

FUTURE OF AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES

At its meeting on Tuesday 22 March, Council resolved to transition out of the delivery of aged and disability care, with the services to move to a dedicated sector provider.

The impacted services are home and community care services to assist older people, those recovering from acute care and people with disabilities to continue to live independently in the community, including the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) and Home and Community Care for Younger People (HACCPYP).

Service clients and their families have been directly informed of Council's decision and will be supported through the transition by Council management and the Active Ageing & Inclusion team. All clients will continue

to receive the services they are currently provided without interruption, with Council's delivery to cease on 30 June 2022 and a new dedicated provider starting in-home care on 1 July 2022. Beyond the date of service transfer, Council staff will continue to be available to support clients through the transition and will offer dedicated navigation support to existing and new clients of aged and disability services in the Shire.

Council management has been supporting affected staff during the Best Value Review process which began in November 2021 and all staff have been informed of Council's decision to transition from the current service delivery. Moving forward, affected staff will be supported individually through a range of options including redeployment opportunities, paid redundancies and advice on future career pathways in the aged and disability care sector.

The Australian Government has sole policy and funding responsibility for the delivery of aged services and has announced a new national system for the sector that will be implemented from 1 July 2023. It is a significant change and Council's Best Value Review of Aged and Disability Services determined that this new system will negatively impact Council's commitment to deliver high quality services that provide the best value to the community.

Clients and family members with questions about the changes to aged and disability services are welcome to call Council's Active Ageing & Inclusion team to have a chat on **5220 7151**.

WANTED: FEDERAL ELECTION COMMITMENTS

With the Federal Election in May 2022, Golden Plains Shire Council is advocating for bi-partisan commitments for valuable community infrastructure and important services across the Shire.

The new electorate boundaries released in 2021 have placed the majority of the Shire in the Ballarat electorate including the Golden Plains townships of Teesdale, Lethbridge, Maude, Meredith, Rokewood, Pitfield, Linton, Garibaldi, Napoleons and Smythesdale. Previously, these towns were in the Wannon and Corangamite electorate.

In the south of the Shire, Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Murgheboluc, Gheringhap and Russells Bridge will remain within the Corangamite electorate. To find out your electorate for the Federal Election, please visit electorate.aec.gov.au

Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble, CEO Eric Braslis and Golden Plains Shire Councillors have recently met with Catherine King MP, Member for Ballarat, and Libby Coker MP, Member for Corangamite, as well as election candidates including Stephanie Asher, Liberal candidate for Corangamite.

We've been talking about Golden Plains and the projects and services that need funding and support in our many communities. We have a list of great community infrastructure projects that are ready to go and valuable services that require greater investment—and we are actively seeking government commitments to deliver these initiatives for the people of Golden Plains.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing more about the priority projects that are top of the advocacy list for the Federal Election. And every commitment secured will be reported back to our residents to help voters make a decision on election day.

To stay up-to-date with Federal Election promises in Golden Plains, read Council News in the Golden Plains Times and Council's website or follow Golden Plains Shire Council on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

