

Colac Otway Shire Priority Projects for Wannon electorate communities

Colac Otway Shire is a richly diverse area under two hours from Melbourne with strong agricultural-based, tourism and timber industries. Colac is the key industrial, commercial and service centre for the shire and surrounding region with a population of 12,000 and is preparing for a projected population of 20,000 by 2050. Colac Otway's smaller communities in the Wannon electorate including Beeac, Alvie, Cororooke and beyond also play an integral part in our shire's appeal as a wonderful place to live and visit. The following projects have been identified as critical to meeting the needs of our community and sustaining the future growth of our shire and surrounding region.



Roads & Rail

Princes Highway West Upgrade (Colac to SA Border) Advocacy	
Strategic Local Roads Upgrades and Maintenance - Forest Street, Colac, Upgrade	\$1.5m
Arterial Road Network Upgrades and Maintenance	Advocacy
Increased Commuter Rail Services and High Speed Rail	Advocacy

Community

Colac Memorial Square Master Plan - Stage 2	\$2.8m
Colac & Apollo Bay Residential Housing Stock Analysis	\$50,000
Cororooke Open Space	\$550,000
Mobile Phone Blackspots	\$5m+

Sport & Recreation

Elliminyt Recreation Reserve Master Plan Implementation	\$5m TOTAL
• Colac Regional Velodrome Upgrade	\$320,000
• Pavilion	\$2.959m
Western Reserve Master Plan & Implementation	\$2m
Colac Central Reserve Completion	\$375,000
Former Colac High School Site	Advocacy

Education & Workforce

Colac Jobs Expo and Schools Program (3 years)	\$210,000
Community Development Employment Disadvantage GROW (3 Years)	\$210,000

Health

Colac Area Health Emergency Department upgrade	\$10m
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Environmental

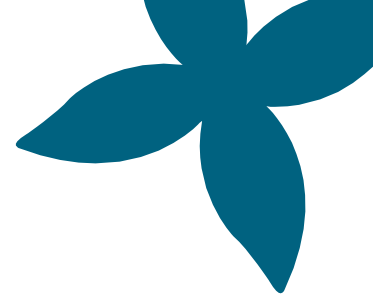
Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan - Stage 2	\$1.31m
Large Solar Array Investigation	\$150,000
Joint G21 Councils Energy Efficient Lighting (Colac)	\$257,080
Colac Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan - Implementation	\$650,000

Tourism

Colac to Cororooke Shared Path Feasibility Study	\$30,000
Colac Accommodation Business Case	\$60,000



Princes Highway West Upgrade



Project Description:

Colac Otway Shire Council is a member of the Princes Highway West Alliance and is actively advocating for a major upgrade of the Princes Highway to improve safety between Colac and the South Australian border.

Council is advocating for Princes Highway West to be recognised as a key national freight corridor and be included on the map of National Land Transport Network Road Corridors.

Princes Highway West, from Colac to the SA border, links South-West Victoria to the soon-to-be-complete dual-lane Princes Highway through to Geelong and Melbourne.

The 300-kilometre stretch of highway connects primary agricultural areas to ports, airports and transport hubs.

The necessary upgrade of Princes Highway West would also benefit communities across the south-west and provide improved, safer access for millions of tourists who travel inland from the Great Ocean Road and the Twelve Apostles every year.

Priority black spots along Princes Highway West include the Tomahawk Creek (Blue Church) intersection, Tower Hill entrance, Warrnambool-Port Fairy section, and a section through the Stony Rises.

At the moment, speed limits are being changed along the highway in response to deteriorating pavement rather than having the problems fixed.

Speed limit reductions rather than a major investment in a long-term solution constrains the productivity and efficiency of freight movements.

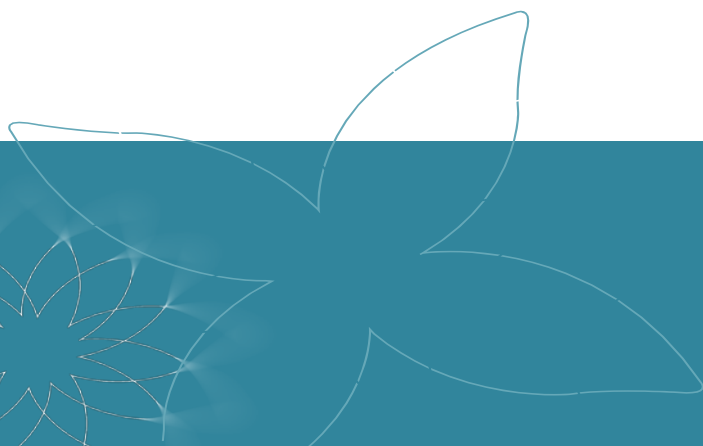
Benefits:

An upgrade of Princes Highway West would:

- Improve road safety
- Improve travel times
- Improve freight access to ports, inter-modal facilities and markets for agriculture and resource industries.
- Improve connectivity for regional communities
- Improve access to essential services such as health and education
- Create greater opportunities for tourism
- Provide economic benefits for regional communities
- Create greater opportunities for business growth

Action:

- **Advocacy to have Princes Highway West included in the National Land transport Network.**
- **Advocacy for a major upgrade to improve road safety on Princes Highway West from Colac to the South Australian border.**



STRATEGIC LOCAL ROADS UPGRADE & MAINTENANCE: FOREST STREET COLAC

Project Description:

Forest Street is the backbone to the major industrial area hub of Colac, which services our key employers including freight hubs, Bulla and AKD Softwoods.

This project provides for major upgrades along Forest Street to help future-proof this key industrial precinct for the next 50 years of economic and industrial development in Colac.

Recent investigations of the current Council bridge and other road assets on Forest Street have revealed they are not suitable for the future use of the area.

Works included for the project include:

- Replacement of the current narrow bridge over Barongarook Creek with a much wider bridge. This new bridge would be designed to suit the use of Forest Street as a transport corridor to the Princes Highway now and in the future.
- Upgrades to road safety, strength and capacity, by reconstructing Forest Street from Wilson Street to Pound Road to accommodate current and future economic, industrial, and residential growth in Colac.



Benefits:

Significant volumes of heavy and commercial vehicle traffic use Forest Street on a daily basis as a linkage to the Princes Highway, which support the major economic drivers in the Colac Otway Shire.

Industries located on Forest Street include the timber, freight and dairy industries, as well as numerous small businesses.

Major industry expansions on Forest Street include the Bulla Factory completed in 2013, with significant planned upgrades of AKD Softwoods in the near future.

By completing strategic upgrades to Council's assets now, local business will be encouraged and supported to expand even further.

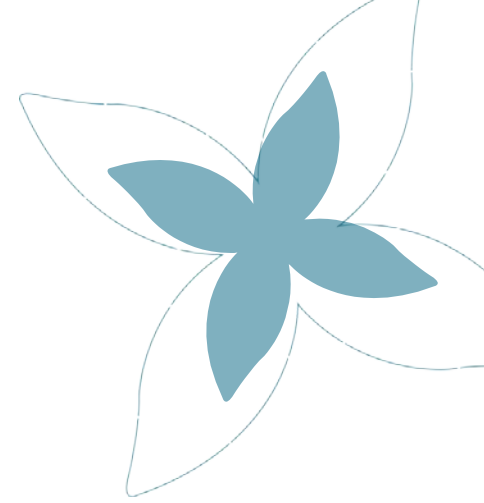
Completing this project will also support new development opportunities for the future of Colac in the industry and manufacturing sectors. All of which will be supported via the upgrade and duplication of the Princes Highway through improved safety and efficiencies for transportation of goods.

The project can be readily completed by the end of 2018-2019.

Cost:

\$1.5m

ARTERIAL ROAD NETWORK UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE



Project Description:

Victoria's arterial road network is critical for the safe and efficient movement of transport across the south west region. Particularly in an emergency, such as bushfire, this network provides the core links for all road users to access major city centres, transport distribution hubs, ports for export and import of materials, and airports.

Arterial roads are vital for the region's tourism visitation as well as critical for the success of major industry operating in our shire. All of which is underpinned by the need for our residents to access major city centres safely.

Unfortunately the state of the arterial roads in our region are beyond a state of disrepair, with many key roads reduced to an unsafe and dilapidated state forcing transport users to Council's local road network. The flow on effect of the state road network condition has placed the local road network under extreme pressure, requiring additional funding.

The arterial linkage roads from the Princes Highway to the Great Ocean Road were put under enormous strain during the 2015-2016 bushfires, floods and landslides, which closed the Great Ocean Road.

These arterial roads are important to the region's tourism industry, but during the Great Ocean Road's closure they became vital links requiring ongoing upgrades and improvements to provide a safe network for tourists and residents.

In particular the State-managed Colac-Forrest Road and the Colac-Lavers Hill Road (from Ferguson) require significant investment to provide safe road widths, suitable pavement quality, and passing lanes to cater for the significant tourist traffic.

Benefits:

Increased productivity and funding is vital for the arterial roads to be maintained and upgraded to meet the increasing demand on the road network in our region.

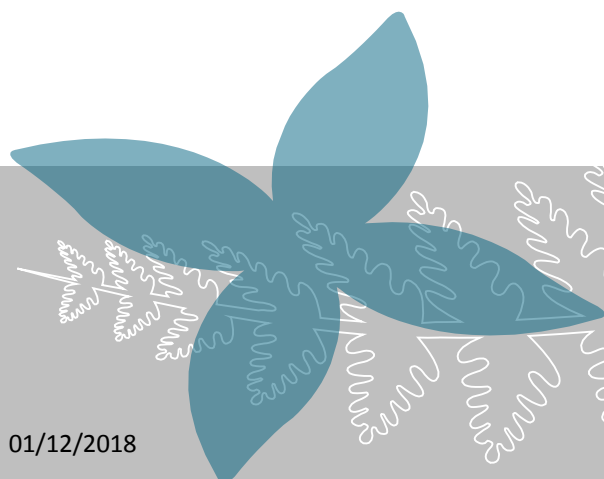
Funding support will ensure transport, tourism and local communities to have a well-maintained road network for day to day use and in emergency situation to stay safe and connected.

Action:

It is vital that state and federal government funding support is continued and increased to assist with the maintenance and necessary improvements to our region's arterial road network.

Cost:

Advocacy



INCREASED COMMUTER RAIL SERVICES & HIGH SPEED RAIL



Project Description:

This project seeks to increase Colac-Geelong rail service to five services daily and advocate for a high-speed rail network for the Warrnambool to Geelong line.

The ongoing over subscription of the current commuter bus services demonstrates there is a demand for increasing the rail service. Providing additional reliable, fast services will further increase demand.

The introduction of reliable short haul rail services has consistently proved a significant driver of both economic and population growth in regional towns.

Its anticipated increasing rail services and introducing high-speed rail between Colac and Geelong will drive similar growth in Colac. New, faster services will also provide increased community connectedness and resilience as workers and students are able to stay in Colac and commute rather than relocating for work or study.

In June 2014, G21 prepared and finalised its G21 Regional Public Transport Strategy, which Colac Otway formally adopted in August 2014. This comprehensive strategy included extensive stakeholder consultation and data analysis in each G21 local government area.

The Victorian Government recognised the importance of this work and provided a \$100,000 grant through Regional Development Victoria to develop the strategy.

The region requires an increase in service levels between Geelong, Colac, Warrnambool, Ballarat (serving Bannockburn) and Apollo Bay to five services daily in the short term, using coaches primarily but trains where feasible.

Supporting infrastructure is also considered vital for increased rail services to be a viable alternative for the community, including but not limited to adequate parking in the vicinity of train stations.

Benefits:

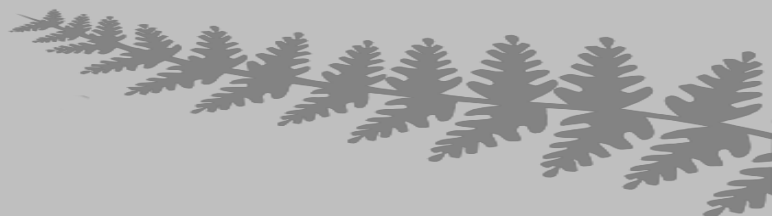
The project would provide:

- Improved accessibility to Colac and surrounds as well as providing positive economic benefits to the Colac community.
- Reduced vehicle traffic in Colac and surrounds.
- Colac is a commutable distance to Melbourne, a high speed rail service can only have a positive effect on house prices and attracting people more to live, work and visit the Colac Otway region

Action:

Advocate to the Victorian Government provide increased commuter rail services in line with the findings put forward to the G21 Regional Public Transport Strategy along with provision of a high-speed rail network on the Warrnambool-to-Melbourne line.

Cost: Advocate



MEMORIAL SQUARE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Stage 2

Project Description:

Colac's Memorial Square is of significant historical, architectural and social importance to the Colac and district community.

The local community and visitors regularly use Memorial Square for informal activities as well as a range of community events including ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day activities.

In 2017 Council prepared a master plan for Memorial Square to guide future development of the square for the next 10 years.

The vision is to create a regional park that is inspiring and exciting, peaceful and relaxing, reflective and treasured by the local community.

The Memorial Square Master Plan is multifaceted and designed to both respect the heritage and cultural significance of this space.

The total cost of implementing the identified projects in Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Master Plan is \$3.2million.

Works through both stages include a new playspace, restoration of the War Memorial, new turf and irrigation, an outdoor performance space

Benefits:

The project would provide the following benefits:

- Through updated infrastructure, improve the appearance and appeal of Memorial Square to attract more tourists and events to utilise the space.
- Improve the existing outdated amenities (public toilets) for locals and the many visitors who use Memorial Square daily.

Action:

Stage 1 - Funded

Stage 2 - Council is seeking funding assistance to implement the following priority projects:

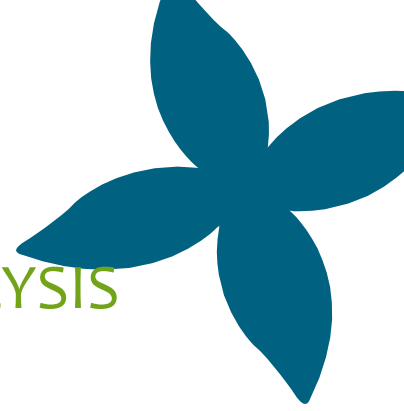
- New amenities (public toilets) - \$1.4million
- Restoration of the War Memorial - \$500,000
- New turf and irrigation - \$350,000
- Outdoor performance space - \$50,000
- New and upgraded infrastructure including pathways, park furniture, lighting and landscape improvements - \$500,000

Cost:

\$2.8million



APOLLO BAY AND COLAC RESIDENTIAL HOUSING STOCK ANALYSIS



Project Description:

The growth of Colac to a population of 20,000 residents by 2050 is a strategic aim of the G21 Regional Growth Plan. As part of Council's response, Council engaged Southern Cross Town Planning to prepare the Colac Housing Needs Assessment 2016.

This assessment guided the development of the draft Colac 2050 Growth Plan established in response to the anticipated population increase. The Colac Housing Needs Assessment Paper estimated that 60–111 new dwellings will be required per year to meet the housing needs of Colac until 2031.

Apollo Bay's permanent population of 1000 swells to more than 15,000 during the summer period, however increasing development and a booming tourism industry will also require more residential housing to accommodate that growth.

The Colac and Apollo Bay Residential Housing Stock Analysis project aims to establish an in-depth understanding of the housing needs across the different sectors of demand in the two communities, to identify areas of undersupply and help guide policy direction for Council and other agencies.

This project will assist/inform Council in capitalising on growth opportunities in Colac and Apollo Bay. The next stage of analysis requires additional expertise to consider the various niche areas of demand for housing – for example, single dwellings for elderly people close to facilities, larger homes for families, or social housing for the disadvantaged.

The project will examine options and locations for new housing capable of meeting future demand in both Colac and Apollo Bay.

Benefits:

The project would:

- Provide an in-depth understanding of the demand for the various forms of housing in Colac and Apollo Bay.
- Identify options and locations for how to accommodate the different housing needs.
- Ensure different housing needs are met.

Economic outcomes:

The project will provide the following economic outcomes:

- Ensure that an appropriate range of housing is provided to support a growing population in Colac and Apollo Bay, while allowing people to live in the town and support the local economy.
- Support the growth of the building sector in Colac.

Action:

Engage suitably qualified consultant to build on the work undertaken to date, and undertake a comprehensive analysis of Colac's and Apollo Bay's housing needs.

Cost:

\$50,000



COROROKE OPEN SPACE LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN COMPLETION



Project Description:

Colac Otway Shire Council has worked with the Cororooke and district community, including the Red Rock District Progress Association and the Cororooke Tennis Club, to develop a Landscape Master Plan for the township's public space.

The space is a one-hectare parcel of land donated to Colac Otway Shire Council by dairy processor Fonterra for public use.

Colac Otway Shire Council has implemented significant stages of the Cororooke Open Space Landscape Master Plan including four new tennis courts, a tennis storage shed and public toilets.

The completion of the Master Plan is a priority for the Cororooke district community and Council.

Stages of the plan which still require implementation across the one-hectare space include the development of:

- A playground and basketball area
- A shelter and interpretive centre
- Seating
- Barbecue
- Open playspace area
- Garden beds
- Landscaping and planting

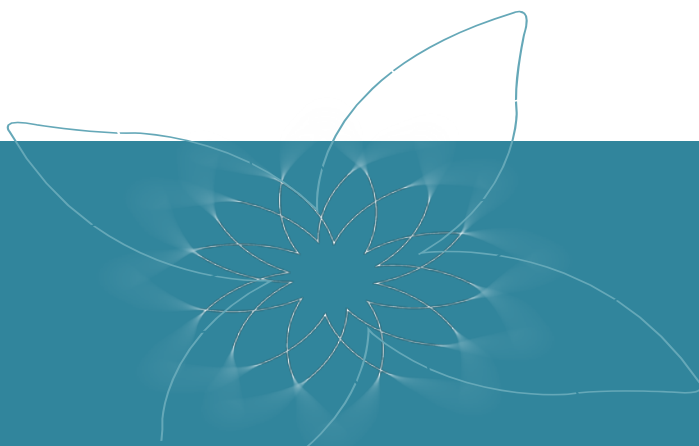
Benefits:

The completion of the Cororooke Open Space Landscape Master Plan would:

- enhance the existing infrastructure: tennis courts and toilets
- Provide an attractive public for the district community to gather.
- Provide a play area and recreational space to encourage physical activity.
- Provide a recreational area for the community and visitors to enjoy a picnic or barbecue.

Cost:

\$550,000



MOBILE PHONE BLACKSPOT FUNDING



Project Description:

Extension of the existing Mobile Blackspot Funding program to ensure 100% coverage in shire communities and along key arterial roads.

The Mobile Phone Blackspot program has been welcomed with \$100 million committed in Round 1 and a further \$60 million allotted over two years to Round 2 commencing in July 2016. A significant number of mobile blackspots have been addressed across the Shire. However Colac Otway Shire has both some of the highest numbers of international visitors as well as the most significant fire danger areas in the State if not the nation. Mobile telephony in these areas provides an important safety function as well being a virtual Visitor Information Centre for travelling visitors. Under these circumstances it is desirable for key arterial roads such as the Great Ocean Road to have 100% coverage along its length as well as along important roads that feed into the Great Ocean Road such as the Colac-Forrest-Apollo Bay Road and the roads between Colac and Lavers Hill. Both these roads are travelled by international visitors unfamiliar with our roads and road laws as well as providing important community escape routes in times of disaster or emergency.

Addressing mobile black spots by securing funding for new towers is a priority for Colac Otway Shire in the following areas:

- Beaac
- Hordern Vale
- Wongarra
- Johanna
- Mt Defiance
- Kennett River
- Forrest
- Aire Valley
- Cororooke
- Apollo Bay to Hordern Vale
- Kennedys Creek

Benefits:

- Safer transport for local residents and visitors alike.
- Significantly improved emergency management capability.
- Greater local economic benefit from international and interstate visitors who will be able to access more information about local attractions and destinations as they travel.

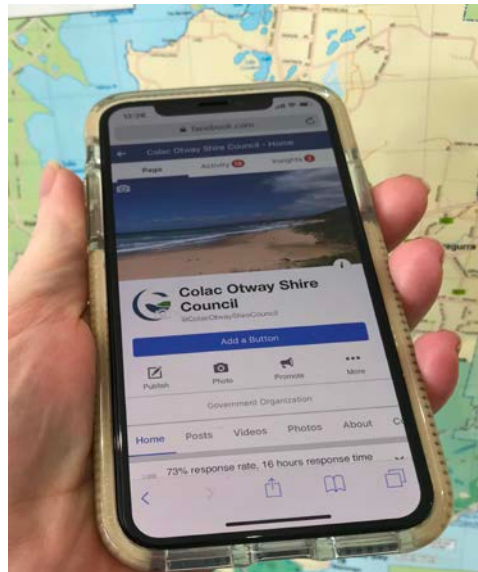
Action:

Project funding to:

- Deliver 100% mobile phone coverage of the Great Ocean Road and arterial feeder roads.
- Deliver 100% mobile coverage to every community in Colac Otway Shire.-

Cost:

\$5m commitment toward implementation with a further review after those funds are expended.



ELLIMINYT RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



Project Description:

The Elliminyt Recreation Reserve is a primary sporting facility and public open space area for Elliminyt and Colac district residents.

The reserve features a sports oval with a sealed velodrome around it, a netball court, four tennis courts, a playground, and other buildings and spaces to support these facilities.

Some of the facilities and infrastructure at the reserve are ageing or no longer fit for purpose.

There is an identified need for the expansion and/or upgrade of:

- Netball courts and facilities
- Tennis courts
- Velodrome
- Oval surface redevelopment and supporting sport infrastructure
- Main pavilion building
- Public toilets
- Internal path network
- Parking and improved traffic management
- General reserve improvements

Council and sporting clubs are keen to ensure the reserve meets the needs of the local community, particularly as Elliminyt is the fastest growing area of Colac.

The community and Council have developed a master plan for the whole reserve which will guide any future development of the site.

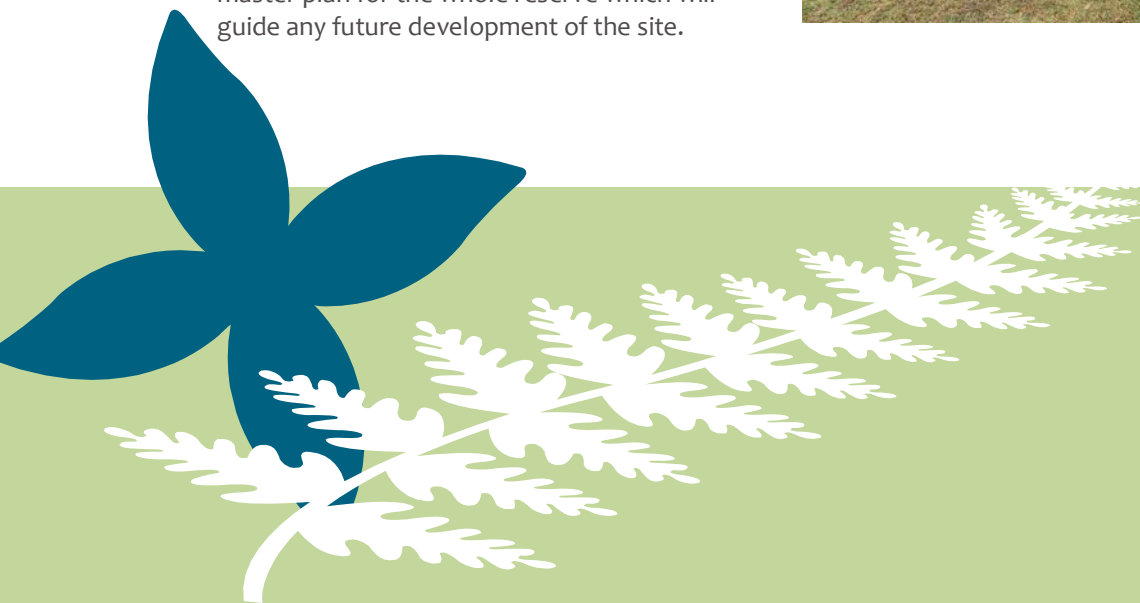
Benefits:

The implementation of the Elliminyt Recreation reserve Master Plan would provide quality facilities for a growing community and key sporting clubs including:

- South Colac Football Netball Club
- Colac Cycling Club
- Elliminyt Tennis Club
- City United Cricket Club
- Warrion Cricket Club

Cost:

\$5.5m TOTAL



COLAC REGIONAL VELODROME REDEVELOPMENT

Project Description:

Colac's velodrome at Elliminyt Recreation Reserve is a regional facility and the only velodrome between Geelong and Warrnambool.

Colac Cycling Club hosts weekly track racing in summer and these events regularly attract 60 junior and senior riders from the region

The current velodrome surface is unsafe with sections falling apart and more cracks constantly appearing.

There will come a time when the velodrome will not be fit for use; and the Colac Cycling Club will not be able to use the facility for cycling events unless the surface is improved.

The project to reinstate the velodrome to an acceptable standard requires geotechnical site investigations and the development of design/construction specifications to ensure the existing velodrome sub-surface is not damaged with the proposed resurfacing operation.

Drainage work to ensure the longevity of the new surface is maintained will also be essential.

A new hot-mix surface would be used to resurface the existing velodrome track at the Elliminyt Recreation Reserve.

The project will also improve safety at the velodrome by repositioning the coaches' boxes.

Benefits:

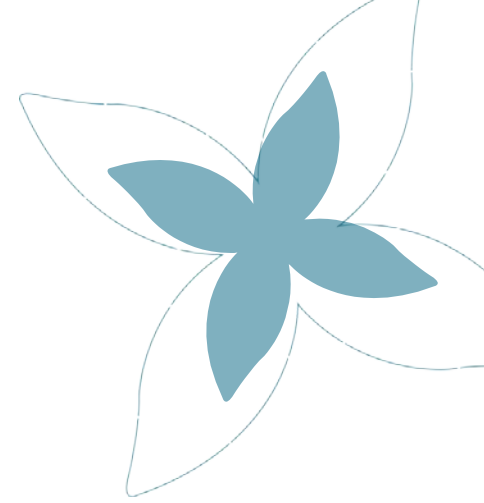
The project would:

- Provide a safe surface for the users of the Elliminyt Recreation Reserve cycling track.
- Provide a suitable surface to allow the club to run race meetings that attract visiting cyclists.

Cost: **\$320,000**



WESTERN RESERVE MASTER PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION



Project Description:

Colac Otway Shire Council has developed a Western Reserve Venue Improvement Plan which provides the opportunity to redevelop and fully integrate football, netball, cricket and community facilities.

The next step will be the development of a Master Plan to ensure a planned and coordinated approach to facility improvements.

The venue is home to football, netball and cricket, including Colac's female football teams.

The clubroom also provides a space for functions and community events.

Council has received \$862,500 in funding towards the oval redevelopment and sports lighting.

A further \$2 million will be needed to develop and implement a Master Plan.

A Master Plan would guide:

- A significant upgrade to off-field facilities to cater for female participation for football, cricket and netball, and umpire facilities.
- An upgrade to netball courts including the development of two courts and a lighting upgrade to training/match standard.
- Development of a multi-purpose pavilion and amenities to allow more community and tenant club access.
- General reserve upgrades including toilets, playspace, landscaping, spectator terracing.

Benefits:

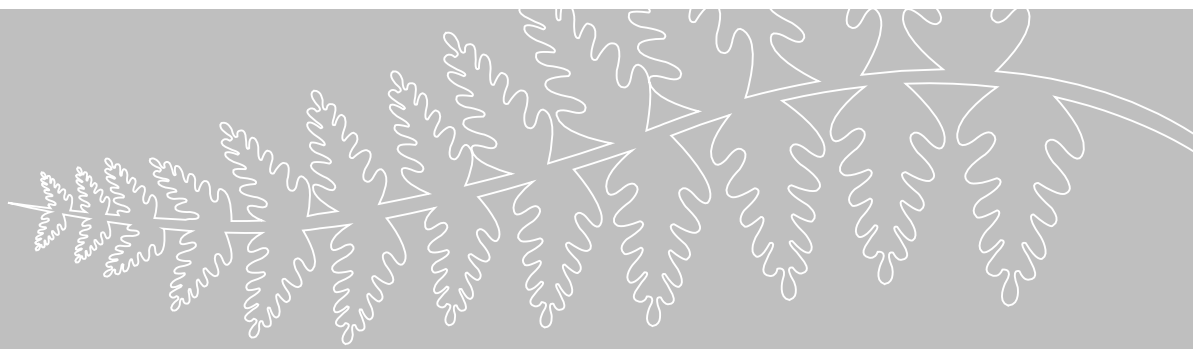
A redeveloped Western Oval would cater for all levels of sport, from introductory programs to senior competitions

A fully implemented improvement plan would:

- Provide amenities that will support continued female football and cricket participation growth and diversity of users.
- Bring together some of the Colac community's strongest partnerships to create a unique facility where football, netball, cricket and community users can consolidate their programs and resources.
- Allow each stakeholder to grow their sport and provide accessible sports programs to the Colac Otway Shire community.

Cost:

\$2m



COLAC CENTRAL RESERVE UPGRADE MASTER PLAN COMPLETION

Project Description:

Colac's Central Reserve is the region's premier sporting reserve.

The completion of the Central Reserve Master Plan would see the facility transformed into an elite regional recreation precinct, providing the capacity to host local, regional and state sporting events.

Quality oval and netball court lighting, in addition to a netball court development and seating project which has been funded and set for construction this year, would complete the Master Plan.

The improvement of regional recreation facilities assists in attracting events which lead to economic benefits for local areas.

As an example, Colac's Central Reserve recently hosted an AFL JLT Community Series match which had an estimated direct economic benefit of \$1.5m.

Improvements to infrastructure such as competition lighting will continue to attract more major events to the region.

Benefits:

The project would provide the following benefits:

- Lasting sporting, social and economic benefits for the Colac district community.
- The ability for Colac to host local, regional, state and national events.

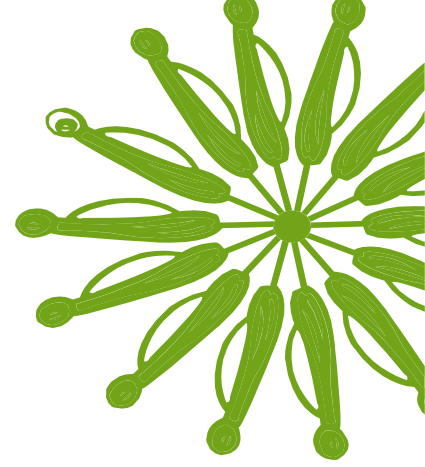
Cost:

\$375,000

- Oval lighting – the development of 30.5 m high LED lighting towers to the main oval with associated control panels to deliver a minimum of 200lux lighting to the playing surface.
- Netball court lighting – Four x 12.2m Light Structure light towers delivering 292 lux of lighting to the playing surface.



FORMER COLAC HIGH SCHOOL SITE LAND DONATION AND SALE OF ADDITIONAL LAND – 6.4 HA TOTAL



Project Description:

The Colac High School was closed in 2009 following the merger of the Colac High School and Colac College which formed Colac Secondary College. Many residents of the Colac community have a strong affinity with the school site, therefore Council has advocated for many years to retain part of the former Colac High School site for public use.

Council has previously resolved to seek a contribution of 30% (approx. 2.5ha) of the former Colac High School site land (located to the north boundary of the site and without buildings), with the Department of Education and Training providing its 'in principle' support for providing this land.

Following further strategic work through the Colac 2050 Growth Plan and Colac Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment, Council has identified a shortfall of available land to cater for the growing demand for recreational needs including soccer.

There are currently no soccer facilities in Colac and there is an urgent need for land to service regional sport facilities. There is also an urgent need for improved community facilities in Colac West.

Council has resolved to acquire an additional 4ha of land for community and recreational purposes.

Benefits:

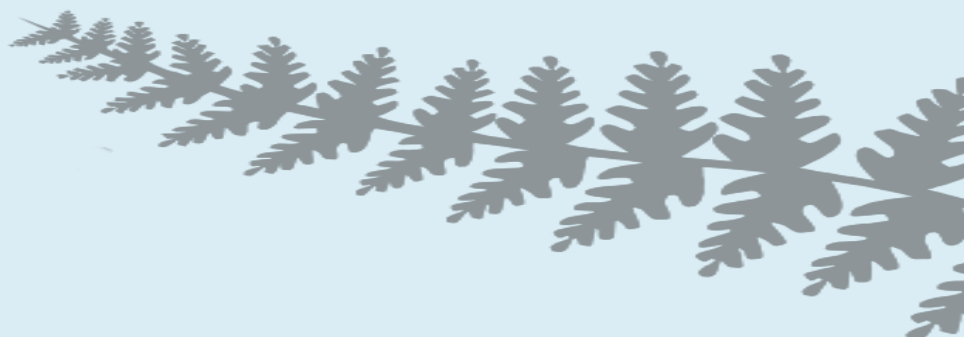
The project would provide:

- Land available for public use, recognising the community's strong affinity to the site.
- Much needed open space for the Colac West community.
- An opportunity to address the lack of soccer facilities in the Colac region, and provide facilities for the growing demand of a range of sports.

Action:

Council continues to advocate for the following:

- That the State Government contributes 6.5ha of the former Colac High School site to Council for the purposes of public open space. That the land be to the northern boundary of the site and without buildings or contamination.



COLAC TO COROROOKE SHARED PATH FEASIBILITY

Project Description:

The proposed Colac to Cororooke Shared Path Project would link the regional town of Colac to the rural towns of Cororooke and Coragulac, along the picturesque Lake Colac shoreline.

The development of a shared path from Colac to Cororooke was first identified in the Red Rock Community Infrastructure Plan 2013.

The concept is also an extension of the proposed Lake Colac path which has been recommended for further investigation in the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan 2016.

The proposed 20-kilometre path route, from Colac to Cororooke, would run along the western perimeter of Lake Colac, connecting to Coragulac and Cororooke and then returning to Colac.

The proposal recommends using a combination of Crown land, roads and road reserves, and possibly some private land.

The proposal could provide community health, social and economic benefits for the Red Rock district.

However, further investigative work is required to determine the feasibility of the proposal, capital and ongoing costs, and as well clearly defining actual regional benefits.

Benefits:

The project would enable all levels of government to consider funds to support the capital construction of the proposed trail. The feasibility study would include:

- The proposed alignment detailing land ownership.
- The level of support for developing the proposed path including from the community, landowners, tourism and business sector, and government.
- Demand – understanding the target market, the proposed use, experiences and anticipated visitor numbers.
- The issues, barriers, constraints and opportunities associated with developing the proposed path.
- The social, health, economic and environmental impacts and benefits.
- The capital cost and ongoing maintenance support required for the proposed path, including identification of possible funding sources.

Action:

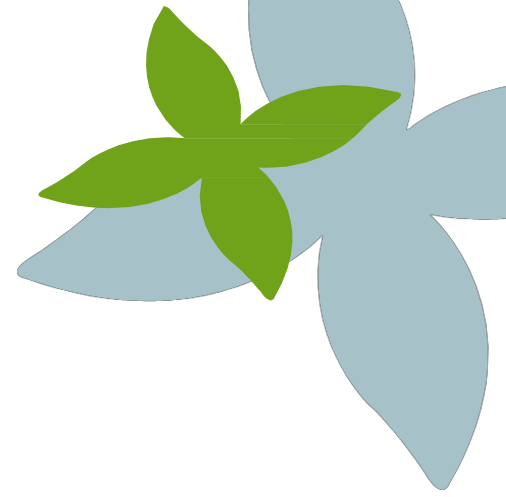
Provide funding to prepare a feasibility study to consider the viability of the proposed shared path from Colac to Cororooke.

Cost:

\$30,000



COLAC ACCOMMODATION ATTRACTION



Project Description:

Colac Otway Shire has identified the need for additional 4-star accommodation in Colac to meet existing and future demand of corporate and leisure markets.

The town has experienced unprecedented economic growth during the past 10 years with significant investment in the areas of manufacturing and health services.

The Great Ocean Road and Twelve Apostles, key national and international tourism experiences, are attracting 5.5 million visitors annually and increasing at 6% growth per annum. Colac is centrally and strategically positioned to benefit from this burgeoning visitor economy.

The existing accommodation stock is predominantly 3 to 3.5-star rated and there is an opportunity to attract corporate markets and a more discerning traveller, providing an exciting investment and economic opportunity.

An assessment of the existing accommodation stock and demand analysis of future needs has been completed by Council, confirming the opportunity for new 4-star accommodation.

Thirteen potential sites in Colac align with land suitability criteria as potential for future accommodation development. These include six privately owned sites and seven local/state government owned sites.

Funding is sought to facilitate the development of a business case to confirm the financial viability to develop a hotel on private land and to confirm if financial support will be necessary from Council and/or governments to realise this opportunity.

Benefits:

The project would provide:

- Increased employment during construction and ongoing employment thereafter
- Additional night stays in Colac with increased visitor expenditure
- Support to the broader region encouraging longer stays to visit the region's attractions

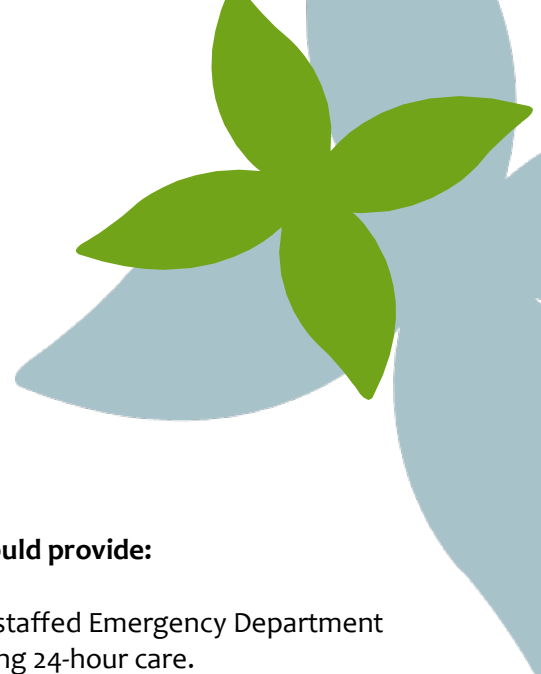
Action:

Attain project funding to develop a business case around the financial viability of new 4-star accommodation in Colac.

Cost: \$60,000



COLAC AREA HEALTH EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT UPGRADE



Project Description:

Colac's population is projected to grow from 12,000 to 20,000 by 2050.

Currently we have a fully staffed 24/7 urgent care facility operated by Colac Area Health. The demand for Urgent Care has already grown rapidly, with presentations at the current urgent care facility increasing from 6000 to 10,000 per annum over the past two years.

The model of medical care has recently changed from a General Practitioner model of care to Hospital Medical Officers being rotated from Barwon Health ensuring 24/7 medical presence.

A modern Emergency Department at Colac Area Health will be essential well before the population reaches 20,000-plus.

The next step in providing ongoing quality health care to a growing population is securing funding for new facilities and workforce.

Colac Area Health needs to establish a base to transition from the existing urgent care service to transition to a fully staffed 24/7 Emergency Department to service the Shire.

Specialist medical care must be a priority for all levels of government.

Benefits:

The project would provide:

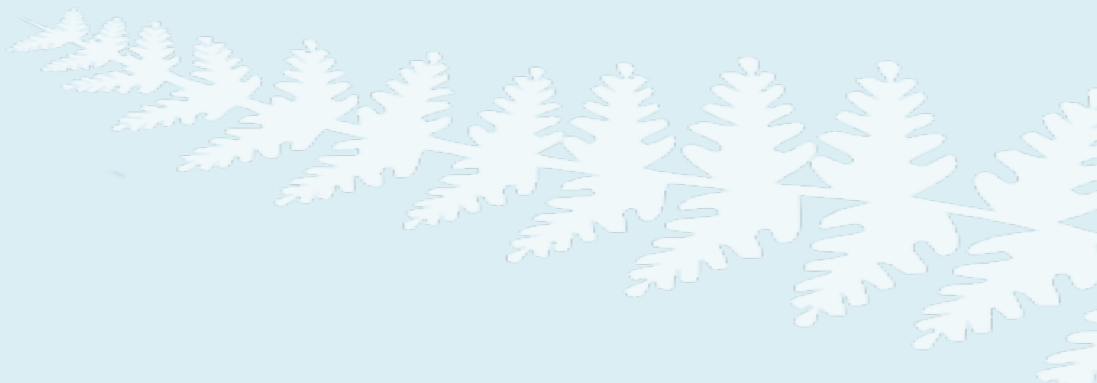
- A fully-staffed Emergency Department providing 24-hour care.
- Specialist care for the region's increasing number of residents and visitors

Action:

Advocate for a funding commitment to design and deliver a new Emergency Department to provide 24-7 specialist care.

Cost:

\$10 m



LAKE COLAC FORESHORE MASTERPLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Stage 2

Project Description:

Colac Otway is situated in the fastest growing region in Victoria outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

Tourism, both domestic and international, is a critical driver of the local economy supported by the natural beauty of the Great Ocean Road, the Otway rain forests and the network of diverse townships including Colac.

Lake Colac is a universally popular destination for locals and visitors to the region. The largest freshwater lake in Victoria, it is highly valued for its recreational, environmental and economic opportunities.

In 2016 Colac Otway Shire prepared the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan which sets out a 10-year plan to guide improvements to enhance and protect the environment, as well as visitor experience and amenity. The total cost to implement the plan over 10 years is \$5.4million.

A cost-benefit assessment by **MacroPlan** demonstrates the project has an estimated benefit cost ratio of **3.66**, which represents strong economic justification for the project.

The plan has been developed with strong community engagement to ensure it reflects a shared vision for the area.

The Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan identifies a wide range of practical and achievable projects and improvements. These include:

- A new regional playspace
- Improved lighting
- More seating, barbecues and toilets
- Improved pathways
- More trees to provide shade
- Formalised parking areas
- Upgrades to the boardwalk
- Public art installation
- Interpretive signage
- Major restoration works on the Queens Esplanade embankment
- A circular infinity jetty

Federal funding of \$250,000 along with \$500,000 from Council has been secured to implement Stage 1.

Benefits:

The project would provide the following benefits:

- Improve the appearance and appeal of the Lake Colac precinct and attract more tourists and events to the area.
- Deliver direct economic benefits to Colac as a result of increased tourist spend and an increase in employment opportunities in visitor/tourism services.
- Develop a comprehensive, accessible and attractive open space network available to everyone, providing a range of social and health benefits.
- Support the aspirations of the community through the implementation of their plan.
- Increase participation in local recreational activity, improving the physical and mental health of the community.

Action:

Council is seeking **\$1.31million** direct funding assistance to implement the following priority projects as Stage 2:

- Preliminary design of a regionally significant adventure playspace.
- New and upgraded infrastructure including pathways, viewing platforms, park furniture and environmental landscape improvements.
- New and upgraded jetties.

Cost: \$1.31 million



LARGE SOLAR ARRAY INVESTIGATION (Bruce Street Landfill Site)



Project Description:

The Bruce Street landfill site is located on the southern bank of Lake Colac. As a former landfill site it is already cleared of large vegetation and is large enough for a significant sized solar array. Preliminary calculations and pre-feasibility investigations as part of the G21-4Zero Project (Investigation of Large Scale Renewable Energy Opportunities in the G21 Region) suggest this site could accommodate a 6.6 MW solar photovoltaic array producing approximately 9,200 MWh annually.

The energy produced could be used for Council operations (eg: to run community facilities), as well as be exported to the nearby sewage treatment plant and industrial area, through energy off-take agreements.

It is estimated it would cost approximately \$11 - \$13 million to build the large solar array. Accordingly, in order to develop a business case that may justify a large investment, a detailed feasibility study is required to determine the financial savings and payback periods for the proposed solar array project.

Council is seeking \$150,000 to undertake a feasibility study. Council will use the information gathered in this study to develop a business case for obtaining the funding required to install the large solar array project.

Benefits:

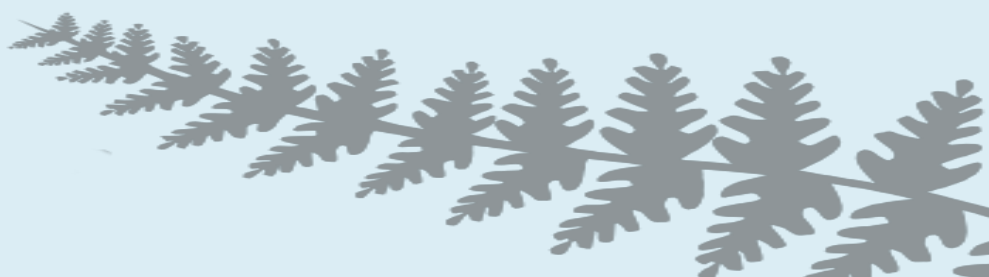
The project would provide:

- The information required to determine if a large solar array is viable on this site.
- If the solar array was ultimately constructed it would produce a large amount of clean energy for Council use and other local industry.
- A demonstration of the viability of renewable energy to the community and Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2020.
- A demonstration of the viability of using old landfill sites for renewable energy generation.

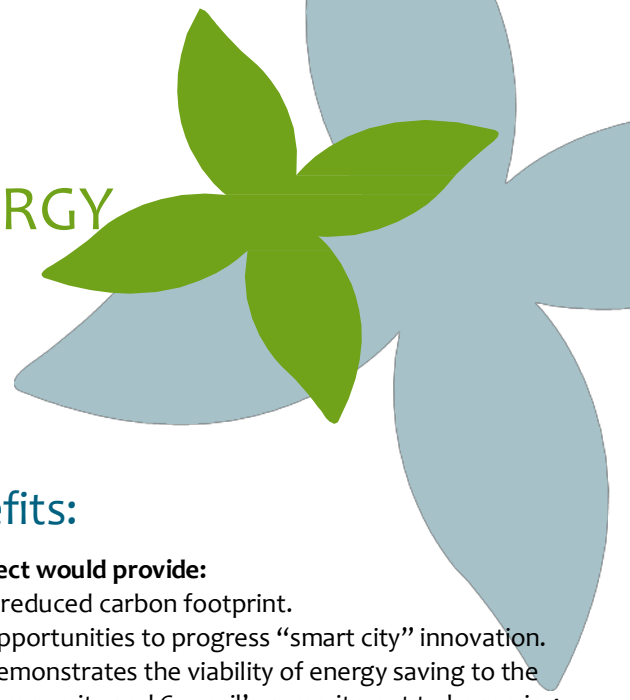
Action:

- Undertake a detailed feasibility study of constructing a large solar array on the former landfill site in Colac.

Cost: \$150,000



JOINT G21 COUNCILS - ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING IN THE G21 REGION (Colac)



Project Description:

This collaborative project will involve the replacement of existing inefficient streetlights and public lighting with energy efficient LED lights across the G21 region.

The new lights will reduce energy use and associated greenhouse emissions by up to 80 per cent and provide better lighting outcomes for the community.

Colac Otway Shire Council has already upgraded many of its streetlights to energy efficient technology. However, based on the benefits being shown through the upgrades Council wishes to upgrade all the remaining street lights within the municipality.

The G21 councils recognise this is a substantial project and propose to provide funding to complete 20 per cent of the project.

This provides an opportunity for a contribution by the State or Commonwealth Government to enable a substantial regional increase in the use of energy efficient technology.

The G21 councils also commit to utilising operational and maintenance savings from this project towards undertaking any remaining upgrades within this proposal.

Benefits:

The project would provide:

- A reduced carbon footprint.
- Opportunities to progress “smart city” innovation.
- Demonstrates the viability of energy saving to the community and Council’s commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2020.
- Savings in maintenance and operating costs.

Action:

Project funding to upgrade the following public lighting:

- **Colac Otway Shire, 350 lights at an estimated cost of \$257,080.**
- Borough of Queenscliffe, 349 lights at an estimated cost of \$160,000.
- City of Greater Geelong, 16,296 lights at an estimated cost of \$7.5 million.
- Surf Coast Shire, 2,196 lights at an estimated cost of \$1 million.
- Golden Plains Shire, 542 lights at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

Cost: \$257,080



COLAC INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



Project Description:

In 2014 Council developed an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (IWCM Plan) for Colac. The plan identified concepts for a number of high-priority projects. In 2017 Council worked with other key agencies to refresh the list of priorities.

Two of the projects identified in the Colac IWCM Plan that remain a high priority are the upgrade of the Irrewillipe Retarding Basin (the Basin) and the detailed design of the proposed Botanic Link Pathway for Colac.

The upgrade of the Basin would ensure it provides flood retardation and stormwater treatment with the inclusion of a functioning wetland. The treated stormwater would then be suitable for use at the nearby Colac Golf Course, Colac Racecourse and Elliminyt Recreation Reserve, some of Colac's largest water users. The upgraded Basin would also deliver much needed amenity and recreational values as a more natural park land setting to surrounding residents.

The Botanic Link Pathway was identified in the Colac IWCM Plan as a unique opportunity to link the town with its waterways in a manner that would have a range of health and wellbeing benefits. The vision for the pathway is also supported through the Colac 2050 project. A detailed design for the proposed Botanic Link Pathway for Colac would allow this significant project to occur in stages as Colac develops.

Benefits:

The projects would provide:

- A community engaged in whole of water cycle management.
- Improved urban amenity through making natural water assets more accessible.
- Reduce risk of urban flooding.
- Reduce potable water use for watering open space.

Economic outcomes:

The project will provide the following economic outcomes:

- Improve functionality of the Basin which will assist downstream land development opportunities.
- Improve the use of the Basin for recreational purposes, improving liveability in a growth area of Colac/Elliminyt.
- Implement the Colac Botanic theme, improving the aesthetics and liveability of the town.

Action:

- Upgrade the Irrewillipe Retarding Basin (\$550,000).
- Develop a detailed design for the staged construction of the Botanic Link Pathway. (\$100,000).

Cost: \$650,000

Irrewillipe Retarding Basin Concept Design (IWCMP 2014)



COLAC JOBS EXPO AND SCHOOLS PROGRAM (over 3 years)



Project Description:

This project aims to introduce students to the jobs available in local industry sectors such as manufacturing, health and food processing etc. Raising awareness of the local job opportunities for young people will help retain younger community members in town, as well as filling the local employment requirements.

The expo will demonstrate to students that companies such as ALC, AKD, Bulla have numerous positions which require technical skills in addition to hands-on labour roles. Similarly in the health sector there are numerous positions students could establish a rewarding career in, apart from traditional medical professions e.g. doctors and nurses. Council also provides many career opportunities and has been challenged to fill roles from within the local community.

Funding would allow for an expo to be developed and an ongoing program involving Council and the regional schools.

Council Economic Development & Tourism officers will work with education providers and business representatives in the development of the proposed Schools Program.

This allows Council to assist students in identifying career paths and provide additional employment opportunities in the shire. The initiative will not only demonstrate the diversity of jobs available, it provides students a career path that enables them to remain in the shire.

Benefits:

The project would provide:

- An opportunity to engage students and business
- Increased employment opportunities for youth in Colac Otway Shire
- Potential to retain our younger people within the region through broader employment opportunities

Economic Outcomes:

The project will provide the following economic outcomes:

- Regional youth better educated about employment opportunities locally
- Youth retention in the region
- Employers gain better access to potential young workers
- Colac Otway Shire builds a reputation as a location offering employment opportunities for youth

Action:

Attain project funding to support the development of the Colac Jobs Expo and Schools Program for a three-year period.

Cost: \$210,000

Funding:

- Commonwealth Government 70,000
- Victorian Government \$70,000
- Colac Otway Shire Council \$70,000





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT AND DISADVANTAGE - GROW (over 3 years)

Project Description:

To extend on the initial G21 Region Opportunities for Work (GROW) project undertaken in 2016 in Colac to reduce disadvantage and support local businesses.

GROW is an innovative regional strategy focusing on one of the key features of place-based disadvantage – joblessness. GROW aims to reduce unemployment in the G21 region's most disadvantaged areas during the next ten years using a collective impact approach, and partnering with community groups, business and governments.

GROW Key Strategies:

- Compact signing
- Collective impact
- Social procurement
- Demand led employment brokerage
- Impact investment
- Shared measurement

GROW – Colac (place based) focus to date:

- Implement a demand led employment brokerage model with a particular focus on Geelong Region Innovation Investment funded industries including Australian Lamb Company (ALC), Associated Kiln Driers (AKD) and Irrewarra Sourdough.
- Explore the Industry Employment Initiative – Social Ventures Australia (SVA) as a model to support GROW initiatives.
- Developing a food and fibre proposal in partnership with GROW, Colac Otway Shire Council and Regional Development Victoria.

GROW – Some Successes

- Success in gaining \$620,000 four-year funding agreement through the Jobs Victoria Employment Network.
- Implemented a community services partnership and capacity building project to support Colac Demand Led Employment Pilot (CDLEP) participants into the future.
- Engaged all local Jobactive providers in a collaborative project.
- Established partnership with SVA (National Partner)
- Developed a detailed logic model for the CDLEP.

Benefits:

The project would provide:

- Engage a GROW project officer to oversee and implement the next Colac phase of GROW.
- Create new opportunities to embed GROW strategic priorities into Council's plans and strategies.
- Develop a model of support for GROW in Colac.
- Leverage to fund local innovations.
- Opportunities for social enterprise mapping and partnerships.
- Continued strong partnerships with G21, GROW and 'Give Where you Live'.
- Continued strong relationship with funders – RDV, JVEN (DEDTJR).

Economic outcomes:

The project will provide the following economic benefits:

- Employment ready skills for participants
- Identification of employment opportunities
- Reduction in unemployment numbers
- Increase in businesses signing

Project funding to support continuation and expansion of the part time Community Development Project Worker for GROW in Colac.

Cost: \$210,000

Funding:

- Victorian Government \$70,000
- GROW (Give Where You Live) \$70,000
- Colac Otway Shire \$70,000

