

2024/25 Council Plan Annual Update.

We're entering the fourth and final year of our current Council Plan, which not only gives us time to reflect on the accomplishments and achievements of the past three years, but is also a wonderful opportunity to look forward and begin planning for the next chapter.

Our Council Plan is a roadmap, it provides a guide and sets out Council's strategic direction, objectives, and key strategies, all of which represent the work that we do for our community. It is made up of three pillars, which are the driving force behind everything that we do: a **sustainable shire**, a **healthy community**, and a **thriving community**.

See below for this year's major initiatives, which Council is implementing to progress the community towards its sustainable, healthy, and thriving vision.

Did you know?

Between 2021 and 2041, the population for Baw Baw Shire is forecast to increase by 29,670 persons (51.50% growth), at an average annual change of 2.10%.

Source: profile.id.com.au



A Sustainable Shire

- Implement the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and corresponding Action Plan.
- Identification and assessment of significant trees for the development of a Significant Tree Register. The register will be considered for future protection amendments in the Baw Baw Planning Scheme.
- Introduce Council's separate glass collection service in 2024 and continue to prepare for the introduction of Council's Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) service in 2026.
- Commence implementation of Council's Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan.
- Finalise Council's Circular Economy Policy and commence implementation.



A Healthy Community

- Ongoing implementation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and corresponding Annual Action Plan.
- Undertake a final review of the Waste Management Plan 2021-2025 and commence development of a new plan.
- Continued advocacy for Council endorsed priorities.
- Assess the existing network of paths, trails, and reserves in Precinct Structure Plans (PSP's) to identify opportunities for connections to growth areas. This project also includes the targeted assessment of street cross-sections in the PSP's and in some cases the potential impact on surrounding vegetation.
- Deliver strategic capital projects 2021 – 2025
 - Rokeby to Noojee Trail – Stage 1
 - Rollo Street, Yarragon Masterplan Project
 - Drouin Recreation Reserve – Oval Redevelopment
- Continue the review and development of Council's Open Space Strategy.



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A Thriving Community

- Implement the Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategy.
- Support the local community economy and vibrancy through the support and delivery of events.
- Implement Creative Communities Strategy for Baw Baw Shire, supporting community vibrancy and engagement.
- Continued focus on Shire roads and delivery of Capital programs across Council's Gravel and Sealed Roads, and Road Safety projects.
- Advocate for State Government support towards the implementation of the *Best Start, Best Life* reforms, including increased access to funding for infrastructure and ongoing maintenance obligations for Early Year's services.



Enabling a Sustainable, Healthy and Thriving Shire and Community

- Development and delivery of a Future Ready Baw Baw program, to meet the future needs of the community. Focused on Information Technology (IT), Services, Workplaces, and People.
- Develop a Depot Strategy to ensure Council can continue to conduct works and deliver services that meet the needs of the community into the future.

Accomplishments from our Council Plan so far – Year Three:

We have:

Sustainable shire:

- Established Council's first Natural Environment Field Maintenance Team.
- Developed and are implementing a revolving sustainability fund.
- Increased resourcing for open place planning.



Healthy community:

- Provided female friendly player amenities at Buln Buln, Darnum, and Hallora Recreation Reserves.
- Provided and updated a huge range of quality facilities for Baw Baw residents to use and enjoy, including: Western Park Warragul netball pavilion and courts, Drouin Civic Park playground upgrades, Neerim South Recreation reserve oval upgrade, the Rawson Skatepark, and so much more!
- Awarded more than \$550,000 to community organisations as part of the Community Grants Program.

Thriving community:

- Invested \$16 million in road renewals and upgrades.
- Successfully lobbied State Government for the development of a new 132-place kindergarten at Drouin West Primary School.
- Delivered the new Trafalgar Early Learning Centre.
- Was awarded the National Winner – Baw Baw Family Daycare (2021).
- Implemented the Family Friendly Baw Baw Business Program.



Check out the 2024/25 Budget.

Baw Baw Shire Council adopted its 2024/25 Budget at a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday 19 June. To view the Budget, simply scan the QR code on this page or visit www.bawbawconnect.com.au/budget.

