

A message from our Mayor

It has been an incredibly busy time for Strathbogie Shire Council recently with the adoption of our 2021/22 Budget.

This year, we tried harder than ever to include the community's needs into the Budget by running extensive engagement sessions as well as a Pitch My Project initiative.

It was pleasing to see 10 projects added to this year's Budget following the consultation process.

Our consultation has really ramped up in recent times with the implementation of Share Strathbogie.

Share Strathbogie is our online engagement platform and it allows people from across the Shire to have their say on important projects.

So far, it has been pleasing to see the amount of people engaging with Share Strathbogie and we encourage community members to view and interact with this powerful platform.

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We are also incredibly proud of the recent results to our Community Satisfaction Survey.

Results from this year's survey showed our overall performance increased significantly from 2020 and is now at its highest level to date.

While we are proud of the results – we are committed to doing even better, with a continued focus on “The Four Cs – customer service, community decisions, consultation and engagement and communication.

Finally, we are incredibly excited to announce the launch of our geo-located township podcasts created in conjunction with Storytowns.

Each episode focuses on a town within the Shire and you can listen to them by downloading the Storytowns app or visit www.strathbogiestory.com for more information.

Keep an ear out for the many rockstars who feature in the episodes.

Mayor Cr Chris Raeburn



Budget reflects community's projects

Strathbogrie Shire residents may see some changes in its final 2021/22 Budget adopted at its Extraordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 29.

More than 10 new projects have been included to reflect submissions and projects pitched by our community.

"This year Council took a proactive approach to its budget development - creating a series of opportunities for our community to have its say and pitch us project ideas," Mayor Cr Chris Raeburn said.

"It's paid off and we're excited to release our 2021/22 Budget with new projects that include street tree planting, upgrades to sporting facilities, street activation workshops and project implementation and more."

Our 2021/22 Budget provides for an operating expenditure of \$30.3 million to fund services.

This includes \$7.6 million to roads, drains, bridges, and footpaths, \$213,000 to sustainability initiatives, \$1.2 million to parks and reserves, \$345,000 to libraries and arts, \$197,000 to youth services and \$984,000 to planning.

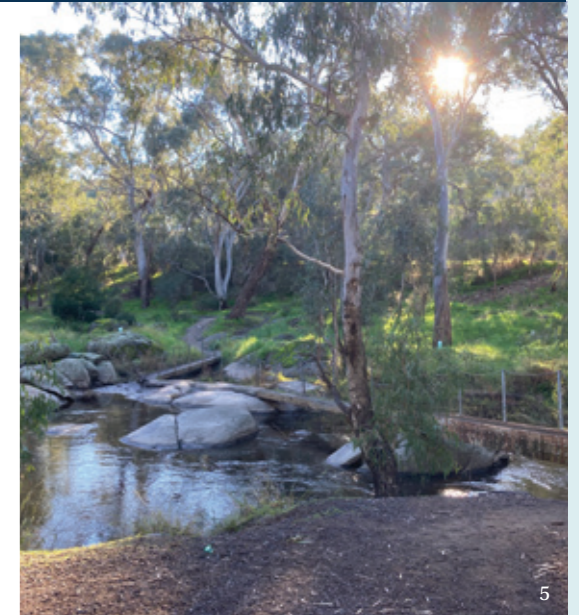
"Operating expenditure is also used to fund important services such as maternal and child health, swimming pools and emergency management.

This year's Budget provides \$21.57 million in new capital works that includes \$3.855 million in roads, \$1.4 million for bridges and culverts, \$3.9 million for pedestrian bridges and footpaths including the Nagambie Foreshore Walk, \$2.4 million for recreation, leisure and community facilities and \$331,000 for parks, open spaces and streetscapes.

"This includes some fantastic projects like an upgrade to the Nagambie-Locksley Rd Bridge, a new Council website, a splash park in Nagambie, funding for the Strathbogrie Recreation Reserve Pavilion, footpath works in Avenel and Violet Town and significant funding contributions towards the Rockies Pedestrian Footbridge in Euroa," he said.

2021/22 Budget highlights:

- Nagambie Splash Park
- Strathbogrie Recreation Reserve Pavilion
- Rockies Pedestrian Footbridge, Euroa
- Nagambie Foreshore Walk
- Upgraded toilet facilities for the Friendlies Reserve, Euroa
- Ruffy Recreation Reserve - north facing verandah
- Digital Projector and screen for Avenel Memorial Hall
- Solar Battery Heat Refuge for Avenel Memorial Hall
- Tablelands Community Centre - finish kitchen renovation
- Memorial Oval Netball Change room - Scoping/Design
- Longwood Netball Courts
- Southern Aurora Memorial Violet Town - gardens
- New Council website



This year's 2021/22 Budget includes a 1.5 per cent increase in the average rate per property which is in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates legislation.

Waste Charges will also increase by two per cent to fund ongoing collection and disposal commitments, along with the detailed design, costings and rehabilitation of the Violet Town landfill.

Council is now keen to hear from the community on how it can improve its Budget engagement process.

"We're working hard to improve our communications and engagement," Cr Raeburn said.

"This year we made some changes to the budget process, which included asking the community to prioritise services and infrastructure to help us develop the Budget and our Pitch My Project initiative where the community could pitch its awesome ideas."

"We encourage the community to visit www.share.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au to share your ideas."

1. Nagambie Foreshore Walk. Photo courtesy of GR Design and Construct.

2. The Southern Aurora Memorial Gardens in Violet Town has received funding. Photo courtesy of Bethany Photography

3. The Tablelands Community Centre has received funding for the completion of its kitchen renovation. Photo courtesy Sean Mathews.

4. The Avenel Memorial Hall received funding for both a digital projector and screen as well as a solar battery heat refuge.

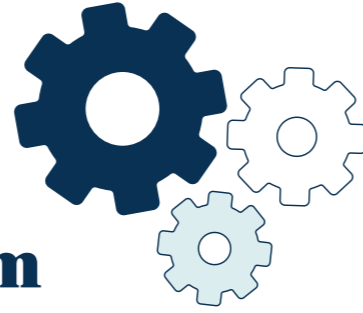
5. A new pedestrian footbridge will be installed over The Rockies in Euroa as part of the 2021/22 Budget allocation.

Page 1. Photo courtesy of Bethany Photography

Renewing parks and outdoor spaces across the Shire



Council celebrates successful 2020/21 capital works program



Council's new project management approach is paying dividends with 84 per cent of our capital works program delivered in the 2020/21 financial year.

Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor, Cr Chris Raeburn said in the past year Council had developed a project management framework that allowed projects to be planned, managed and governed from beginning to end.

"We know as an organisation we haven't always been the best and getting things done," Cr Raeburn said.

"We want to let our community know, we've been working hard on doing better and we hope these results are proof of this."

The community can expect to see further changes in the capital works area with more time spent engaging with the community, planning, scoping and costing projects before kick-off.

"We are overwhelmingly aware that we are spending ratepayers' money and we don't take that responsibility lightly," he said.

Highlights of the past year's capital works projects included the installation of a new pedestrian bridge from the Memorial Oval to the Friendlies Oval in Euroa, the expansion of the Euroa RSL Clubrooms, upgrades to the netball and multi-purpose court at the Violet Town Football Netball Club.

Major culvert renewal on Upton Rd



Getting active



Other exciting projects included the completion of the Violet Town Skate Park and Violet Town Recreation Reserve Toilet Facilities.

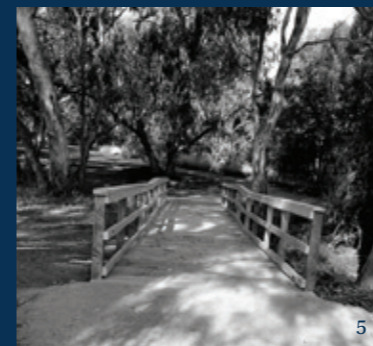
Council also ensured added safety to its communities with the addition of a Kiss & Go Bus Stop at St John's Primary School in Euroa, the major culvert renewal on Upton Rd, upgrades to various tracks and trails and the completion of Stage 1 of the Fixing Country Roads project.

Cr Raeburn said the achievement of these significant capital works projects was a fantastic result for Council.

"We are so pleased to deliver these exciting projects to our communities," he said.

"These capital works projects have already demonstrated improved liveability and amenities for residents in our Shire."

Cr Raeburn said Council looked forward to delivering more exciting capital works projects in 2021/22. "We are eager to see works go ahead on the Nagambie Foreshore Walk, Nagambie Splash Park, our Streetscape Renewal Program and works to the Nagambie-Locksley Rd bridge," he said.



1. Avenel Active received funding for new exercise equipment.
2. We are looking forward to the Nagambie Foreshore Walk works going ahead. *Photo courtesy of GR Design and Construct*
3. The Violet Town skatepark.

4. Major culvert renewal on Upton Rd
5. Upgrades to tracks and trails in Violet Town
6. Kiss & Go Bus Stop at St John's Primary School in Euroa.

Survey demonstrates satisfaction on the rise

Strathbogie Shire Council has received our highest rating overall performance in 10 years' participating in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS), with a significant improvement on 2020 results.

While we are incredibly proud of this improvement, we are committed to raising the bar even further.

This year Council achieved an overall satisfaction rating of 57, up a statistically significant seven points from 50 in 2020, and our highest level to date.

On most individual service areas, performance rating remained the same



Participants of the CSS Survey were also asked what was the one best thing about Strathbogie Shire Council and what does Strathbogie Shire Council most need to do to improve its performance?

1. Community engagement sessions were held across the Shire in 2021.

A summary of Strathbogie Shire Council's performance				
Service Area	Result 2021	Result 2020	Small rural 2021	State-wide 2021
Overall performance	57	50	60	61
Value for money	41	-	52	54
Overall Council direction	55	51	53	53
Customer service	69	72	69	70
Appearance of public areas	74	-	75	73
Waste management	67	62	68	69
Art centres and libraries	67	-	72	73
Recreational facilities	65	-	69	71
Enforcement of local laws	61	59	63	64
Tourism development	61	62	63	62
Business / Community development	59	-	62	61
Environmental sustainability	57	56	61	62
Informing the community	56	55	61	60
Consultation and engagement	52	50	56	56
Local streets and footpaths	52	46	58	59
Community decisions	52	49	56	56
Lobbying	51	50	55	55
Building and planning permits	51	-	49	51
Sealed local roads	51	51	53	57
Unsealed roads	42	41	44	45



with exceptions to waste management and local streets and footpaths, where ratings improved significantly.

The 2021 CSS was conducted from February 8 to March 18 this year via a random telephone survey of 400 Strathbogie Shire residents aged 18-plus years old.

Strathbogie Shire Council CEO Julie Salomon thanked the community for its open and honest feedback in the survey.

"Our focus on 'The Four Cs - customer service, community decisions, consultation and engagement and communication' will continue in the next 12 months," Ms Salomon said.

Storytowns project to drive tourism

A series of podcasts capturing the spirit of Strathbogie Shire has been released.

Completed in conjunction with start-up company Storytowns, the podcasts feature the Shire's towns - Avenel, Longwood, Strathbogie, Euroa, Violet Town, Nagambie and Ruffly - as well as an episode exploring our many tracks and trails.

A selection of locals were interviewed as part of the series - focusing on what each town has to offer when it comes to tourism.

Cass Moore, owner and operator of Upton Grove in Ruffly, said she thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the project.

1. Cass Moore from Upton Grove in Ruffly was thrilled to be a part of the project.

2. Nagambie Brewery's head brewer and distiller Jamie Chesher talks about Nagambie's vibrant food and beverage culture in the podcast series. *Photo courtesy of Nagambie Brewery.*

"Living in the Strathbogie Ranges is a huge privilege, and it was a great buzz to be included in the Storytowns podcast series with a chance to share my story about our place in this beautiful setting and great community," she said.

Storytowns founder and interviewer Jarrod Pickford said he loved making the podcasts for the Strathbogie Shire community.

"We discovered the Shire has such a big heart and lots of community spirit. It was amazing spending time with the locals - we uncovered some amazing stories," he said.

STORYTOWNS



"So many people drive through the Shire every day and do not realise just how much it has to offer to the visitor.

"Our goal was to uncover local knowledge to encourage people to discover the roads less travelled in the area.

"We're so excited to have worked with Council to get these geo-located podcasts on the Storytowns app. Now listeners from home or the travellers can easily download the app for an immersive experience in the Strathbogie Shire."

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Cr Chris Raeburn said the podcasts were a fantastic way to showcase the many incredible things the Shire had to offer.

"We are so proud to be able to deliver these podcasts to the community as well as visitors from near and far," he said.

"Our Shire is a destination area and these podcasts will only help to drive tourism, boosting the local economy for businesses."

To listen to the podcasts download the Storytowns app or visit www.strathbogiestory.com for more information.

In brief

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Sign up for our eNews

Last month we were excited to launch our monthly eNews platform. It's another way to keep you up to date on the latest news, information and work of Strathbogie Shire Council.

We urge you to share this with your friends and family and encourage them to sign up for their own copy which will land in your email inbox each month.

You can sign up by visiting the Strathbogie Shire Council website and clicking on eNews in the Council drop-down section.

Have your say

Strathbogie Shire Council has officially launched its online engagement portal Share Strathbogie which enables community members to have their say on our important projects.

It's a fantastic way for you to contribute ideas, provide feedback and exchange views with others on key decisions and priorities for our community.

It's updated regularly so we encourage you to visit often and have your say.

Visit Share Strathbogie via www.share.strathbogie.com.au where you will be able to view and engage with several of Council's current projects.

Community Forum

Council is excited to host a Community Forum over three weekends in late July and early August.

The forums involve selected representatives from the community assisting Council to develop its Council Plan and Vision.

We're excited to view the results of the engagement forum and put these into practise when developing these important documents which will drive Council during the years to come.



Euroa Community Cinema*

There are lots of exciting films coming to the Euroa Cinema during August!

Each weekend the cinema shows a Saturday evening show from 8pm and Sunday afternoon show from 4pm.

The August program is jam-packed full of fantastic viewing with highlights such as **In The Heights** on August 7 and 8 as well as new Marvel blockbuster **Black Widow** on August 28 and 29.

The cinema will also host a family fun night on August 20 from 6.30pm with animation film **Spirit Untamed**. Those attending this event can bring their own dinner and enjoy a night at the cinema with family and friends.

To check out the August program, visit the Euroa Community Cinema's Facebook page or the Strathbogie Shire website via www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Upcoming events*

August 19 - Men's Health Week Breakfast, Nagambie HealthCare, 301 High St, Nagambie | 7.15am

August 21 - Euroa Farmers' Market, Kirkland Ave, Euroa | 9am - 1pm

August 22 - Euroa Miniature Railway, 11 Turnbull St, Euroa | 10.30am - 3pm

August 22 - Nagambie Farmers' Market, Tahbilk Winery grounds | 10am - 2pm

September 4 - Nagambie Lakes Community Market, High St | 9am - 1pm

September 11 - Violet Town Market, Tulip St | 8.30am - 1pm

September 12 - Avenel Market, Jubilee Park | 9am - 1pm

September 17 - Great Aunt concert, Violet Town Museum & Art Gallery, | 6pm

October 3 - Australian National Show and Shine, Euroa | 8am - 3.30pm

**Subject to COVID restrictions*