

Maroondah City Council

Council Plan 2021 - 2025 Priority Actions Progress Report



Quarter 2, 2023/24 Financial Year
Status as at 31 November 2023

Maroondah City Council

Council Plan 2021 - 2025 Priority Actions Progress Report

Quarter 2, 2023/24 (as at 31 December 2023)

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 2023/24 financial year. Some actions span multiple years as identified in the Council Plan 2021-2025. Progress is identified as at 31 December 2023.

The following status icons assist with interpreting the progress of Council Plan Priority Actions:



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



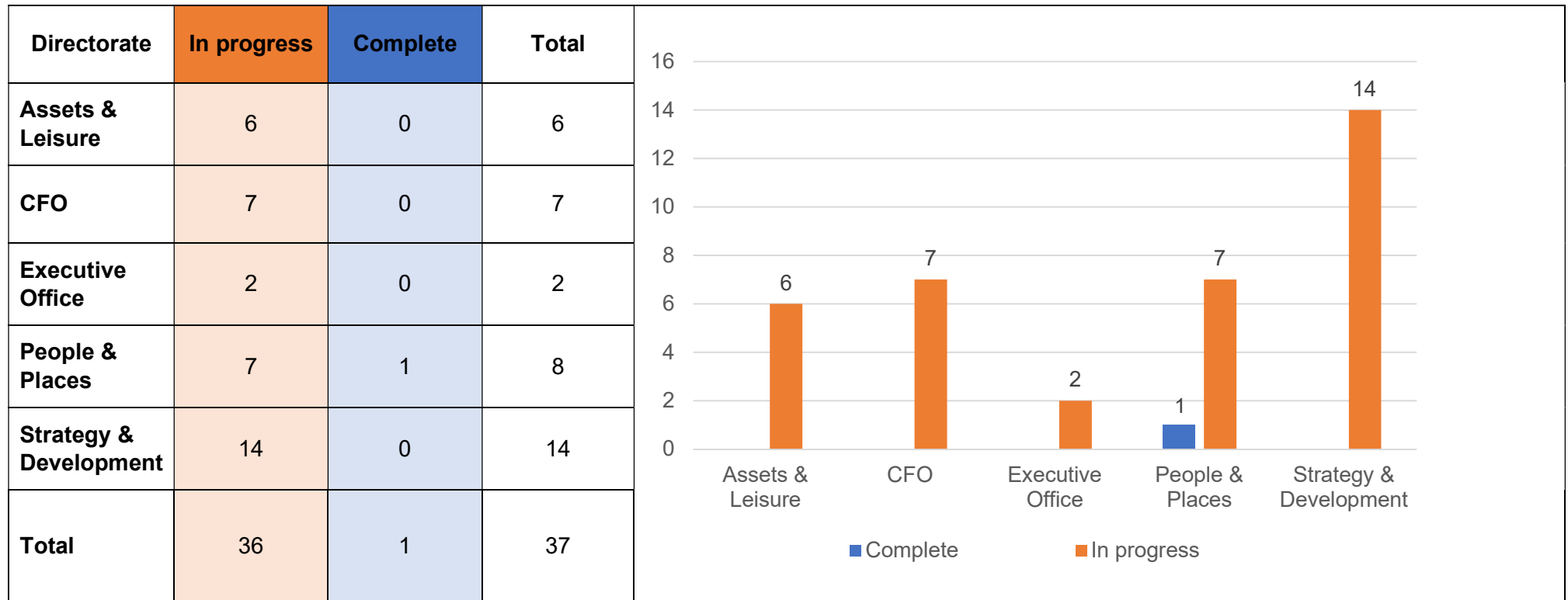
Priority action has been achieved



Priority action has been deferred to another year

1. Summary of Progress

There are 37 Priority Actions listed in the *Council Plan 2021-2025* for the 2023/24 financial year. As at 31 December 2023, one (1) action has been completed and 36 actions are in progress. There was no change in progress from quarter one.



Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Year 3 - 2023/24 Priority Actions

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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	Review, update and implement Council's Physical Activity Strategy; and develop and implement a Stadium Sport Strategy	The Stadium Sports Strategy was endorsed by Council on 18 September 2023. Community consultation for the Physical Activity Strategy commenced at the Maroondah Festival during November and will be completed by March 2024.	In progress		2023/24	Assets & Leisure	Leisure & Major Facilities
	2	Finalise and implement the <i>Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031</i> ^ (including the <i>Health and Wellbeing Action Plan</i> and <i>Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025</i>) in accordance with the <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i>	The Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2023-2025 has been endorsed. The Plan outlines the priority actions and other related initiatives that Council will undertake to work towards health and wellbeing outcomes of the Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
	3	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	Community Hub B stakeholders continue to establish themselves in their new premises, and are establishing new partnerships and ways of working due to their co-location. Exploration of potential tenants and operations for Hub A are underway.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
	4	Continue to monitor the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide responses aligned to community needs	Respective Council service areas continue to monitor the ongoing social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure service delivery is aligned to community needs.	In progress		2023/24	Strategy & Development	Community Safety
	5	Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to support the construction of a new hospital in Maroondah to ensure the location and construction maximises community benefit	Council continues to work in partnership with the Victorian Government to support the construction of a new hospital in Maroondah to ensure the location and construction maximises community benefit.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
A prosperous and learning community	6	Advance planning to reinforce the sense of place and Local Neighbourhoods to enable people the choice to live local through the provision of services and daily needs from across a network of neighbourhoods within Maroondah	Council continues to participate in the Local Neighbourhoods Municipal Planning Project. This provides access to grant funding and the opportunity to work with the Victorian Government to plan for local neighbourhoods in Maroondah. A Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy has been prepared to advance planning of local neighbourhood initiatives and identify opportunities for social, economic and capital investment in Maroondah's neighbourhoods and local activity centres.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
	7	Work in partnership to implement the <i>Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy</i> and investigate and implement innovative opportunities to enhance business capability, skill development, employment and education pathways for the manufacturing sector	Work continues to implement the Strategy. Progress is being monitored and guided by the recently established governance structures. Work has progressed on the development of an overarching spatial plan that will address access, activity centre and physical amenity outcomes. The revised business case for the physical BBP hub is approaching final draft stage.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	People & Places	Business & Precincts

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Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area	No.	Council Plan Priority Action	Progress Comment	Project Status	On Track	Target Completion	Directorate	Service Area
A prosperous and learning community	8	Work in partnership to plan for and support the Victorian Government three and four year old kindergarten reforms, including advocating for funding at all levels of Government for new and redeveloped facilities to enable these reforms in Maroondah	Council continues to work with Department of Education and Victorian School Building Authority in regards to the impacts for Maroondah of the rollout of the Best Start, Best Life Kindergarten reforms across Victoria, which includes increasing the hours of funded Kindergarten for three and four year old children. Council was successful in obtaining funding to extend the Kindergarten Initiative Project Officer position for a further twelve months to understand community impacts of this Victorian Government reform and undertake feasibility studies for Council's early years infrastructure. Council and the Department of Education are working towards developing a pipeline of adequate infrastructure grants for works to help meet the future demand for Kindergarten due to the reforms.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	People & Places	Community Services
	9	Implement the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre Master Plan including enhancing the Maroondah Highway Boulevard and Staley Gardens	Victorian Government advocacy is being undertaken to seek funding for the future upgrade of Maroondah Highway Boulevard. Staley Gardens Landscape Masterplan stakeholder consultation has been analysed and design principles developed for the proposed future upgrade of this valuable green space. A report was presented to Corporate Management Team in December 2023 whilst a status update is to be provided to Councillors in early 2024.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	People & Places	Business & Precincts
	10	Successfully transition the Eastern Regional Libraries service to a Beneficial Enterprise Model	Council endorsed the Your Library Agreement for execution on 19 June 2023. Transition to Your Library Limited commenced on 1 July 2023.	Complete		2023/24	People & Places	Community Services



Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area	No.	Council Plan Priority Action	Progress Comment	Project Status	On Track	Target Completion	Directorate	Service Area
A vibrant and culturally rich community	11	Design the Karralyka redevelopment, and undertake staged redevelopment works	Council will continue the design and construct 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		Beyond 2024/25	Assets & Leisure	Projects & Assets Management
	12	Implement the <i>Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025</i> and work with the Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee to maximise arts and cultural opportunities across Maroondah	<p>The Creative Places service model has been ignited with the appointment of the Creative Places Manager to oversee the collective services delivered through Arts and Culture, Karralyka Precinct, Maroondah Federation Estate, Wyreena, Community Halls and K-Cafes. Key precinct initiatives have commenced, including support for the development of the CCWP Black Box Theatre and Event Space, Realm and Town Square Precinct Activation, and Ringwood Arts Precinct, as well as guiding the Wyreena Heritage Master Plan and Karralyka Precinct developments.</p> <p>Council continues to implement the Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025, which has guided the 2023 Arts and Cultural Service Delivery. A total of 88 arts initiatives were delivered, attracting 48,717 active participants across the suite on offer within Wyreena, Art Space, Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery and related arts precincts.</p> <p>Council has supported 62 artists or arts and cultural groups to produce and present content to local audiences, and has attracted 174 artists or community members to arts network and related events. Exhibition programs continue to deliver strong levels of engagement with program partners Your Library, Multicultural Women Victoria, Fresh Theatre for Social Change, Deakin University, Eastland, YourDNA Creative Arts and local historical societies, in mutual support of arts and cultural development, diversity, gender equity, community engagement and Reconciliation.</p> <p>The major creative placemaking and public art project, Reignite Croydon - Laneway Lights, co-funded by the Victorian government, progressed to detailed design and local venue partnerships in readiness for installation in 2024. Funded VicHealth Local Government Partnership project Arts Activators commenced with an external Creative Producer and young artists recruited to work together on projects for realisation in 2024.</p> <p>Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee continues to strategically guide service priorities, and has supported the Public Art and Art Collection Policy review.</p>	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	People & Places	Business & Precincts

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Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area	No.	Council Plan Priority Action	Progress Comment	Project Status	On Track	Target Completion	Directorate	Service Area
A clean, green and sustainable community	13	Work in partnership to deliver the staged implementation of the Reimagining Tarralla Creek project	Council continues its 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		Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
	14	Implement Council's <i>Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031</i> , including development of a Climate Change Plan integrating carbon reduction and climate adaptation measures	Council continues to implement the <i>Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031</i> . 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 Action Plan is under development and will provide a holistic approach to managing climate change mitigation, adaptation and risk across Council and the community.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
	15	Develop and implement Council's <i>Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030</i>	The Strategy continues to be implemented on time and in budget with the successful roll out of the Food or Garden Organics (FOGO) service in May 2023. The focus of Q1 and Q2 has been the monitoring and evaluation of the FOGO service, ensuring risks to the new service are effectively managed. A review of the waste strategy has been initiated and will incorporate changes from the new <i>Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act</i> , new Federal targets, and FOGO service performance. The new Waste Services Policy is nearing completion and was adopted by Corporate Management Team during the quarter, along with a 6 month FOGO service evaluation report and update. Preliminary planning for Glass waste services rollout has commenced and will continue for the remainder of 2023/24.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	CFO	Finance & Commercial
	16	Prepare and implement a series of Biolink Action Plans that implement the Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Study	In 2022/23, eight 'biolinks' were identified for improving habitat connectivity across the municipality. The first Plan - the Mullum Mullum Creek Draft Biolink Action Plan - has been developed with community consultation undertaken in November and December 2023. Detailed planning for two further biolinks is underway.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
	17	Implement a streetscape enhancement program, including a significant increase in tree planting	Council will continue to undertake this program including targeting inappropriate trees under power lines.	In progress		Beyond 2024/25	Assets & Leisure	Operations

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Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area	No.	Council Plan Priority Action	Progress Comment	Project Status	On Track	Target Completion	Directorate	Service Area
An accessible and connected community	18	Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to implement road improvement works at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •New Street, Ringwood •Reilly Street and Wantirna Road, Ringwood •Eastfield Road, Ringwood East •Plymouth Road and Kirtain Drive, Croydon Undertake carpark improvement works at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •McAlpin Reserve, Ringwood North •Dorset Recreation Reserve, Croydon 	The upgrade to Plymouth Road including the installation of traffic signals at Kirtain Drive, and new Pedestrian Operated signals on Plymouth Road was delivered by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP / VicRoads) in partnership with Council. The works were completed by DTP in late 2023.	In progress	😊	2023/24	Strategy & Development	Engineering & Building
	19	Design and construct an activity centre carpark in Ringwood	Council will continue to design and construct the Ringwood Activity Centre Carpark in 2023/24 and 2024/25.	In progress	😊	2024/25	Assets & Leisure	Projects & Assets Management
	20	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	The Level Crossing Removal works are underway and progressing well, with initial rail occupations being undertaken at all three sites in preparation for the major construction blitz scheduled for 2024. Construction of the new Dublin Road road bridge is well underway and scheduled for opening in October 2023. The relocation of the Croydon memorial was completed ahead of the Remembrance Day ceremony in November 2023.	In progress	😊	2024/25	Strategy & Development	Engineering & Building
	21	Advocate to the Australian and Victorian Governments for the provision of new and upgraded transportation infrastructure in Maroondah	In 2023/24 Council will continue advocacy work to address the major transport needs of the Maroondah community.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	Executive Office	Senior Executive
	22	Work in partnership to undertake renewal works on the Mullum Mullum Creek and Colchester Road shared trails; and continue footpath construction in the Principal Pedestrian Network	During 2023/24, Council will work in partnership to undertake renewal works on the Mullum Mullum Creek trail. Renewal of the section of trail from Marilyn Crescent to Kalinda Road will be completed across the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. The footpath construction program for Maroondah's Principal Pedestrian Network for 2023/24 is planned to include: Colchester Road (Canterbury Road to Collier Road); Morinda Street (Loma Street to Railway Avenue); Highton Street (Loma Street to Railway Avenue); Smithdene Avenue (Loma Street to Railway Avenue); Rupert Street (no. 17 Rupert Street to Mullum Mullum Creek); Maroondah Highway (Dampier Grove to Hillcrest Avenue); Maroondah Highway (Hughes Park Reserve frontage); Fairview Avenue (Eastfield Road to Patterson Street); Canterbury Road (Wantirna Road to no. 305 Canterbury Road); and Evelyn Road (Loughnan Road to no. 3 Evelyn Road). Works are progressing on schedule to fully deliver the footpath construction program.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	Engineering & Building

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Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area	No.	Council Plan Priority Action	Progress Comment	Project Status	On Track	Target Completion	Directorate	Service Area
An attractive, thriving and well built community	23	Develop a new Croydon Structure Plan and prepare a planning scheme amendment to incorporate the policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme	The Draft Croydon Major Activity Centre Structure Plan was made available for community consultation from 31 August to 22 October 2023, with the Plan on track to be brought to Council for formal consideration in 2024. 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	😊	Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
	24	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, Amendments C134maro and C136maro for the two identified residential precincts were gazetted in the Maroondah Planning Scheme. Council is continuing to work with stakeholders to implement the Greening the Greyfields project in two identified residential precincts and participation is being sought from relevant landowners.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	City Futures
	25	Undertake the staged redevelopment of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct	Council will continue to design and construct the staged redevelopment of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct inline with the endorsed Masterplan throughout 2023/24.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	Assets & Leisure	Projects & Assets Management
	26	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 2023/24, Council will continue to implement flood mitigation works at identified sites. The Sherbrook Catchment (Stage 3) drainage upgrades in Ringwood from Bourke Street to Charter Street commenced in early July 2023 and was completed in November 2023, Stage 4 of the drainage upgrade works along Charter Street from New Street to Market Street will commence in March 2024 and is expected to be completed by end June 2024; development and prioritisation of drainage upgrades for Mullum Mullum Road/Panfield Avenue, Through Road/San Remo Road and Erica Crescent/ Daisy Street sub-catchments are continuing with works programmed for future years. Investigation and discussion with external agency partners/ catchment authority partners have continued regarding flood mitigation for central Croydon catchment.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	Strategy & Development	Engineering & Building



Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area	No.	Council Plan Priority Action	Progress Comment	Project Status	On Track	Target Completion	Directorate	Service Area
An inclusive and diverse community	27	Investigate and implement additional all gender changing facilities at local sporting venues	Works have commenced on the relocation of changing facilities from Manson Reserve to Quambee Reserve.	In progress		2023/24	Assets & Leisure	Leisure & Major Facilities
	28	Implement the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> , including the <i>Maroondah Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025</i>	<p>The Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) is complete and has been submitted to the GE Commission and published on Councils' website consistent with the provisions of the Act. Key GEAP actions have commenced with a major organisational investment in face to face/interactive sexual harassment prevention training delivered to all Council employees.</p> <p>Initial Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) processes have been conducted, while an expert external consultant has been engaged to provide GIA training, coaching and support to relevant Council service area management who provide and/or facilitate externally facing services and strategies.</p> <p>Council actively participated in the 2023 People Matter Survey for local government conducted by The Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector. This was the second occasion that Council has participated following its participation in the initial survey conducted in 2021. While there remains scope for improving the perceived experience of employees, Council's relative performance typically exceeded published sector performance benchmarks.</p> <p>Council is preparing to satisfy its progress reporting obligations to the GE Commission as required in early 2024.</p>	In progress		2023/24	People & Places	People & Culture
	29	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, and advocate for ongoing support and care for Maroondah senior citizens	<p>Council continues to monitor the Commonwealth My Aged Care reform agenda. The Australian Government has announced that a new service model for Commonwealth Home Support Program will not occur prior to July 2027.</p> <p>The Commonwealth have confirmed the intention to transition the Regional Assessment Service into a new consolidated assessment service model from 1 July 2024, however as yet, no details have been released for the new model.</p> <p>Council's Aged and Disability Services are undertaking a review during 2023/2024 considering Maroondah community current and future needs and the contemporary sector environments.</p>	In progress		2024/25	People & Places	Community Services

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Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area	No.	Council Plan Priority Action	Progress Comment	Project Status	On Track	Target Completion	Directorate	Service Area
A well governed and empowered community	30	Advocate on key local issues on behalf of the Maroondah community, including in the lead up to the Australian and Victorian Government elections in 2024/25 and 2026/27	During 2023/24, Council will continue its advocacy to both the Australian and Victorian governments to seek funding to address a range of key priority infrastructure, sporting and transportation improvement projects that will benefit the Maroondah community.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	Executive Office	Senior Executive
	31	Implement and deploy the <i>Customer Service Strategy 2020</i> that will continue to advance Council's commitment to be highly responsive and customer focused	The Strategy is still in operation with a review to commence during 2023/24. The review will focus on Council's commitment to being highly responsive and customer-focussed across all service areas of Council. A draft should be completed by in mid-2024.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	People & Places	Communications & Citizen Experience
	32	Work in partnership with the Victorian Electoral Commission to coordinate a Council Election in October 2024 for the 2024-2028 period	Planning has commenced for coordination of the Local Government Elections in October 2024. In addition, a byelection was held for Barneong Ward in November/December 2023 following a Ward Councillor resignation in September 2023. This Byelection was declared on 12 December 2023 with Cr. Chris Jones elected to Council.	In progress	😊	2024/25	CFO	Governance & Performance
	33	Develop a strategy for Connected Communities involving digitising metrics to understand and respond efficiently to community needs	Phase one of Connected Communities review has been delivered with Phase 2 scheduled to commence in Jan 2024. Deliverables of the review will include a Connected Communities Strategic Plan, and an accompanying program of works, success measures, and costings	In progress	😊	2024/25	CFO	Cyber & Technology
	34	Enhance connections between Council's statutory committees (including advisory committees) and the Integrated Planning Framework to ensure alignment with emerging community priorities	Council has reviewed the terms of reference for each of the seven advisory committees to enhance alignment and ensure effective community representation. A review of the areas of focus for Council's advisory committees will be undertaken ahead the 2024 Council Election to inform planning for the 2025-2029 Council Term.	In progress	😊	2024/25	CFO	Governance & Performance
	35	Engage the community in developing a new Community Vision and prepare the <i>Council Plan 2025-2029</i> following election of a new Council	Council has commenced development of a new Maroondah 2050 Community Vision involving background research into current and emerging trends and community engagement. Broad engagement has been undertaken from September to December 2023 with thousands of inputs from community members, key stakeholders and local organisations. Engagement was undertaken online via the Your Say Maroondah website, through pop-up engagement in local neighbourhoods, at local community events, and through workshops with key stakeholders and community groups. Preparations are currently underway for a Community Panel to be held from February to May 2024, to meet deliberative engagement requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	CFO	Governance & Performance

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Maroondah 2040 Outcome Area	No.	Council Plan Priority Action	Progress Comment	Project Status	On Track	Target Completion	Directorate	Service Area
A well governed and empowered community	36	Undertake a review of a range of Council technological systems	A tender to replace Council's financial and asset systems is scheduled to commence in January 2023. Council is reviewing other core systems concurrently, as well as reviewing existing integration platforms.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	CFO	Cyber & Technology
	37	Evolve organisational capacity and implement systems to minimise risks to cybersecurity impacts	A range of cyber security initiatives have been undertaken including: recruitment of a cyber security lead; adoption of cybersecurity incident procedures; implementation of audit recommendations for compliance with Essential 8 maturity level 1; implementation of site wide split of admin account privileges; implementation of Microsoft Sentinel and engagement of third party vendor for 24/7 Security Operations Centre services; delivery of updated organisation wide cybersecurity training; and implementation of targeted training for Council's casual employees. In coming months, Council will further expand suite of security tools including implementing Insider Risk Assessment, Data Loss Prevention, and examine Microsoft's "Security Copilot" which integrates Artificial Intelligence with Intrusion Detection.	In progress	😊	Beyond 2024/25	CFO	Cyber & Technology