

Council Plan 2021 - 2025 Priority Actions Progress Report



**Progress Report on Priority Actions - Year 2 (2021 -2025)
Q3 (2022-23) - as at 31 March 2023**






Introduction

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is Maroondah City Council's key medium-term strategic document that sets key directions and priority actions to work towards the long-term community vision outlined in the refreshed *Maroondah 2040: Our future together* community vision.

The Council Plan plays a vital role in shaping Maroondah's future over a four year period. It identifies both challenges and opportunities for our community at local and regional level within the context of the community's long term Maroondah 2040 vision. It also forms the basis for Council to make decisions regarding resources and priorities in response to community needs and aspirations.

Each year, Council presents to the community an updated set of key directions and priority actions for implementing the four -year Council Plan. This helps to ensure that the Plan continues to be aligned with *Maroondah 2040: Our future together*, the community's long-term vision, and is responsive to community needs and expectations.

The Council Plan is implemented through a service delivery planning process, and outcomes are measured and reported regularly . This report identifies Council's progress in relation to the Council Plan Priority Actions for the 2022-23 financial year. Some actions span multiple years as identified in the Council Plan 2021-2025. Progress is identified as at 31 March 2023.

-  Priority action is currently on track and/or progressing as expected.
-  Priority action is at risk of not being on track.
-  Priority action is currently not on track and/or not progressing as expected
-  Priority action has been achieved
-  Priority action has been deferred to another year

Summary of Progress



| | Assets and Leisure | CFO | People and Places | Strategy and Development |
|-------------|--------------------|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Not Started | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| In Progress | 7 | 3 | 12 | 13 |
| Complete | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Deferred | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 8 | 3 | 12 | 13 |




Council Plan 2021 - 2025




Year 2 - 2022/23 Priority Actions


Q3 Progress Reporting - as at 31 March 2023











| Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area | No. | Council Plan Priority Action | Progress Comment | Project Status | On Track | Target Completion | Directorate | Service Area |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---|--|----------------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A safe, healthy and active community | 1 | Continue to monitor the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide responses aligned to community needs | Council has continued to engage with the different sectors of the community regarding the ongoing social and economic impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Relevant social and economic data is being collected and reported to ensure that service delivery is aligned with community needs. Mental health and business support initiatives continue to be implemented. | In Progress | 😊 | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | Community Safety |
| | 2 | Design and construct a dog park in Ringwood North | Council was successful in advocating for \$275,000 in Victorian Government funding through the Local Parks Program for a purpose-built dog park in Ringwood North. The fully enclosed Parkwood Dog Park is now open for community use and is the second dog-only park for the municipality, following the opening of Maroondah's first dog park at Eastfield Park in May 2017. The Parkwood Dog park is fully enclosed and features multiple entry gates and a range of elements to keep dogs of all sizes entertained, including a time-out zone for younger and quieter dogs. | Complete | ✓ | 2022-23 | Assets and Leisure | Major Projects and Assets Management |
| | 3 | Design and construct sporting infrastructure upgrades at Jubilee (regional cricket hub), Proclamation, Springfield, Cheong and Ainslie Parks, and at Dorset Recreation, Silcock and JW Manson Reserves | Council is continuing to construct infrastructure upgrades including pavilions at Jubilee Park (stage 2 - regional cricket hub) and JW Manson Reserve. Pavilions at Dorset Recreation Reserve, Cheong Park, Ainslie Park, Proclamation Park, Springfield Park and Silcock Reserve have been completed. | In Progress | 😊 | 2022-23 | Assets and Leisure | Major Projects and Assets Management |
| | 4 | Review, update and implement Council's <i>Physical Activity Strategy</i> , and develop and implement an <i>Indoor Sports Facilities (basketball, netball and volleyball) Strategy</i> | Community consultation has been undertaken for the Stadium Sports Strategy and it is anticipated that a draft will be developed for internal consultation by April 2023. Community consultation for the Physical Activity Strategy commenced with Café Consult at Maroondah Festival in November 2022. | In Progress | 😊 | 2024-25 | Assets and Leisure | Leisure and Major Facilities |
| | 5 | Finalise and implement the <i>Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 (including the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2021-2023 and Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025)</i> | In 2022/23, Council has continued implementation of Year 2 actions associated with the Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Action Plan. Actions are being undertaken across priority areas of healthy lifestyles, liveable neighbourhoods, safe communities, social inclusion, embracing diversity and minimising social harms. Highlights include continued delivery of mental health initiatives in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; developing the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct (CCWP); implementing the Gender Equality Action Plan; celebrating and recognising indigenous culture, and the establishment of internal and external reconciliation networks; and facilitating sector-based networks and Council's Advisory committees. | In Progress | 😊 | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | City Futures |


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| A safe, healthy and active community | 6 | Work in partnership with a broad range of service providers and agencies, to develop and deliver services and cultural experiences in the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct | Council has continued to work in partnership with a broad range of service providers and agencies to progress the staged development of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct (CCWP). | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Community Services |
| | 7 | Advance planning and implementation of 20-Minute Neighbourhood initiatives, including completion of a strategic review of shopping centres in Maroondah | Council has continued to advance planning of 20-Minute Neighbourhood initiatives and has been invited to participate in the 20-Minute Neighbourhoods Municipal Planning Project in 2022/23. This will provide access to grant funding and the opportunity to work with the Victorian Government to plan for 20-Minute Neighbourhoods in Maroondah. The shopping centres strategic review has resulted in a 20-Minute neighbourhoods investment strategy, which is currently being finalised. A draft Neighbourhood Activity Centre (NAC) Strategy has been prepared to advance planning of 20-Minute Neighbourhood initiatives. The Strategy will outline Council's approach to social and capital investment in Maroondah's activity centres. The NAC Strategy complements a five-year capital works program that was developed in January 2023. The capital works program will see a significant infrastructure investment to support local businesses in 31 centres across the City. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Business and Precincts |
| A prosperous and learning community | 8 | Work in partnership to implement the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy and investigate and implement opportunities to enhance business capability, skill development, employment and education pathways for the manufacturing sector | Council is working in partnership with Knox and Yarra Ranges Councils to implement the Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP) Transformation Strategy adopted by Council in March 2022. The proposed governance structure has been agreed by the three partner councils and its implementation has begun. Economic activities continue to focus on building awareness of the precinct and understanding and strengthening local business connections. Work has progressed on the case for a Hub to provide a connecting space for business and support agencies, and on engaging all relevant internal teams regarding the Action Plan and priorities. Cross council teams have been formed to implement the Strategy focusing on transport, land use planning and the BBP economy. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Business and Precincts |
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| A prosperous and learning community | 9 | Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to plan for and support the rollout of funded three year old kindergarten in Maroondah | Council is working closely with the Department of Education and Training (DET) to support the rollout of funded three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten in Maroondah. In 2022, three-year-old-children were able to access five hours a week in a funded kindergarten program, increasing to 15 hours per week by 2029. Through DET funding, Council has employed a Kindergarten Initiative Project Officer to work with services to understand their needs and ensure that infrastructure will meet community demand. The Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) for the City of Maroondah was finalised in 2022. Following this, there was an announcement of 30 hours of funded kindergarten for all four-year-olds (up from the current 15 hours) and the implications of this policy announcement are now being worked through. Council was recently successful in obtaining funding of \$150,000 to support planning for the new Croydon Central Kindergarten and Occasional Care facilities, which are part of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct (CCWP). Council has also employed two short-term roles (Kindergarten Outreach Officer - CALD and Bilingual Children's Services Officer) to support CALD children's access to early childhood education and care. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Community Services |
| | 10 | Facilitate co-working opportunities and spaces in Maroondah | The BizHub Coworking Space provides flexible and professional space that inspires collaboration and business connection. The space is currently operating at 95% capacity for premium members, with 20 casual bookings a week. It continues to attract enquiries and tours, predominantly for casual use. The BizHub team continues to build the cowork community through engagement, social events and networking opportunities and promotions. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Business and Precincts |
| | 11 | Design the Karralyka redevelopment, and undertake staged redevelopment works | During 2022/23, Council will undertake renewal of Karralyka theatre seating and make improvements to the loading dock. Council will also continue planning for the staged redevelopment of the venue subject to funding. The proposed redevelopment will include: a new multi-purpose foyer expansion, outdoor paved terraced area leading from the enhanced foyer space and some accessibility improvements. | In Progress |  | 2023-24 | Assets and Leisure | Major Projects and Assets Management |

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| A vibrant and culturally rich community | 12 | Implement the Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025 and work with the Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee to maximise arts and cultural opportunities across Maroondah | Implementation of the <i>Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025</i> continues. Key projects delivered include significant public art commissions for the Croydon multi-level carpark (Hide & Seek by Damian Vick), and Melview Reserve in Ringwood North (Da Ancient One by Alexander Knox). The Reignite Croydon - Laneway Lights public art project commenced, co-funded by the Victorian Government, to assist in revitalising the night-time economy in Croydon Main Street and Activity Centre. Planning for the integration of arts and cultural facilities within the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct (CCWP) is ongoing. Ringwood Arts Precinct activations included Maroondah Mix, a new ongoing music series, launched initially in the Backyard. Arts incubators (Midnight and the Flickering Wilds) and exhibitions (Of Embers, Omission, The Mayoral, On the Wildside, Yours - the Maroondah City Council Art Collection) engaged with general public and targeted youth, refugee, disability and intersectional audiences, showcasing local arts community groups, our collections and spaces. A new programming partnership highlighted local artists and body positive themes, with the In/Visible exhibition and artist panel part of the official culture program of the 2023 PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival. Several 2022/23 Arts and Culture grant-funded projects were realised during this quarter, including the Blossoms of Life public art, Jazz at the Lake concert, and Sound Tree performance with YourDNA. The Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee also met for the first time in March 2023, having been reinvigorated with five new members. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Business and Precincts |
| A clean, green and sustainable community | 13 | Work in partnership to implement the Reimagining Tarralla Creek project | During 2022/23, Council is seeking to continue partnership with Melbourne Water to deliver the next stage of the Re-imagining Tarralla Creek project. Discussions are underway to identify opportunities to align works on the upcoming Kilsyth to Croydon South Water Mains Renewal Project with delivery of the Swinburne section (Stage 4) of the Re-imagining Tarralla Creek project. | In Progress |  | 2022-23 | Strategy and Development | City Futures |
| A clean, green and sustainable community | 14 | Review, update and implement Council's <i>Sustainability Strategy</i> , and Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy | Council adopted the <i>Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031</i> in August 2022. The Strategy includes actions that will promote environmental, social and economic sustainability, addressing themes of the built environment, climate change, community connections, a green economy, green infrastructure, governance, evaluation and improvement. The Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy will be replaced by a Climate Change Plan. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | City Futures |
| | 15 | Review, update and implement Council's <i>Carbon Neutral Strategy</i> , including participation in the power purchasing agreement | In 2022/23, Council's Carbon Neutral Strategy will be combined with the Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy to form a single Climate Change Plan. The Plan will provide a holistic approach to managing climate change mitigation, adaptation and risk across Council and the community. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | City Futures |

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| A clean, green and sustainable community | 16 | Develop and implement Council's <i>Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030</i> | In 2022/23, the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service will be rolled out to households commencing in May 2023, including standardising of the garden bin lid from maroon to lime green. New receipt and sort, general waste processing, collections and hard waste contracts will come into effect, including changes allowing an additional paid hard waste collection and bookings for collection of garden prunings. A waste services policy, to outline the governance of the new contracts, and capture the access rules for Council waste services will also be developed. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | CFO | Finance and Commercial |
| | 17 | Prepare and implement a Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Action Plan | Following the identification of key locations for improving habitat connectivity across the municipality, in partnership with a community advisory group, a detailed action plan is being prepared to enable implementation of measures within the Mullum Mullum Biolink. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | City Futures |
| | 18 | Implement a streetscape enhancement program, including a significant increase in tree planting | During 2022/23, Council will implement a strategic open space tree renewal program to help replace dead or storm affected trees with the municipality. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Assets and Leisure | Operations |
| An accessible and connected community | 19 | Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to implement road improvement works at New Street Ringwood, Reilly Street and Wantirna Road Ringwood, Eastfield Road Ringwood East, Plymouth Road and Kirtain Drive Croydon; and undertake carpark improvement works at McAlpin Reserve Ringwood North and Dorset Recreation Reserve Croydon | In 2022/23, Council will continue to work in partnership with the Victorian Government to implement road improvement works at: New Street in Ringwood; Reilly Street and Wantirna Road in Ringwood; Eastfield Road in Ringwood East; and Plymouth Road and Kirtain Drive in Croydon. The projects in New Street, Reilly Street and Wantirna Road were completed in mid-2022. The upgrade to Plymouth Road and Kirtain Drive is being delivered by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP / VicRoads) and commenced in late 2022 with early service installation works associated with traffic signals and pedestrian operated signals. Due to delays in service authority works experienced by DTP, the project is now expected to be completed in the first half of the 2023/24 financial year. Carpark improvement works at McAlpin Reserve in Ringwood North were completed in July 2021. The carpark upgrade at Dorset Recreation Reserve in Croydon is complete with carpark and facility landscaping and other minor works to be completed in May 2023 to finalise the project. | In Progress |  | 2022-23 | Strategy and Development | Engineering and Building |
| | 20 | Design and construct activity centre carparks in Croydon, Ringwood and Heathermont; and at Heatherdale station | In 2022/23, Council will continue the design and construction of the Activity Centre carpark in Ringwood. | In Progress |  | 2023-24 | Assets and Leisure | Major Projects and Assets Management |

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| An accessible and connected community | 21 | Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to support the removal of level crossings at Bedford Road Ringwood, Dublin Road Ringwood East and Coolstore Road Croydon; and the construction of new stations at Ringwood East and Croydon | In 2022/23, Council continued to work in partnership with Level Crossing Removal Authority on the Bedford, Dublin and Coolstore Roads level crossing removal projects. Following project announcements and initial public consultation for both the Bedford and Dublin level crossing removals, the Bedford Road level crossing removal project has been enhanced to include a shared walking and cycling path connecting the Heathmont Rail Trail to Bedford Park alongside the Belgrave line. Approximately 460 upgraded car parking spaces at Ringwood East Station will be provided, including 200 spaces funded by the Car Parks for Commuters program. Bedford Road early works commenced in late 2022, with major construction commencing in 2023. Dublin Road major construction will start in 2023, with trains running in the new trenches. It is expected Bedford and Dublin roads will be free of level crossings by 2025. Initial site investigations and assessment for the Coolstore Road Level Crossing indicate that the most suitable design solution for the community would be to build a new rail bridge over the road to remove the Coolstore Road level crossing, connecting Croydon's city centre which is currently divided by the railway line. Further community engagement and engineering assessments are expected in 2022/23 on these projects. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | Engineering and Building |
| | 22 | Advocate to the Australian and Victorian Governments for provision of new and upgraded major transportation infrastructure in Maroondah, including public transport enhancements | In 2022/23, Council will continue advocacy work to address the major transport needs of the Maroondah community. | In Progress |  | 2023-24 | People and Places | Communications and Citizen Experience |
| | 23 | Work in partnership to undertake renewal works on the Mullum Mullum Creek and Colchester Road shared trails; and continue footpath construction in the Principle Pedestrian Network | During 2022/23, Council will work in partnership to undertake renewal works on the Mullum Mullum Creek and Colchester Road shared trails. Design works for the section of trail from Marilyn Crescent to Kalinda Road is underway with key stakeholder consultation to be completed by the end of 2022/23 and community consultation to be undertaken in 2023/24. The footpath construction program for Maroondah's Principal Pedestrian Network for 2022/23 is planned to include: Eastfield Road (Mt Dandenong Road to Railway Avenue); Sunhill Avenue (Wonga Road to Hendra Grove); Sang Court (Ambrie Avenue to Hendra Grove); Hendra Grove (Graeme Avenue to 27 Hendra Grove); Lavender Street (Great Ryrie Street to Ford Street); Belle Vue Avenue (Great Ryrie Street to Heathmont Road); Pearwood Street (Great Ryrie Street to Ford Street); Gardini Avenue (Shared User Pathway, Greenwood Avenue to Thomas Street); Devon Avenue (Great Ryrie Street to Leoni Avenue); Erica Court (Great Ryrie Street to 23 Erica Court); Leoni Avenue (Devon Avenue to Viviani Crescent); Dresden Avenue, Great Ryrie Street to Leoni Avenue); Langley Street (Knaith Road to School); Anzac Street (Mt Dandenong Road to Mena Avenue); Bond Street (New Street to Market Street); and Colchester Road (Canterbury Road to Collier Road). All footpath projects are on track for scheduled completion during 2022/23. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | Engineering and Building |

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| An attractive, thriving and well built community | 24 | Develop a new Croydon Structure Plan and prepare a planning scheme amendment to incorporate the policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme | In 2022/23, Council has continued to develop the new Croydon Structure Plan, which will be available for community consultation in early 2023. After the Structure Plan has been adopted by Council, permission will be sought from the Minister for Planning to commence preparation of a planning scheme amendment. | In Progress |  | 2022-23 | Strategy and Development | City Futures |
| | 25 | Work in partnership to implement the Greening the Greyfields project to facilitate a sustainable approach to urban redevelopment in identified residential precincts | In 2022/23, Council will continue to work with stakeholders to implement the Greening the Greyfields project in two identified residential precincts. Following Victorian Government gazettal of Planning Scheme Amendments for the two precincts, participation will be sought from relevant landowners. It is anticipated that additional suitable precincts will be identified, and a similar approach applied to transform other neighbourhoods within the municipality. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | City Futures |
| | 26 | Undertake the staged redevelopment of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct | In 2022/23, Council will continue to design and construct the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct (CCWP). | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Assets and Leisure | Major Projects and Assets Management |
| | 27 | Undertake flood mitigation works in New Street, Ringwood, Sherbrook Avenue catchment in Ringwood, and Scenic Avenue and Wingate Avenue catchments in Ringwood East; and work in partnership to develop flood mitigation solutions for central Croydon | In 2022/23, Council will continue to implement flood mitigation works at identified sites. The Sherbrook Avenue catchment (Stage 3) drainage upgrade in Ringwood from Bourke Street to Charter Street, is scheduled to commence in by June 2023 and will be completed in late 2023. The Scenic Avenue drainage upgrade (stage 4) was completed in March 2023. Development and prioritisation of drainage upgrade solutions for central Croydon catchment is continuing with work programmed for future years. Flood mitigation works in New Street in Ringwood were completed in April 2022 and the final stage of the upgrade works in Wingate Avenue in Ringwood East were completed in March 2022. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Strategy and Development | Engineering and Building |
| An inclusive and diverse community | 28 | Work in partnership to support volunteer-based organisations and facilitate volunteerism within Maroondah | In 2022/23, Council will continue to work with Eastern Volunteers and volunteer-led community groups and organisations, to encourage volunteering and support local community groups to recover from impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. | In Progress |  | 2022-23 | Strategy and Development | City Futures |
| | 29 | Investigate and implement additional female changing facilities at local sporting venues | In 2022/23, Council has scheduled sporting pavilion works which will include women's, unisex and accessible amenities at JW Manson Reserve in Wantirna. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | Assets and Leisure | Leisure and Major Facilities |
| | 30 | Implement the Children and Families Strategy and Action Plan; and the Youth Strategy and Action Plan | During 2022/23, Council is undertaking a consultation with children, young people, families and stakeholders, which will inform the development of new Action Plans (2023/24 to 2024/25) for the Children and Families Strategy and the Youth Strategy. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Community Services |
| | 31 | Implement the Gender Equality Act 2020, including Council's Gender Equality Action Plan | The Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector, through its functions under the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> , has published Council's workplace gender audit data highlights and Gender Equality Action Plan. In 2022/23, Council will continue to document the status of its first year's actions and prepare for its second workforce audit and analysis. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | People and Culture |

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| An inclusive and diverse community | 32 | Continue to monitor and respond to Australian Government Aged Care Reforms to ensure that Council services adapt appropriately to meet current and future community needs | Council will continue to monitor the My Aged Care reform agenda. The Australian Government has announced that reforms will not occur prior to July 2024 in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Community Services |
| | 33 | Implement the new <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> | During 2022/23, Council has implemented the new Rating Reform Bill, which was made publicly available in June 2022. All other elements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> have been implemented. Councils are currently awaiting guidance material to be issued by Local Government Victoria (LGV) regarding the review of statutory policies in the lead-up to the 2024 Council Election. | In Progress |  | 2022-23 | CFO | Governance and Performance |
| A well governed and empowered community | 34 | Advocate on key local issues on behalf of the Maroondah community, including in the lead up to the Victorian and Australian Government elections in 2022 | During 2022/23, Council will continue its advocacy to both the Australian and Victorian governments to seek funding to address a range of key priority infrastructure, and sporting and transportation improvement projects that will benefit the Maroondah community. Council received funding commitments from both the Liberal Party and the Labor Party totalling \$12.5 million in the lead up to the Federal election in May 2022 and is working with the new government to secure funding agreements. Council continues its advocacy campaign in the lead up to the Victorian Government election in November 2022 and to date has received commitments totalling over \$32.5 million. | In Progress |  | 2022-23 | People and Places | Communications and Citizen Experience |
| | 35 | Develop and implement a new Customer Service Strategy that will continue to advance Council's commitment to be highly responsive and customer focused | Council has developed a new Customer Service Strategy in line with evolving customer expectations. This Strategy includes the development of online engagement channels and focuses on strengthening internal service partnerships. These partnerships are reviewed on a regular basis with action plans developed to ensure continued and integrated service provision to the Maroondah community. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | People and Places | Communications and Citizen Experience |
| | 36 | Deliver a broad range of Council services to meet current and future community needs along with sustainable management of Maroondah's resources, assets and environment | In 2022/23, Council continues to ensure service delivery considers community needs and aspirations, national and regional trends, financial sustainability and the challenges arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. | In Progress |  | 2024-25 | CFO | Governance and Performance |