

# ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL 2025 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

## OVERVIEW

Ararat Rural City Council have identified a number of key issues and projects that require advocacy to move them forward and achieve outcomes for the community, or that require government funding or support that is beyond the scope of existing grant programs and initiatives.

Council will be actively advocating for the government funding and support needed to deliver important projects and services that better our community.

### GROWING OUR PLACE

#### 1. Housing Support

Continued support is needed from State and Federal Governments to deliver more housing.

#### 2. Childcare Access

Access to childcare in rural areas needs to be improved, especially in places like Lake Bolac.

#### 3. Kinder Infrastructure

New kindergarten facilities are needed to meet future unmet demand, as well as the renewal of existing facilities.

#### 3. More Trains

More train services to Ararat are critical for improved livability and access to training and tourism opportunities.

### BUILDING ROBUST LOCAL ECONOMIES

#### 1. Water Pipeline

The full extent of the East Grampians Rural Water Pipeline Project is essential for rural communities and economies.

#### 2. Activate Aradale

This is critical to unlocking development of the entire Ararat East Development Zone.

#### 3. Mountain Bike Trails

The Ararat Hills Mountain Bike Trails will yield significant economic benefits to the community.

#### 4. Wine Discovery Centre

A Grampians Wine Discovery Centre will drive visitation and investment in the local and regional tourism sector.

#### 5. Renewable Energy Park

Industrial trunk infrastructure will unlock new business establishment at the Ararat Renewable Energy Park.

#### 5. Mobile & NBN

Poor connectivity negatively impacts on emergency preparedness and response, and in the day-to-day lives of residents.

## PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Give Greater Confidence and Support to Renewable Gas

Other renewable fuel alternatives are not yet able to fully replace gas in high temperature

## KEY ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE

### 1. Local Roads Funding

Smaller rural councils often have the largest road network per capita, longer term road funding surety is critical.

### 2. Buangor-Ben Nevis Rd

A vital thoroughfare between the Pyrenees Highway and Western Highway for locals, freight and tourists.

### 3. Mount William Road

One of the busiest and important heavy vehicle freight links, this road is vital for the local agricultural economy.

### 4. Western Highway Upgrade

The upgrade of this key transport route is urgently needed to improve safety and transport efficiency.

### 5. North-South HV Route

A north-south heavy vehicle route is needed to remove large trucks from the Ararat CBD.

## ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIFE

### 1. New Tatyoon Pavilion

Community sporting clubs are a key part of the social fabric of rural communities.

### 2. New Indoor Sports Complex

New recreational facilities that are functional, accessible, inclusive are needed.

### 3. A&J McDonald Centre Redevelopment

Much of this building is not in current use due to its lack of essential infrastructure and disability access.

### 4. Ararat Pool Upgrade

Upgrade the Ararat Outdoor Pool to enable it to be used all year round.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

### 1. Condemn ESVF

Council will advocate against the Emergency Services & Volunteers Fund on behalf of our community.

### 2. Faster, Better DRFA

Councils need a faster and far more streamlined process for the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

## Stay Informed

To find out more about Council's 2025 Advocacy Priorities, visit [engage.ararat.vic.gov.au](https://engage.ararat.vic.gov.au), or contact us on **(03) 5355 0200** or email [council@ararat.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@ararat.vic.gov.au).

