



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING

**TO BE HELD IN KERNOT HALL, MORWELL AND VIA
AUDIO-VISUAL LINK
AT 6:00 PM ON
12 MAY 2025
CM618**

Please note:

Opinions expressed or statements made by participants are the opinions or statements of those individuals and do not imply any form of endorsement by Council.

By attending a Council Meeting via audio-visual link those present will be recorded or their image captured. When participating in the meeting, consent is automatically given for those participating to be recorded and have images captured.

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1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting here today on the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and I pay respect to their elders past and present.

If there are other Elders present I would also like to acknowledge them.

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Proposed Resolution:

That Council confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 April 2025.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors may raise any formal acknowledgements that need to be made at this time, including congratulatory or condolences.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Public Questions on Notice

In Accordance with the Governance Rules, members of the public can lodge a question on notice before 12noon on the Friday before the day of the Council meeting in order for the question to be answered at the meeting.

Public Speakers

An opportunity for members of the public to speak to an item on the agenda will be made available by necessary means. To participate, members of the public must have registered before 12noon on the day of the Council meeting.

STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

7. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 7.1

12 May 2025

Organisational Performance

DRAFT COMMUNITY VISION AND COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION

PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval to release for community comment the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 prepared in accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Plan). This enables Council to meet its obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the objectives of Council's Community Engagement Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Latrobe City Council to develop, maintain, and review a 10-year Community Vision and 4-year Council Plan with its community every 4 years (refer Sections 88 & 90).
- The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires Council to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan within the period of 12 months after each general election of the Council. This will be integrated into the Council Plan (refer Sections 26 & 27).
- To date, a range of community engagement activities have been completed, including a survey, pop-ups and a community panel. Councillor development sessions have also been held and an internal workshop was facilitated with officers.
- A draft Council Plan 2025-29 document has now been prepared for a 28-day public exhibition process from 13 May 2025 to 9 June 2025.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- endorses the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 at Attachment 1 to be released for community feedback;**
- gives notice that the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 will be made available for review at Council Headquarters, Service Centres and on Council's website; and**
- invites written submissions from the public to be received by no later than 5pm 9 June 2025.**

BACKGROUND

Legislation

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Latrobe City Council develop, maintain, and review a 10-year Community Vision and 4-year Council Plan with its community every 4 years (refer Sections 88 & 90).

The Community Vision is a long-term, aspirational direction for the municipality, shaped by community input. It serves as a foundation for Council's strategic planning and decision making. The vision was developed by the Community Workshop participants.

The Council Plan is our four-year roadmap of how we will work towards achieving our Community's Vision.

Integration of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)

Latrobe City Council will integrate its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) with the Council Plan to improve community health over the next four years and meet obligations under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

Integrating the MPHWP within the Council Plan is one way to ensure a health and wellbeing lens is applied to all Council activities. It also ensures that the key health and wellbeing issues affecting Latrobe City community are identified and prioritised.

Timeline

The below table outlines the key activities in relation to the development of the draft Council Plan:

Activity	Timeline
Promotion of Community Engagement	January 2025 Complete
Community Engagement Stage 1 (Listen) Council Plan Community Survey (6 January 2025 to 5 February 2025) 3 Pop Up Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Traralgon (Traralgon Centre Plaza)Morwell (Mid Valley)Moe (Moe Library)	January-February 2025 Complete

Activity	Timeline
Community Engagement Stage 2 (Deliberate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 in-person workshops with Community Panel Workshop 1 – Monday 10 February 2025 Workshop 2 – Monday 17 February 2025	February 2025 Complete
Councillor Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review outcomes from Community Engagement Parts 1 & 2, opportunity for Councillor discussion and feedback 	March 2025 Complete
Development of Draft Council Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Council Plan document 	March-April 2025 Complete
Councillor Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Council Plan presented to Councillors for development and feedback before publication and public exhibition (12 May Council Meeting to endorse exhibition) 	May 2025 Complete
Community Panel Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft will be presented to the Community Panel to discuss how the draft Council Plan has addressed community feedback 	May 2025
Community Engagement Stage 3 (Document) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review by community of draft Community Vision and Council Plan through public exhibition process Consideration of feedback by Councillors 	May-June 2025
Council Adoption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of final Community Vision and Council Plan by Council (at 30 June Council Meeting) 	June 2025
Council Plan Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to be graphically designed after adoption 	July 2025

ANALYSIS

Community Vision

The Community Workshop participants developed the following renewed Community Vision for Latrobe City.

In 2036, Latrobe City is a vibrant, thriving, healthy, connected and welcoming regional community where everyone feels safe and involved.

Our local businesses prosper, create diverse job opportunities, foster a highly skilled workforce and draw significant investment. Latrobe City is a hub of growth, learning, opportunity, and innovation.

We have stunning natural surroundings and outstanding creative, educational, recreational and cultural opportunities that underpin exceptional wellbeing and renowned visitor experiences.

Council Plan

The draft Council Plan 2025-29 contains 3 high level strategic directions:

- Our Economy – Investment, Jobs, Growth;
- Our City – Liveable, Sustainable, Connected; and
- Our Community – Healthy, Inclusive, Safe.

Each of the strategic directions contain a range of key objectives that are made up of deliverable strategies and indicators that can be monitored to track the impact of the delivery of the Council Plan.

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Sections within the Council Plan address the requirements that would otherwise be met through a standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, outlining where Council will focus its health and wellbeing efforts. The health and wellbeing priority areas identified are:

- Public Safety;
- Family Violence;
- Housing and Homelessness;
- Social Connection; and
- Alcohol, Drugs and Gambling.

Direct links between the MPHWP priorities and the Council Plan strategic directions are marked throughout the document with an asterisk, along with principles for embedding these priorities across Council's work generally.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Failure to release draft Plan for public exhibition.	Medium <i>Possible x Minor</i>	Release for public exhibition in order to meet Plan adoption deadline of 30 October 2025 (LG Act legislation).
COMPLIANCE Failure to receive exemption under the Public Health Act 2008 to integrate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Council Plan prior to adoption.	Medium <i>Possible x Minor</i>	The Council Plan has been drafted in consideration of the requirements specified in sections 26 and 27 of the Public Health Act 2008. The submission will include an outline of how the requirements have been addressed in the document.
STRATEGIC Failure to release draft Plan for public exhibition.	Medium <i>Possible x Minor</i>	Release for public exhibition in order to meet Plan adoption by 30 June 2025 (Council timeline).
COMPLIANCE Failure to release draft Plan for public exhibition.	Medium <i>Possible x Minor</i>	Release for public exhibition in order to meet Plan adoption deadline of 30 October 2025 (LG Act legislation).

CONSULTATION

The community were consulted through an online survey, 3 pop-ups and a Community Workshop program that involved 21 participants who were chosen based on reflecting the gender, age and location mix of Latrobe City's community.

Further input was gathered from 160 people to identify specific health and wellbeing priorities representing the following communities:

- Aboriginal Elders;
- Positive Ageing Community Engagement Group;
- Disability Access and Inclusion Community Engagement Group;
- Social Inclusion Action Group; and
- Children and young people.

Development and feedback sessions were held with Councillors and one workshop was held with staff.

COMMUNICATION

The public exhibition process will be communicated to the public through the Have Your Say platform and standard communication channels.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* is required as the Council Plan 2025-29 will have a significant and direct impact on the community. The GIA is currently in draft form and a review is being undertaken by GenderWorks. The GIA will be completed prior to the endorsement of the Council Plan 2025-29.

In addition, it is a requirement of section 26(6A) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 that Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans specify measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence.

Social

Preparation of the Council Plan and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan considered the social impact of the outlined objectives and priorities. A representative from Community Health and Wellbeing has been included in the Project Working Group.

Cultural

Consultation was held with different groups representative of the Latrobe community including its cultural diversity

Health

The Council Plan and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan examined data about health status and addressed factors that drive health outcomes in the community was required for this project. A representative from Community Health and Wellbeing has been included in the Project Working Group.

Environmental

Sustainability and environmental impacts were considered throughout the development of this project through various levels of community and Councillor engagement. It is a requirement of section 17 of the Climate Action Act 2017 that Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans have regard to climate change.

Economic

The economy is a strategic direction which informs key objectives and initiatives in the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Economic impacts were considered throughout the development of this project through various levels of community and Councillor engagement.

Financial

The allocation of resources to prepare the Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-29 was managed within existing budgets.

Attachments

1. Draft Council Plan 2025-29

7.1

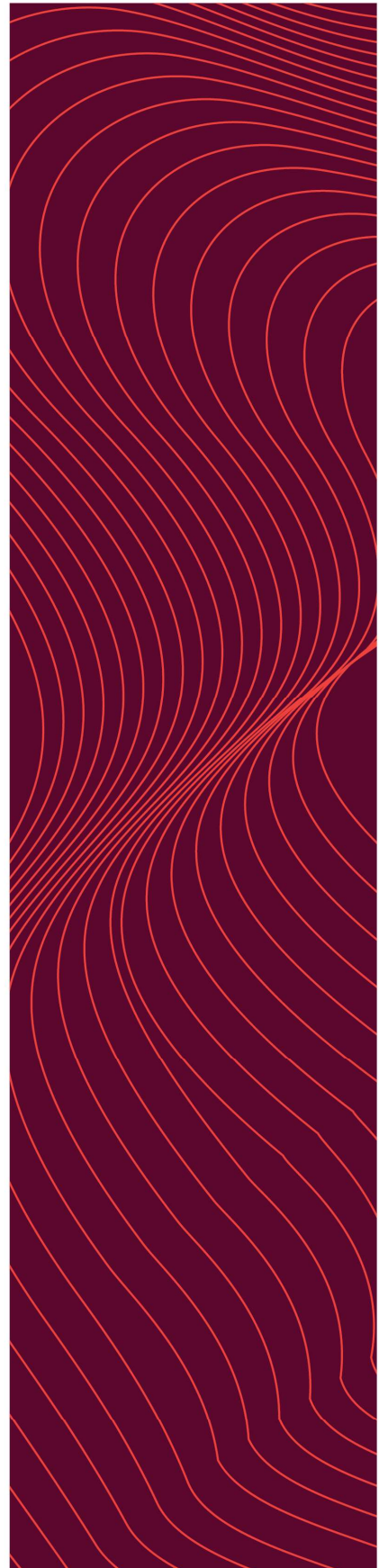
Draft Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-29 - Public Exhibition

1	Draft Council Plan 2025-29	13
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Council Plan 2025-2029

Including Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29



Latrobe City acknowledges that it operates on the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

Introduction

The Latrobe City Council Plan sets out our vision, priorities, and strategies for the next four years, shaping the future of our region. It guides decision making, resource allocation, and service delivery to meet the needs of our community.

Our Community Vision

In 2036, Latrobe City is a vibrant, thriving, healthy, connected and welcoming regional community where everyone feels safe and involved.

Our local businesses prosper, create diverse job opportunities, foster a highly skilled workforce and draw significant investment. Latrobe City is a hub of growth, learning, opportunity, and innovation.

We have stunning natural surroundings and outstanding creative, educational, recreational and cultural opportunities that underpin exceptional wellbeing and renowned visitor experiences.

Our Council Plan

The Council Plan, reflecting our Community Vision, centres around the following strategic directions:

- **Our Economy – Investment, Jobs, Growth**
- **Our City – Liveable, Sustainable, Connected**
- **Our Community – Healthy, Inclusive, Safe**

supported by

- **Our Organisation – Leadership, Collaboration, Capability**

Plan Development

To develop the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) we have involved the community in a variety of ways to explore themes residents valued most, including:

Community Engagement

Community input was collected through:

An online survey – the survey identified that respondents

- rated assets and infrastructure, the local economy and community wellbeing as being the most important
- liked several characteristics about living in Latrobe City – with its location in Victoria and the access to family and friends rating the highest, closely followed by our natural environment and parks & gardens

Community pop-ups held in Traralgon, Morwell and Moe with –feedback received on the following themes:

- Economic Development & Business Support
- Urban Development & Planning
- Safety & Crime
- Infrastructure & Transport
- Environment & Community Activities
- Council Performance
- Community Wellbeing

A Community Workshop program that involved 21 participants reflecting the gender, age and location mix of Latrobe City's community. The workshop reviewed and renewed the Community Vision.

Further input was gathered from representatives of different communities to identify specific health and wellbeing priorities. The priorities that emerged from these consultations were:

- Public Safety
- Family Violence
- Social Connection
- Housing & Homelessness
- Alcohol, Drugs & Gambling

Councillor Engagement

Councillors analysed the community feedback to identify a range of areas they want to see addressed through the Council Plan, these included:

- Economic Development & Business Support
- Infrastructure & Public Facilities
- Employment, Training & Education
- Public Safety
- Civic Involvement
- Tourism
- Health & Social Services
- Environment & Sustainability

Plan Integration

For the first time, Latrobe City Council will integrate its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) with the Council Plan. The intention of our MPHWP is outline our strategies to improve Latrobe's health and wellbeing over the next four years

Integrating the MPHWP within the Council Plan is one way to ensure a health and wellbeing perspective is applied to all Council activities. It also ensures key health and wellbeing issues affecting Latrobe City community are identified and prioritised and Council works in partnership with Department of Health and other agencies to achieve the health and wellbeing goals outlined in this plan.

While Latrobe City is unique in many ways, we know that some of the barriers to good health and wellbeing faced by our community are also present for people across the state. The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (VPHWP) provides an important framework from which to base our priorities. All but two of the VPHWP priorities are specifically identified in the Council Plan (improving sexual and reproductive health and decreasing antimicrobial resistance across human and animal health).

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1**Our Economy – Investment, Jobs, Growth**

We are committed to working with our community and key stakeholders to grow our local economy to provide a wide range of job opportunities, economic diversification, and attract investment.

How does our economy relate to health and wellbeing?

Our municipalities' prosperity, employment and education opportunities all impact health and wellbeing. For example, there is a connection between income levels and psychological distress, with 16% of people who earn \$100,000 or more reporting high or very high psychological distress compared with 37% of people who earn under \$40,000 a year.

Key Objective 1 - Investment

Actively pursue investment in emerging industries and industries that diversify our local economy to create jobs and increase economic growth.

- Develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy
- Deliver infrastructure that will support new industry and businesses to establish, grow and create new jobs in Latrobe City
- Continue to support the development of Advanced Air Mobility at the Latrobe City Regional Airport

Key Objective 2 - Workforce*

Partner with businesses, schools and training providers to support workforce strategies that meet industry needs, support young people, and enable workers to pursue new opportunities

- Support the development of our education and training institutions, promoting skill development within our local workforce and to address the skills required for the region.

Key Objective 3 - Local Business*

Support the growth and development of our local businesses, through programs that support businesses to diversify and expand, create jobs and strengthen our economy.

- Develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy
- Promote small business and local enterprise
- Reduce or simplify the fees, charges and associated regulatory costs to establish and undertake business in Latrobe City

Key Objective 4 - Visitor Economy*

Capitalise on the City's tourism strengths to drive economic outcomes.

- Implement the Latrobe City Events and Visitor Economy Strategy
- Attract and promote region leading events that activate our major facilities (e.g. GPAC, GRAC, GSEP, GRISS, LRG)
- Promote and activate the Latrobe Regional Gallery including displaying the gallery's own collection
- Promote our local tourism industry and tourist attractions (e.g. Old Gipps town)
- Develop and implement Place Brand Strategy

Key Objective 5 – Regional Identity

Promote Latrobe City as a Regional City with a focus on work, investment, visitation, and liveability.

- Promote our role as Gippsland's Regional City
- Develop and implement Place Brand Strategy

Council Plan Indicators

- Latrobe City's Gross Domestic Product
- Latrobe City's Workforce Participation
- Latrobe City's Business Registrations
- Vacancy rates of retail/commercial premises

*Health and Wellbeing Indicators**

- Increase in employment
- Increase in educational attainment

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2**Our City – Liveable, Sustainable, Connected**

We are committed to working with our community and key stakeholders to create a physical environment that offers liveability and connection and protects our natural environment for future generations.

How does our city relate to health and wellbeing?

People's health and wellbeing is impacted by climate change and the physical environment around them, and the access they have to it due to things like disability, gender, lifestyle or age. For example, active travel, like cycling and walking reduces mortality, chronic diseases, feelings of anxiety and depression as well as risk of dementia.

Key Objective 1 – Infrastructure & City Centres*

Develop well planned and maintained infrastructure and assets that underpin services and improve liveability, and community connection. Create vibrant city centres with high levels of presentation and urban amenity.

- Improve the amenity and presentation of town entrances and CBD streetscapes, activity centres and public spaces through:
 - increased cleaning and beautification programs
 - signage improvements
 - provision of ample parking spaces
 - focus on garden maintenance and plantings
- Ensure road maintenance budgets are adequately funded to enable roads to be maintained to a high standard
- Review Asset Strategy and Asset Plan
- Develop Streetscape Strategy
- Develop Plans as identified as further strategic work in the Latrobe Planning Scheme including:
 - Integrated Transport Plan
 - Social Infrastructure Plan
- Implement:
 - Public Toilet Plan
 - Recreation Needs Assessment & Recreation Infrastructure Funding Policy
- Undertake further consideration in relation to the preservation of historically significant buildings within the municipality.

Key Objective 2 - Land Use*

Foster improved outcomes for housing, liveability, urban design and job creation.

- Prioritise the delivery of infrastructure and/or planning scheme amendments that will support increased land supply to support residential housing growth in key precincts
- Work towards the delivery of Victorian Government Latrobe City Housing Targets
- Progress strategic work for planning scheme amendments for 5483 and 5495 Princes Highway, Traralgon and 280A Princes Street, Traralgon
- Deliver further strategic work as identified in the Latrobe Planning Scheme including:
 - progression of the South East Traralgon Precinct
 - removal of redundant coal overlays
- Advocate for the construction of the Traralgon Bypass to address local traffic congestion and safety issues

Key Objective 3 - Natural Environment & Open Space*

Protect our biodiversity by maintaining our natural assets and open space, encourage use of the natural environment, and strengthen waste management programs and practices.

- Develop and promote campaigns targeting roadside litter and illegal rubbish dumping
- Develop and implement Active Transport Strategy that covers the inter-township trail network, missing links and linking townships, improved street and park lighting and bike trails
- Review Waste Management Strategy
- Progress the staged development of off-leash dog parks in accordance with the Fenced Dog Park Implementation Plan.
- Explore future single site opportunities in utilisation of geothermal technology and biogas energy generation for energy intensive users.

Key Objective 4 - Climate Change Adaption*

Advance climate change planning and adaptation through climate risk mapping, appropriate asset design and maintenance.

- Continued implementation of Sustainability Action Plan
- Continue to work with partners in the rehabilitation of mines
- Prepare for extreme weather events

Council Plan Indicators

- Community satisfaction with street, footpaths and roads
- Community satisfaction of appearance of public areas

Health and Wellbeing Indicators*

- Increase access to different housing
- Increase in active lifestyles

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3**Our Community – Healthy, Inclusive, Safe**

We are committed to working with our community and stakeholders to create a healthy and safe community that celebrates volunteering and community pride and enhances social connection.

How does our community relate to health and wellbeing?

The physical and social characteristics of a community can promote healthy behaviours and reduce barriers to achieving good health and wellbeing. For example, volunteering is associated with better mental health and quality of life, especially for older people, unemployed people and people with chronic health conditions.

Key Objective 1 - Healthy Lifestyles*

Support improved physical and mental health through a range of programs and partnerships.

- Promote the benefits of physical activity and encourage use of council facilities, halls and open spaces across the municipality
- Provide spaces and services that support the community's physical health and mental wellbeing
- Advocate for greater support to enhance food security and emergency food supplies

Key Objective 2 - Lifelong Learning

Support lifelong learning through access to local learning facilities to address current and future needs.

- Continue to support excellence in maternal and child health and early childhood services
- Work with stakeholders to plan for the implementation of Early Childhood Reform
- Deliver accessible library services with a focus on addressing barriers to participation

Key Objective 3 - Community Safety*

Work with partners to reduce instances of harm to community and increase the overall feeling of safety and security.

- Advocate for resources to improve public, pedestrian and road safety in all areas of the municipality.
- Advocate for resources that decrease instances of anti-social behaviour in central business district areas
- Partner with stakeholders and the community to reduce instances of family violence and improved mental health support
- Advocate for more 24 hour police stations and increases in permanent police staffing levels

Key Objective 4 – Inclusion and Connection

Create opportunities for the community to connect with each other and to Council services.

- Deliver a broad range of activities and events to build community pride, celebrate diversity and enhance liveability
- Implement Reconciliation Action Plan
- Promote and continue to deliver our community grants program to support connection, inclusion and enhanced participation in the community

Key Objective 5 - Community Activation

Build community pride through the activation of community facilities and spaces.

- Support volunteering programs and community group and club networks
- Design and deliver programs, events, services and facilities to ensure accessibility for all members of the community
- Promote local arts sector
- Support free entertainment in public parks and art in public spaces

Council Plan Indicators

- Total visits to Council managed facilities (leisure centres, galleries and performing arts)
- Number of major events
- Number of community events supported

Health and Wellbeing Indicators*

- Increase in healthy and inclusive lifestyles
- Decrease in prevalence of crime
- Decrease in severe food insecurity

Our Organisation – Leadership, Collaboration, Capability

We are committed to the operation of a high-performing, efficient organisation that underpins the delivery of our strategic direction (economy, city and community).

Key Objective 1 – Leadership and Governance*

We will act with integrity and transparency when delivering services for our community.

- Administer Governance Rules
- Implement the Workforce Plan

Key Objective 2 – Financial Sustainability

We will allocate resources responsibly (in particular rates income) and make value for money decisions.

- Develop and implement the long-term financial plan
- Develop and implement the long-term asset plan

Key Objective 3 – Customer Focus*

We will ensure we listen and that services are accessible, efficient and responsive to the community's requirements.

- Implement the Customer Experience Strategy
- Implement the Community Engagement Policy

Key Objective 4 – Advocacy and Engagement*

We will advocate and engage relevant stakeholders to prioritise our community's needs and aspirations.

- Develop and implement an Advocacy Strategy.
- Implement our Community Engagement Policy.

Our Commitment to Health and Wellbeing

Council's commitment to achieving positive health and wellbeing outcomes for all is demonstrated throughout this Plan. This approach recognises that many factors influence whether we stay healthy or not. The World Health Organisation advises these factors, as illustrated below, can account for up to 55% of health outcomes.



Source: Adapted from Dahlgren & Whitehead 1991

Our City – Community Profile

This profile offers valuable insights into the people living in Latrobe and their experiences, helping to inform our health and wellbeing priorities and shape the MPHWP.

[Infographic to be designed with the following statistics]

- Population by postcode and median age, plus forecast growth/changes
 - 2.2 percent of the population in Latrobe City is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Employment statistics [working full time / part time / unemployed]
 - Income breakdown: 11.2% earn over \$91,000, 42.6% earn between \$26,000 and \$90,999, and 28.9% earn \$25,999 and under.
- Most dominant cultural groups and languages spoken:
 - England and NZ 3.7%, Netherlands and Philippines both 8%, India and Italy both 7%; and
 - 8.8% - speak a language other than English, Italian 0.8%, Greek 0.4%, Mandarin 0.4%, Malayalam 0.3%, Tagalog 0.3%
- Disability
 - 8.9% of people in Latrobe have a severe or profound disability and 14% provide unpaid assistance to people with a disability.

Health and Wellbeing Principles

The following principles will guide Council to ensure a health and wellbeing perspective is applied to all Council activities/services.

Fairness

We take a needs-based approach to service delivery, recognising different people, experiencing different situations, need different types and levels of support.

Accessibility

We strive to ensure that all in our community have access to services and activities by making sure they are affordable and inclusive.

Shared responsibility

We recognise the importance of a structured approach to addressing complex issues and acknowledge we can't do everything on our own.

Prevention

We focus on preventing poor health and wellbeing outcomes through an understanding of the barriers our community faces.

Principles in action

Council will:

- Meaningfully engage with community and partners in the development or review of services, to ensure they reflect current needs.
- Examine the overall health status of our community with a particular focus on those who face greater barriers to good health and wellbeing to inform our service delivery.
- Plan for and evaluate the impact of the services we deliver on community health and wellbeing.
- Partner with local people and agencies to develop, implement and evaluate our services as a collective.

Health and Wellbeing Priorities

There are some particular barriers to good health and wellbeing that our community prioritised, supported by the examination of available data¹. The below areas outline where Council will focus its health and wellbeing efforts. Where there is a direct link to these priorities and our Council Plan strategic directions, it will be marked with an asterisk*.

Public Safety

Safety means different things to different people and can include feeling safe at home or in public, road safety as a pedestrian or driver, experiencing crime or fearing crime might occur.

Council's role in improving community safety outcomes includes:

- Education and awareness programs and activities
- Improving public spaces through good urban design, lighting and tree planting
- Public health regulations and education
- Emergency preparedness

Family Violence

Our community tells us that family violence is a concern and that addressing family violence is a priority. The impacts of family violence are far reaching as it not only causes immediate harm but also leaves lasting emotional, physical, and psychological effects. By addressing this issue, we can significantly improve the overall safety and well-being of the community as a whole.

Council's role in preventing and reducing the incidence of family violence includes:

- Providing or ensuring the provision of community support services
- Education and awareness for community and council
- Promoting equity and respect in the community and workplaces.

Housing and Homelessness

Housing in Latrobe City has historically been affordable relative to income, with more than half of our population either owning their home outright or with a mortgage. Nearly 50% of renters in Latrobe City experience housing stress as are 11% of people with a mortgage. Increasing cost of living pressures are making it harder to obtain home ownership or rental properties. Community feedback and data are reflective of the growing concern about housing costs and an increase of homelessness in Latrobe.

Around 600 people in Latrobe are 'marginally' homeless which includes people relying on temporary lodging, crowded dwellings and caravans. Service providers have indicated an increase in numbers while noting that homelessness is often under-reported because it relies on people going out to 'count' during census.

Council's role in reducing homelessness and the impacts of homelessness includes:

- Influencing different types of housing stock with a focus on affordability
- Supporting community access to employment opportunities
- Emergency relief to help those experiencing financial difficulties
- Working to prevent family violence

¹ Refer Appendix A

Social Connection

Social connection is an influential factor for health and wellbeing outcomes, with many in Latrobe City experiencing loneliness, isolation and feeling not valued by society.

Almost 30% of people in Latrobe City aged over 65 live alone, accounting for nearly 5,000 individuals; they are more at risk of social isolation and loneliness. More than 20% of people aged 15 to 24, are not engaged in school, further education or training, or employment. This lack of engagement can impact their connectedness to the wider community.

Discrimination also adds to poor social connections and wellbeing outcomes. Our First Nations community faces much higher rates of unemployment and poor health. People from multicultural backgrounds often experience difficulties in accessing services. People from First Nations or multicultural backgrounds also face significant discrimination.

Council's role in improving social connectedness includes:

- Assisting community to access culturally appropriate or age-appropriate activities and services
- Addressing concerns preventing community from participating e.g. perceptions of safety
- Activating streets and parks
- Promoting and supporting diversity in the community

Alcohol, Drugs and Gambling

Latrobe City faces challenges due to the impact of alcohol and drug use, leading to high lifetime risk of harm to an individual and poor perceptions of community safety impacting a person's sense of connection to the community. The significant losses from gambling impacts health outcomes, employment, housing and social connections.

Council's role in reducing harm from alcohol, drugs and gambling includes:

- Community education and awareness
- Focussing on prevention
- Access to social support services

Appendix A – Supporting Information*References*

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics Census, 2021 (as displayed in Remplan, 2025)
2. Victorian Population Health Survey, 2014; 2020
3. Public Health Information Development Unit, Social Health Atlases of Australia: Local Government Areas, 2024
4. Gippsland Primary Health Network, Population Health Planning Hub, 2022
5. Gippsland Public Health Network, 2022
6. Crimes Statistics Agency, 2024
7. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2025
8. Parliament of Victoria, Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria, Final Report, 2021
9. Victorian Council of Social Service, 2023
10. Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission, 2024
11. Cancer Council Victoria, 2022

URGENT BUSINESS

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Business may be admitted to the meeting as urgent business in accordance with clause 20 of the Governance Rules, by resolution of the Council and only then if it:

- 20.1 Relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
- 20.2 Cannot reasonably or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting.

REPORTS FOR NOTING

9. REPORTS FOR NOTING

Item Number 9.1

12 May 2025

Community Health and Wellbeing

TRARALGON CITY BAND REQUEST FOR FUNDING

PURPOSE

To provide Councillors with information regarding the Traralgon City Band's (the band) request for funding support for their 2025 Tour of Remembrance and possible funding options.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The band is currently planning a Tour of Remembrance to Europe from 11 - 25 June 2025 and have requested a special Council Grant of \$20,000 to partially fund the cost of the tour to help several disadvantaged individuals to attend.
- The mechanisms for provision of funding made by a community group such as the Traralgon City Band are via the Community Grants program or a budget submission to Council.
- This request is ineligible under the Community Grant Program Governance Guidelines as it exclusively benefits applicant members and does not benefit the broader community.
- The other potential funding source is for the band to make a budget submission for Council's consideration. However, the opportunities for 2024/25 budget submissions were in October 2023 and May 2024, and there was no submission received from the band during this time.
- Should Council decide to fund this request it would need to be allocated from Council's unallocated cash reserve and a funding agreement would need to be executed requiring a full acquittal of all expenditure with any unspent funds to be returned to Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the special request for \$20,000 from the City of Traralgon Band towards their Tour of Remembrance and that this request does not align with the eligibility criteria of Councils Community Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

A report titled *Traralgon City Band Request for Financial Assistance* was provided to Council in December 2014, regarding the band's planned Tour of Remembrance to the United Kingdom and France in May and June 2015 and seeking financial support of \$25,000 from Council to support the cost of the tour. The Council resolution included within that report was as follows:

That council:

- 1. Provide financial assistance to the Traralgon City Band for their Tour of Remembrance in May and June 2015 to the sum of \$25,000 on the condition that the funds are repayable to the Latrobe City Council if fundraising efforts exceed the total amount required.*
- 2. That the financial assistance of \$25,000 be funded from the 2013/14 accumulated cash surplus.*

This funding was approved in March 2015.

Representatives of the band met with officers on 6 February 2025 to explore funding options for \$20,000 to support some band members to attend the 2025 Tour of Remembrance. They were advised that the request would be ineligible under the Community Grant Program Governance Guidelines as it exclusively benefits applicant members and does not benefit the broader community. It should be noted that the maximum level of funding available under the Community Wellbeing stream of the Community Grants Program is \$15,000.

The band was also advised that the request may be eligible under the DREAM Individual Support Grant stream which is targeted at supporting individuals to represent Latrobe City at local, state or international levels and reach and sustain their goals in several areas of interest including arts and culture. The maximum funding available. However, this stream is for \$500 and fell well short of the \$20,000 being requested.

On 18 March 2025, the band presented to Council at an out-of-session briefing about the planned Tour of Remembrance 2025, and subsequently submitted a request for funding of a special Council Grant of \$20,000 towards the cost of the trip to help certain disadvantaged individuals to attend. This request accompanied the band's request to seek Council permission for the Mayor to attend the trip with the band.

ANALYSIS

The mechanisms for provision of funding made by a community group such as the Traralgon City Band are via the Community Grants program or a budget submission.

The request by the band is ineligible under the Community Grant Program Governance Guidelines as it exclusively benefits applicant members and does not benefit the broader community. The Community Grant Program is targeted at funding community groups to deliver an impact to wider community. Their aim is to address specific community needs and to have a tangible community benefit. The most closely aligned funding stream under the Community Grant Program is Community Wellbeing. It should be noted that under this stream, the maximum level of funding available is \$15,000.

Other grant sources like the DREAM or Participation Sponsorship are targeted at supporting individuals to participate and achieve within Latrobe City. They are about capacity building, so that individuals in Latrobe City are engaged and supported within our community but do not necessarily have a tangible community outcome or benefit.

The other potential funding source is for the band to make a budget submission for Council's consideration. However, the opportunities for 2024/25 budget submissions were in October 2023 and May 2024, and there was no submission received from the band during this time. It is likely that due to the nature of the request that, should a budget submission have been made, it would have been referred to the Community Grants Program.

The band has advised that they have fundraised to support the costs of the tour. However, they are experiencing a significant shortfall in funds required to support all proposed attendees.

The band has advised that options to achieve the necessary level of funding are still being explored, this includes the potential of seeking additional contributions from those committed to attending.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Misuse of Council funds through poor compliance with the Community Grant Program Governance Policy.	Medium <i>Possible x Minor</i>	The Community Grant Governance Policy and Grant Assessor Terms of Reference provide guidance to officers about how to manage and assess community grant applications. Any funding approved by Council would be subject to a funding agreement and acquittal process consistent with standard Community Grant process.
FINANCIAL Should the funding be approved through the Community Grants program this could be considered misuse of Council funds by funding a trip to Europe that does not benefit the Latrobe City community and meet Community Grant Program Governance Guidelines	Medium <i>Possible x Moderate</i>	Not approve funding for the Traralgon City Band to tour Europe, however, continue to work with the band to develop programs that benefit the wider community.
FINANCIAL The maximum level of funding available under the most closely aligned Community Grant Program stream is \$15,000. Funding of \$20,000 would create a financial precedent.	Medium <i>Likely x Minor</i>	Not approve an amount in excess of the Community Wellbeing funding stream maximum of \$15,000.

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
STRATEGIC Poor community sentiment due to public concerns that Council is supporting a limited number of individuals to attend a significant event.	High <i>Likely x Moderate</i>	Clear communication of any rationale associated with a funding decision

CONSULTATION

No consultation has occurred in the preparation of this report. A meeting was held with officers and members of the band in February 2025 where funding and grant options were discussed.

COMMUNICATION

The band will be advised of the outcome.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* has not been conducted as this matter does not involve a program, service or policy with a significant and direct impact on the community.

Social

The Community Grant Program supports community groups by providing funding for projects that increase social connection, such as community events or projects to increase volunteerism, which align to the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. The band has advised officers that they have a very diverse group of members and they have been encouraged to consider other types of projects that may positively impact equity outside of the group to meet Community Grant guidelines in the future.

Cultural

This tour may improve the band's knowledge of European culture and music.

Health

This type of tour may potentially have a positive impact on individuals attending due to increased connections made within the group during the tour and pride of participating in such an experience.

Environmental

An overseas tour that includes flights to Europe may have significant environmental due to high carbon emissions.

Economic

The Community Grant Program contributes to the local economy by supporting community groups to procure goods and services, of which many groups choose to use local suppliers. This is not relevant to this request as the expenditure is for travel costs abroad.

Financial

The DREAM Sponsorship grants are scheduled for review in mid-late 2025, as it has been identified that the financial amounts available may are not currently sufficient to support the wide range of projects that could support a person's development. For example, DREAM may be appropriate in funding to support a person to compete in a sports competition in Melbourne for a day but would not cover multiple days of interstate or international travel for this purpose.

Attachments

Nil