

FEDERAL ELECTION IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Golden Plains Shire Council has welcomed the announcement that the Federal Government Election will be held on Saturday 21 May, 2022.

In the lead up to the election, Council has been advocating for bi-partisan commitments for valuable community infrastructure and important services across the Shire.

The new electorate boundaries released in 2021 have moved all the townships in Golden Plains Shire that were in Wannon to the federal electorate of Ballarat, and added several towns that were formerly in the Corangamite electorate, including Lethbridge and Teesdale.

In 2022, the area of Golden Plains Shire included in the electorate of Corangamite has been reduced from the 2019 election and now just includes Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Murgheboluc, Gheringhap, Batesford and Russells Bridge.

Following an election campaign, each electorate receives funding to deliver the promises of the political party who forms government, regardless of the aligned party of the newly-elected member of parliament.

With 56 communities in Golden Plains Shire, Federal Election commitments won't reach all the corners of the municipality, but every dollar of government investment that's secured saves money in Council's budget. This allows more money to be redirected to improving roads and delivering works in smaller townships that don't get election commitments.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMITMENTS

As of Friday 22 April, there have been three election promises announced by the major parties for Golden Plains Shire and all are in the electorate of Corangamite.

On 12 April, Liberal Party Candidate for Corangamite Stephanie Asher announced a \$690,000 commitment towards the \$1.4 million project for the new netball pavilion at Victoria Park, if the Coalition wins the Federal Election on 21 May. This priority project includes female friendly change rooms, a social indoor space, public toilets, team and umpire change rooms, first aid and office areas.

On 22 April, Federal Member for Corangamite Libby Coker announced that the Australian Labor Party (ALP) would also deliver \$690,000 towards the \$1.4 million netball pavilion project at Victoria Park, if the ALP wins the Federal Election on 21 May. This commitment was upgraded from the initial promise of \$350,000 for the refurbishment of change rooms at Victoria Park, as announced by Libby Coker and Deputy Leader of the ALP Richard Marles on 11 April.

CORANGAMITE ELECTORATE	
	LIBERAL Labor
Victoria Park Netball Pavilion	✓ \$690,000 ✓ \$690,000
Bannockburn Family Services Centre Expansion	? ✓ \$450,000
Inverleigh Active Youth Space	? ?
Bannockburn Skate and Pump Track	? ?
Inverleigh Recreation Reserve Lighting Upgrade	? ?
Bannockburn Recreation Precinct Upgrade	? ?

On 14 April, Federal Member for Corangamite Libby Coker and Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Development and Youth Amanda Rishworth announced \$450,000 towards the \$1.1 million extension of the Bannockburn Family Services Centre (BFSC), if the ALP wins the Federal Election on 21 May. The \$1.1 million proposed extension of the BFSC will deliver an additional 60 kindergarten places to meet demand for early education in the growing south of Golden Plains.

During the election campaign, Council will continue to meet with candidates for the Ballarat and Corangamite electorates and to advocate for strong commitments for the communities of Golden Plains Shire.

BALLARAT ELECTORATE	
	LIBERAL Labor
24-Hour Ambulance Station	? ?
Linton Oval Reconstruction	? ?
Woody Yaloak Reserve Lighting Project	? ?
Northern Streetscapes Project	? ?
Smythesdale Sub-Regional Play Space	? ?
Public Bus Network	? ?

To stay up-to-date with Federal Election promises in Golden Plains, read Council News in the *Golden Plains Times* and Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au. Or follow Golden Plains Shire Council on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

A NEW SPACE FOR GOLDEN PLAINS YOUTH

The new Golden Plains Youth Hub at Milton Street, Bannockburn is officially open, providing a safe and inclusive hub for young people in the Shire.

Minister for Local Government the Hon. Shaun Leane, Senator for Victoria the Hon. Sarah Henderson and Bannockburn & District Grants representative Brett Cunningham were joined by Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Gamble for the official opening of the Youth Hub on Tuesday 12 April.

The Youth Hub project transformed a portable office building into a dedicated youth facility located opposite the Shire's only high school,



Bannockburn P-12 College. The building underwent a significant exterior and interior renovation to create a purpose-built, accessible and inclusive Youth Hub.

The \$562,000 project was delivered with \$271,032 from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund, \$100,000 from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, \$100,000 from Bannockburn & District Grants, and Council's \$90,720 in-kind

contribution of the portable building. In addition, a further \$77,000 from Round 3 of the Australian Government's LRCI Program was allocated to the interior fit out of the Youth Hub, including furniture and technology.

Programs have begun at the Golden Plains Youth Hub, with its first 'come and try' open sessions beginning in March and a range of programs available in the April school holidays. Council's Youth Development team has formed three youth-led leadership groups that will meet regularly at the Youth Hub in 2022: Youth Activation Committee, FReeZA Youth Events Crew and the Pride LGBTIQ+ group.

Starting in Term 2, the Youth Hub will be open several days a week after school and will run a wide range of interactive programs related to music, film, art, entrepreneurship and employment pathways. The Youth Development team will also continue to hold programs for young people in locations across the Shire.