

# COUNCIL PLAN 2021-25



**HAVE  
YOUR SAY!**

# From the Mayor



I hope all residents had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year break, and an opportunity to relax and reflect after a challenging year.

The year ahead will be a busy one for Council, and there will be plenty of opportunities for our community to have their say, starting with our Council Plan.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is our strategic commitment of the priorities Council will focus on over the next four years, to deliver on the themes of the Golden Plains Community Vision 2040: Community, Liveability, Prosperity and Sustainability. I encourage everyone to get involved in this

important project and share their ideas on the survey or stop by a conversation post across the Shire. Visit page 6 and 7 for more on the Council Plan.

Our Councillor group is passionate about strengthening our consultation with the community and have confirmed a new Councillor Engagement program for 2021. We hope to see you at our Councillor Conversation Posts and Councillor coffee chats or a local community group meeting this year.

Finally, if you have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, you can still apply for rates relief through Council's Financial Hardship Policy. Please visit our website or call 5220 7111 to find out more. To stay up-to-date with COVID-19 restrictions and testing locations, visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus).

**Cr Helena Kirby - Mayor of Golden Plains Shire Council**

## Connect with Your Councillors

At its January meeting, Council confirmed its commitment to Councillor Engagement for 2021 and welcomes all residents to visit and share their ideas for the new four-year Council term.

**The Councillor Engagement program for 2021 includes:**

### Councillor Conversation Posts – In-Person

Council will continue the popular tradition of meeting residents at local events with the Councillor Conversation Posts. On 7 February, Councillors held their first post, talking to residents of the north of the Shire about the Council Plan 2021-2025 at the Smythesdale Arts and Music Fiesta.

On Saturday 1 May, join Councillors to talk about the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and Draft Council Budget at the Golden Plains Farmers' Market, from 8.30am to 12.30pm, at the corner of High and Milton Streets in Bannockburn.

### Councillor Conversation Posts – Online

A new initiative, residents are invited to join the Councillors and engage in a conversation forum on Zoom on Wednesday 10 February, 5.30 to 7pm to share ideas for the Council Plan 2021-2025 directly with your elected Councillors. There will also be an Online Councillor Conversation Post in August.

### Coffee with Your Councillors

Another new initiative, Councillors will host Coffee with Your Councillor sessions in small townships in the Shire. These are informal, drop-in opportunities for residents to have a one-on-one chat with Councillors at a local café or community hall.

At the first Coffee with the Councillors day in February, three groups of Councillors will visit across nine townships and talk to local residents as part of the Council Plan 2021-2025 engagement. In May, Councillors will visit another nine townships to speak with community members about the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and Draft Council Budget.

### Community Group Meetings

Councillors have a long history of attending meetings of local community groups and this year, this engagement opportunity will be extended with the Councillors passionate about listening and learning about the work and members of these valuable groups.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) process will be open to local progress associations, community service groups (eg. Lions, Rotary, etc.), interest groups (eg. environmental, Landcare, historical societies, etc.), and community activity groups (eg. Scouts, Probus, CWA, etc.) to request attendance of Councillors at a meeting in 2021.

The EOI process will be promoted on Council's website and social media, community newsletters and in the Golden Plains Times, as well as directly to community groups.

## STAY UP-TO-DATE

To stay up-to-date with all Councillor Engagements, read the Council News in the Golden Plains Times, follow Council on social media or join the Community Engagement Register (see page 11).

# New Floor at Haddon Recreation Centre



*Pictured (left to right): Adam Liversage, Chairperson of Haddon Recreation Centre Committee of Management and member of the Haddon Badminton Club; Michaela Settle MP; and Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Helena Kirby; with Georgina Draffin and Hamish Mansell, school captains of Haddon Primary School, holding the ribbon at the opening of the new Haddon Recreation Centre floor on 2 December 2020. Grade six students of Haddon Primary School are pictured in the background.*

Local sporting clubs and students of Haddon Primary School are enjoying playing on the new floor at the Haddon Recreation Centre.

On 2 December 2020, Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Helena Kirby joined Michaela Settle MP, Chairperson of the Haddon Recreation Centre Committee and member of the Haddon Badminton Club Adam Liversage, and Haddon Primary School Captains Georgina Draffin and Hamish Mansell, and their grade six peers for the ribbon-cutting of the facility's new floor.

Fully funded by the Victorian Government, the \$220,000 project replaced the old, broken floor with a new spotted gum sprung floor, featuring a subfloor ventilation system and line-marking for a range of indoor sports from basketball to badminton, as well as the installation of a new scorers bench and basketball backboards, protective padding and floor matting.

Council also completed external drainage works and installed new roof sheeting, to ensure the longevity of the new floor.

The Haddon Recreation Centre is a popular facility for localised sport, recreational programs and services for the Haddon community. It is home to the Haddon Badminton Club, and students from Haddon Primary School regularly use the stadium.

The new stadium floor opens opportunities for local basketball and netball to grow with community groups also able to use the facility for a range of community activities. These works have revitalised the Haddon Recreation Centre and returned a valuable asset back to its full potential for the community's benefit.

Golden Plains Shire Council was proud to deliver this project funded by the Victorian Government, after successfully advocating for its funding.

## The Facts on Building Permits

Building and planning are key services of Council and when it comes to ensuring safe, legal construction works, the first question you should ask is: do I need a permit?

### What are my responsibilities as a home owner?

Building and planning permits are required by law and are designed to protect you and future owners of the property. *The Building Act 1993* (the Act) and *Building Regulations 2018* (the Regulations) state that all building work requires a building permit, unless an exemption exists under the Regulations.

As the home owner, it is your obligation to make sure planning and building permits are obtained, whether you get them yourself or get someone else, such as your builder, to do it for you.

As the owner of the property, you are liable for prosecution for works carried out without a building permit, if a permit is required. Building permits cannot be obtained retrospectively (after the building work is carried out).

### When do I need a planning permit?

Before you start to build a house, shed, deck or other building or structure, or undertake a home extension or renovation, you or your agent must find out from Council whether you need a planning permit. If so, you must get one before you can get a building permit.

### When do I need a building permit?

You should always seek advice from Council if you are considering building work on your property to confirm whether a building permit or planning permit is required. You can also consult a private building surveyor for advice.

It is a popular misconception that building works that are valued less than \$5,000 are exempt from requiring a building permit. This is incorrect; this exemption was removed from the Building Regulations more than 15 years ago.

### Projects that require a building permit include:

- a new home or commercial building
- a swimming pool or spa
- safety barrier for a swimming pool or spa
- decks
- extensions
- renovations
- demolition
- building removal

### You may also need a building permit for smaller projects like:

- re-stumping
- retaining walls (regardless of height if within close proximity to a property boundary)
- garage
- carport
- shed
- new fencing
- verandah
- pergola (an unroofed structure)
- conversion of sheds and garages to habitable rooms
- site cuts and/or fills

## YOUR PERMIT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

For more information on building and planning permits, visit [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-home/building](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-home/building). If you have questions about permit requirements, please call Council at 5220 7111 prior to undertaking any building works and speak directly to Council's Building Services team.



### Why do we have building permits?

#### A building permit ensures that your building project:

- is built by a registered builder or professional tradesmen;
- has the correct documentation;
- is inspected at different stages of work; and
- is independently assessed as finished and/or suitable for occupation.

A building permit also lists the types of inspections your project must have at different stages of work. For example, your building project may need to be inspected for footing, steel reinforcement, frame and require a final inspection.

The building surveyor who issues your building permit should inspect the site when specific stages of work are complete. You should make sure all required inspections have been carried out for each stage of building work, and that you have received a copy of the required Certificate of Final Inspection or Occupancy permit when the work is complete - this is the final step in the permit process.

If building works have been undertaken without a building permit, and not inspected by a registered building inspector or building surveyor, there is no mechanism for checking that the works have been carried out to the required standard of the Building Regulations and the Building Code of Australia. Obtaining permits can provide protection to occupiers of the property and future occupiers of the property from injury or detriment to their health from substandard or unsafe building works.

# Register Your Pet in 2021

In March, pet-owners will receive their annual animal registration renewal notice in the mail. Under the Victorian Government's *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all dogs and cats over the age of three months must be registered by Saturday 10 April, 2021.

## Renewing a pet registration?

Review the orange 2021 renewal notice that you will receive in the mail shortly and pay the registration cost by any of the ways listed on the notice:

- In person at Council's Bannockburn or Smythesdale Customer Service Centres
- BPAY
- Over the phone at 5220 7111
- Post Billpay

You can also sign-up to a payment plan via BPAY to break up the cost of your pet registration. To sign-up, please call Council's Customer Service team at 5220 7111.

***That's it: your pet is registered for 2021!***

## How much does pet registration cost?

The full annual registration fee is \$136 per cat and \$152 per dog, but most people pay the discounted registration of \$47 which is available to pets that are microchipped and desexed. Further discounts are available for certain card holders. For a detailed list of discounted options, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/pet-registration](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/pet-registration)

## No longer own the pet on your notice?

If your pet has died or does not live at your property for any reason, please complete and return the Statement of Change slip on the back of your renewal notice; or call Council and the registration will be updated. This simple action will save you and Council the time and effort of sorting out an old registration down the track.

Possibly due to COVID-19, a large number of pets did not have their registration renewed in 2020. To ensure pets are not missed and left unregistered this year, Council will send a renewal notice to all pet-owners who had an animal registered in 2019-20, unless otherwise advised.

## Registering a pet for the first time?

If you have a dog or cat that is unregistered, call Council's Customer Service team at 5220 7111 and we will help you complete the registration.

## Why are dogs and cats registered?

**First**, it's the law in every municipality in Victoria for all dogs and cats over three months of age to be registered with Council and wear registration tags. Failure to register or renew the registration is an offence with a current fine of \$330.

**Second**, when registered pets are lost or stray from home, it's easy for Council to safely and quickly reunite the pet and their family.

**Finally**, pet registration fees cover part of the cost of Council's animal management services including rescuing stray animals, providing shelter care, and investigating situations of aggressive animals or owner neglect. Did you know that every cat or dog, including kittens and puppies, that are taken to the pound costs Council and ratepayers \$250?

For more information on pet registration, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

# Working for Golden Plains

In June 2020, Council secured more than \$1 million from the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria program to fully fund additional six-month positions at Council for people who were currently unemployed.

Council has welcomed a team of dedicated temporary employees to increase services in its environment and sustainability, outdoor works, information technology and rates teams. Examples of the valuable projects completed by the Working for Victoria crews include cutting and

clearing walking tracks in Bannockburn, Inverleigh and Rokewood; fire hazard reduction works including slashing bush blocks in Enfield and cutting and slashing Corindhap Reserve; and environmental works including removing invasive weeds to protect quality native vegetation at Grevillea Drive Reserve, Enfield.

Part of the Victorian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the \$500 million Working for Victoria program aims to match unemployed people with employers who need staff to get through the pandemic and the recovery phase.

# COUNCIL PLAN 2021-25



There are many ways for Golden Plains residents to have their say on the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- The **Council Plan 2021-2025** survey is available online at the Have Your Say page on Council's website: [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)
- Complete a **Council Plan 2021-2025** postcard: Available at Council's Customer Service Centres at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and 19 Heales Street, The Well, Smythesdale.

As part of the **Council Plan 2021-2025** engagement, Council held three community conversation posts at Rokewood, Bannockburn and Smythesdale in January and February. Thank you to all residents who attended and participated in the community engagement.

The **Council Plan 2021-2025** consultation is now open and closes on 21 February 2021. For information and the online survey, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au).

To read the Golden Plains Community Vision 2040, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/strategies](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/strategies)

- Complete the **Council Plan 2021-2025** survey on page 7 and drop off at a Council Customer Service Centre – 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn or 19 Heales Street, The Well, Smythesdale – or mail to Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC, 3331

**HAVE YOUR SAY!**

- Share your ideas with Councillors at the **Council Plan 2021-2025** Online Conversation Post: Wednesday 10 February, 5.30 to 7pm.



**HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY!**

# What should be Council’s priorities for the next four years?

To develop the Council Plan 2021-2025 and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, Council is inviting the community to provide input into the priorities for action in Golden Plains Shire over the next four years. The priorities will be aligned with, and deliver on, the themes of the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040: Community, Liveability, Prosperity and Sustainability.



Under the Community Vision 2040 Themes, what priorities should Council focus on for 2021-2025?



**COMMUNITY**



**LIVEABILITY**



**PROSPERITY**



**SUSTAINABILITY**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING**

Town:

Age:

Return to a Council Customer Service Centre or mail to: PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331

# ZOOM ME A RIVER

Creatives from across Golden Plains Shire have come together virtually to create a short digital piece on the local experience of COVID-19 social isolation, thanks to a grant from the Australian Government.

Facilitated by Council, the five-minute film titled *Zoom Me A River* is a multi-media collaboration involving local artists and groups, including the Golden Pens Writers Group who created the poetic script; Linton Play Readers Group who gave voice to the script; musicians from Bannockburn, Teesdale, Lethbridge and Napoleons; and visual artists from Linton, Smythesdale, Dereel, Bannockburn, Napoleons and members of GP Arts Inc who created the visual artwork for the video.

The final video product was animated by film maker Leonie Van Eyk from Castlemaine, who workshopped the film with the groups and individual artists over Zoom, truly capturing the 2020 COVID experience.

In September 2020, Council successfully secured a \$5,000 Australian Government grant for the project. The Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.

*Zoom Me A River* is now available to watch on Council’s website at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/arts](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/arts), and was also screened at the Golden Plains Community Awards 2020 presentation on Australia Day, 2021.



*Like plants growing upward by Pam Farey*



*Ascend by Glynis Bryden*



*Tis a delicate balance by Pam Farey*



On behalf of Council and the Golden Plains community, congratulations to the worthy recipients and nominees of the Golden Plains Community Awards 2020.

The Award-winners were announced, and the nominees recognised, by Mayor Cr Helena Kirby and Deputy Mayor Cr Ian Getsom at Council's Australia Day event on 26 January 2021.



## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**The Golden Plains Citizen of the Year Award 2020 was presented to Brad McKenzie of Bannockburn.**

Brad has worked closely with mental health charity Black Dog Institute over a number of years as both a fundraiser and Volunteer Community Presenter. In 2014, Brad walked from Mildura to Bannockburn, raising more than \$13,000 and he has since travelled Australia as a volunteer, speaking to schools, community groups, sporting clubs and medical professionals about the Black Dog Institute, mental health, and his own personal story of living with depression and anxiety.

**The nominees for the Golden Plains Citizen of the Year Award 2020 were: Sharon Boyd of Lethbridge, Cathy Bushell of Ross Creek, Lynette (Lyn) Galtry of Teesdale, Brendan Johnston of Smythes Creek, Belinda Koenig of Scarsdale, Adam Liversage of Haddon, Hayley Quach of Grenville, Catherine Schurmann of Maude, Kylie Turville of Linton, and Linda Wong of Meredith.**

## SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**The Golden Plains Senior Citizen of the Year Award 2020 was presented to Damian Baker of Inverleigh.**

Damian is a volunteer at the public open space to the north of the Leigh River in Inverleigh and was involved in the plans to redevelop the space as a recreation space for locals and visitors. He has mowed and maintained the area for almost 22 years, coordinating tree planting days, keeping an eye on furniture and the Federation Bridge, and organising contractors to manage the weeds and other hazards. Damien also volunteers at the local cemetery, mowing the lawns and helping with general maintenance and beautification.

**The nominees for the Golden Plains Senior Citizen of the Year Award 2020 were: June Amor of Bannockburn, Rod Draper of Bannockburn, Dorothy Heylar of Bannockburn, and Val Robertson of Inverleigh.**

## YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**The Golden Plains Young Citizen of the Year Award 2020 was presented to Sophie Busuttill of Smythes Creek.**

Sophie was nominated for her generous acts of charity. In 2020, the Year Nine student donated her hair to Sustainable Salons, who distribute ponytails to charitable organisations to become wigs for those suffering from medically induced hair-loss conditions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sophie also supported the youth mental health organisation Headspace Ballarat, by creating and selling pins and donating more than \$200 to the organisation in 2020.

**The nominees for the Golden Plains Young Citizen of the Year Award 2020 were: William and Emily Bradley of Batesford, Rachel and Megan Kaiser of Maude, Charlie Thompson of Lethbridge, and Jakob Wray of Bannockburn.**

## COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

**The Golden Plains Community Impact Award 2020 was presented to the Smythesdale Cemetery Trust.**

The Smythesdale Cemetery Trust was nominated for its significant contribution to the Smythesdale community. A volunteer organisation with a combined total of 185 years of experience, the Trust serves the community by providing cemetery services, maintaining the cemetery in operational condition and assisting with genealogical research – with its longest-serving member having volunteered for 42 years!

**The nominees for the Golden Plains Community Impact Award 2020 were: Batesford-Fyansford-Stonehaven Landcare Group (BFS Landcare), Equihands Youth Leadership of Meredith, and Woody Yaloak Warriors of Haddon and surrounding towns.**

Thank you to all the recipients and nominees, as well as the community members who submitted nominations this year. For more information on the Awards and profiles of the 2020 nominees, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

# YOUTH EVENTS RETURN IN 2021

After a busy year of online events, Council is excited to return to in-person youth events in 2021.

## YOUTH GROUP

Council's weekly youth groups are open to all young people aged 12 to 20 years who live in Golden Plains Shire, and are a great opportunity to meet new people, build skills and learn more about other activities for young people in the Shire.

Free healthy food and drinks are available, along with a range of unstructured activities. The space is supervised by Council's Youth Development team and COVID-safe practices are in place. Permission is required from a parent/guardian following the first visit.

**Every Thursday during school terms,  
3.30 to 6.30pm**

### **Bannockburn**

Bannockburn Cultural Centre,  
27 High Street

### **Smythesdale**

The Well, Smythesdale,  
19 Heales Street

## SKATE, SCOOT AND BMX CLINICS AND COMPS

Free skate, scoot and BMX clinics and competitions for young people in Golden Plains Shire aged 12 to 25 years will be held in Bannockburn and Smythesdale in February and March.

At both events, YMCA Action Sports will present two beginner clinics from 9 to 9.50am and 10 to 10.50am. The competition will be held from 1 to 4pm with a range of age categories and prizes available. These events are a great opportunity to showcase skills in a safe and competitive environment, with the Bannockburn event the last one at the site before the skate park undergoes a significant upgrade.

Registration is available on the day at the event with free entry for clinics and competitions, thanks to support from the Victorian Government's FReeZA program.

**Saturday 20 February, 9am to 4pm**

**Bannockburn Skate Park, Moore Street**

**Saturday 20 March, 9am to 4pm**

**Smythesdale Skate Park, Heales Street**

## COMMUNITY@HOME

Council's Active Ageing & Inclusion Services is pleased to introduce a new and exciting social connection program, Community@Home.

Community@Home is an online suite of programs that provide a variety of social connection options including wellbeing activities, entertainment, virtual tours and guest speakers, as well as specific interest programs such as cooking, health, sports, gardening, travel and book clubs.

Community@Home is delivered with funding from the Victorian and Australian Governments and complements Council's existing outings and centre-based social support programs.

For more information on Community@Home including eligibility, accessing an iPad or support with technology, including Zoom, call 5220 7151 and speak with Council's Active Ageing & Inclusion Services team.

## JOIN THE ENGAGEMENT REGISTER

Are you passionate about having your say on local issues?

Do you care about your community and have great ideas for Council?

All residents are welcome to join Council's Community Engagement Register - a database of Golden Plains Shire community members who are interested in participating in community engagement activities.

Registered participants are informed directly by email of Council's many engagement opportunities including surveys, workshops, conversation posts and community reference groups. In 2021, a new community engagement newsletter will be launched and sent regularly to the full Community Engagement Register.

## Want to join the Community Engagement Register?



Complete the simple web form at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register)



Email [communityengagement@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityengagement@gplains.vic.gov.au)



For information or answers to your questions, call **5220 7199** and speak with Council's Communications and Engagement team.

## Recycling: Let's Get It Sorted

Put these items in the recycling bin and give them a second life.

✓ Clean, empty rigid plastic bottles and containers\*



✓ Clean paper and cardboard



✓ Clean steel food cans, aluminium cans and foil



✓ Clean, empty glass bottles and jars, with lids placed in the recycling bin separately



### Keep it clean! Leave these out of your recycling bin.

These items cause contamination of the recycling bin. This means that material that should be recycled and made into new products will instead go to landfill. What goes into your recycling bin matters now more than ever.



Bagged material - put your recycling in loose



Coated cardboard cartons that are used to package milk and other liquids



Soft plastic packaging such as \*plastic bags, bread and frozen food bags



Polystyrene packaging



Plastic toys

\* Place all plastic bottle caps in the general rubbish bin

\* Plastic bags can be recycled at participating Coles and Woolworths supermarkets.



Metal pots and pans



Nappies



Clothing and footwear

For more information on recycling, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/recycling](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/recycling)



## Customer Service

### BANNOCKBURN

8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday  
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn  
Victoria, 3331.

### SMYTHESDALE

8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday  
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale  
Victoria, 3351.

### PHONE

P: 5220 7111  
F: 5220 7100

### POSTAL ADDRESS

Golden Plains Shire Council  
PO Box 111, Bannockburn,  
Victoria 3331.

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

P: 1300 363 036  
P: 5220 7111 (24 Hours)

To receive a copy of the *Gazette* in large print, call 5220 7111.

Council's Customer Service Centres and offices are closed on the following public holidays:

- **Labour Day, Monday 8 March**
- **Good Friday, 2 April**
- **Easter Monday, 5 April**

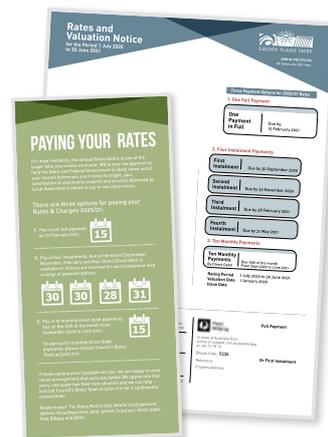


## RATES PAYMENT

All Golden Plains Shire ratepayers received their 2020-21 Rates Notices in the mail last year.

For residents who are signed up to pay their rates by instalments, the third payment is due on 28 February 2021. Full payment of the Rates Notice is due on 15 February 2021.

To apply for Council's COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy or discuss your rates payments, please call our Rates team for a confidential conversation on 5220 7111.



## COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Golden Plains Shire Council would like to inform residents that in February and March they may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services, inviting them to complete the annual Community Satisfaction Survey.

The survey assesses the performance of Council across a range of measures, to identify ways to provide improvement or more effective service delivery to residents of Golden Plains.

Please be assured that your details and individual responses are confidential and only the overall results are shared with Council.

We appreciate your time and participation in the survey to assist us with your valuable feedback. If you have any questions, please contact Council's Customer Service team at 5220 7111.

## AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

**In January, Agriculture Victoria announced further changes to avian influenza restrictions in Golden Plains Shire.**

The existing Control Area covering the south of Golden Plains Shire has now been removed, with the smaller Restricted Area around Lethbridge replaced by a Control Area. The Lethbridge Control Area covers five kilometres from each infected property, including areas of neighbouring localities. To view a map, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianflu](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianflu).

A permit is required to move poultry, poultry products, equipment or vehicles involved in poultry production into, out of or within the Control Area. A permit is also required for buying, selling or moving eggs, manure and chickens, whether on the side of the road, from your property, your local store, social media or at markets. It is illegal to move these products without a permit. To apply for a permit, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianflu](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianflu) or call (03) 4334 2715.

All poultry and captive bird owners should continue to follow good biosecurity practices. In July and August 2020, avian influenza was found at four poultry farms near Lethbridge, as well as properties in Bairnsdale and Kerang. Decontamination and depopulation works were carried out at all properties last year. *This information is correct as of 21 January 2021.*