

Put your  
hand up

2024  
COUNCIL  
ELECTIONS



## ***Welcome***

The City of Greater Bendigo acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Dja Dja Wurrung, and pays its respects to leaders and elders past, present and future



# Local Government in Greater Bendigo

- Highly regarded Local Government in Victoria
- Critical leadership role in the community – both Council and senior staff
- Strong working relationships with all levels and sides of government
- Delivers 68 valued services to the community
- Critical contribution to the liveability of our community



# Why nominate for Council?

- Being a Councillor is a privilege
- Make a significant contribution to shaping the future of Greater Bendigo
- Take an active leadership role in your community
- Ensure we have a Council that reflects the community – different backgrounds, experiences and skills



# What makes an effective Councillor?

- Need to lead, govern and make decisions for the benefit of all residents and ratepayers
- Have a broad range of interests and be able to consider the diverse needs of the community
- Ability to consider the bigger picture and understand you are part of a team
- Inherit a legacy and leave a legacy



# Budget and Council Plan

- Council recently adopted the 2024/2025 Budget, half of which will be delivered during the first year of the next Council term
- \$169M Operating Budget, \$59.3M Capital Budget
- Rate cap has been set at 2.75%
- Engagement will start later this year on the 2025/2026 Budget, which will be tied in with preparing the Council Plan
- Challenge to balance cost increases and maintain current service delivery



# Major strategic work currently underway

- Managed Growth Strategy – our plan to guide growth over the next 30 years as we prepare for a population of 200,000 people
- Climate Change and Environment Strategy
- Structure plans – suburb-based
- Heritage studies
- Bendigo City Centre Plan
- Barpangu – Reconciliation Action Plan



# Future growth

- Over the next 30 years, around 87,000 more people will call Greater Bendigo home
- The City has drafted two important, long-term strategies to plan for growth
  - The Managed Growth Strategy outlines **where** everyone is going to live
  - The Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategy outlines **how** we will accommodate this growth



# Climate Change and Environment Strategy

- Six focus areas – biodiversity, zero carbon, circular economy, active transport, sustainable food systems and water sensitive Bendigo

Key initiatives delivered recently:

- Weekly organics collection, fortnightly waste collection
- Soft plastic and textile recycling drop off points
- Transitioning our facilities off gas
- Adopted a plan for zero carbon emissions by 2030
- Significant annual tree planting program
- Annual footpath and tracks and trails maintenance and building
- 24hr cat containment



# Structure plans

- Golden Square Structure Plan – exhibition mid-August to mid-September
- Marong Township Structure Plan – awaiting Ministerial approval
- Heathcote Township Plan – August Council meeting for adoption
- Huntly Structure Plan – subject to finalisation of the Managed Growth Strategy
- Elmore Structure Plan – community engagement by mid-2025
- Goornong Structure Plan – community engagement 2025/2026
- Eaglehawk Structure Plan – scoping of the project has started
- Maiden Gully Framework Plan – expected to start late 2024



# Heritage plans

## Completed

- Golden Square
- Former Shire of Huntly Stage 1 (Stage 2 nearly complete)
- Victorian Houses

## In progress

- Former Shire of Strathfieldsaye – Bendigo East area Stage 1
- Eaglehawk/Sailors Gully Stage 1
- Post War Stage 1

## Future

- Aboriginal heritage
- Former Shire of Marong review



# Bendigo City Centre Plan

- Reinforce the role of the City Centre
- Ensure contemporary developments and heritage buildings relate to each other
- Create an accessible place
- Diverse, high-quality environment – hotels, apartments, student accommodation, business attraction
- Hargreaves Mall Action Plan



# Barpangu Reconciliation Plan

- Developed in consultation with Traditional Owners, local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and staff
- Several City plans reference actions to support First Nations people
- Our focus is to partner with, celebrate culture, provide employment opportunities



## Major strategic projects

- Bendigo Art Gallery
- Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct
- Regional Sports Infrastructure Projects
- Bendigo Airport and business park
- Bendigo Low Line



# Bendigo Art Gallery

- Council's number 1 infrastructure project - \$54M
- Currently seeking \$15M in Federal funding, \$6M in philanthropic support
- Will deliver
  - World-class learning centre
  - Second-level blockbuster exhibition space
  - Traditional Owner Place of Keeping for Dja Dja Wurrung artefacts
  - Expanded access to free and collection-based exhibitions
  - Redeveloped restaurant
  - Expanded Gallery shop



# Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct

- 155ha of land located in Marong
- Bendigo needs large, unconstrained blocks of industrial land in a strategic location
- Create 6,000 direct and indirect jobs
- Currently preparing a business case for the site
- Will seek future State and Federal funding, particularly for trunk infrastructure



# Regional Sports Infrastructure Projects

- Bendigo Showgrounds
- Bendigo Stadium
- Bendigo Bowls and Bendigo Croquet Club
  - All funded by the Victorian Government
  - Delivery timeline – September 2026
- Projects to be delivered by Development Victoria and the City



# Bendigo Airport and business park

- Opened the new airport terminal building in April
  - Three new departure gates
  - Indoor baggage claim area
  - Space for a new security screening area
  - Expanded apron that can fit two, 70-seat aircraft
- Key focus on securing a new airline/routes to Bendigo
- Attracting complementary businesses to the 9-lot business park



# Bendigo Low Line

- Funded by the Victorian Government and City - \$8M
  - 4.4kms – between Maple Street, Golden Square and Weeroona Avenue, White Hills via the Bendigo City Centre
  - It fills a critical, off-road missing link along the 20km Bendigo Creek Trail
  - Increase active travel
  - Support daily commuting to work and school, connect to tourist attractions
  - Major separated walking and cycling path through the city centre
  - 6 strategies list the Low Line as a priority project
  - Construction to start later this year



# Advocacy

Snapshot of key projects in the lead up to the Federal election:

- Bendigo Art Gallery, \$15M
- Golden Dragon Museum – detailed design, \$1.2M
- Central Deborah Gold Mine – surface-level works, \$2.2M
- Electrification of Bendigo Library, \$600,000
- North Bendigo Recreation Reserve (stage 2), \$1.5M
- Brennan Park Swimming Pool redevelopment, \$1M
- Kangaroo Flat skate park, \$500,000
- Truscott Reserve pavilion, \$1M
- Ironbark Gully Trail – stage 2, \$1M
- Flood recovery and resilience, subject to grant applications



## Other levels of government deliver...

- Hospitals
- Public transport
- Public housing
- Education
- Major road/highway upgrades
- Mental health services
- State and national parks
- Police and the justice system
- Immigration
- Telecommunication and internet





# Key dates

- September 9 – Nominations open
- September 17 – Nominations close at 12pm, must also lodge candidate statement, photograph and questionnaire by 12pm
- September 18 – Ballot draw 10am
- October 7 – 10 – Mail-out of voting packs
- October 25 – Voting closes at 6pm
- November 1 – Close of postal vote receipt period
- November 15 – Election to be declared no later than this date



# If you're successful

- Council induction – intensive process (ideally a few days a week) to meet the organisation, understand Local Government and policies etc.
- Budget preparations
- Council Plan
- Code of Conduct
- Elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor - November
- First full Council meeting - early December



**Questions?**

