

STATE ELECTION: RIPON

With the State Election on 26 November, Golden Plains Shire Council is advocating for bipartisan commitments for valuable community infrastructure and important services across the Shire. In this Council News, we are focusing on the electorate of Ripon.

The new electorate boundaries released in 2021 have seen the seat of Buninyong renamed Eureka and reconfigured. Communities in the Shire's north including Linton, Scarsdale, Smythesdale, Haddon, Ross Creek and Napoleons will move out of the former seat of Buninyong into the District of Ripon. Other communities outside Golden Plains Shire in Ripon will include the western and

northern outskirts of Ballarat, Ararat, Beaufort, St Arnaud and Maryborough.

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

Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble and CEO Eric Braslis are regularly meeting with the candidates for Ripon in the lead up to the election. Council has identified a list of valuable initiatives in Ripon and is actively seeking government commitments to our Golden Plains Shire townships in this important electorate.

With 56 communities in Golden Plains Shire, State 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.

To stay up-to-date with State 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.

Northern Streetscapes Project



Project: Beautification upgrades to the town centres of Linton, Scarsdale and Smythesdale.

Priority: Streetscape furniture and infrastructure to address road and pedestrian safety and beautification improvements for these communities, driving increased visitation to the northern corridor of Golden Plains Shire.

What We Need: \$1.3 million to deliver Stage Two of the project, matching the \$1.3 million Stage One commitment from Council and Berrybank Wind Farm.

24-Hour Ambulance Station



Project: A new ambulance station to better serve the northern townships of Golden Plains Shire.

Priority: In the north of the Shire, townships are subject to very concerning ambulance response times. From October to December 2021, the average response to a code one call in Golden Plains was 21 minutes, in contrast with 11 minutes for the City of Ballarat.

What We Need: Council supports a proposal to establish a new 24-hour ambulance station at the Delacombe Town Centre in Ballarat, to reduce wait times in the northern area of Golden Plains Shire and the growing suburbs in Ballarat West.

Linton Library Restoration



Project: The restoration of the historic Linton Library.

Priority: Built in 1874, the historic Linton Library is an important heritage asset on Sussex Street in Linton. The 147-year-old building is in need of significant works to restore the building and establish a usable community space.

What We Need: \$475,000 for the restoration of the historic building.

Linton Recreation Reserve Electronic Scoreboard



Project: Installation of an electronic scoreboard at the Linton Recreation Reserve.

Priority: The Linton Recreation Reserve is valuable sporting facility in the north of the Shire, home to prominent local football and cricket teams. The installation of an electronic scoreboard will help elevate the infrastructure at the reserve for the whole community, while providing a valuable communication tool for bushfire notifications.

What We Need: \$75,000 for an electronic scoreboard at the reserve.

Smythesdale Sub-Regional Play Space



Project: A new play space featuring age-diverse play elements, street furniture, barbeque facilities, shade structure and accessible public toilets.

Priority: The project will provide improved play and social opportunities for residents and visitors at a prominent location in the north of the Shire, co-located with the recently redeveloped skate park and the Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve.

What We Need: \$2.25 million to design and construct the sub-regional play space.

Public Bus Network



Project: The extension of Ballarat's public bus service to Smythes Creek, Smythesdale and Scarsdale.

Priority: The Ballarat bus service currently runs to Delacombe and Council is seeking its extension out to the growing northern townships of the Shire, where there is a limited bus network into the city. Council also supports improved VLine bus services between Hamilton, which services Linton and Smythesdale.

What We Need: A commitment to operate the extended bus network in Golden Plains Shire.