



Unlocking the potential for our region

Swan Hill Rural City Council is committed to improving quality of life, driving sustainable growth, and preparing for the future. Through careful planning and shovel-ready projects, we are advancing key initiatives and seeking government support to make them a reality.

Council has a number of exciting initiatives currently underway, as the projects progress we seek Government support to further these initiatives:

- **Transforming the Heart of Swan Hill Precinct' project -**

This project will provide a framework plan to revitalise Swan Hill's central precincts, connecting key areas including the CBD, riverfront, health services, and recreation precincts. It involves detailed planning, consultation, and design to shape the city's future beyond 2050 and prepare projects for funding and construction. The project includes a pedestrian overpass, a redevelopment on Monash Drive (the former GrainCorp site) and streetscape renewal.

- **Swan Hill Reserve Masterplan -**

Council is developing a 20 year masterplan for the Swan Hill Showgrounds Sport and Recreation Precinct. The Masterplan aims to create a sporting hub and a Children, Youth and Families hub, ensuring the precinct meets community needs and remains a premier facility.

- **Reinvigorating Our Riverfront project -**

Major upgrades have begun transforming the Swan Hill and Robinvale riverfronts into vibrant spaces. Projects include the Swan Hill Ten Steps replacement, future all abilities boat mooring platform, riverbank restoration works, a new Pental Island pedestrian Bridge and Robinvale terrace project

Stage one of the Pental Island Cultural Space will showcase local Aboriginal culture and tourism opportunities.

- **We're ready for more investment in Housing:**

A lack of suitable, affordable housing is a significant barrier to economic growth across our municipality. Council's Housing Action Plan delivers local solutions, including new homes in Robinvale and land development for future housing. We continue to advocate for improved housing outcomes and localised innovative solutions including continuing to develop land for residential purposes.

Swan Hill Rural City Council

Swan Hill Rural City Council is proud of our thriving agriculture, mining, and manufacturing industries, all supported by a unique natural environment that enhances both liveability and economic prosperity.

Our Council is actively seeking investment to strengthen transport, community infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy.

Our mission is to drive meaningful change by working closely with all levels of government, community organisations, service providers, private enterprises, and key stakeholders.

Your support is crucial to ensuring the ongoing growth and success of our community - together, we can turn this vision into reality.

Swan Hill Rural City Council

Mayor | Cr Stuart King | **Chief Executive Officer** | Scott Barber

Councillors | Les McPhee, Hugh Broad, Phillip Englefield, Terry Jennings, Lindsay Rogers and Peta Thornton
Phone: 5036 2333 **Email:** council@swanhill.vic.gov.au

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Swan Hill Rural City Council is seeking support to:

A new Swan Hill Bridge

An additional \$80 million is needed to fund the construction of a new Swan Hill Bridge. Council urges all levels of Government to prioritise this project as the next major infrastructure investment along the Murray River.

Final designs for the new Swan Hill Bridge are currently being prepared and costed, with a construction timeline yet to be confirmed. Recent updates from Transport NSW indicate promising progress towards delivering this critical piece of regional infrastructure.

The project requires an additional \$80 million to proceed. Council is calling on the Victorian Government to invest \$40 million and Murray River Council will continue to advocate to the New South Wales Government for the remaining \$40 million, noting their existing contribution of \$7.5 million. .

Council sincerely thanks the Federal Government for its \$60 million contribution and encourages continued advocacy to help bring this essential project to fruition.

A new Swan Hill Hospital

Council in calling for the delivery of all remaining stages of the Swan Hill Hospital upgrade.

A minimum investment of \$50 million is essential to advance this vital project and ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare services to our growing community.

Serving a catchment of 35,000 people, Swan Hill District Health faces significant challenges with outdated and inadequate infrastructure. While progress has been made with \$65.7 million invested \$35.7 million from the Victorian Government and \$30 million from the Federal Government to modernise the emergency department, remaining stages of the hospital redevelopment remain essential.

Fix our roads

Council asks the Government to continue the successful Roads to Recovery program and provide further funding to upgrade critical road infrastructure, ensuring safety and efficiency across our region.

Murray Valley Highway

Key upgrades identified in the Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy include pavement widening, shoulder sealing, additional passing lanes north of Nyah, improved intersections, and rest stops. These improvements will reduce conflicts between freight, buses, caravans, and other vehicles, enhancing safety and travel times.

Gray & Campbell Street Intersection

Similar concerns were raised about this intersection, with significant input from the community. These dangers highlight the critical need for prioritised improvements to ensure safer travel for residents and visitors.

Murlong & McCallum Street Intersection

Community feedback highlighted the dangers at this notorious Swan Hill intersection. Alarminglly, many incidents and near misses remain unreported, underscoring the urgent need for safety upgrades.

A total of 452 surveys were completed by our community on the two intersections.

Arterial Roads

In line with the Grattan Institute’s findings, Council calls for greater investment in arterial roads. Addressing these infrastructure gaps is vital to providing safe, efficient, and equitable transport options for our community.

Building better transport links

Council seeks \$26 million from the Government to upgrade our road network, enabling access for High Productivity Freight Vehicles and providing efficient, cost-effective transport for primary producers and processors.

Large-scale transport projects are beyond local government capacity, making this investment critical to support economic growth and align with climate adaptation principles.

Better Passenger Rail

Council is calling for improved V/Line train and coach services, including faster travel times, potential velocity service, increased frequency, and better integration with local transport to support residents, students, workers, and visitors.

Water buybacks

Council advocates for funds to be returned directly to local government for investment in local projects. This funding should compensate communities for water loss and ensure the economic and social sustainability of affected areas.

By directing funds back to councils, we can ensure they are spent where they will have the greatest impact — supporting local businesses, improving infrastructure, and creating new opportunities for growth and resilience. Local governments are best placed to understand the unique needs of their communities and to deliver projects that provide tangible, long-term benefits.

A true population

Council is seeking a \$50,000 funding commitment to conduct a population study for Swan Hill.

In 2019 the Robinvale Population Determination Study was conducted, which revealed a true population of 7,000–8,800—far exceeding the ABS's official 2021 Census figure of 3,740.

Accurate population data is critical for recognition and resource allocation in our region.

Assist overseas workers

Council calls on the Federal Government to streamline pathways for overseas workers by simplifying permanent residency processes and tackling workforce shortages in critical regional industries, including agriculture, horticulture, tourism, hospitality, and healthcare. Additionally, Council seeks an ongoing commitment of \$500,000 to support workers in delivering essential community programs.

Workforce shortages persist, placing pressure on local industries. While Council welcomes new immigration agreements, further action is required. Key priorities include:

- Streamlining the visa process for overseas workers.
- Supporting permanent residency for regional workers.
- Planning for Seasonal Worker Accommodation.
- Increasing funding for community organisations that assist overseas workers, enhancing settlement outcomes and ensuring their contributions strengthen our communities.

Critical childcare shortage

We urgently need Government support to address the critical childcare shortage in our region. We need: Onsite kinder facilities at schools, stronger support for developers to integrate childcare into housing projects, and simplified training requirements and innovative strategies to increase early years educators

Parents' ability to work is being severely impacted by this shortage. In Swan Hill, there is a shortfall of 90 full-time childcare spaces, while Robinvale has just 1 childcare space available for every 10 children. The upcoming State roll-out of free kindergarten in 2027 will further strain existing facilities and resources, making immediate action essential to meet growing demand.

Improve housing availability

Council seeks \$15 million to administer key worker accommodation projects, providing essential housing for the region’s workforce and addressing critical housing shortages.

The lack of affordable housing hinders economic growth, particularly affecting seasonal workers, as only 60–70 homes are built annually—far below demand.

Additionally, Council urges the Government to review surplus land holdings and consider releasing these assets to Council for future housing and community project developments.

Council has successfully delivered eight homes in Robinvale, with ten more currently under construction at McCartney Court, supported by a \$5 million State Government grant. However, more support is critically needed to meet the region’s escalating housing and economic demands.

Council has taken proactive steps by forming the Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill Committee and collaborating with dedicated partners to overcome housing challenges.

Water and sewerage for small towns

Council is seeking \$5 million in Government funding to directly cover the costs of water and sewage infrastructure in new small town developments.

This funding will serve as a powerful incentive for developers to build in the areas that need it most, addressing critical housing shortages in key agricultural, horticultural, and manufacturing regions.

By fostering these developments, the initiative aims to strengthen regional economies and support sustainable community growth.

Fund new community infrastructure

Council seeks Government support to fund critical community infrastructure projects, ensuring vibrant, sustainable spaces for our residents.

Our funding priorities include:

- **\$20million** for a new public swimming pool for Swan Hill.
- **\$8 million** to construct the Swan Hill Showground and Sporting Hub.
- **\$3.5 million** for a Children, Youth, and Families Hub.
- **\$4 million** for the Ken Harrison Regional Tennis Centre of Excellence.
- **\$5 million** to implement all actions from the Robinvale Riverfront Masterplan.

