

Colac Otway Shire Annual Plan 2022-23

Annual Plan 2022-23

The Annual Plan is an operational plan that outlines how Council will achieve the outcomes of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

As part of the Council Plan 2021-2025, Council commits to generating an annual action plan to demonstrate how we will deliver on our commitments, evaluating our own performance, and publishing results within the Annual Report each October.

In addition, the development and implementation of the Annual Plan is informed by ongoing partnerships with agencies, community and other levels of government.

Each quarter, Council will produce a quarterly report showing progress against each of the actions in the Annual Plan. Additionally, Council produces an Annual Report, which outlines the work undertaken for the financial period.

Integrated Planning Framework

4- YEAR COUNCIL PLAN			
	Council Objectives	Objectives set the strategic direction	
	Council Objectives	for Council for the next four years	
		The priorities describes what the plan	
	Priorities	seeks to achieve, the outcomes that	
		will fulfil the objectives	
	Indicators	The indicators will measure our	
	- Indicators	success	

ACTION PLANNING AND REPORTING			
Annual Action Plan	An operational plan that outlines how Council will achieve the outcomes of the Council Plan		
Quarterly Performance Report	Quarterly report that provides progress against the Council Plan objectives		
Annual Report	A report containing details of Councils operational and financial achievement over the financial year		

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
1.1 Aff	fordable and available housing will supp	ort our growing community and economy	
1.1.1	Deliver a strategic growth plan for the shire and settlement strategy for all small towns and rural living areas	 Strategic Growth Plan and Settlement Strategy developed Relevant Planning Scheme Amendments adopted 	Participate in Great Ocean Road Authority Strategic Framework Plan
1.1.2	Deliver a refreshed Apollo Bay Structure Plan	 Refreshed Apollo Bay Structure Plan delivered by 2022-23 Relevant Planning Scheme Amendments adopted 	
1.1.3	Facilitate the delivery of more diverse housing stock in Colac and Apollo Bay	 Increase land supply by 200 new lots annually Increased availability of affordable housing Levels of housing stress including rental and mortgage stress 	Continue to participate on and work with the Apollo Bay Key Worker Housing Action Group
			Continue to progress the Deans Creek Precinct Structure Plan
1.1.4		Training of the second of the	Finalise the Colac West Development Plan
			Progress Planning Scheme Amendments for rezoning land to residential in Colac

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
1.1.5	Deliver a Social Housing Strategy	 Social Housing Strategy completed and implemented Number of dwellings made available for social housing 	Work with G21 regional partners to finalise a regional plan
			Work with Homes Victoria and housing providers to deliver social housing projects under the State's Big Housing Build program
			Support the delivery of social housing through development of the Council land at Bruce Street, Colac
1.1.6	Increase access to affordable accommodationtowns incfor essential workersColac, sp	 More accommodation options are available in towns including Apollo Bay, Birregurra, Forrest and 	Work with the Apollo Bay community to progress actions that achieve key worker housing
			Work with regional partner Councils to complete the regional Key and Essential Housing Worker project
		Colac, specifically for workers. • Level of rental and mortgage stress	Investigate site options for future provision of key worker housing in Apollo Bay
			Advocate to State and Federal Government for support towards key worker accommodation

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
1.2 Attı	ract, retain and grow business in our Shi	re	
1.2.1	Deliver Economic Development Strategy	 At least 80% of actions from Strategy completed Community satisfaction with business and tourism increases annually from current result of 59% Increased level of investment in the region by 2025 Number of commercial and industrial lots approved by planning permits 	Prepare targeted accommodation investment prospectus for Colac and present to industry stakeholders.
1.2.2	Attract and retain a diverse range of businesses and industries, particularly those with green credentials	 Gross Regional product increased Greenfield industrial land in Colac developed 	Deliver small business Digital Transformation program
1.2.3	Deliver City Deals project in Colac Otway Shire's coastal towns	All three City Deals projects delivered on time and on budget	Implement City Deal projects to agreed plans
1.2.4	Develop the Apollo Bay Harbour precinct for community activity, commerce and tourism	 Doubled berthings for recreational and commercial boats (currently 33 combined) Funding secured from private sector or government for commercial development of the harbour waterfront 	

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
1.3 Key	infrastructure investment supports our e	economy and liveability	
1.3.1	Attract investment to implement key master plans and projects that will drive economic growth including but not limited to Lake Colac Foreshore Masterplan, Public Toilet Strategy, CBD and Entrances Plan, Apollo Bay, Marengo and Skenes Creek CIP, Murray Street upgrades, township masterplans, Colac Civic Health and Rail Precinct, Memorial Square Masterplan Tourism Traffic and Parking Strategy	 Number of projects that have attracted funding \$ funding received 	Advocate to State and Federal government for funding towards Council's priority projects
	Deliver improvements to Colac and Apollo Bay CBD's to support their role as a hub for commerce, tourism and the community	Grant funds secured for Colac and Apollo Bay CBD streetscape upgrades	Finalise the Colac Civic Precinct Master Plan
1.3.2			Complete the Apollo Bay Community Infrastructure Plan
1.3.3	Advocate to relevant authorities for new and upgraded infrastructure to support business growth e.g. roads, utilities, NBN	Priority upgrades are achieved (e.g. mobile black spots)	Advocate to the Department of Transport for road improvements
1.3.4	Advocate for implementation of the Forrest Waterwaste scheme	Funding secured to deliver Wastewater Scheme in Forrest.	Continue to advocate to Barwon Water and State government to fund Forrest Wastewater Upgrade
1.3.5	Include consideration of arts and culture in strategic processes and projects	Arts and culture groups are actively engaged as part of consultation processes for relevant strategic projects	

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
1.4 Co	lac Otway Shire is a destination to visit		
1.4.1	Promote the Shire as a destination, not a gateway	Increased visitor spend and stay	
1.4.2	Maximise our key tourist attractions	Increased total visitor overnight stays	
1.4.3	Work with our community to promote our towns as places to stop, visit and explore	 Delivery of Destination Actions Plans In partnership with GORA, achieve Ecotourism Certification 	Promote uptake of the GORRT partnership program to local tourism business
1.4.4	Facilitate development of sustainable visitor infrastructure and accommodation	 Increased availability of visitor accommodation Public Toilet Strategy completed and 60% of actions delivered by 2025 	
1.5 Grd	ow the Colac Otway Shire's permanent po	opulation by at least 1.5%	
1.5.1	Support business growth through population attraction and retention	 Increase total population of working-aged people and young families 1.5% annual population growth achieved Reduced seasonality impacts on businesses by having stable permanent population 	

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
2.1 We	mitigate impacts to people and propert	y arising from climate change	
2.1.1	Deliver a Climate Change Action Plan in partnership with other organisations	Action Plan completed by 2022	Develop the COS Climate Change Action Plan
2.1.2	space and streetscape) Development of an urban cool canopy target as part of the reen environmental strategy Review the quality of street trees.	 space and streetscape) Development of an urban cooling strategy and canopy target as part of the reviewed 	Deliver Council's Street Tree planting program to identified candidate streets (Year 2)
		 Review the quality of street trees and streetscapes when planting appropriate trees in 	Deliver the Colac Botanic Gardens master plan
2.1.3	Minimise the effects of climate change and extreme weather events on our community	 Emergency Management Plan regularly reviewed Community satisfaction with emergency and disaster management increases annually from current result of 71% Upgrades completed in vulnerable locations 	Implement and review emergency plans for emergency events and ensure Council is prepared to undertake its functions, if and when, required

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
2.2 We	operate sustainably with a reduced carl	oon footprint	
2.2.1	Improve Council's sustainability practices through the reduction of Council's carbon emissions and/or need to pay for carbon offsets	 Maintain Council's net zero carbon emissions and reduce dependence on carbon offsets through implementation of emission education projects Community satisfaction with environmental sustainability increases annually from current result of 61% 	Develop a discussion paper relating to Council's Scope 3 GHG emissions
2.2.2		 Council has considered opportunities for regional partnerships in relation to climate change Raised awareness of whole-of-community climate change mitigation/adaptation focused activities Reduction in CO2 emissions for Colac Otway (Source: Victorian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report) 	Raise awareness of and promote whole-of- community climate change mitigation/adaptation focused education opportunities, programs and forums
	Council supports the community to reduce carbon emissions		Support community initiated environmental projects through the Colac Otway Shire Grant Program
			Review the Council Grant Program to assess for carbon emission outcomes
2.2.3	Educating and assisting our community to act on climate change by reducing waste, emissions and water usage	Reduced waste to landfill, emissions and water usage in the community	Conduct detailed and targeted educational activities including bin audits, to educate the community in the correct sorting of household waste at the source

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
2.3 Prot	ect and enhance the natural environm	nent	
2.3.1	Environment Strategy reviewed	 Reviewed Environment Strategy adopted by Council and implementation commenced by 2022 	Develop the Environment Strategy 2022-2030
2.3.2	Protect native vegetation, ecosystems, flora and fauna	Number of community activities and education initiatives that promote stewardship of the natural environment	Deliver and support community and corporate environmental events (e.g. National Tree Day, World Environment Day, Clean Up Australia Day)
	Undertake pest plant and animal management control programs and community education to target and reduce invasive species in natural systems	 Connecting and supporting Landcare and environmental interest groups 	Coordinate and deliver annual pest plant and animal control programs across environmental reserves, road reserves and other council managed land
2.3.3		Kilometres or hectares of roadside weed control conducted	Collaborate with, support and connect Landcare groups/networks and other environmental interest groups to facilitate regional pest plant and animal programs and projects

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
	will satisfy our community's reasonable waste charges	e expectations to reduce waste going to lar	ndfill, increase resource recovery and
2.4.1 commun waste to contracts partners!	Increase community satisfaction by community education, phone apps, reducing waste to landfill, pursuing joint waste	 Community satisfaction survey (waste management components) Waste management charges 	Continue to implement year one actions from the Colac Otway Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy, including roll out of the COS Shire "Good Sort" app for residents
	contracts and other innovative approaches in partnership with our community and business sectors		Continue to identify opportunities to collaborate with regional partners, including Barwon Water and Barwon South West Waste Resource & Recovery Group
	Reduce the % of food and organic (FOGO)	% of FOGO waste diverted from landfill stream and composted	Review Events Policy and include provisions for waste wise events
2.4.2	waste in the landfill waste stream (red bin) by awareness raising and innovative approaches		Conduct detailed and targeted educational activities including bin audits, to educate the community in the correct sorting of household waste at the source
2.4.3	Reduce the % of contamination of the recycling waste stream (yellow bin) by awareness raising and innovative approaches	% of contamination in recycling stream	Conduct detailed and targeted educational activities including bin audits, to educate the community in the correct sorting of household waste at the source

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
2.4.4	Divert glass from landfill by rollout of glass recycling bins (purple bin) and public awareness raising and innovative approaches	% of glass diverted from landfill stream	Post the introduction of the glass collection bin for the kerbside collection of glass, monitor the volumes generated in this stream and assess the contamination of the comingle stream for the reduction in contamination. Continue to educate the community in the correct sorting at the source
2.4.5	Trial a hard waste collection service	Trial conducted, evaluated and recommendations made to Council	Deliver a hard waste trial for kerbside collection (book and call) with supplementary vouchers and report back on the outcomes of the trail ie volumes, % age take-up, contamination and % age of volume to landfill post sorting
2.5 Provid	de and maintain an attractive and safe	built environment	
	Maintain road and drainage assets to ensure they are safe and reliable	 Community satisfaction with sealed roads increases annually from current result of 50% Community satisfaction with unsealed roads increases annually from current result of 44% Development of a Road Safety Strategy 	Ensure that identified road defects are rectified in accordance with settings in the Road Management Plan
2.5.1			Continue to apply for funding for priority safety improvements
		 Road safety funding attracted and priority improvements implemented Road Management Plan compliance 100% 	Advocate to State election candidates for road safety funding specific to Colac Otway Shire

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
2.5.2	Deliver a relevant Capital Works Program	 Complete 85% or more of capital projects annually against allocated budget Greater than 85% of renewal work for sealed and unsealed roads annually 	Complete projects in line with the adopted budget and capital program
2.5.3	Council meets annual infrastructure renewal gap	 Asset Management Plans completed Capital funding allocated annually in accordance with levels identified in AMPs 	Commence implementation of priority actions outlined in the Asset Plan
2.5.4	Ensure planning processes and policies for new developments meet the intent of this objective	 Landscape Guidelines for developers completed Conditions relating to quality landscape, open space, streetscape and urban design outcomes developed and enforced 	

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
3.1 All pe	ople have the opportunity to achieve a	nd thrive in our shire	
3.1.1	Advocate for access to and provision of education, employment and lifelong learning opportunities	 Reduced youth unemployment rate Reduced total unemployment rate Links facilitated between employers and educators to ensure workforce skills meet community needs Increase Year 12 or equivalent completion rate to at least the Victorian average (43.5% as at the 2016 census) 	Deliver Small Business Digital Transformation project
		 Funding for early years infrastructure secured (\$) Increased childcare options/availability Partner with agencies to decrease 23.3% children developmentally vulnerable in more than one domain Increase in 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten participation rates 	Continue to work towards securing long-term childcare solutions for Apollo Bay and Colac
3.1.2			Complete Early Years Infrastructure Plan to guide facility maintenance and investment decisions across the shire
	Create environments where children can be happy, healthy, supported, educated and safe		Attract more Educators to grow Council's Family Day Care program and enhance childcare availability and choice in the shire
			Secure grant funding for an upgrade of Winifred Nance Kindergarten's playground
			Complete bathroom upgrades at Wydinia and Colac East kindergartens

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions		
3.1.3	Provide services to enable lifelong health and wellbeing from the early to senior years	 Community satisfaction for Family Support Services increases annually from current result of 66% Community satisfaction for Elderly Support Services increases annually from current result of 68% Participation rates in Maternal and Child Health checks 	Continue to provide high quality and accessible home and community service		
3.2 Peopl	3.2 People are active and socially connected through engaging quality spaces and places				
	Provide safe, inclusive, accessible and	 New or upgraded priority footpath, trail and cycling connections and improvements 	Complete the Lake Colac perimeter path feasibility study		
3.2.1	integrated transport networks that support active transport	 delivered annually (metres) Review strategic footpath plans for Apollo Bay and Colac 	Construction of a shared pedestrian and cycling path along the Great Ocean Road north of Cawood Street, Apollo Bay		
3.2.2	Plan for and supply quality public open space	Council-managed open space provision aligns	Complete upgrades to the Cororooke Open Space		
	to meet community needs	with standards for development outlined in the Public Open Space Strategy	Secure land on the former Colac High School site for future public open space		

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
3.2.3	Provide fit for purpose accessible and well- utilised recreation, arts and community facilities and services	 Colac Otway Playspace Strategy developed and adopted Community satisfaction for recreation facilities increases annually from current result of 68% Community satisfaction for arts, centres and libraries increases annually from current result of 73% 	Continue work on detailed designs for the Elliminyt Recreation Reserve off field facilities. Complete City Reserves Masterplans (Eastern Reserve, Western Reserve, Lake Oval and Central Reserve) to provide direction for facility upgrades and improvements
		 Increased participation rates at libraries; and increased visitation to COPACC programs All new and upgraded Council facilities are universally accessible 	Complete oval lighting upgrades at five sporting reserves, being Alvie, Birregurra, Gellibrand, Irrewillipe and Warrowie recreation reserves
3.2.4	Plan, design and maintain attractive and safe public spaces in partnership with our community and key agencies	 Community satisfaction for appearance of public spaces increases annually from current result of 70% Perceptions of safety during the day greater than 97.6% and after dark greater than 65.5% 	Participate in the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority's master planning process for the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve
3.2.5	Increase participation in physical activity throughout the shire through direct service provision and partnerships with health services and the wider community	 Increased visitation and memberships at Bluewater Leisure Centre and Apollo Bay Aquatic Centre Level of community grants funding directed to projects that encourage physical activity 	
3.2.6	Promote and demonstrate gender equity	 Gender Equity Plan for Council adopted and implemented New and upgraded community facilities accommodate gender neutral design principles Community facility fees and charges structures encourage facility users to embrace gender equity 	

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions		
3.3 We a	3.3 We are a safe, equitable and inclusive community				
3.3.1	Support stakeholders such as Colac Area Health, Great Ocean Road Health, Barwon Health, Hesse Rural Health, Headspace and other community groups to improve mental health and wellbeing in our community	 Accessibility of services that lead to reduced rates of: Suicide and self-inflicted injuries (101 per 100,000 people) Psychological distress (20.3%) Anxiety or depression (31.7%) 	Support the ongoing operation of Colac's Headspace via collaboration with partners on the Headspace Consortium.		
3.3.2	Support relevant stakeholders to improve healthy eating and living in our community	 Reduced rates of diet-related chronic disease Community facility fees and charges structures encourage facility users to embrace healthy eating, reduced tobacco, alcohol and other drug use Increased partnerships and advocacy with relevant organisations 	Conduct an EOI for a private operator to open a café facility in Bluewater that provides health eating options Deliver youth health promotion modules focussed on building active communities; creating connected and supportive communities; and building healthier food systems in line with Council's VicHealth grant funding		
3.3.3	Diversity is embraced	 Greater than 45% of residents support multiculturalism as measured by Department of Health data Contribute to greater than 57% of residents feel valued by society Key council documents and communications are provided in accessible formats and multiple languages Increase in number of community events that celebrate diversity 			

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
3.3.4	Deliver a Reconciliation Action Plan in	Reflect level Reconciliation Action Plan delivered	Complete the 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan
	consultation with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Cooperative	by 2022	Deliver an event during Reconciliation Week
			Commence a campaign to highlight the positive aspects of Council's compliance activities
3.3.5	Provide community safety services that enhance the liveability of our shire	Community satisfaction for enforcement and local laws increases annually from current result of 64%Local Law reviewed by 2023	Commence the review of the Local Laws
			Develop, implement and review fire prevention plans/programs and awareness raising activities for Council and the community
3.3.6	Support health, enforcement and other services to support initiatives to reduce all forms of violence	Decrease family violence incident rates	
3.3.7	Reduce gambling-related harm in the Colac Otway Shire	Gambling Policy developed for inclusion in the planning scheme	

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions		
4.1 We	4.1 We commit to a program of best practice and continuous improvement				
4.1.1	Identify and embrace best practice and modernise systems to realise efficiencies	Community satisfaction for Councils overall performance increases annually from current result of 58%	Investigate and scope further cyber security and data protection measures to provide continued protection and compliance for council systems		
			Upgrade conference rooms to modern meeting technology		
4.1.2	Digital transformation to improve customer experience and interactions with community	Number of services that can be accessed by customers online	Replacement of Customer Request Management System		
4.1.3	Building and Planning services are customer and solution focussed	 Community satisfaction for Planning and Building services greater than 50% by 2025 85% of planning applications, and 100% of Vic Smart applications determined in 60 days 	Undertake review of local VicSmart provisions to increase the number of permit applications that could be assessed via a streamlined planning process		
4.1.4		Conduct at least two service reviews annually and	Conduct a service review of Colac Regional Saleyards		
	Undertake a rolling program of service reviews	implement decisions made by Council, with a view to saving at least \$250,000 per year	Conduct a service review of Services and Operations		

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions		
4.2 We	4.2 We are a financially robust organisation				
4.2.1	Plan for sustainable portfolio of assets to deliver the services the community needs within our financial constraints	 Asset Management Policy reviewed to address asset decommissioning and divestment Asset Management Strategy and Plans adopted 	Capital Funds Allocation and Prioritisation Policies adopted		
	Adopt a policy and approach to guide the disposal of assets no longer required	 Asset Management Plans include strategic service planning recommendations Capital Funds Allocation and Prioritisation Policies adopted 	Develop methodology for decommissioning of assets		
4.2.2			Continue work on public halls and social infrastructure needs analysis to better understand service levels and future facility requirements		
4.2.3	Manage procurement to get best value for the community	 Agreed audit recommendations are implemented within defined timelines Rolling internal audit program implemented 			
4.2.4	Council businesses maximise community utilisation and minimise council subsidy ratios	Reduced subsidy ratio for Council businesses (airports, saleyards, COPACC, Bluewater and Visitor Information Centres)			
	Financial and risk management practices are responsible and sustainable	 Deliver ten-year financial plan VAGO LGPRF financial sustainability measures 	Develop Statutory and Discretionary Reserve Policy		
4.2.5			Review Council's Borrowing Policy		
			Review Council's Investment Policy		

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions		
4.3 We	4.3 We provide exceptional customer service				
			Development of online forms and payment options to deliver accessible customer services for all customers		
	Council service delivery is efficient, accessible,	Community satisfaction for Customer Service increases annually from current result of 68%	Development and implementation of Customer Service Charter		
4.3.1	solution-focused and responsive to the needs of the community	Seek to understand factors contributing to the community's perception of Council's performance in Apollo Bay and surrounds	Undertake engagement with our coastal communities to better understand factors that contribute to perceptions of Council's performance		
			Establish Council's safety programs to the national audit toll		
4.4 We	support and invest in our people				
4.4.1	We respect and invest in our employees and continue to strengthen our workplace culture	Employee satisfaction and engagement	Commence the development of the organisation's purpose with engagement at the team level		
4.4.2	We commit to safe work practices and take a	Delivery of targets and measures as outlined in the	Measure alignment and adherence to safe work practices via annual performance plans		
	positive approach to our work	OHS Strategic Plan	Implement the actions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Plan		

	Four-year Priorities	Indicators	Year 2 Annual Actions
4.4.3	Develop a skilled and diverse workforce by investing in training and development	 Attraction and retention of skilled workforce Number of secondments within the organisation Number of internal promotions Number of hours of training Number of traineeships/apprenticeships Development of a Workforce Plan 	Investment in leadership programs across the organisation to create pathways for career progression and development
4.4.4	Council provides clear, accessible communication and opportunities for the community to participate in decisions that affect them in line with the Community Engagement Framework	 Community satisfaction for Consultation and Engagement increases annually from current result of 54% Rolling program of Community Conversations implemented 	Deliver training to Council staff to improve Council's community engagement practices in line with the Community Engagement Policy and Framework
4.4.5	Council decisions are open and transparent and the public has access to relevant Council information	 Number of decisions made in closed Council meetings Community satisfaction for Council's community decision making increases annually from current result of 54% Compliance with Public Transparency Policy 	