

# **Strathbogie Shire Council Victorian Government Advocacy Ask**



*Strathbogie*  
SHIRE COUNCIL



# Acknowledgement of Country

Strathbogie Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations.

We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.

We acknowledge the elders of the present, who seek to regain their culture, and to teach the elders of the future their law, their history and their language.

We pay our respects to them and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

We honour their spirit – and the memory, culture, art and science of the world’s oldest living culture through 60,000 years.

# Strathbogie Shire: Invest. Live. Visit. Play

Our region is fast becoming the destination for people to invest, live, visit and play.

*We are seeing strong development in Nagambie and Euroa, and this is matched by demand as people look to relocate to our beautiful region.*

**For those who are lucky to live in Strathbogie Shire we know how special our region is.**

However, what was once our secret is now well-and-truly out.

To ensure we can support this growth – both business and residential – Strathbogie Shire Council will advocate to State and Federal governments for funding support.

**Strathbogie Shire embraces more than 1,550 businesses over 20 industry sectors who support over 10,000 residents who call the area their home.**

Our people together with the natural attractions of the region sustain over \$56.1 million in tourism income each year.

**For more than 150 years, the agricultural sector and the businesses that support and depend on those farms, form the backbone of our local economy.**





# Contents:

## One.

*Reliable power supply*

Page 7.

## Two.

*2026 Commonwealth Games:  
Lake Nagambie venue bid*

Page 13.

## Three.

*Greening Euroa Project*

Page 21.

## Four.

*Nature Base Play Space*

Page 27.

## Five.

*Balmattum Hill  
Mountain Bike Track  
– Feasibility Study*

Page 33.





Council Plan 2021–2025, Strategic Focus area 3: Protect. Enhance. Adapt.  
Action 3.1.8 Advocate to Federal and State Governments for investment  
in reliable power supply infrastructure with a focus on renewable energy.

# Reliable power supply infrastructure and renewable energy







## The opportunity:

**Power failures during peak periods is a common occurrence throughout Strathbogie Shire.**

In January 2019, Nagambie, Avenel, Longwood, Euroa and surrounds experienced an extended power outage lasting up to three days.

During the height of summer the heat was consistently reaching 40 degrees Celsius (Koob and Latimer, 2019, theage.com.au) and our power supply did not cope.

Outages occurred again in January and February 2020 at intermittent periods.

*These repeated outages result in economic loss to retail and local industry providers and cause severe inconvenience and hardship for our residents and vulnerable citizens.*

The reason: A single Ausnet electricity supply connecting Benalla to Euroa via Violet Town is the only infrastructure to service the surrounding localities.

The electricity source connecting Nagambie from Seymour is also struggling. Growing tourism, residential and commercial investment use will continue to place severe strain on the power supply along with other utilities into the future.

The lack of energy security is one of the most significant barriers to attracting new small to medium businesses to Strathbogie Shire.

1. From left: Glen Burnside (local business owner), Shirley Saywell (EEG chairperson and local business owner) and David Mawson (Mawsons Bakery owner).



## The benefits:

With a moderate climate and close proximity to Melbourne, Shepparton, Wangaratta and Benalla, Strathbogie Shire is conveniently located to import renewable energy generation into the grid.

However, the current lack of a secure and stable grid system prevents investment in large scale renewable energy in the region.

*Council is keen to work with our communities with the view to implementing micro-grids (with battery storage and generator backup) as a sustainable means for energy security.*

This will ensure residents and businesses have independence and island-able capacity for townships on the Benalla AusNet line and the Seymour AusNet line.

This project provides opportunity for future renewables integration for townships and as AusNet advises, increases the potential for new small-medium businesses to connect to the grid that have previously faced limitations in the sector.

2. BD North East Electrics install solar panels on the Brady & Kibble truck wash as part of the Euroa Business Microgrid Demonstration Initiative.

3. Euroa Energy and Mondo sponsored truck trailer curtain promoting the Euroa Microgrid project

4. Microgrid stakeholders: Bruce Thompson, Shirley Saywell, The Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP, Rob Morphet, Matt Charles-Jones (Mondo Power), Charlie Brydon, Luke Scott (Globird), Tom Brown (DELWP).



## The ask:

### One.

We ask the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) takes into consideration rural community populations and land mass in an equitable measure to densely populated areas, when applying the Regulatory Investment Test for Distribution (RIT-D) process to determine upgrade approvals.

### Two.

That the Victorian Government continues to support renewable energy programs to deliver microgrids and stand-alone power systems in the regions that will provide energy security and emergency resilience.

### Three.

We urge that the Australian Energy Regulator reviews an Ausnet line upgrade from Seymour to Benalla in the vicinity of \$20 Million, in line with current development increases in Nagambie and Avenel, particularly if renewable funding is not provided.



Profile:

“On a sunny day in Euroa the six tenanted apartments above the bakery are now making their own clean energy.

**Euroa Connect, with partner Mondo Power, has installed large arrays on six business premises and linked the energy production of five of them with batteries.**

These businesses are now enjoying the co-benefits of cheaper power, better energy management, sharing knowledge and being part of the change.”



Cover image and 1. Community renewable energy advocate, Charlie Brydon  
2. The rear of the Euroa Microgrid building that houses residential apartments and Mawson's Bakery

*“Blue sky thinking delivered this possibility.  
A good bit of lateral thinking about contract renegotiation and smart sparkies did the structural orchestration.*

*But beyond all of that it was the commitment AND imagination of dedicated community members which made it happen!*

*Change is not just possible but do-able.”*

Charlie Brydon  
Euroa Connect



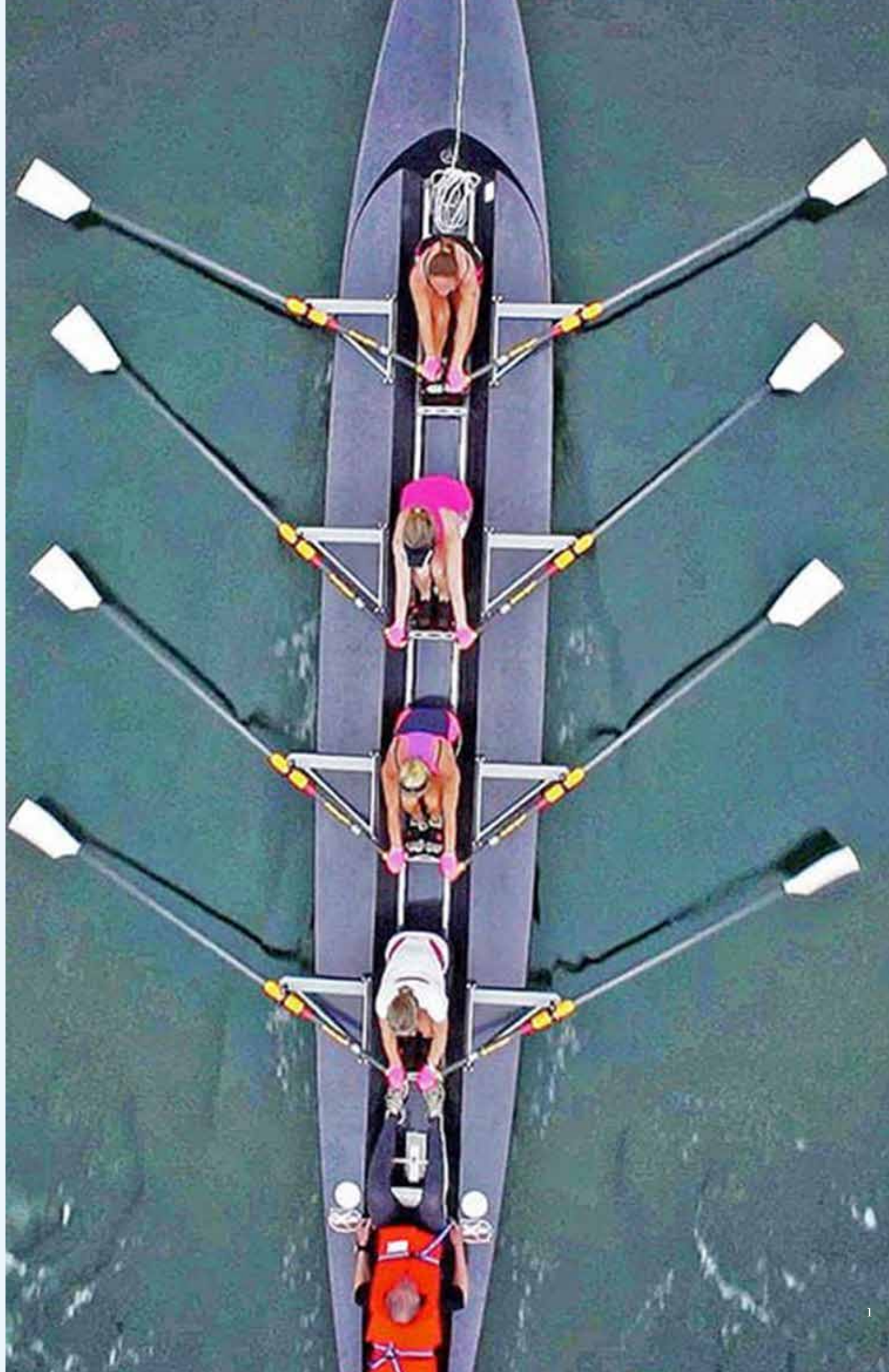


Council Plan 2021–2025, Strategic focus area 2: Live. Access. Connect. Focusing on economic and financial gains, and Strategic focus area 5: Strong. Healthy. Safe. Promoting health and wellbeing through sport and recreation.

# **2026 Commonwealth Games: Lake Nagambie venue bid – *Inland Coastal Rowing and Beach Sprints***







## The opportunity:



Since the announcement the Commonwealth Games 2026 will be hosted in Regional Victoria, Strathbogie Shire Council has been strongly advocating to restore rowing events to the games and for it to be hosted at Lake Nagambie.

While initially advocating for flat water rowing, in line with World Rowing's bid for coastal rowing and beach sprints to be included in the 2026 games program we have extended our advocacy to include this form of rowing.

***The opportunity to host a Commonwealth Games event would enhance social, economic, and environmental outcomes across North East Victoria, which has so far missed out in the Regional Games.***

Lake Nagambie is home to National, State and local flatwater rowing and the Regatta Centre precinct offers capacity for a large beach, open water, plus exceptional spectator services and athlete facilities.

It is undoubtedly the best place to host inland coastal rowing at the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Council has shown we can deliver events of this capacity by hosting the Australian Rowing Nationals.

More importantly, the once-in-a-lifetime investment in the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre will provide a legacy that allows our venue and region to host international rowing in the future.

The investment will also enable Strathbogie to host large scale music events, trade shows and other tourism-based events that will further build our Shire's visitor economy and generate ongoing economic uplift and benefits.

Cover: Aspect of  
Lake Nagambie from  
Nagambie township

1. Inland coastal  
rowing (location  
indicative)

2. Victorian State  
Rowing team racing  
on Lake Nagambie

3. Member of the  
Australian Olympic  
Rowing team - with  
WIN News

4. Australian Olympic  
Rowing team training  
at Nagambie Lakes  
Regatta Centre in 2021.







# The benefits:

*Positioning Lake Nagambie and the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre as the Victorian and national destination of choice for all rowing and inland water-based activities is our goal.*

It’s not hard when the centre and Nagambie already provide the following benefits:

- 2km rowing course;
- Eight buoyed lanes;
- Fully fenced secure venue;
- Starting pontoon system;
- Rowing compliant safe practices and first aid rooms;
- Ample vehicle parking;
- Boat and rack provision;
- Competitor preparation space;
- Tent and marshalling areas;
- Ramp access to the water;
- Judges box, commentator room and administration amenities;
- Conference room and kitchenette;
- Toilet facilities;
- Waste collection services;
- Trees for shade and windbreak;
- Inspiring natural surroundings;
- Foreshore walk along southern bank of the lake and rowing course.
- Commercial canteen facilities
- Ticket boxes
- NBN and Wifi services

## Climate

Located north of the Great Dividing Range, the temperature and weather in and around Nagambie is reliable and ideal for water sports and professional athletes to compete.

## Location

Lake Nagambie lies adjacent to the Nagambie township that is less than 90-minutes north of Melbourne. It is central to the entire state and is easily accessible by car or train. Nagambie’s location makes it a seasonal visitor destination for professional athletes, leisure seekers and tourists.

## Infrastructure

Lake Nagambie is a unique 170-hectare man-made reservoir, which was formed by the construction of the Goulburn Weir dam from the Goulburn River in 1890. As the result, Lake Nagambie’s water levels remain stable and constant year-round, and the water quality is clear and clean as managed by Goulburn Murray Water.

Council together with the Victorian Government and Australian Government are currently delivering a \$3.8 million foreshore walk project which will provide valuable connectivity and lakeside access along the rowing course to benefit coaches, spectators and visitors alike; providing a number of viewing sites along the water bank.

## Water quality

The Goulburn River is a major source of irrigation water in northern Victoria and the waters impounded by the weir provide recreation boating opportunities on the river, Lake Nagambie and the Goulburn Weir. Boating is a valued recreation activity in the area, attracting thousands of visitors from within Victoria, interstate and overseas.

2026 Commonwealth Games:  
Lake Nagambie venue bid



*Lake Nagambie’s blue water, rich natural surroundings and rural setting is an optimal location to hold the 2026 Commonwealth Games Rowing events.*



1. Inland coastal rowing (location indicative)
2. Mitchelton Hotel
3. Aspect of Lake Nagambie from Nagambie township
4. Mangalore Airport
5. Goulburn River
6. Nagambie Visitor Information Centre on the banks of Lake Nagambie.

## Athlete transport access

For Commonwealth Games participants, car and bus access to Nagambie is straight forward and accessible from Melbourne Airport, via the M80 Ring Road followed by the M31 Hume Freeway exit and a straight drive for 70km until the Goulburn Valley Freeway exit ramp, and the Nagambie township exit.

Alternatively, Nagambie can be accessed South-bound via the Hume Freeway from Albury Airport or Sydney too.

## Athlete accommodation

Nagambie and surrounds boast premium accommodation options for competitors, teams, event staff, and spectators alike. Providers include:

- Mitchelton Hotel
- Nagambie Waterfront Motel
- Nagambie Motor Inn and Conference Centre
- Nagambie Caravan Park and Motel
- Centretown Motel
- The Jetty
- Discovery Parks – Nagambie Lakes and more.

## Media access points

For air coverage of the event, Mangalore Airport is only 18km away for helicopter and aircraft facilities and access to oversee the rowing course and regatta racing.

Alternatively, Essendon Fields, Melbourne Airport and Moorabbin Airports are also accessible distances to the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre.

Further to this, the picturesque Visitor Information Centre managed by Strathbogie Shire Council and located in High Street, Nagambie provides an amazing outlook to the Lake for presentations, televised coverage and more.

Media spaces within the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre will be provided, with many satellite locations available along the banks.

## Hospitality outlets

One of the competitive advantages that the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre offers over other venues is the ample space along the lake that can be sectioned and allocated to provide food and beverage outlets, merchandise trailers and entertainment attractions to complement the rowing event.





# The ask:

## The investment of \$10 million will realise:

- An upgrade to the Regatta Centre to meet the needs of contemporary competition – upgrades to competitor amenities, telecommunications, bathroom, changeroom, first aid and drug testing facilities.
- The rowing course deepening and peninsula extension. These projects are interdependent and will be the most cost-effective way, as the soil from the deepening will be used to extend the peninsula and support the building of the beach.
- The funding for the works to the peninsula will provide for services, pedestrian and vehicle access pathways, toilets (in addition to upgrade of the existing toilet facility), egress pontoons and the formation of a beach (for inland coastal rowing).
- The deepening of the 2 km rowing course to a consistent 3.1 metre depth will deliver a World Rowing (FISA) standard course, which means it has all the infrastructure to host international rowing events for both flat water and inland coastal rowing – a first for Australia.



2026 Commonwealth Games:  
Lake Nagambie venue bid



1. and 3. Artist's impression of Nagambie Foreshore Walk project  
2. The vibrant township of Nagambie





Council Plan 2021–2025, Strategic focus area 3: Protect. Enhance. Adapt.  
Section 3.1.3 Finalise the detailed design for the Greening Euroa project  
in partnership with Goulburn Valley Water

# Greening Euroa Project





# The opportunity:

The Greening Euroa Project is an innovative community driven project taking place in Strathbogie Shire.

*It is being driven by a committee of passionate locals who came together to find a way to lessen the impacts of chronic water shortages in a rapidly warming climate.*

Adaptation to drought is important to provide a sustainable future for rural townships, communities and facilities.

Global engineering advisory firm GHD Group Pty Ltd released an August 2022 Aquanomics Report stating that the need for Australian investment in water adaptation infrastructure and better management of water recycling in rural areas, is imperative. This plan taps into the available excess water from the Euroa Wastewater Treatment Plant.



1

# The benefits:

More than this, this proposal is the first of its kind in Victoria.

With the support of our local water authority, Goulburn Murray Water, this wastewater would be safely upgraded from Class C to Class B, before being piped underground to storage tanks throughout the Euroa Township.

Once the pipe is laid, water will be available to irrigate the many public ovals and sports grounds, that pride this community.

More than ever, community health and wellbeing are a priority for our region and by maintaining our green open spaces during prolonged dry periods, members of the public opportunities to get out and participate in community life through exercise and sporting activities.



2



# The ask:

## One.

\$3.8Million for construction and project delivery

Now we are asking for your help to bring this project to life?!

#LetsGreenEuroa



*More than this, the purple standpipe and pipeline presents a clever solution to a growing concern for many rural communities about how to sustainably manage outdoor spaces in the scorching summer months.*

The Greening Euroa project is climate smart, cost efficient and community inspired. It demonstrates a smart use of a valuable resource while taking pressure off our potable water supply and our waterways heavily relied upon by farm dams and groundwater bores.



Cover image.  
Friendlies Oval, Euroa,  
one of the sites to benefit  
from this project

- 1. Euroa Memorial Oval, one of the sites to benefit from this project
- 2. New trees planted along the Sevens Creek, one of the sites to benefit from this project
- 3. Euroa Arboretum one of the sites to benefit from this project
- 4. Purple standpipe connected to water cartage truck with contractors.



Profile:

“We know having green spaces in times of drought is increasingly important to our community. It is essential to community health and wellbeing.

The proposal would initially service the schools, their ovals and gardens, sporting fields and other community locations.

*It would ensure that during times of drought our prized community spaces stay green, meeting a critical public health need.*

The current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has left us in no doubt about the positive benefits of increased physical activity and relaxation for mental and social health.”



*“The plan will hugely benefit the use and aesthetics of outdoor facilities at local schools and sports clubs, many of which are still struggling to recover from years of prolonged drought and water restrictions.*

*This project can change that.”*

**Shirley Saywell**  
Greening Euroa Project member



Council Plan 2021–2025, Strategic focus area 2: Live. Access. Connect. Action 2.6 Prepare and implement a playground strategy following the adoption of the Open Space Strategy, and Strategic focus area 5: Strong. Health. Safe. Action 5.1.1 Seek external funding for the preparation and implementation of an Open Space Strategy

# Nature Based Play Space





# The opportunity:

Strathbogie Shire Council and the Euroa community has a vision. We want to develop an intergenerational destination nature-based play space in our town that is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Modern life has removed the traditional nature play many of today’s adults experienced as children.

*This project will help re-engage our childrens relationship with nature by bringing it back to the play and learning places of everyday life.*

Euroa is the perfect place located two hours from Melbourne. With a Tesla Electric Charge station, this proposal will not only support residents of the Shire with an exciting place to meet, but also those arriving at our Traveller’s Rest and others who stop to charge their vehicle.

The Marsden Jacob Associates Report, 2016 Victoria’s nature-based outdoor economy cited that residents and visitors to Victoria spend a minimum



\$7.4 Billion annually on nature-based outdoor activities and equipment purchases in Victoria. This shows there is need and demand from local, state and visitor populations to substantiate this equipment in Euroa.

A destination playground would create a place for families wanting a genuine child and youth friendly place to stop with a unique offering.

This community supported project will offer improved liveability and help strengthen Euroa and our Shire’s reputation as a destination.

Increasing economic development with an estimated linger time of about 20 to 60 minutes providing local cafes and businesses with greater visitation and tourism expenditure.

Further to this, delivery of this project would support local jobs and provide equitable playground facilities to neighbouring regions and metropolitan councils.



# The benefits:

Research indicates that, when children play and learn in nature, they do so with more energy, engagement, imagination, and cooperation than in wholly artificial environments.

*Sensory stimulation derived from interacting with natural environments allows children to learn with sight, smell, touch and sound.*

Creating natural environments supports children to become environmentally engaged and show respect for the environment, and it is well known that physical activity is greatly beneficial for children’s cognitive development, health and wellbeing.

From a sensory garden to explore, rocks to clamber over, to logs to balance on, the possibilities to interact with nature and the environment are endless.

It is proposed the all-abilities play space will be designed with the people who will use it most. This means extensive consultation with children, young people, families, grandparents and carers.



# The ask:

## One.

A pre-election commitment to fund the \$1.5 million design and delivery of a Nature Based Play Space for Euroa.



Cover image.  
Wangaratta Children’s Garden

2 and 3. Mansfield  
Botanic Park  
Playground

1, 4 and 5. Wangaratta  
Children’s Garden



Profile:

“As Mothers with young children we know and understand the importance of encouraging playtime in the natural environment of where we live.

*Euroa and neighbouring areas are experiencing a baby boom at present and population growth in children aged 6 years and under.*

It is important that we meet the developmental needs and demands of this generation and build the infrastructure to provide this active and inclusive space for everyone to enjoy.

We have observed visitors to the township pull-up at the current playgrounds which are restrictive in age, size and sensory applications, and our community wants us to address this.”

1. Mansfield Botanic Park Playground



*“There is great need and support for a nature-based playground in Euroa and we know the perfect setting among the green grass and leafy trees of Seven Creeks Park.”*

**Cr Kristy Hourigan and Cr Sally Hayes-Burke**  
Strathbogie Shire Council



Council Plan 2021-2025, Strategic focus area 2: Live. Access. Connect.  
Strategic focus area 5: Strong. Healthy. Safe.

# Balmattum Hill Mountain Bike Track – Feasibility Study





# The opportunity:

The Balmattum Hill Mountain Bike Trail Planning Project will enable the development of an investment-ready detailed project plan to build a universally accessible trail for mountain bike riding at Balmattum Hill on the outskirts of Euroa at the gateway to the Strathbogie Ranges.

*It’s a partnership project with the Euroa community who has already undertaken considerable work to progress the concept of a mountain bike trail at Balmattum Hill.*

Preliminary advice tells us the site is highly suitable for all abilities, including universally accessible trails.

Cover image, 1, 3 and 4.  
Mountain bike riding  
(location indicative only)  
2. Environment along  
the Sevens Creek, at the  
foot of Balmattum Hill



# The benefits:

There are countless benefits to this project for our municipality. Designs of the trails would include support facilities that add value to the visitor experience, including:

*Generating overnight, or longer stays, and significant tourism and economic outcomes*

- Increased sport tourism and visitation to Euroa and surrounds
- Enhanced opportunity for affordable participation in mountain bike riding
- Increasing community health
- Increasing mental health, and
- Reducing stress and increasing participant concentration spans.



# The ask:

**One.**  
\$250,000 funding for a detailed plan for development of a Mountain Bike track at Balmattum Hill.





