(s) and ALLY-ship from all councillors. To see diversity on the agenda, rather than swept under the carpet.	N/A	N/A	Feedback noted. Council will continue its work in executing the *Gender Equality Action Plan*, Rainbow Roadmap, and facilitate cross-organisational capacity through training. **No action required.**

	Provide dog poo bags with animal registration.	N/A	N/A	The council provides bags in dispensers along trails and in parks. Providing with notices would come at a considerable cost in postage and packaging. **No action required.**
	Continue to upgrade playgrounds	N/A	N/A	Council allocates a playground renewal budget for these works annually. **Included in budget**
	Get out of the entertainment business. Council is not responsible for that and employs too many staff there, save some money.	N/A	N/A	Cultural services such as libraries, galleries and performing arts centres contribute to the liveability of our city and make it attractive to new businesses and residents, further enhancing the local economy. These venues host a range of community programs along with our community centres and council-run and sponsored events. **No action required.**
	Hard waste collection - once a quarter	N/A	N/A	Council ceased this service would require a review and council decision to recontinue. **Not currently budgeted.**
2	Hard waste collection - once a year	N/A	N/A	Council ceased this service would require a review and council decision to recontinue. **Not currently budgeted.**
2	Hard waste collection – twice a year	N/A	N/A	Council ceased this service would require a review and council decision to recontinue. **Not currently budgeted.**
4	Hard waste collection days no extra charge	N/A	N/A	Council ceased this service would require a review and council decision to recontinue. **Not currently budgeted.**
	Should have a free pick up for things like oil,batteries etc. Tip vouchers for renters.	N/A	N/A	Oil and batteries can be dropped off at the Resource Recovery Centre for free. There is also a battery receptacle at the council offices for household batteries. Vouchers are posted to every rateable residential property owner. Tenants should negotiate with their landlords to obtain vouchers. **No action required.**
	Departments are accountable for costs. No new borrowings and pay down debt. External auditing on council finances.	N/A	N/A	Points considered as part of development of draft budget 2024-2025. Debt servicing is included in the annual budgets. The council's financial statements are audited by external auditors and presented to the Victorian Auditor General's Office each year. **No action required.**
	Eftpos machines on buses would be so much easier!	N/A	N/A	Buses are run by a private company under arrangement with Public Transport Victoria. **No action required.**

	And more green bags as most people use 1 per day and they run out fast!	N/A	N/A	A large roll of green bags is delivered each April and small rolls are available from the offices free of charge. Caddies can also be lined with paper towel or newspaper or empty the organic material straight into the green bin. **No action required.**
	Stop closing down streets building single lane roads we once had double roads everywhere free flowing	N/A	N/A	Urban areas with high volumes of pedestrian traffic are more suited to single lane carriageways which slow traffic and provide a safer shared environment. Arterial roads can be built with the option of widening in the future where traffic volumes warrant the costs of additional carriageways. **No action required.**
	40km zones at ALL crossings ALL DAY.	N/A	N/A	Review into school crossings is being conducted with speed limits reviewed as required. **Awaiting review outcomes.**
	We need red light speed cameras.	N/A	N/A	Speed cameras are the purview of Victoria Police and the Victorian Government. **No action required.**
	Realistic prices for the waste transfer station.	N/A	N/A	Council has benched marked against similar councils and are more than cost competitive based on processing and handling charges and cost that council must pay to dispose of, recycle and or reuse. **Fees and charges are included in the budget development.**
	Better community consultation with regards to new developments and retail space, namely no more servos and bottle shops.	N/A	N/A	The council can't control the applications from the private market which it receives. It is required to assess and determine every application as per the requirements of the Wodonga Planning Scheme. In Victoria, the Planning and Environment Act sets the general planning rules, while local planning schemes provides the specifics. In combination, the Act and the Planning Scheme set out those applications that require public notice and those that are exempt. For applications placed on notice, the council will write to residents and owners living nearby and place a sign on site. For larger projects, council might advertise more widely and place an ad in the local newspaper. All applications undergoing public notice are listed on the council's website, allowing you to view details of the proposal. **No action required.**
	Surveillance cameras in known dumping zones just out of town. It's pretty ordinary…	N/A	N/A	The council can and does use video surveillance devices for the purpose of deterring and detecting crime and property damage. This use must be in accordance with council's *Electronic Surveillance Technologies Policy* and procedures. Members of the public may request council use surveillance devices and these requests will be assessed on their merits. **Included in operational budgets.**
	Something for kids to do from ages 10 to 16, Laser tag, putt putt, swimming pool with water slides	N/A	N/A	We have WAVES which includes a large splash park. We have two pump tracks, two skatepark and several half-court basketball courts. For more detail on our free accessible facilities see our **Active Living booklet.** Wodonga Council — Walking and cycling tracks or Wodonga Council — Skate park and pump track Some ideas rely on private investment undertaking such activities within the city.

				No action required.
	Able to go to the tip for free, especially with green waste.	N/A	N/A	The council has to have green waste processed at a cost to council. **Fees and charges are included in the budget development.**
	Maybe another tourist attraction such as Silo art on the water tower.	N/A	N/A	Following artist consultation it has been determined that the material that the Wodonga Water Tower is coated in makes it very difficult to paint due to its rough nature and paint would simply peel off. The cost to recoat or prepare the surface to allow for murals is cost prohibitive. **No action required.**
	Removal Gum tree in Conway Court it's dangerous	N/A	Inspection funded through operating budgets, if removal approved would need to be costed as offset planting would be required	Many native gums are protected by native vegetation legislation which requires strict criteria and exemptions to remove. Site-specific information required to assess and can be lodged with customer service. **No action required.**
	Don’t plant trees on nature strips that clearly block vision of oncoming traffic!	N/A	N/A	Trees are planted in accordance with sight distance rules and regulations. Site-specific issues should be lodged with customer service. **No action required.**
	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 ruine	N/A	Funded through normal operating budgets	Graffiti has certainly increased and we continue to clean it up on a regular basis. This also needs to be reported to police where possible as it is destruction of a public asset. **Included in operating budgets.**
	Tree branches overhanging footpaths trimmed and gum trees assessed and trimmed when dangerous and close to power lines.	N/A	Funded through normal operating budgets	Powerlines are cleared annually in accordance with legislative requirements. Site-specific issues should be lodged with customer service. **No action required.**
	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.	N/A	Potential to fund in park furniture renewal budget	Will investigate to determine how many needed where and how and cost. **Under investigation.**
	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.	N/A	N/A	Issues to be raised with the landlord being the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. **No action required.**
	Charge us less and bigger bins. Fix pot holes.	N/A	N/A	Site-specific issues should be lodged with customer service. Residents can submit a request for a review of bin size. **No action required.**
	Standard house blocks not that crap in white box and lots of them to lower the price.	N/A	N/A	Development is subject to private market conditions and demand. Diveristy in housing stock offers different price points for different sectors of the market. **No action required.**
	smaller paid councils , public voting forums	N/A	N/A	The council size and make-up is set by the state government. Residents are encouraged to participate in community consultation activities throughout the year to have their say and share feedback on the future of the city.

				No action required.
	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!	N/A	N/A	Animal registrations pays for a variety of animal management services in the city including complaint investigation, responding to wandering animals, management of dangerous and restricted breeds and monitoring of animal businesses. A shared pound with four other councils to provide a regional service is best practice. There are economies of scale that could otherwise not be realised. Good rehoming rates are currently being provided. **No action required.**
2	Reopen the Wodonga pound.	N/A	N/A	A shared pound with four other councils to provide a regional service is best practice. There are economies of scale that could otherwise not be realised. Good rehoming rates are currently being provided. **Not currently budgeted.**
	Extended operating hours of WAVES through to late Autumn, through winter and into spring as a short-term solution to address lane space availability while awaiting further development of WAVES and WSLC	N/A	N/A	WSLC facility is open all year round and Albury Swim Centre is moving to all season round from 2024-25. Waves and WSLC members can use this facility under their joint membership arrangement. **No action required.**
2	A reduction in rates and council spending that pushes up rates.	N/A	N/A	Points considered as part of development of draft budget 2024-2025. Decisions on any rate rise will be part of the presentation of the draft budget in May. **No action required.**
	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?	N/A	N/A	Councils continues to deliver its event attraction program, attracting a variety of diverse events each year. We will continue to work with music promoters to bring events like Red Hot Summer back to the region. **Included in operational budgets.**
	Fix the road conditions	N/A	N/A	Roads in the council area include VicRoads managed roads as well as council-managed roads. The council maintains its roads in line with the Road Management Plan. Site specific issues should be lodged with customer service. **Included in operational budgets.**
	Get someone with a clue so the council isnt bankrupt. Otherwise in 5 years we will be broke like federation council. Cut the councillors	N/A	N/A	Points considered as part of development of draft budget 2024-2025. The council has recently undertaken an independent Financial Sustainability Review to assist in its long-term financial planning. **Included in operational budgets.**
	You guys really need to focus on roads quality.	N/A	N/A	Roads in the council area include VicRoads managed roads as well as council-managed roads. The council maintains its roads in line with the Road Management Plan. Site specific issues should be lodged with customer service. **Included in operational budgets.**
	I don’t see wattle trees. I understood that gum trees need wattles close by, some interaction of roots & fungus.	N/A	N/A	Each site is planted based on soil conditions. **No action required.**

5.2 Community Funding Requests: 2024-2025 Budget

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek the council's determination on the applications submitted through the 2024-2025 Community Funding Request Program.

SUMMARY

At the meeting on May 15, 2023, Council resolved to consolidate all community grant funding into one annual process, aligned with the budget submission process, effective January 2024, while simultaneously establishing an overarching governance framework. A policy and guidelines were subsequently adopted at the December 11, 2023, council meeting.

The community was invited to engage in the annual budgetary process through the community funding program aimed at ensuring the efficient and effective utilisation of council funds for the community's benefit and aligned with Counci's strategic objectives.

The 2024-2025 Community Funding Request Program received 24 applications, evaluated by a staff panel. The panel recommends a total amount of $96,885, and the council's determination is now sought.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee adopts for inclusion in the proposed Draft Budget 2024/25 the recommendations of the assessment panel for the awarding of Community Funding Requests, as follows:

Applicant	Project name	Amount
Regional Disability Advocacy Service Ltd	All-Abilities Dance Party 2024	$5,000
Wodonga & District Historical Society Inc.	Operational costs to maintain collection	$5,000
Astha Group	Nepali Culture Class	$2,000
Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare	Feed Our Kids - Community Pantry Vouchers	$5,000
Gateway Health Limited	PLAY (Positivity, Leadership and Activated Youth)	$9,485
Flying Fruit Fly Circus	Borderville Festival	$20,000
Wodonga Heart Football Club	Storage Shed for Willow Park Community Groups	$15,000
Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau	Multicultural Exercise Program for Seniors	$3,200
Wodonga City Swimming Club	Wodonga Aquatic Users Storage	$20,000
Murray Conservatorium	Sonic and Soul	$9,200
Wodonga Congolese Cultural School Inc.	Wodonga Congolese Cultural School equipment	$3,000
		$96,885

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Funding Requests Panel Recommendations March 2024 [**5.2.1** - 7 pages]

OPTIONS

1. Approve all the Community Funding Request recommendations as detailed in the attached report. **Recommended**
2. Decline and/or amend the Community Funding Request recommendations as detailed in the attached report. **Not recommended**

DISCUSSION

Scope

The community was invited to engage in the annual budgetary process through two distinct channels both aimed at ensuring the efficient and effective utilisation of council funds for the community's benefit:

1. Community Feedback and Suggestions: Community members were encouraged to contribute insights and feedback to shape the council's budget. This engagement could involve expressing support for existing council services, identifying areas requiring attention or repair, or proposing innovative initiatives.
2. Community Funding Requests: Eligible community groups and non-profit organisations could submit funding requests for specific projects aligned with the community's needs and aspirations, as delineated in the Wodonga Council Plan.

This report is specifically intended to address the second type of engagement: Community Funding Requests.

Background

On May 15th, 2023, the council approved a motion to consolidate all Community Grant Funding and Memorandums of Understanding into an annual process integrated with the budget build, effective January 2024, while simultaneously establishing an overarching governance framework. Subsequently, on December 11th, 2023, the Council endorsed the draft Community Funding Request Policy and Community Funding Request Guidelines following a 21-day public exhibition period.

The council's annual budget build is developed within a comprehensive planning framework, adhering to short-term and long-term community objectives outlined in the Community Vision and Council Plan. Historically, funding requests have been integrated into the budget build process through a structured program of grant opportunities throughout the year.

This year a structured annual framework was introduced aligning financial requests with the annual budget process, still requiring identified community needs and are systematically assessed against established criteria.

This framework, in accordance with recommendations from the Victorian Auditor-General's Office on Fraud Control over Local Government Grants, includes the following measures:

- Establishing an overarching policy;
- Preventing and managing risks;
- Publicly advertising funding opportunities;
- Identifying conflicts of interest;
- Assessing applications against pre-defined criteria;
- Documenting funding decisions;
- Distributing funding fairly;
- Transparently communicating outcomes;
- Applying acquittal processes; and
- Evaluating overall benefits.

The Community Funding Request Program

The Community Funding Request Program is designed to receive funding requests from eligible groups and organisations. The funding centres on supporting projects aligned with the strategic objectives of the council, contributing to community engagement, health and well-being, environmental sustainability, and the economic prosperity of Wodonga.

The program categorises projects into three groups based on scale:

1. Small-Scale Community Projects (Up to $5,000)
2. Medium-Scale Community Projects ($5,000 to $50,000)
3. Large-Scale Community Projects ($50,000 and above)

The 2024-2025 Community Funding Request Program

The 2024 funding round was open from February 5 to March 4, and received 24 submissions. Applicants, guided by program requirements, sought advice from dedicated council officers, who were distinct from the final assessment panel, (as recommended by VAGO).

The submissions breakdown included one large-scale, 16 medium-scale, and 7 small-scale applications.

Assessment criteria

The applications were evaluated based on the following criteria:

Strategic Alignment (25%):

- Alignment with key priorities in the Wodonga Council Plan.
- Contribution to the community's vision.
- Integration of community priorities and needs into the project's design.

Impact and Benefits (25%):

- Assessment of the project's social, cultural, economic, or environmental impact.
- Examination of the project's significance and reach within the community.

Community Engagement and Participation (25%):

- Evaluation of the extent of community engagement and involvement.
- Assessment of community participation and ownership in project planning and execution.
- Examination of methods used to gather community input, feedback, and support.

Capability, Feasibility, and Viability (25%):

- Review of the applicant's available resources, skills, and infrastructure.
- Examination of the applicant's track record in completing similar projects.
- Evaluation of the applicant's relevant skills and prior experience.

Assessment Process

The assessment panel, consisting of six officers with expertise in relevant areas, independently reviewed applications based on the established criteria and the outcomes form part of this report.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- *Victorian Local Government Act 2020* Part 2 Div 1 Section 8, 9, 10 & 11; Part 5 Div 1 Section 106(2); Part 6 Div 1, Section 123, Div 2, Section 127, 128, 129 & 130;
- *Victorian Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* Supplement the Local Government Act 2020 and include provisions related to governance, integrity, and fiscal management;
- *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* Part 3 Division 3 Section 24;
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* Part 2 Div 2 Section 23, 24, 27, 28; Div 2A Section 31 & 32;
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* Part 2 Section 9 & 12; Part 4 Div 4 Section 44,45,46, Div 5 Section 57 & 58, Div 6 Section 65;
- *Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020* Part 2 Section 7; and
- *The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Ordinary Council Meeting - May 15, 2023

The evaluation of the Community Grants Program was presented with additional information requested during the previous meeting.

The Council resolved that:

- *Council consolidates all community grant funding and Memorandums of Understanding into one annual process, aligned with the budget submission process, effective January 2024.*

- *Current Memorandums of Understanding and Community Partnership agreements will continue until the end of each agreement.*

- *A further report will be presented to the Council, outlining a governance framework for the granting of community funds through the annual budget process.*

Ordinary Council Meeting - October 4, 2023

The Council resolved:

That the draft Community Funding Request Policy and Draft Community Funding Request Guidelines be exhibited for community feedback for 21 days with a report on the feedback and a finalised policy presented to the December 11, 2023, council meeting.

Ordinary Council Meeting - December 11th, 2023

The Council resolved:

That the draft Community Funding Request Policy be endorsed, and the Community Impact Grant Policy be revoked.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial Risk
Poor Financial Management by Funding Recipients: Inadequate financial management by funded groups may result in the improper use or misallocation of funds.
Mitigation
Evaluate the budget, quotations, and organisational capacity as part of the assessment. Execute established acquittal processes and promote continuous communication between applicants and the designated council office, facilitating prompt intervention and corrective measures. (low)

Service Delivery (Community Focused) risk
Lack of Community Engagement: Projects may not sufficiently involve or address the community's needs, leading to diminished impact.
Mitigation
Implement established assessment criteria that evaluate impacts and measure them through the acquittal process. (low)

Reputational risk
Negative Public Perception: Funding or not funding projects that do not align with community expectations or values may result in an unfavourable public perception of the council.
Mitigation
Communicate transparently about project selection criteria and decisions. Clearly explain the reasons behind funding decisions to foster understanding and trust within the community, minimizing the risk of negative public perception. (medium)

Legal and Regulatory Compliance risk

Failure to adhere to the established governance structure and the legal advice sought prior to the development of the policy, which could result in legal consequences.

Mitigation

Aligned and defined governance structure, operational procedures, and policy guidance in place. (medium)

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

In the evaluation of funding applications, sustainability was a key consideration. Projects were endorsed when the panel determined their capacity to operate autonomously, minimising dependence on continuous council funding.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ COLLABORATION

A thorough community engagement process was undertaken for the program's development, involving two formal consultation rounds — before development and with the draft guidelines and policy.

The 2024 program was promoted through various council channels, including social media, CityLife, Active News, Business News EDMs, and a custom EDM.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Implementation of a robust governance framework and enhanced operational procedures underscores councils' commitment to continuous improvement.

Following the conclusion of this funding round, an internal evaluation will be conducted to evaluate our processes and identify potential areas for enhancement in preparation for the 2025-2026 round.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The panel recommends a total amount of $96,885. It is for council’s determination to assess whether this aligns with the broader financial context.

COUNCIL PLAN AND RELATED GOVERNMANT POLICIES

Strategic objective

Provide transparent governance and strong leadership, demonstrating excellence in the way we do business by being innovative and responsive.

Strategy

Undertake responsible financial management and budgeting to ensure financial sustainability.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Manager Finance, Brent Quill, disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to this item and was not involved in the preparation of this report.

There have been no conflict-of-interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Team Leader Community Planning and Development - Anthea Maher
Manager Community Development – Simone Hogg
Director Corporate - Dena Vlekkert

2024-2025 Community Funding Requests Panel Recommendations

Small Scale

Number of Small-Scale Applications: 7

Number of Small-scale projects Recommended: 4

Total amount requested: $33,257.50

Total amount recommended by panel: $17,000

Applicant	Project name	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Total project cost	Panel rec.	Amount Rec.	Panel rationale/comments
Mr. Perfect Incorporated	Mr. Perfect	Mr. Perfect provides an opportunity for local men to connect, chat, and enjoy a BBQ in a non-clinical setting. Operating in over 60 locations across Australia, for over 5 years, these events contribute to increased community cohesion and ultimately better mental health outcomes for men and their families. Funding is sought to support 12 BBQ events along with marketing and advertising efforts.	$5,000	$5,000	No	Nil	• Would benefit from demonstrating strategic alignment; • Further detail required to support the funding sought; • Council officers to explore potential program links with the council's monthly Community Wood-Fired Pizza Oven gatherings.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Panel rationale/comments**
Regional Disability Advocacy Service Ltd	All-Abilities Dance Party 2024	An all-inclusive dance party celebrating the achievements of individuals with disabilities, joined by their families and support networks. The primary objective is to acknowledge and promote community involvement, with a target of attracting 200 participants.	$5,000	$8,112.50	Yes	$5,000	• Project aligns strongly to Council's legislated Disability Action Plan; • Aligns with Council Plan strategic objective: *Advocate and role model diversity, equality and inclusion throughout the community;* • Presents a valuable opportunity for people with disabilities to engage, participate, and celebrate; • Demonstrated success in the previous year's event; • Organisation has good track record in fulfilling funding commitments and similar projects.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Panel rationale/comments**
Westmont Village Social Group Committee Inc.	People Places Memories	As part of the Victorian Senior's Festival, this initiative aims to provide lunch and entertainment for seniors and their families. The structured program focuses on reducing loneliness through social interaction, ensuring proper nutrition with a provided meal, and fostering positive interactions through musical entertainment. The overarching goal is to connect and engage the senior community, strengthen bonds, and promote a sense of value and inclusion and provide a meal to ensure that the participants receive proper nutrition to improve energy levels and overall health.	$4,500	$5,400	No	Nil	• Aimed at residents and resident families, the project showed some limitations in reaching broad community audience/inclusivity; • Documentation on the projects sustainability and long term benefits was found to be lacking; • Would benefit from additional clarification on specific nutritional needs addressed and how they align with community health priorities.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Panel rationale/comments**
Wodonga Historic Car Club Inc. **FOR** **St John's Ambulance.**	St John's Ambulance concrete pad	The Wodonga Historic Car Club Inc. is currently engaged in fundraising activities, including collaborative efforts such as working bees, to aid St John's Ambulance. The Wodonga Historic Car Club Inc. St John's open the doors to the W.H.C.C. to conduct their monthly meetings at no cost. The application for the funding of this initiative to help keep the facility fit for service is an extension of goodwill from one not-for-profit organisation to another.	$3,757.50	$4,357.50	No	Nil	• Acknowledge the commendable efforts of St John's Ambulance; however, the project doesn't closely align with program objectives and strengthened articulation of community outreach is required; • Details on alternative solutions or considerations for cost-effectiveness would add value to application; • Recommend exploring alternative funding sources, such as community fundraising.

2024-2025 Community Funding Requests Panel Recommendations

		The requested funds will be allocated for the preparation of essential formwork and the installation of a 6.5m x 6.0m concrete pad on-site at the St John's Ambulance Centre on Chapple Street, Wodonga. The primary goal of this pad is to establish a secure and weather-resistant parking space, ensuring the availability of a dedicated area for an additional ambulance in front of the St John's facility.					
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Panel rationale/comments**
Wodonga & District Historical Society Inc.	Operational costs to maintain collection	The Society plays a vital role in preserving Wodonga's history and heritage through archives, artifacts, exhibitions, and events, enhancing the cultural richness of the community. Funding is for cataloging the collection, ensuring accurate records for educational and research purposes, and promoting both in-person and online access. Ongoing efforts include digitising photographs and documents for broader accessibility.	$5,000	$5000	Yes	$5,000	• A unique initiative with no equivalent efforts from other local entities, contributing to the preservation of Wodonga's heritage; • Aligns with the objectives outlined in Wodonga Cultural Services plan, emphasising the preservation of Wodonga heritage through the proposed project; • Foreseen widespread community engagement resulting from the initiative; • Established strategic partnership with the council; • KPIs to be agreed to gauge project success and impact if funding awarded.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Panel rationale/comments**
Astha Group **Auspiced by Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council**	Nepali Culture Class	The proposed initiative seeks to cultivate Nepali culture within the local Wodonga refugee and migrant communities. Weekly Nepali classes, hosted at the Felltimber Community Centre and green spaces in Wodonga, will be customised for students spanning from Primary to year 12, as well as individuals at risk of cultural disconnection. This classes encompass various aspects, including language, numeracy, dance, stories, music, food, moral guidance, and traditions. The program brings about wide-ranging community benefits by fostering community cohesion, engaging youth, and fostering the cultural richness within municipality.	$5,000	$7,000	Partial	$2,000	• Supports the Council plan's strategic objectives focusing on advocating and role modelling diversity, equality, and inclusion throughout the community; • Aligns with the Cultural Services Plan's strategic objectives, emphasising the celebration and recognition of diversity as a community strength; • Well-demonstrated community need; • Well-planned initiative with potential for increased civic participation; • Demonstrates broad community benefit, extending engagement and benefits beyond the Nepali community; • Partial funding recommended due to some items in the proposed budget not meeting program eligibility.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare	Feed Our Kids - Community Pantry Vouchers	Feed Our Kids is an Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare program to provide food to schools to run their school breakfast programs. FoodShare seeks to improve health and social outcomes for people that are experiencing food insecurity due to financial hardship through providing food for school breakfast programs as well as Community Pantry vouchers for families unable to put food on the table.	$5,000	$5,000	Yes	$5,000	• Aligns with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan objective, *fostering improved access to safe and nutritious food options;* • Aligns with Youth Strategy action, *Support local organisations who work with marginalised or at risk young people;* • Displays cost-effectiveness by leveraging funding to acquire food supplies at a discounted rate, thereby extending its impact; • Aims to improve health and social outcomes for individuals experiencing food insecurity; • Provides a demonstration of established partnerships for effective project execution; Well demonstrated organisational capacity, skills and resources to deliver project.

2024-2025 Community Funding Requests Panel Recommendations

Medium Scale

Number of applications: 16

Number of applications recommended: 7

Total requested: $393,712

Total recommended: $79,885

Applicant	Project name	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Total project cost	Panel rec.	Amount Rec.	Rationale/comments Council Notation
Wodonga Urban Landcare Network	Habitat Havens for Wodonga's Wildlife	The intention of Habitat Havens is to inspire residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens. This project, coordinated by Gardens 4 Wildlife Albury-Wodonga (G4W), will be achieved through open gardens, stalls with native plant giveaways, social media posts and a competition to win a consultation with a habitat garden designer. Habitat gardens are important to protect native animal populations that have been decimated by widespread land clearing and urbanisation. Private landholders manage a large proportion of the land in the Wodonga municipality and play a big role in ensuring the city has healthy ecosystems and thriving biodiversity.	$18,805	$33,619	No	Nil	• Acknowledge the high quality of the application and recognise the commendable efforts of Urban Landcare; however, the panel did not recommend funding due to the budget primarily covering operational costs, specifically salaries; • Further articulation of strategic partnership proposal required for the development of the program.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments Council Notation**
Albury Wodonga Woodcrafters Inc.	Air conditioning to workshop extension	Installation of air conditioning to our new workshop extension. The completed extension has no natural ventilation or windows. Construction is of steel & Colourbond and the side wall is West facing. It is very hot in Summer and cold in Winter. It is used year-round.	$5,268	$6000	Decline	Nil	• Some items excluded from cost; incomplete project costing; • Further demonstration of product suitability is encouraged; • Additional evidence of broad community impact would aid application.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments Council Notation**
Gateway Health Limited	PLAY (Positivity, Leadership and Activated Youth)	The PLAY (Positivity, Leadership, and Activated Youth) program is an evidence-based initiative aimed at enhancing the resilience, physical health and mental well-being of primary school students. Facilitated by Resilient Youth Australia within the school setting, the evidence-based project focuses on reducing bullying, promoting student empowerment, and fostering a sense of belonging. This program provides comprehensive training to 30 students, enabling them to become program leaders. These leaders will then implement the program across the school, ensuring its sustainability. Funding will support the program be implemented in 3 primary schools who have confirmed their interest.	$12,716	$16,500	Partial	$9,485	• Introduces a new initiative where Gateway utilises schools as a delivery setting, note. it is not a school function or part of the curriculum; • Emphasises the project's focus on community wellbeing; • Highlights community engagement activities integral to program development, along with established partnerships; • Partial funding provided to cover eligible items in budget; • Aligns with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan objective, demonstrating robust *regional and local partnerships aimed at enhancing physical health and wellbeing*; • Corresponds with the Youth Strategy objective, *empowering, respecting, and valuing young people in Wodonga as integral community members;* • Aligns with the Council's Physical Activity strategy, emphasising physical activity as a key element in project delivery.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments Council Notation**
Flying Fruit Fly Circus	Borderville Festival	Three performances of an original circus work created by the Flying Fruit Fly Circus and exclusively performed in Wodonga as part of the 2024 Borderville Circus Festival program. In recent years, these performances have been delivered in partnership with City of Wodonga Christmas activations, and discussions are underway about the 2024 activation.	$20,000	$40,000	Yes	$20,000	• Aligns with the Albury Wodonga Destination Management Plan objective, contributing to the growth of visitor numbers with a specific emphasis on destination events; • Supports the Cultural Services Plan by providing a distinctive local arts experience within the municipality; • Essential for Wodonga's involvement in the cross-border festival, contingent on securing funding for this project (i.e., the festival will be held only in Albury if funding is not secured);

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		The outdoor shows will be staged at Gateway Village, featuring up to 40 young acrobats from the Flying Fruit Fly Circus and including aerial acts performed on a purpose-built aerial rig.					• Supports a grassroots organisation, providing a unique opportunity for local young people to engage in the arts; • An inclusive opportunity for the entire community to appreciate and engage in.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments Council Notation**
Wodonga Heart Football Club	Storage Shed for Willow Park Community Groups	Wodonga Heart Football Club (WHFC) is growing rapidly, drawing in an eager community for soccer. However, the lack of dedicated storage space hinders the club's ability to fully support and engage these players. This proposal seeks Wodonga Council's support for a secure storage shed at the rear of Willow Park club rooms, extending the existing Friends of Willow Park shed. The new shed would seamlessly match the park's aesthetics and include power and lighting, with a quote secured from the builder of the recently constructed Friends of Willow Park shed. Importantly, this project addresses a critical gap identified in Stage 1 of the Willow Park Implementation Plan.	$42,600	$48,600	Yes	$15,000	• Aligns with the objectives of the Willow Park masterplan 2022 revision, specifically addressing an identified site constraint through the provision of additional storage to service the sports pavilion; • Offers council benefits for events like carols and is logically sound; • Addresses a key priority identified in the Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy, which emphasises the need for increased storage; • Aligns with the Physical Activity Strategy, providing support to numerous sporting clubs; • Well-written application with comprehensive planning, including all quotes and letters of support from user groups; • Partial funding recommended due to the necessity for a higher co-contribution.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments Council Notation**
Albury Wodonga Water Ski Club Inc.	Replace unsafe water ski jump	Removal of the unsafe water ski jump to be replaced by a new long term ski jump. Planned Activities: • Engaging a supplier for the construction and delivery of the new jump, as well as the safe removal and disposal of the old one. • Ongoing preparations for events that attract participants from across the state, nation, and internationally. • Formal acknowledgment of the City of Wodonga, with invitations to attend a high-level event and completion of acquittal. • Continued operation on Gateway Lake with the new jump, maintaining a commitment to being an active, inclusive, and diverse sporting and recreation club for the local region.	$42,495	$42,495	No	Nil	• Proposal seeks significant funding and would benefit from additional evidence of broader community advantages beyond club members; • Potential limited economic gain from events, due to scale of events; • Consideration of a co-contribution from applicant would benefit application.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments Council Notation**
Centre Stage Scripts- Megan Rigoni	Professional Development for Local Writer Megan Rigoni and Screenplay Development for Days Like These	The aim of the project is to provide professional development for local writer Megan Rigoni, and to continue the development of her screenplay Days Like These to a 'release' stage when the script will be ready for potential producers, directors and distributors to read with a view to moving into production.	$21,000	$41,200	No	Nil	• Acknowledge project alignment with cultural outcomes, however, funding not recommended due to the allocation of salaries directly; • Further detail on demonstrated community reach would benefit application; • Applicant serves as the primary recipient.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments Council Notation**
Youth Albury Wodonga	Wodonga Youth Ambassador Program	The Wodonga Youth Ambassador Program is a 1 day per week (6 week) Youth program for two Year 5 students from each of the Wodonga Primary Schools (Public and Private). The sessions will be run out of the same venue each week e.g. and will cover topics such as: - Project management, public speaking,	$25,200	$25,200	No	Nil	• Consideration of co-contribution from applicant would benefit the application; • Additional detail on demonstration of wider community benefit would be advantageous.

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		fundraising, communication, mental health, values, leadership, diversity and lateral thinking.					
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments Council Notation**
Black Border Theatre	Black Border Theatre Program	Black Border Theatre is an all First Nations youth ensemble program designed to offer young mob living in our region the opportunity to explore pathways within the theatre space. The project aim is to run a year-long 4 term all First Nations youth Theatre Ensemble program. As part of our program, we have secured Nationally Renowned First Nations Playwright – Dylan Van Den Berg to work alongside the ensemble to create a new play aimed at Regionally based First Nations youth.	$23,240	$44,395	No	Nil	• Acknowledge project alignment with arts and cultural outcomes, however • Funding not recommended due to the allocation of salaries directly.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau	Multicultural Exercise Program for Seniors	Multicultural exercise program designed for community members aged 50 and over from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. It aims to provide a space for conversation, education, and support, with morning tea sessions after each exercise session to facilitate English language practice. Additionally, the program addresses transportation barriers by arranging transport through AWVRB.	$18,129	$53,129	Partial	$3,200	• Partial funding recommended to support eligible budget items; • Well established community need; • Open to all of community; • Aligns with council plan actions: *Advocate and role model diversity, equality, and inclusion throughout the community,* and *Improving Health and Wellbeing;* • Meets several objectives outlined in the Physical Activity Strategy; • Demonstrated organisational capability.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Wodonga City Swimming Club	Wodonga Aquatic Users Storage	The Wodonga City Swimming Club, Wodonga Amateur Swimming Club, Wodonga Water Polo Club, Ovens & Murray Swimming Association, and the Ovens & Murray Water Polo Association (Wodonga Aquatic Users) jointly seek storage space at Wodonga Aquatic Venue Exercise Space (WAVES). The proposal involves constructing a 4-bay (16m x 8m) storage shed in the southeast corner of the WAVES complex. Each Wodonga Aquatic User will have a dedicated 4m x 8m bay, with Wodonga Water Polo and Ovens & Murray Water Polo Association sharing one. Centralising equipment at WAVES is vital for volunteers, facilitating safe access to training, competitions, and travel to events. Currently, trailers are dispersed across private rural properties, hindering operational assistance. Renting a 6m x 3m space at Storage King for $450 per month is financially unsustainable. The storage facility addresses challenges faced by Wodonga Aquatic Users and their volunteer families, supporting the participation growth of the three clubs and their affiliates, totalling 1,846 participants. This transition from makeshift storage to a professional space enhances operational efficiency.	$20,000	$70,000	Yes	$20,000	• Multiple user engagement demonstrated; • Well-documented necessity for the storage shed; • Letters of support provided from all users; • Well-written application with clear comprehensive planning; • All current storage at the Waves facility is at maximum capacity with valuable equipment currently left out in publicly assessable areas which is at risk of vandalism or theft; • A lack of storage was identified by users and contractors in the 2017 draft Waves stage masterplan (not council endorsed); • Significant co-contribution.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Our Native Garden Nursery Inc.	Seeding the Future: a community-	Our Native Garden Nursery (ONG) is a community-run, local native nursery in Wodonga dedicated to	$48,436	$69,824	No	Nil	• Commend efforts of the organisation; • Not recommending funding due to salary allocation to the organisation;

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	based local native plant ID & seed collection program	propagating high-quality native plants for the local community. ONG actively promotes native plant revegetation and habitat revitalization in the Wodonga region, emphasising community education through volunteer training and public events. Now, ONG aims to establish a local provenance seed bank for bushland regeneration projects across Wodonga, contributing to a reliable native seed source for north-eastern Victoria. This grant application focuses on ONG's initial step, a community-led plant education and seed collection program. Over a 10-month period, ONG plans to conduct a native plant identification (ID) and seed collection initiative. Preceding this, coordination, location scoping, and volunteer training activities will take place, leading up to plant ID and collection during the spring and summer seasons of 2024-5. While a long-term project, this initiative brings people together to connect and learn about the significance of local native plants, fostering a sense of community responsibility for Wodonga's green spaces.					• No quotes provided for other items in the budget; • Council officers to work with applicant to explore alternative avenues for in-kind support.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Murray Conservatorium	Sonic and Soul	The project will provide youths between 13-17 years of age facing serious hardship an opportunity to participate in music making, working with Wodonga schools. The 20 week program will include learning to play an instrument/s, perform, write and record music. The participants will be provided with a safe space and the resources to engage to alleviate financial barriers. The program is free for all Participants.	$9,200	$21,728	Yes	$9,200	• Aligns with Cultural Services Plan and Council Plan objectives; • Aligns with Youth Strategy objectives; • Recognised organisational capacity.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Albury Wodonga Cycling Club Incorporated	Junior Development Program	As part of the AWCC Winter & Summer Criterium Series, Come and Try sessions will be made available for all age groups, with a special emphasis on juniors. These sessions, held at DECA in Barnawartha during winter and summer races, feature coaching by accredited AusCycling coaches and assistants. The program aims to support new riders, offering bike skills, group riding experience, and promoting physical activity. While the primary focus is on kids' safety and activity, participants of all ages and genders are welcome. The club has witnessed significant growth in kids and female participation over the past year, and it strives to share its experience with a broader audience.	$10,000	$12,500	No	Nil	• Acknowledge community benefit and encouragement of physical activity, however, • Application would benefit from demonstration of return on investment, particularly concerning the entirety of funding allocated for six bikes.
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Wodonga Congolese Cultural School Inc.	Wodonga Congolese Cultural School equipment	The Wodonga Congolese Cultural School aims to offer cultural experiences to the African and broader community in Albury and Wodonga. The project provides teaching and learning opportunities to students from migrant and refugee backgrounds, fostering an appreciation for their own cultures and facilitating understanding of diverse values. The community-based school supports students in their settlement process, encouraging connections and information sharing in a safe setting. Open to all of community, the school emphasises teaching Swahili and French as a means of inclusion. The project's goal	$27,123	$27,123	partial	$3000	• Aligns with the council's strategic objectives, supporting an inclusive community that values cultural enrichment; • Well-demonstrated need and evidence of community participation; • The program exhibits significant community benefit; • The applicant has a proven track record of delivering on funding commitments; • Recommend partial funding for eligible budget items, other items involve setting up various amenities.

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		is to acquire equipment to enhance the school's effectiveness and provide a conducive learning environment for students.					
Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Dads Group	Supporting Families in the Early Years - Dads Group	The "Supporting Families in the Early Years - Dads Group" is a transformative initiative aimed at directly engaging fathers and families during the crucial early years of development. Leveraging the success of similar programs in seven regions, it aligns with Wodonga's health priorities. The program includes various activities such as facilitated community groups, educational sessions, and mental health support for fathers and mothers. By integrating this initiative into Wodonga's community services, the goal is to build stronger, healthier families and foster a more vibrant, resilient community.	$49,500	$59,500	No	Nil	• Acknowledge the merit of the project with well-documented potential benefits; however, it may be more appropriate to explore this as a state funding opportunity; • Suggest exploring the integration of this model into existing service provisions; • Note that the project is primarily oriented towards driect funding of salaries.

Large Scale

Number of Applications: 1

Number of Application Panel Recommended: 0

Total amount requested: $260,000

Total amount Recommended by panel: nil

Applicant	**Project name**	**Project Summary**	**Amount Requested**	**Total project cost**	**Panel rec.**	**Amount Rec.**	**Rationale/comments**
Victoria State Emergency Services	Co-location Project	This Co-location Project will enable VicSES staff to become more accessible to volunteer members by co-locating at the same premises. The project is VicSES commitment to our Wodonga community to provide more support in our dedication to the safety of all Victorians, to provide timely and effective emergency services whilst building community preparedness and resilience, to foster volunteerism and recognise the invaluable contributions of our dedicated members. Funding is for security improvements including Carpark Gate/fence, carpark lighting, carpark CCTV and Asphalting.	$260,000	$260,000	No	Nil	While the panel acknowledges the commendable work of the SES for the community, a project of this financial scope would necessitate more detailed planning and stronger evidence of alignment with council strategic priorities, specifically, how the project will support the council in addressing community needs and endorsed objectives.

Summary

Total number of applications: 24

Total recommended (both fully and partially): 11

Total requested: $686,969.50

Total recommended: $96,885

6 Confidential business

There is no confidential business.

7 Close of meeting

7.1 Chairperson to close the meeting

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance and Budget Delegated Committee: 1pm on Monday, May 13, 2024.