

# CEO Monthly Report

December 2025 & January 2026



Mansfield Shire

## 1. Customer Service

### **Monthly Customer Request Management System (CRMS) Report December 2025 and January 2026**

For the month of December, 136 customer requests were received. Of those, 12 requests remain open and 124 were closed during the month.

There were 1,248 calls and 776 visits to Council's customer service centre.

No complaints were received for December 2025.

#### **One Expression of Gratitude was received for December 2025.**

The customer expressed their gratitude for the transfer station staff, noting they are always helpful and provide consistently great service. On one visit, an officer even assisted them with reversing to unload. They appreciate the team's support and the station's always neat and tidy presentation.

For the month of January, 154 customer requests were received. Of those, 44 requests remain open and 110 were closed during the month.

There were 1,656 calls and 596 visits to Council's customer service centre.

#### **One complaint was received for January 2026.**

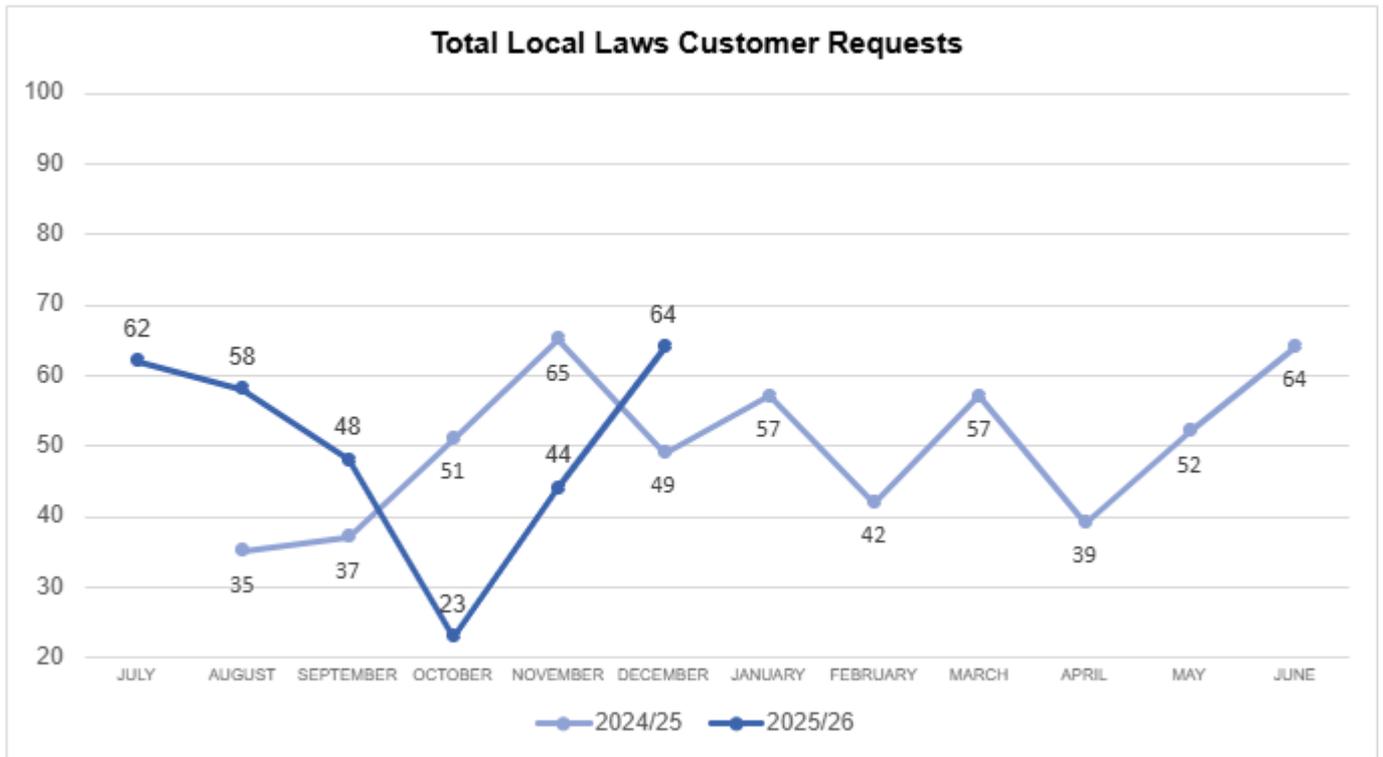
The customer raised a concern that Council's website directs people too heavily toward social media for emergency information. They are not on Facebook or Instagram and feel this is unfair, as those without social media may miss important updates.

#### **Two Expression of Gratitude was received for January 2026.**

The customer would like to thank the crew and management for promptly cleaning the graffiti on the Oliver Road signs and for repairing the hole near Fords Creek.

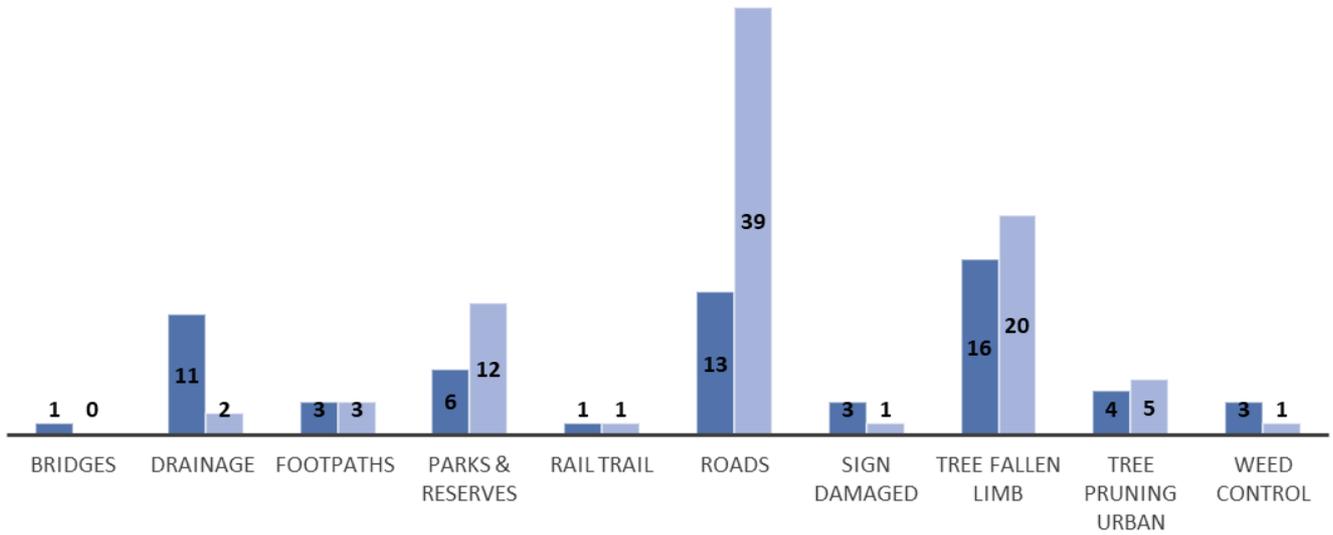
The customer would like to thank Daniel O'Connor for calling her yesterday and providing very valuable advice. She said it really helped her and was greatly appreciated.

The highest number of requests was for Local Laws, totalling 64 for December 2025.

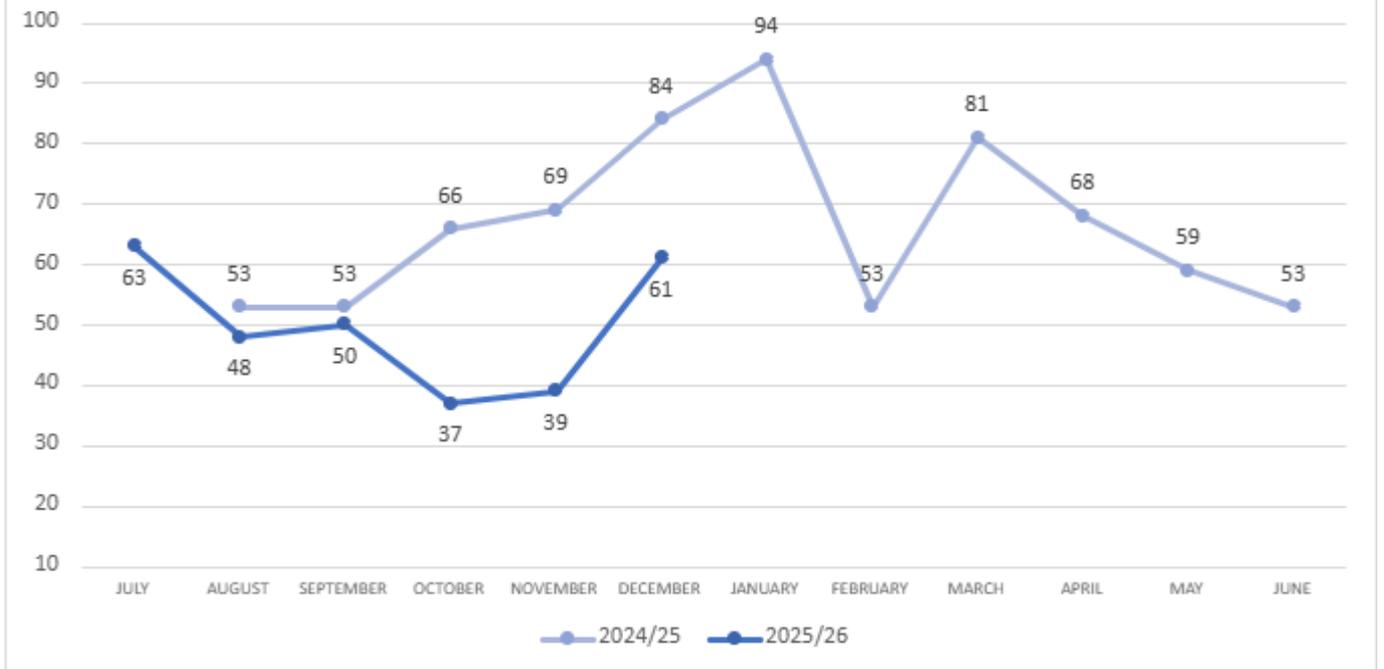


Field Services received the second highest number of requests, totalling 61 for December 2025.

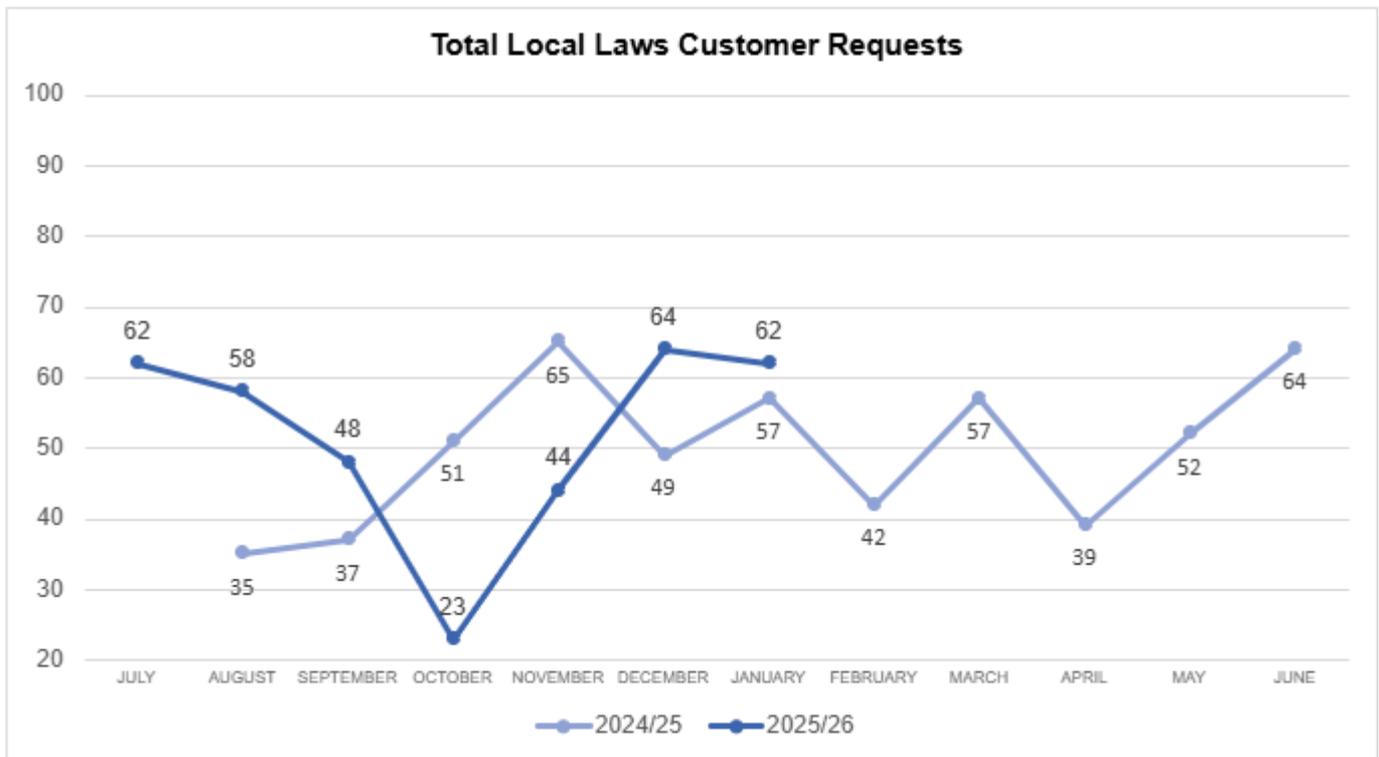
Top 10 Field Services Customer Requests



Total Field Services Customer Requests

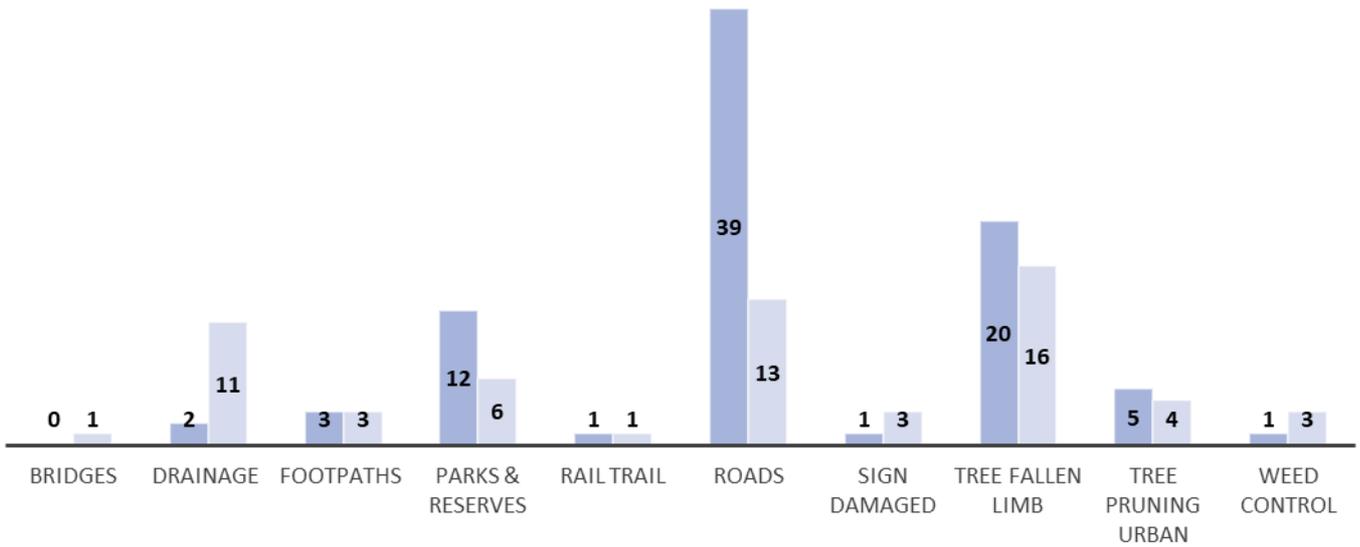


The highest number of requests was for Local Laws, totalling 62 for January 2026.

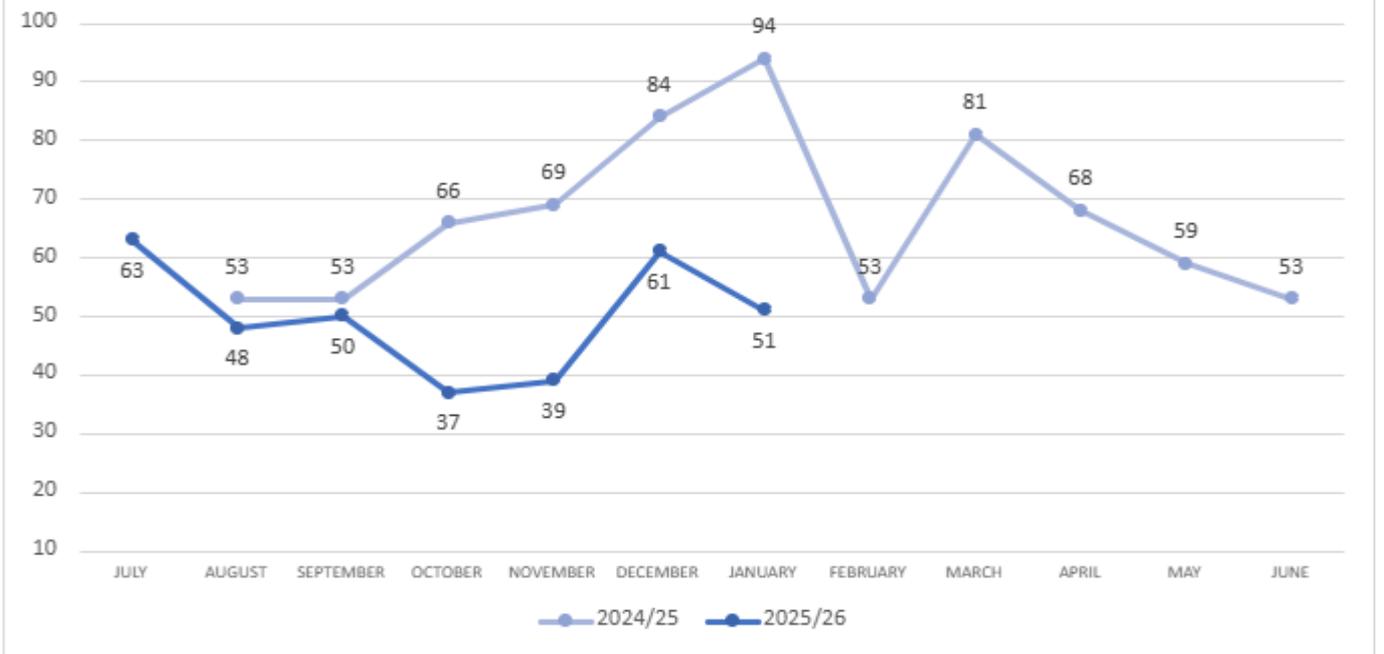


Field Services received the second highest number of requests, totalling 61 for January 2026.

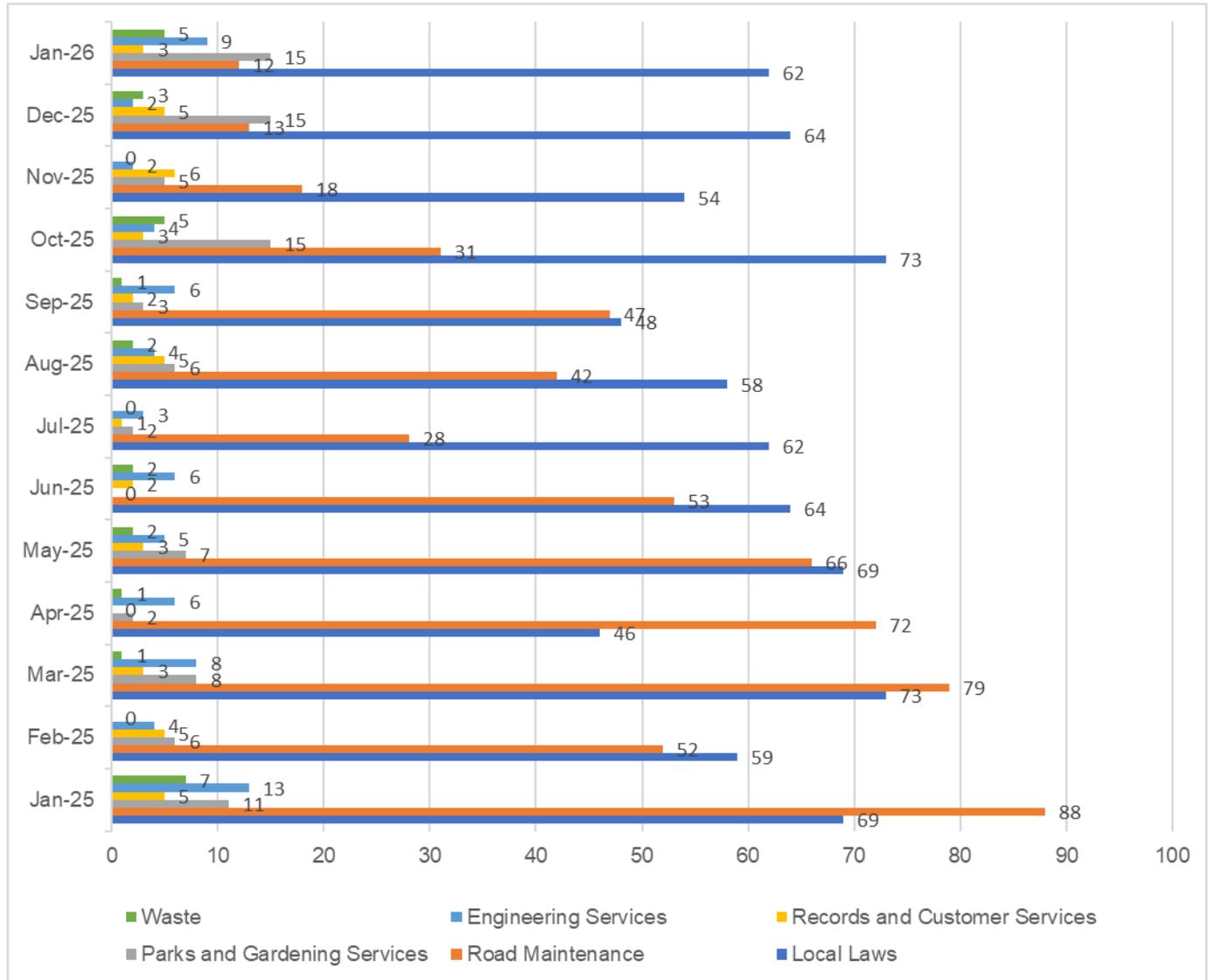
Top 10 Field Services Customer Requests



Total Field Services Customer Requests

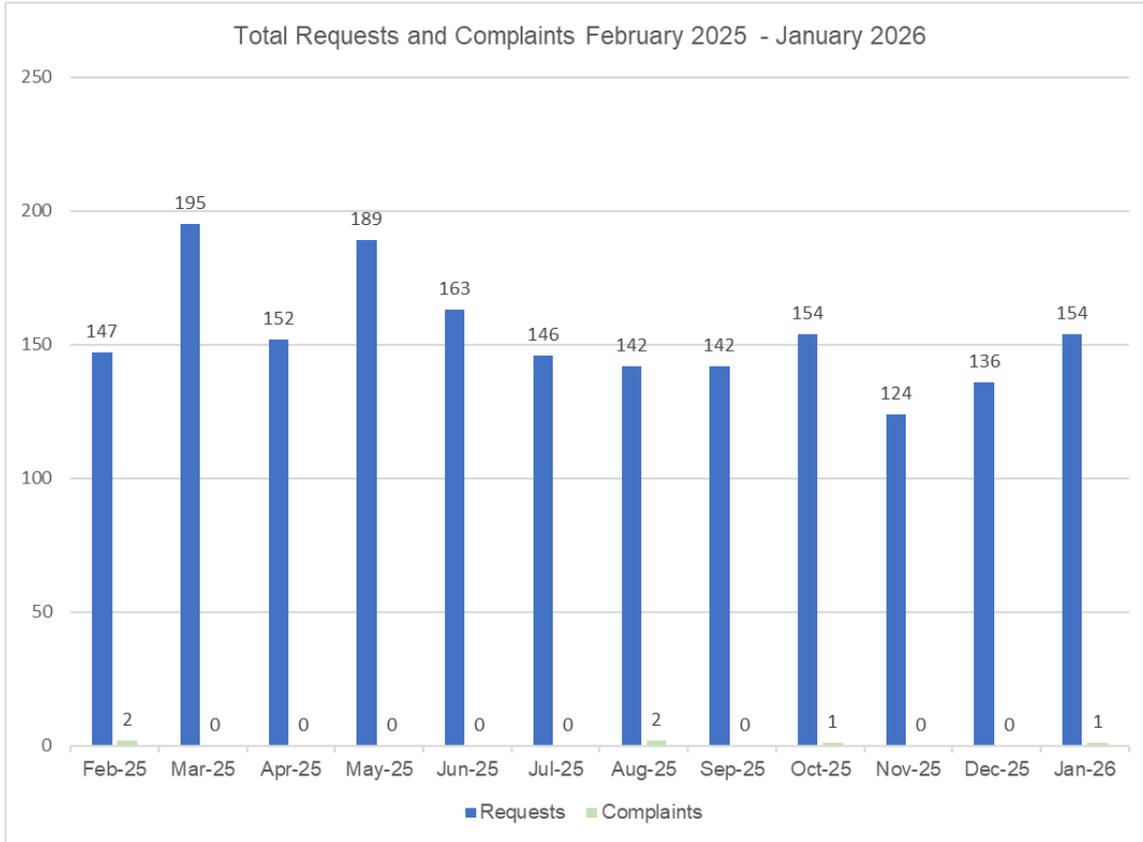


CRMS Monthly Totals January 2025 – January 2026



**Requests and Complaints**

	December	January
Requests	<b>136</b>	<b>154</b>
Complaints	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>



## 2. Governance

### Confidential Reports - Financial Year

Month	No. of Confidential Reports	No. Related to Tenders
July 2025	1	0
August 2025	1	1
September 2025	3	2
October 2025	3	3
November 2025	5	4
December 2025	3	2
January 2026	-	-
February 2026		
March 2026		
April 2026		
May 2026		
June 2026		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>

### Confidential Reports at Council Meetings

Month	No. of Confidential Reports	Comments
October 2025	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender Award: Station Precinct Pump Track</li> <li>Contract Award: Mansfield Heritage Museum</li> <li>Tender Award: Ogilvies - Rifle Butts Road Intersection</li> </ul>
November 2025	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender Award: Bulk Fuel Contract</li> <li>Tender Award: Greenvale Lane Footbridge</li> <li>Tender Award: Lords Oval Pavilion</li> <li>Tender Award for Project CODI - Health and</li> <li>Funding Agreement Walsh's Road</li> </ul>
December 2025	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citizen Awards 2026</li> <li>Tender Award: Sealing Unsealed Roads Program</li> <li>Tender Award: Dead Horse Lane - Mansfield Whitfield Roundabout</li> </ul>

**Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests – Financial Year**

Month	No. of FOI Requests
July 2025	1
August 2025	2
September 2025	2
October 2025	1
November 2025	-
December 2025	-
January 2026	1
February 2026	
March 2026	
April 2026	
May 2026	
June 2026	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

**Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests**

Month	No. of FOI Requests	Comments
July 2025	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requestor was seeking information on the number of service requests for the period and any documents or reports for the period 1/7/2024-30/6/2025.</li> </ul>
August 2025	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requestor was seeking information pertaining to copies of Councillor expenses for this term of Councillors, from November to 30 June 2025</li> <li>The requestor was seeking information pertaining to how much the ESVF levy will raise on rates notices this year and how much Council has billed.</li> </ul>
September 2025	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requestor was seeking information pertaining access to the delegate report and all associated documents held by Council in relation to the initial two (2) lot Subdivision at 2995 Maintongoon Road Bonnie Doon.</li> <li>The requestor was seeking access to the Confidential Goughs Bay Playground Engagement Report Appendix B</li> </ul>
October 2025	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requestor was seeking information pertaining to for the period 1 January 2022 – 14 May 2025, broken down by year (or part thereof for 2025): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of deeds (including deeds of release) and agreements (including settlement agreements and non-disclosure agreements) entered into between Council (or a Council-related entity) and a current or former Council staff member, in connection with the termination of that staff member's employment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Month	No. of FOI Requests	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The total amounts agreed to be paid under those deeds and agreements.</li> <li>- The number of redundancies made at Council, broken down by directorate.</li> <li>- The total cost of those redundancies in aggregate.</li> </ul>
January 2026	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requestor is seeking copies of any relevant documents Council hold in relation to Jamieson-Licola Road, including, but not limited to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Records of routine and non-routine inspections of the road on Jamieson-Licola Road from 2020 to present;</li> <li>- All maintenance works, road repairs, work order records, inspection records, road and gutter works and improvement works in relation to the road on Jamieson-Licola Road from 2020 to present;</li> <li>- Road Management Plans for Jamieson-Licola Road from 2020 to present;</li> <li>- Reports and/or correspondence of accidents or incidents reported, including but not limited to previous WorkCover, TAC and public liability complaints on or near Jamieson-Licola Road from 2020 to present; and</li> <li>- Details of any complaints in relation to the road and safety of Jamieson-Licola Road from 2020 to present.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### 3. Capital Works

The Capital Works total project completion for the 2025-26 financial year is reported each month, with November being 10% complete (with two projects completed this month).

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
<b>Buildings</b>				
Bonnie Doon Community Centre	\$16,000	Switchboard Upgrade and 3 phase connection. Works completed in August.	On Budget	Completed Aug 2025
Mansfield Library	\$27,000	HVAC improvements at Library. Works completed in January.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Mansfield Sporting Complex	\$55,698	Roof renewal at higher end of building. Procurement was initiated in January, tenderers to be returned in February.	On Budget	May 2026
Mechanics Institute Toilet	\$150,000	Construction of new toilet amenities at the rear of the Mechanics Institute. Funding agreement with Mansfield Kindergarten executed. Design procurement commenced in December. Fee proposals to be returned in February.	On Budget	June 2026
Jamieson Hall	\$88,663	Lower roof renewal works completed at Hall. Part two of project is replacement of slate roof on museum. Replacement scheduled by May in collaboration with the Jamieson Community Group.	On Budget	May 2026
Solar Panel Installation Program	\$57,000	Installation of solar panels and batteries at the Mansfield Sporting Complex. This project will commence once the roof renewal is complete, with grant applications to be made in future. Installation of solar and batteries on Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve & Community Centre. Project is being delivered by the Greenhouse Alliance with Council participating in the project control group.	On Budget	May 2026

## Mansfield Shire Council | CEO Monthly Report

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Public Toilet Renewal Program	\$50,000	Maintongoon Road, Bonnie Doon. Refurbishment of current facility. Procurement commenced in January. Tenderers to be returned in February.	On Budget	May 2026
Lords Pavilion	\$1,954,750	Construction of the new Pavilion. Tender award approved at November Council Meeting. Works commenced in December.	On Budget	Nov 2026
Mansfield Recreation Reserve Play Our Way Change Room Upgrades	\$918,789	Mansfield Sporting Complex and Swimming Pool has received a grant for alterations to changeroom facilities to encourage female participation. The concept design is complete. Design review to be undertaken with all stakeholders in February.	On Budget	Jun 2027
Curia Street Police Stables public shower & toilets	-	Project being undertaken in collaboration with the Uniting Church to install a new toilet and shower facilities next to the Police Stables. A delay in the fabrication of the toilet block by the supplier, outside of Council's control, will delay the installation, with February confirmed for delivery	On Budget	Nov 2025
<b>Bridges &amp; Culverts</b>				
Bridge Renewal Program	\$70,000	Renewal works on Lake Nillahcootie, Long Lane and Glen Creek bridges. Works completed in August, including the carry forward scope from 2024-25.	On Budget	Completed Aug 2025
Greenvale Lane Bridge	\$548,837	Design and construction of a pedestrian footbridge. Contract has been signed with the design and build contractor. Pre-fabrication bridge design in progress, with path works to commence in late February.	On Budget	May 2026
Causeway/Culvert Upgrade Program	\$40,000	These works are being carried out around the Mansfield township packaged with the Township Sealing program. The budget allocation for this program will be used to support other capital works, as required.	On Budget	May 2026

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Bridge Upgrade Program	\$80,000	Dry Creek Road Bridge (B36) condition assessments initially identified repair works. Following resident consultation and further technical review, more extensive widening has been confirmed as necessary. The budget will now be allocated to undertake design for the widening and full upgrade, including guardrails, to enable a future construction upgrade when grant funding becomes available.	On Budget	May 2026
McKees Lane Culvert improvement	\$50,000	Culvert structure is completed, pavement and sealing to be completed in February.	On Budget	Feb 2026
Causeway Upgrade Program	\$200,000	Graves Road - Construction is pending funding, with proposed Council co-contribution amount of \$200,000.	On Budget	Dec 2026
<b>Open Space &amp; Streetscapes</b>				
Botanic Park Stage Platform	-	Project being undertaken as a community collaboration. Project Completed in January to allow the Australia Day event to be held there.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Swimming Pool Upgrade (LAPS Package)	\$750,741	LAPS funding agreement received and executed following approval of proposed Council co-contribution amount at August Council meeting. The concept design is complete. Design review to be undertaken with all stakeholders in February.	On Budget	Aug 2027
Tracks & Trails Strategy	\$33,000	Engagement to gather community and stakeholder feedback completed. Draft strategy developed, community Engage page is live.	On Budget	Mar 2026
Peppin Point Community Hub Design	\$78,840	Grant funded project managed in collaboration with Peppin Hub community group. Concept design in progress with updated draft under engagement with community group.	On Budget	May 2026

## Mansfield Shire Council | CEO Monthly Report

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Billy Maxwell House Relocation	-	Outlying Community Infrastructure Fund project. Relocation of house to be scoped and planned in collaboration with Bonnie Doon Community Centre. Building Permit in progress for relocation.	On Budget	Jun 2026
Street furniture, benches and bollards	\$50,000	Replacing benches to recycled plastic in High Street and Botanic Park. Scoping and procurement completed for Botanic Park path bollard lighting.	On Budget	Feb 2026
Delatite Valley Riverside Park Masterplan	-	Outlying Community Infrastructure Fund project. Community engagement planned on the scope of the masterplan with support from Council's project officer. Currently on hold while the Delatite Valley Plan engagement is underway.	On Budget	June 2026
Irrigation and Oval Upgrades	\$45,000	Upgrade of Lords Oval and Mansfield Recreation Reserve Oval irrigation. Works complete.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Mansfield Tennis Club Roof	\$50,000	Clubroom roof renewal. Scoping and engagement in process. Project to be undertaken in collaboration with Tennis Club Community Asset Committee.	On Budget	May 2026
<b>Drainage</b>				
Drainage Renewal Program	\$50,000	CCTV inspection and jetting of stormwater assets. Scoping in progress.	On Budget	May 2026
College Park Drainage Improvements (grant funded)	\$25,000	Shade sail, drainage and benches. Equipment procurement completed in December. Installation to be completed in March, with drainage complete by May.	On Budget	May 2026
Drainage Study	\$30,000	Malcolm Street from Highett Street to Kidston Parade (West Catchment). Evaluation completed, awarded to contractor, proposed subdivision development plans provided for consideration with flood data.	On Budget	May 2026

## Mansfield Shire Council | CEO Monthly Report

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Stormwater and footpath upgrade	\$208,289	Elvins Street. Service location completed to assist with final detailed design expected in February. Initial grant application unsuccessful, proposal to address drainage upgrade this financial year, followed by pathways in future.	On Budget	June 2026
<b>Pathways</b>				
Bonnie Doon Community Centre Footpath	\$30,000	Construction commenced in January.	On Budget	Feb 2026
Footpath on Mansfield-Woods Point Road, Jamieson	\$50,000	Stage 1: Scoping and community engagement completed. Includes tree planting in DTP road reserve. Stage 2 on hold pending planning permit outcome and Engineering review of intersection design. Remaining 2025-26 budget will be allocated to improvement and infill of existing footpath links in Jamieson township, with community drop-in session completed in November. Final scoping in progress.	On Budget	May 2026
New footpath on Maintongoon Road	\$54,130	Maintongoon Road. Concept design completed. The project will occur in two stages. Stage 1, between the two boat ramps will be prioritised. Stage 2 will encompass a connection to the Rail Trail subject to further review and approval with DTP and a detailed design (expected next financial year).	On Budget	May 2026
Shared path on Piries-Goughs Bay Rd Stage 3	\$110,000	Piries-Goughs Bay Rd Stage 3 works complete.	On Budget	Completed Dec 2026
Footpath missing link on Bellview Court	\$17,550	Construction commenced in January.	On Budget	Feb 2026
Footpaths Renewal Program - Concrete	\$70,000	Engagement completed. Procurement to commence in February.	On Budget	May 2026

## Mansfield Shire Council | CEO Monthly Report

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Mansfield - Woods Point Road (Howqua Inlet) Path	\$50,000	Planning permit received late January. Council will provide materials for the community group to carry out the works.	On Budget	May 2026
<b>Roads</b>				
Kerb & Channel	\$109,560	High Street, Alpine Ridge Drive, Highett Street, Stewart Street, Curia Street completed in October.	On Budget	Completed Oct 2025
Car Park Renewal	\$56,340	Chenery Street, High Street and Collopy Street included in the reseal scope. Completed in January.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Reseal / asphalt replacement program	\$269,532	Mansfield township. Completed in January.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Re-Seal preparation Road Reconstruction program	\$430,480	Early Street, Alpine Ridge Drive. Works completed in November, with defects currently being rectified.	On Budget	Completed Nov 2025
Township Sealing Program	\$321,180	Mansfield township. New Street and Church Street. Packaged with Glen Creek Road, Hearn's intersection and Chapel Hill Rd. Works commence in January.	On Budget	Mar 2026
Dead Horse Ln / Mansfield-Whitfield Rd Roundabout - Design and Construction	\$1,927,257	Dead Horse Lane/Mansfield-Whitfield Road intersection. Design approval not issued by Transport and Planning (DTP). Procurement completed and Letter of Award issued. Contract pending final design approval from DTP.	On Budget	June 2026
Eildon-Jamieson Road Safety Improvement Program	\$357,820	Eildon-Jamieson Road shoulder and batter improvements. Scoping in progress. To be carried out concurrently with the Motorcycle Safety Improvement project.	On Budget	Apr 2026
Motorcycle Safety Improvement	\$85,000	Intersection of Barwite Road and Saligari Road, Eildon – Jamieson Road. Scoping in progress. Concept design with DTP for approval.	On Budget	Apr 2026
Mansfield Parking Study	\$50,000	Awarded to consultant Trafficworks. Site survey and investigations were completed in September. Report	On Budget	Feb 2026

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
		issued for review by Council officers, with further information requested.		
Resource Recovery Centre Access Road	\$250,000	Road upgrade, turnaround and drainage works. Procurement planned for February.	On Budget	May 2026
<b>IMPACT Project</b>				
Hearns Road Intersection	\$120,000	Construction underway, project combined with Chapel Hill Sealing project	On Budget	Feb 2026
Highton Lane (includes new roundabout)	\$1,465,811	Practical completion issued. Solar lighting still to be installed.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Rifle Butts Road	\$1,432,164	Practical completion issued in November. Defect rectification works in progress.	On Budget	Completed Nov 2025
Ogilvies Rd Intersection	\$410,400	Culvert component will be completed February 2026, intersection completion to follow.	On Budget	March 2026
<b>Station Precinct</b>				
Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Station Precinct Project.				
All Abilities Playground	\$2,237,570 (Budget is shared with Changing Places)	A detailed design contract has been awarded and a design is now in progress for the playground. Procurement to commence in December following stakeholder engagement, in parallel with broader community engagement throughout January.	On Budget	August 2026
Changing Places Facility	As per Playground	Detailed design contract awarded and design is now in progress. Procurement planned for February.	On Budget	Jul 2026
Museum Exhibit	\$3,205,533	Exhibit design completed. Some elements have progressed to fabrication and a project manager engaged to manage the Exhibit fit out.	On Budget	Nov 2026
Goods Shed Refurbishment	\$1,511,707	Scoping and design completed for Stage 1 works. Community engagement and procurement initiated in January, tenders being returned in February.	On Budget	Oct 2026

## Mansfield Shire Council | CEO Monthly Report

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Taungurung Art Track	\$255,188	Research and development to progress scope elements in progress.	On Budget	Jan 2027
Museum Fit out	Included in Exhibit Budget	Fit-out works to commenced December.	On Budget	Nov 2026
Pump Track	\$414,400	Design work commenced in November with construction work planned for March. Stakeholder engagement and community engagement on design plans completed in December and January respectively.	On Budget	Apr 2026
Fertiliser Shed Refurbishment	\$546,368	Roof renewal works completed in November. Mezzanine works planned to commence in March.	On Budget	May 2026
Landscaping (Irrigation, Solar Lighting, Furniture)	\$544,373	Museum landscaping design undergoing stakeholder review to be completed in February, to be followed by broader community engagement.	On Budget	Jan 2027
Withers Lane Carpark	\$168,017	Concept design completed. Stakeholders review commenced in December to be considered before finalising design February.	On Budget	Sep 2026
Visitor Information Centre Carpark	\$761,868	Concept design completed. Stakeholders review commenced in December to be considered before finalising design February.	On Budget	Sep 2026
Kitchen Street Carpark	\$627,203	Concept design completed. Stakeholders review commenced in December to be considered before finalising design February.	On Budget	Sep 2026
Precinct Shared Pathway	\$771,680	Stage 1 design complete. Procurement initiated in January and closing in February.	On Budget	May 2026
Fenced Dog Park	\$496,063	Procurement on infrastructure undertaken though December and January with separate packages being tendered. Initial infrastructure works to commence in	On Budget	Mar 2026

## Mansfield Shire Council | CEO Monthly Report

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
		February. Main works procurement to commence in February.		
Railway infrastructure restore & Woodfield platform relocation	\$176,990	Scoping in progress. Procurement planned for March 2026.	On Budget	Dec 2026
Mullum Wetlands Rejuvenation	\$228,325	Procurement in progress for first stage of works. Stakeholder engagement concurrently being undertaken to review scope of works. Award scheduled for February.	On Budget	Apr 2026
Station Precinct Branding	\$33,650	Design work commenced in December.	On Budget	Feb 2027

Legend	
On Schedule	On Budget
Possible Delay	Above Budget by <10%
Delayed/On Hold	Above Budget by >10%

## 4. Planning

### Planning Applications Lodged

December 2025		
App No.	Property Address	Proposal
P114-25	74 Hollams Road Mansfield	Use and development of land for four [4] dwellings
VS033-25	203 Mansfield-Whitfield Road Mansfield	Development of land for a warehouse
P115-25	257 Merton-Strathbogie Road Merton	Use and development of land for a dwelling and domestic outbuilding
P116-25	127 Hells Hole Creek Road Bonnie Doon	Development of land for a [retrospective] agricultural shed
P124B-22	26 Highton Lane Mansfield	Amendment - Seventy-one [71] Lot Staged Subdivision and removal of native vegetation [53 trees]
VS035-25	45 Alpine Ridge Drive Merrijig	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding [carport]
VS036-25	69 Howes Creek Road Mansfield	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding
P117-25	874 Old Tolmie Road Barwite	Development of land for a dwelling and attached outbuilding
VS037-25	28 High Street Mansfield	Development of land for a Restaurant and reduction in car parking [10 spaces]
January 2026		
App No.	Property Address	Proposal
P001-26	155 McMillan Point Drive Mansfield	Development of land for a dwelling and outbuilding
P005A-25	196 Old Gobur Road Merton	Use and development of land for a dwelling and outbuilding
P002-26	127 Howqua River Road Howqua 127 Howqua River Road Howqua	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding
P003-26	1480 Old Tolmie Road Tolmie	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding
VS001-26	241 Harpers Road Barjarg	Development of land for alterations and additions to an existing dwelling
P004-26	272 Woolshed Road Woodfield	Use and development of land for a second dwelling
<b>Total Applications Lodged: 15</b>		

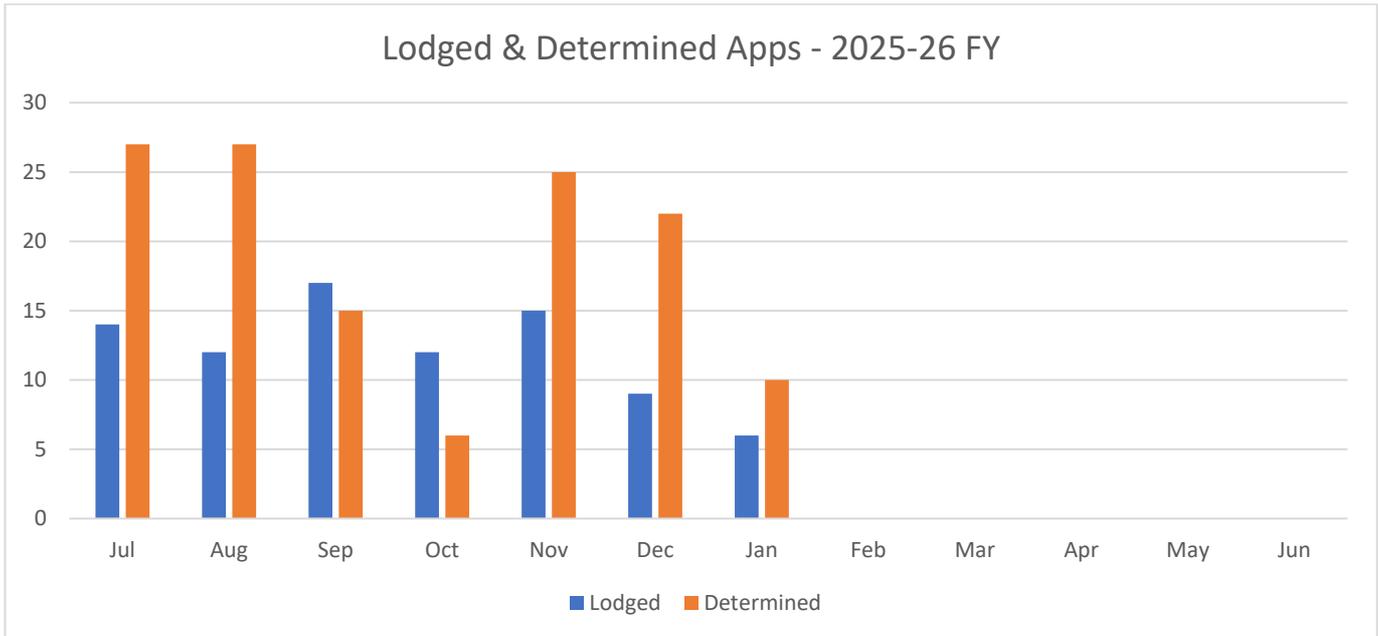
## Planning Applications Determined

App No.	Property Address	Proposal	Decision Type
<b>December 2025</b>			
P084-25	25 Warburton-Woods Point Road Matlock	Use and development of land for an agricultural [land management] shed	Permit issued
P080-25	182 Ambrose Drive Tolmie	Use and development of land for a dwelling and outbuilding	Permit issued
P094-25	3138 Merton-Euroa Road Merton	Development of land for an outbuilding associated with the use of land for an open sports ground [three shipping containers and a roof].	Permit issued
P009-25	Malcolm Street Mansfield	Two [2] Lot Subdivision	Permit issued
P061-25	409 Hutchinsons Road Bonnie Doon 439 Hutchinsons Road Bonnie Doon	Two [2] lot re-subdivision	NOD to Grant a Permit
P076-25	370 Peppin Drive Bonnie Doon	Development of land for alterations and additions to an existing dwelling	Permit issued
P081-25	487 Bunstons Road Tolmie	Use and development of land for a dwelling and outbuilding	Permit issued
P083-25	395 Lake Nillahcootie Road Barjarg	Removal of three [3] planted native trees	Permit issued
P023-25	150 Howqua River Road Howqua	Development of land for alterations and additions to an existing dwelling	Permit issued
VS032-25	36 Highett Street Mansfield	Alterations of an existing building [Medical Centre] and reduction of [3] car parking spaces	Permit issued
VS033-25	203 Mansfield-Whitfield Road Mansfield	Development of land for a warehouse	Permit issued
P027-25	6032 Eildon-Jamieson Road Jamieson	Development of land for a [replacement] dwelling and alteration of access to a road in the Principal Road Network	Permit issued
P139A-23	310 Banumum Road Mansfield	Development of land for alterations and extension to an existing dwelling	Permit issued
P093-25	139 Owens Creek Drive Mansfield	Use and development of land for a dwelling and domestic outbuilding	NOD to Grant a Permit

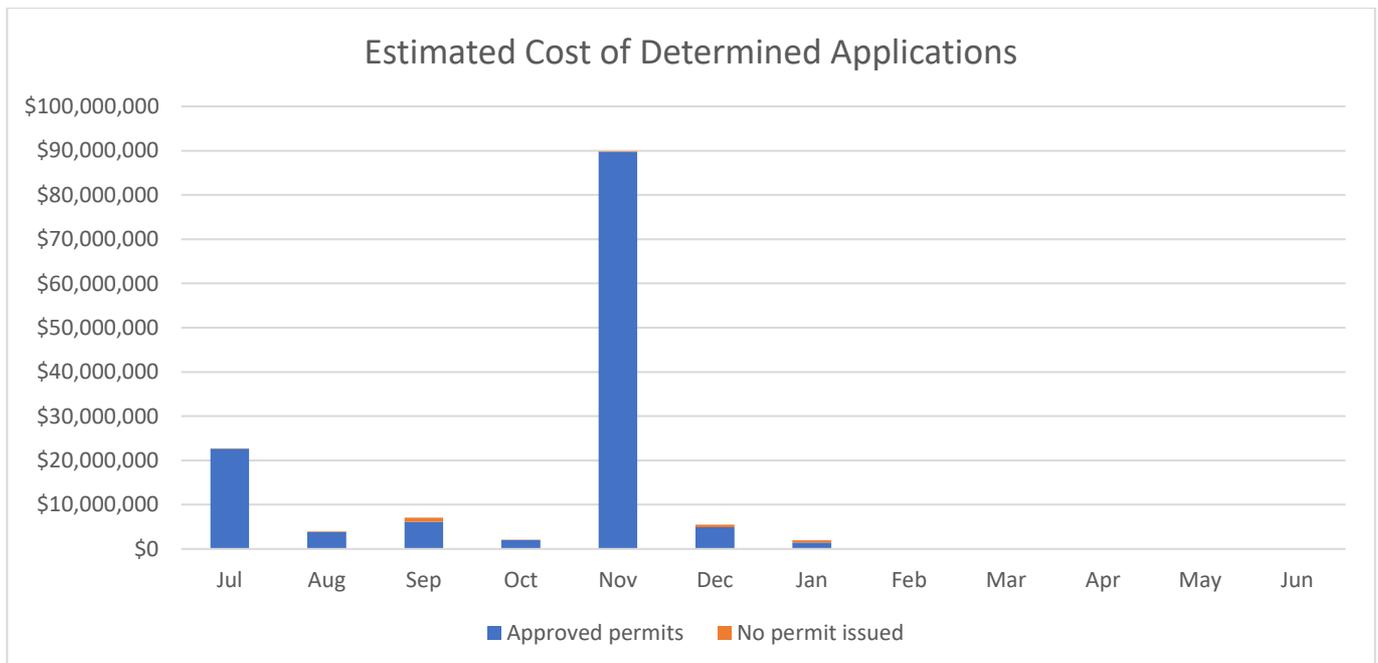
App No.	Property Address	Proposal	Decision Type
P097-25	160 Jamieson-Licola Road Jamieson	Removal of Native Vegetation	Permit issued
P032A-23	94 Tolmie-Mahaikah Road Tolmie	Development of land for a dwelling and two [2] outbuildings	Withdrawn
P110-25	35 Cambridge Drive Mansfield	Two [2] lot subdivision	Withdrawn
P124B-22	26 Highton Lane Mansfield	Seventy-one [71] Lot Staged Subdivision and removal of native vegetation [53 trees]	Permit issued
VS034-25	35 Cambridge Drive Mansfield	Two [2] lot subdivision	Permit issued
VS035-25	45 Alpine Ridge Drive Merrijig	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding [carport]	Permit issued
VS036-25	69 Howes Creek Road Mansfield	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding	Permit issued
P030-25	131 Terry Road Mansfield	Use and development of land for Extractive Industry [stone extraction]	NOD to Refuse a Permit
<b>January 2026</b>			
P154A-22	514 Glen Creek Road Bonnie Doon	Development of land for a dwelling and farm shed	Permit issued
P107-24	62 Peppermint Lane Tolmie	Development of land for Bed and Breakfast [two detached extensions]	Withdrawn
P059-25	G120 Bushland Reserve Mansfield-Woods Point Road Howqua Inlet	Development of land for Leisure and Recreation [Shared Path]	Permit issued
P019A-25	62 Stoneleigh Road Mansfield	Two [2] Lot Subdivision	Withdrawn
P102-25	264 Dead Horse Lane Mansfield 256A Dead Horse Lane Mansfield	Three [3] Lot Subdivision and creation of an Easement [services]	Permit issued
VS010-25	4 Harbour Line Drive Goughs Bay	Development of land for a [replacement] domestic outbuilding	Withdrawn
P099-25	450 Howqua River Road Howqua	Development of land for a shed [gym] and a classroom associated with an existing Education Centre	Permit issued
P103-25	553 Howqua River Road Howqua	Use and development of land for a dwelling	Permit issued
VS037-25	28 High Street Mansfield	Development of land for a Restaurant	Permit issued

App No.	Property Address	Proposal	Decision Type
P067-25	6584 Mansfield-Woods Point Road Knockwood	Use and development of land for three [3] agricultural [land management] sheds	Permit issued
<b>Total Applications Determined (December &amp; January): 32</b>			

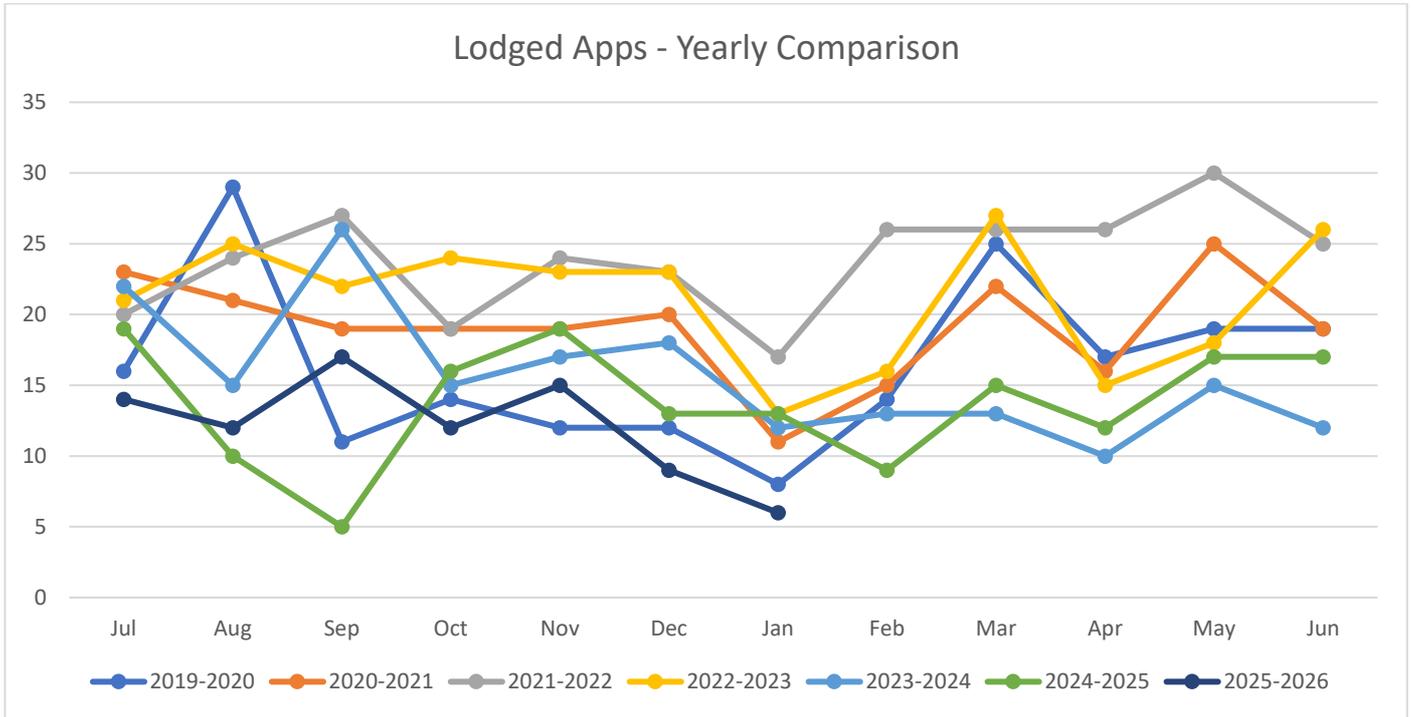
**Number of Applications Lodged and Determined**



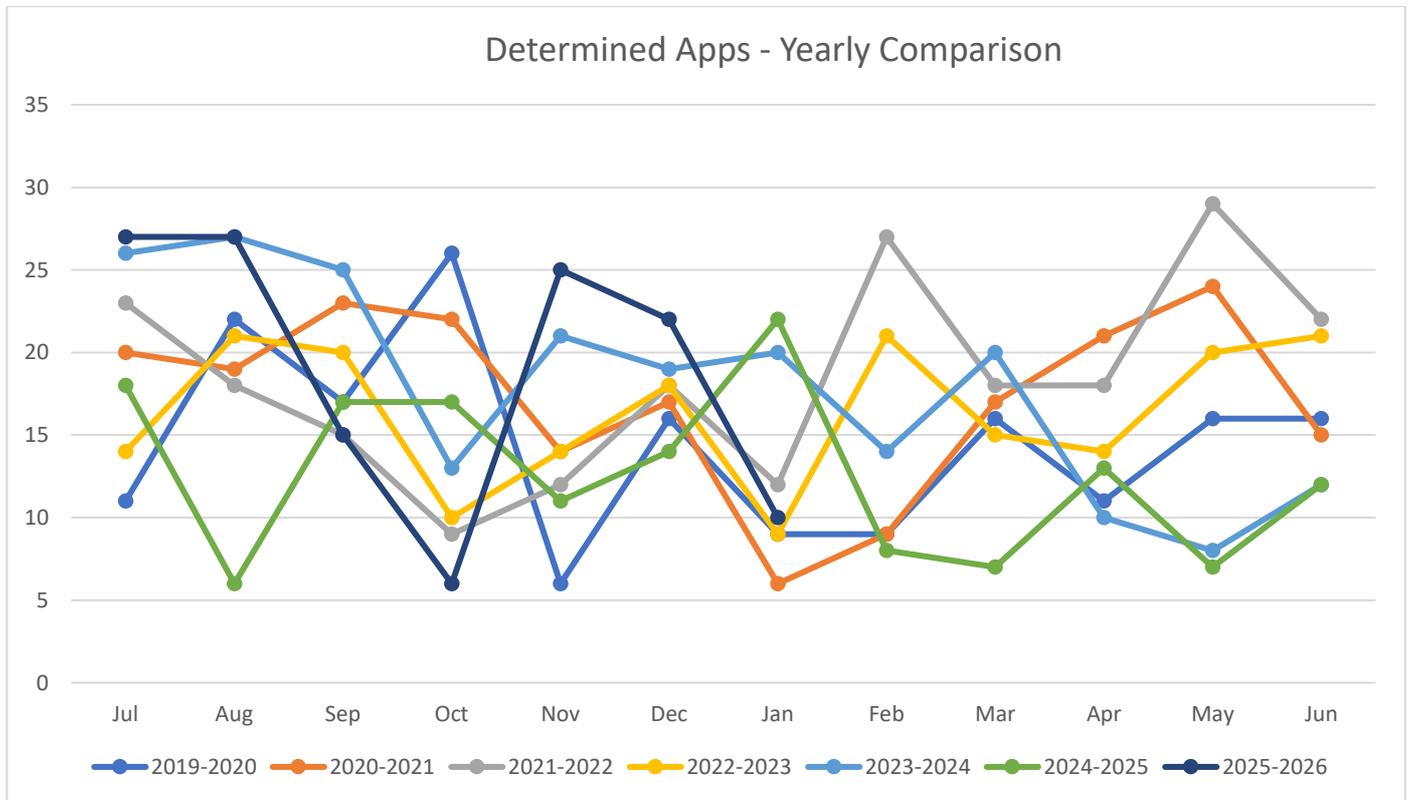
**Estimated Cost of Development of Determined Applications**



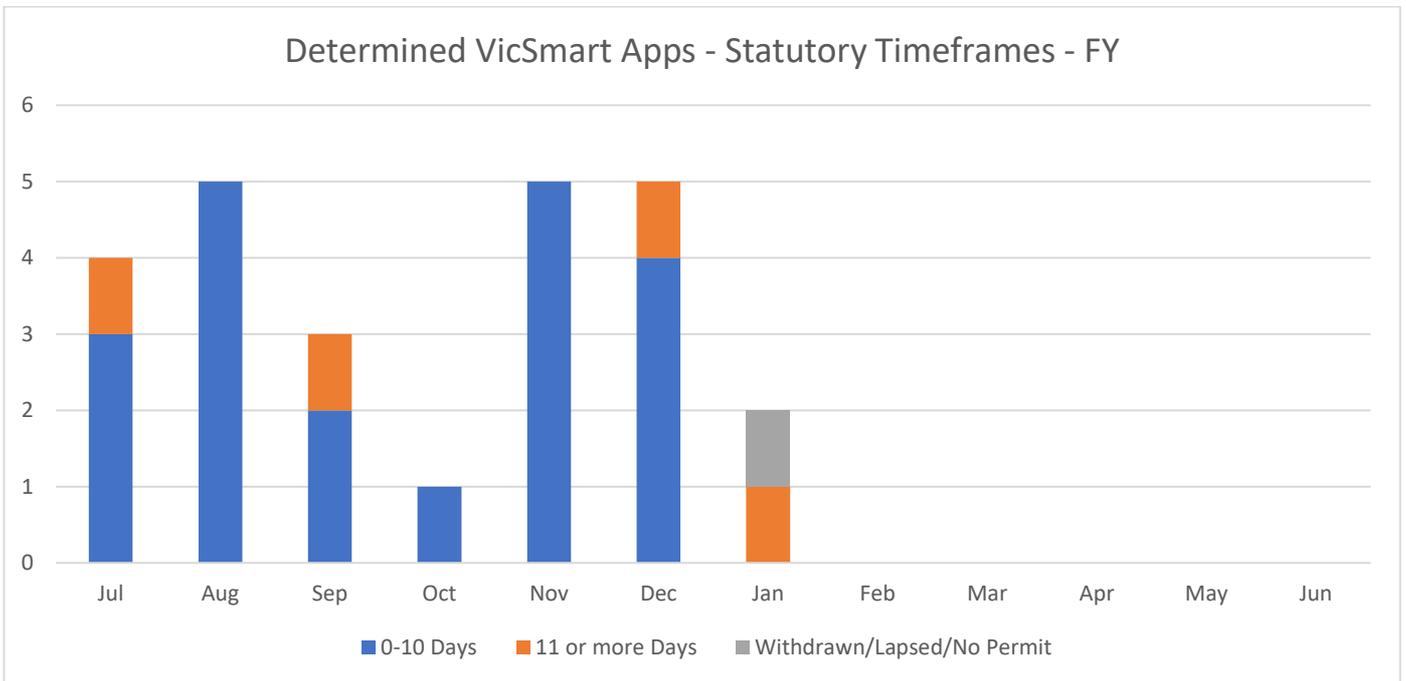
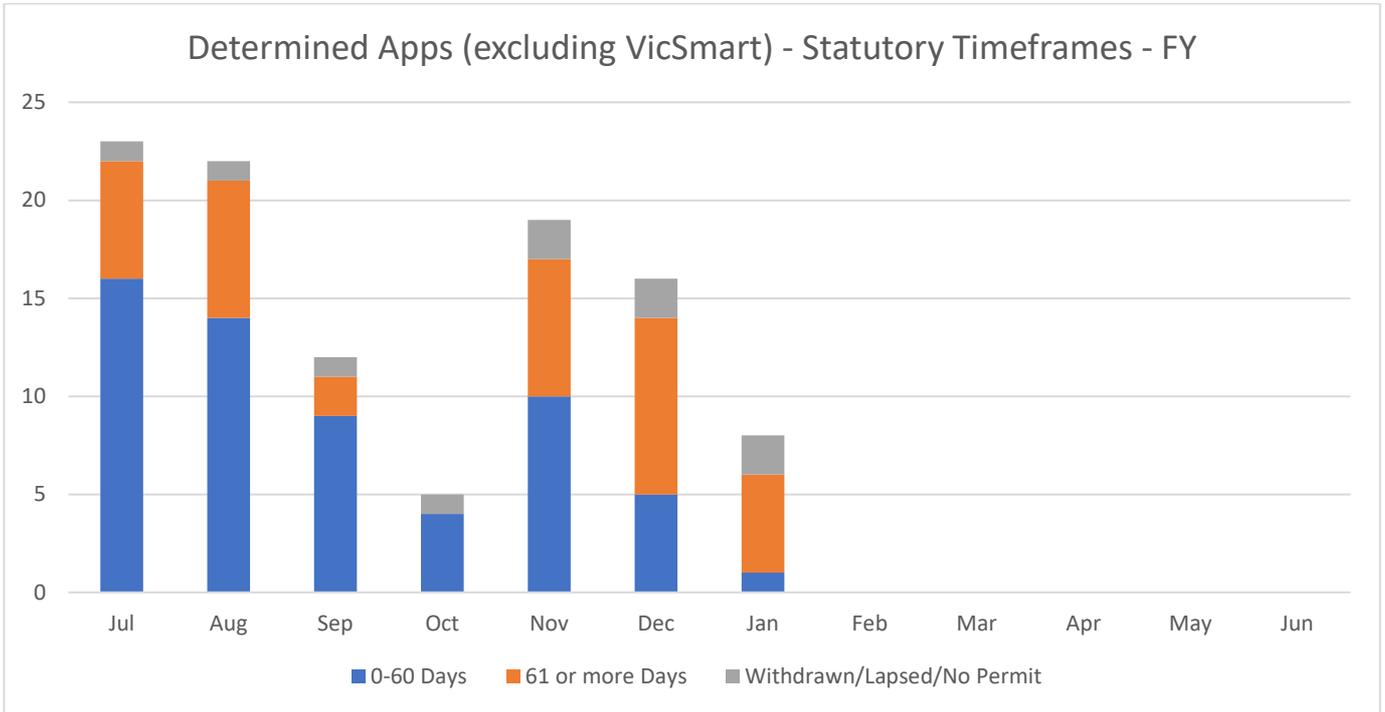
**Lodged Planning Applications – Yearly Comparison**



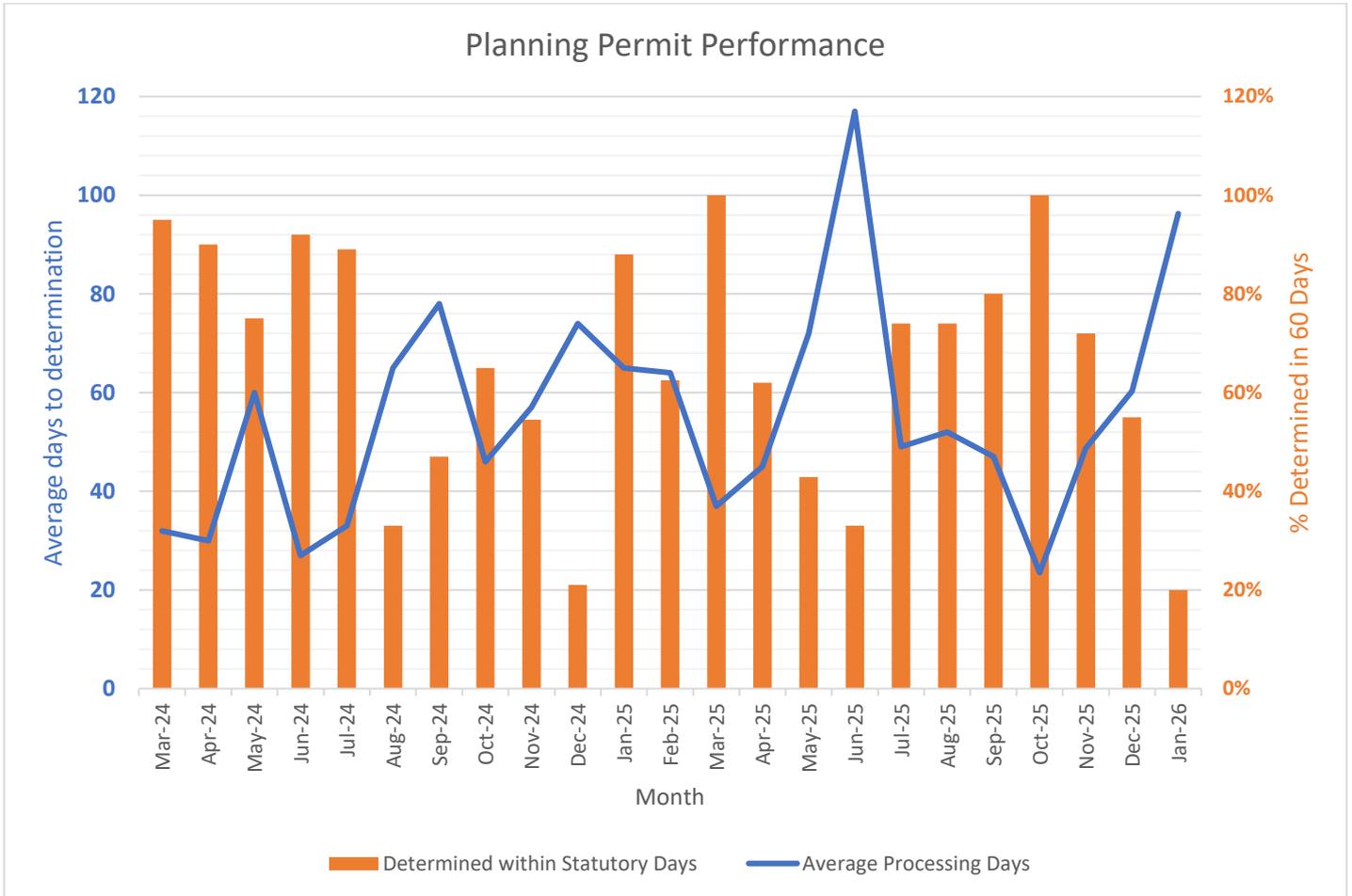
**Determined Planning Applications – Yearly Comparison**



### Determined Planning Applications



**Overall Planning Permit Performance**



**Subdivision Certification Applications Lodged**

App No.	Property Address	Date Lodged
S260706T-25	27 Hunter Street, Mansfield Hunter Street, Mansfield	08/12/2025
S261834M-26	630 Glenroy Road, Merrijig	08/01/2026
S262034A-26	356 Pollards Road, Mansfield	14/01/2026
S247285M-26	1/35 Cambridge Drive, Mansfield 2/35 Cambridge Drive, Mansfield	15/01/2026
S259241V-26	2597 Mt Buller Road, Merrijig	12/01/2026
S262785V-26	225 Glen Creek Road, Bonnie Doon	29/01/2026
<b>Total Applications Received: 6</b>		

**Other Planning Consents & Assessments Determined**

Type of Request	Number Issued
Condition Plans and Engineering Plans for endorsement	11
Secondary Consent	12
Extension of Time	6
Written Planning Advice	4
Certification & Statement of Compliance	7

Type of Request	Number Issued
Section 71 Corrected Planning Permits	1
Assessment against a Section 173 Agreement	3
Development Plan	
Certificate of Compliance for Existing Use	
Retrieval of Permits and Plans	
<b>Total Applications Issued:</b>	<b>44</b>

## Strategic Planning

### Planning Scheme Amendments

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Next Steps	DTP Response expected by:
<b>C56mans Part 1</b>	Approved - Gazetted	<b>Implements the Township Approaches Study DDO3 – Non-Residential Areas</b>	Amendment split at April Council meeting. Part 1 submitted for Ministerial approval 4 June 2025. <b>Amendment Gazetted 8 January 2026</b>	
<b>C56mans Part 2</b>	In Progress	<b>Implements the Township Approaches Study DDO1 – Prominent Sites</b>	Amendment support granted through the Regional Planning Hub. Consultant from Glossop Town Planning appointed to support amendment progression. Project inception meeting held on 30 January 2026. Workshop with project team and preliminary report to be provided in March.	
<b>C57mans Part 2</b>	In Progress	<b>Implements the Mansfield Open Space Strategy</b>	Amendment support granted through the Regional Planning Hub. Consultant from Glossop Town Planning appointed to support amendment progression. Project inception meeting held on 30 January 2026. Workshop with project team and preliminary report to be provided in March.	Extension to amendment lapse date requested 15 January 2026. Request granted 21 January 2026.
<b>C60mans</b>	Awaiting Authorisation	<b>Implements the Mansfield Planning Strategy into the Mansfield Planning Scheme.</b>	Amendment submitted to DTP for authorisation to exhibit 29 April 2025. Draft changes and climate change report requested by DTP completed in January. Updates to be provided to DTP early February.	DTP advised further review required 9 May 2025. Further information verbally requested at meeting 15 May 2025. No written advice provided. Meeting held 9 July 2025 to discuss requirements.

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Next Steps	DTP Response expected by:
				DTP provided formal comment and requested additional information and changes to be made on 11 September. Council gathering additional information required and requested advice on new Ministerial Directions 20 October. DTP response provided 24 October.
<b>C61mans</b>	On Hold	<b>Creation of a planning scheme amendment to implement the Bonnie Doon and Merton Plans</b>	Amendment to be put on hold until July 2026.	Draft Amendment submitted to DTP for comment 22 December 2023. DTP feedback provided 19 July 2024. Council response and further information submitted 29 July 2025. DTP response provided 28 August 2025. Meeting held on 26 September to provide advice regarding DTP response.
	On Hold	<b>Environmental Significance Overlay review.</b>	Amendment on hold until new MOU is signed.	Further information and re-drafted ordinance to be provided to DTP once new MOU is signed.
<b>C62mans</b>	In progress	<b>Review of Memorandum of Understanding to introduce risk-based approach to permit applications to reduce delays for applicants.</b>	Draft MOU with GMW for wastewater management in alignment with new EPA guidelines reviewed, and comments/changes sent to GMW 31 July 2025. Follow up email sent 1 September 2025.  Draft MOU provided to General Manager at GMW for further discussion in December 2025.	
<b>C63mans</b>	Proponent Review	<b>Proponent led amendment to re-zone land at 73 &amp; 75 Dead Horse Lane Mansfield to Industrial 3 Zone</b>	Progression of the amendment is subject to the proponent undertaking further studies. Additional information provided to applicant June 2025 & January 2026; revised amendment expected in line with DTP advice.	Advice received from DTP 17 December 2024.
<b>GC268</b>	Proponent-led GVW	<b>Introduction of Buffer Area Overlay to GVW Waste</b>	Meeting held with proponents 15 April 2025 to discuss proposed ordinance and amendment processing through Government Land Planning Service. Draft	

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Next Steps	DTP Response expected by:
		<b>Management Facilities</b>	documentation provided for Council review 15 September 2025. Letter of support provided to applicants 11 December 2025. Progression of amendment is subject to proponent. Council has been involved for comment/advice only.	
<b>PSA003-25</b>	Under Review	<b>Proponent led amendment to re-zone land at 4 &amp; 5 Lily Court Mansfield to Rural Living Zone</b>	Application and subsequent advice from DTP to be reviewed by Councillors at March 2026 briefing. A decision regarding amendment progression to be provided to applicant following briefing.	Advice sought from DTP 5 November 2025. Preliminary comment provided on 1 December 2025; formal advice provided 13 January 2026.

### Strategic/Structure Plans

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Actions Completed	Next steps
<b>Delatite Valley Plan</b>	In Progress	<b>Create a community, tourism and structure plan applying from Merrijig to Mirimbah</b>	Engagement on draft plan closed 31 August 2025. 126 submissions received. Summary of community feedback presented at October briefing for Councillor input. Summary of submissions shared with community 17 October. Draft plan updated in line with community and Councillor feedback and presented at November Council briefing. Revised draft plan out for community engagement until 15 February 2026.	Review any additional submissions made during community engagement.

### Other (Strategic Planning adjacent projects)

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Actions Completed	Next steps
<b>Mansfield Flood Study</b>	In Progress	<b>Creation of new flood mapping and exploration of flood mitigation options.</b>	Draft hydrology report received. Engagement plan and draft findings presented at September Briefing.	Explore mitigation options for community infrastructure and engage with community on options. Study due for completion in 2026-27.
	In Progress	<b>Preparation for implementation of Flood Study into Planning Scheme.</b>	Analysis of study results and proposed planning controls completed for every affected property. Engagement strategy and materials prepared.	Engage with affected landowners regarding the impact of the flood study on planning controls. Engagement to run from March – May 2026.

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Actions Completed	Next steps
<b>Infrastructure Plan</b>	In Progress	<b>Preparation of Infrastructure Plan for Mansfield Township.</b>	Draft plan prepared and has undergone review by internal staff. Feedback being provided to consultant with a second draft provided to Council on 24 November 2025, and now undergoing internal review.	Following internal review, the Plan will be presented to Council at briefing for consideration.
<b>Goughs Bay Integrated Wastewater Management Plan</b>	In Progress	<b>Preparation of integrated wastewater feasibility study and plan for Goughs Bay.</b>	Internal review of Draft plan completed. Consultant has been issued with instructions for the next steps and is now preparing a draft report, expected to be with Council by the end of February 2026.	Community engagement to follow review of draft study in early 2026.
<b>High Street Design – Stage 1: Car Parking Study</b>	In Progress	<b>Preparation of a study and strategy for the future design of the Mansfield township CBD and Parking Strategy</b>	Consultant appointed to prepare Car Parking Study. Initial community engagement has been undertaken, and initial data has been provided to Council. This is being reviewed by Council officers to provide feedback to the consultant.	Review of consultation results and draft Study to be presented to a Council Briefing in early 2026.
<b>Ovens-Murray Integrated Transport Strategy</b>	In Progress	<b>Completion of DTP &amp; RDV Strategy for transport infrastructure and servicing in the Ovens-Murray region.</b>	Mansfield Shire Council has been engaged to complete the Ovens-Murray Integrated Transport Strategy for the Department of Transport and Planning and Regional Development Victoria. The background report has been completed by consultants, and Mansfield Shire Council will be leading the engagement with other Councils in the region and working to identify priority projects for implementation.	Engagement with Councils to begin in early February 2026 and is expected to be completed by March 2026.

## 5. Waste Services

The landfill diversion rate for the month of December 2025 was 41.40%, with January 2026 dropping further to 39.10%. This has decreased from November's rate of 44.05% due to a large increase in refuse collected for the month, mainly attributed to increased tourism activity.

The average diversion rate year to date (YTD) has remained steady 40.21%

	2025-26					
	Recycling (total tonnage)	FOGO (total tonnage)	Landfill (total tonnage)	Total Waste (tonnage)	Total Diverted Waste	Landfill Diversion Rate
Jul	81.00	29.14	194.45	304.59	110.14	36.16%
Aug	75.14	39.33	190.69	305.16	114.47	37.51%
Sep	72.24	44.52	184.28	301.04	116.76	38.79%
Oct	89.17	76.18	206.26	371.61	165.35	44.50%
Nov	79.84	66.08	185.37	331.29	145.92	44.05%
Dec	92.44	60.36	216.28	369.08	152.80	41.40%
Jan	113.62	53.80	260.72	428.14	167.42	39.10%
Feb						
Mar						
Apr						
May						
Jun						
<b>Total Tonnage</b>	<b>603.45</b>	<b>369.41</b>	<b>1438.05</b>	<b>2410.91</b>	<b>972.86</b>	
<b>Average Landfill Diversion Rate for FY</b>			<b>40.21%</b>			

### Project Updates:

#### Stages 3, 4 & 5 Public Bin Upgrade

New public bins have started being installed with the help of Councils roads crew team during January. The public bin site located at the front of K-Hub gained some constructive feedback from community and has now been replaced with a further 10 other locations now upgraded achieving very positive feedback from community. Responsible photographers will be acknowledged shortly via the Council website page supported by a QR code sticker and short message which is to be affixed to each bin allowing community members and visitors the opportunities to scan and identify both the location of the photo and the amazing photographer responsible.

#### Spring Clean Up Initiative

The 2025 Spring Clean Up initiative took place from 1 September to 30 November 2025. As of 30 November, a total of 673 cubic meters of green waste was disposed of at the Resource Recovery Centre. This initiative encouraged preparation for the fire danger period by reducing fuel load across the Shire, while promoting responsible waste disposal.

The Longwood Fire in January did create further need for free Green Waste drop off at the RRC following Victorian State Government announcements from DEECA regarding support services. Albeit this was aimed at community members directly affected by the fires it did create ambiguity for which Councils position was to support community as a whole and offer free drop off until DEECA clarified the scope of support.

### **Carry In Carry Out Camping Waste Program – Festive Period Waste review**

The Carry In Carry Out camping waste campaign continued during the 2025-26 festive period which allows visitors and community members to drop the camping waste for free at the Resource Recovery Centre (RRC). This is a collaborative program run between Council, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Goughs Bay Progress Association. Pleasingly, and despite the Longwood Fire affecting camping numbers during January, a total of 2,681 bags of camping waste were dropped off at the RRC between 19 December 2025 to 31 January 2026. This is an overall increase year on year, and suggests the messaging continues to disseminate amongst visitors to the area.

### **Roadside Weeds and Pest Program**

The 2025-26 noxious weeds spraying program has been underway since November with a majority of the identified areas as part of the recent TLaWC weeds survey forming the basis of the program. Community members are encouraged to be cautious in these areas while contractors finalise this work over the coming days/weeks.

### **Up2Us Landcare Alliance & The Pattersons Curse program**

The 2025-26 Up2Us Pattersons Curse Program supported by Council has yielded approximately 16 qualified enquiries from property owners across the Shire which offers a 50% rebate on chemical purchases (capped at \$450). This program promotes groups of neighbours to band together and apply for funding as a group. Further advisory support is also offered by the Up2Us Landcare Alliance along with access to the 200L spray tank for utilisation. Council has already received several enquiries that have been passed onto Up2Us partners.

Note: Council is currently seeking a quote for spraying of Pattersons Curse along the Council managed roadsides on Hutchinsons Road and Maintongoon Road, Bonnie Doon, with work expected to be completed during late February/Early March.

### **Kerbside collection of waste services during the Longwood Fire**

Collection services in the areas of Merton, Woodfield and Bonnie Doon were affected during the fires with continued road closures to Category C services including Cleanaway made collections challenging. Residents in these areas were requested to have their bins collected at a central point located at the Merton Hall once the Maroondah Highway was re-opened. Waste Management staff also completed a drive by collection of waste and recycle bins on 23 January to collect the backlog of waste bins who could not get their bins to the central point, which was well received.

**Fire damaged timbre carted to the Resource Recovery Centre**

As part of the recovery phase following the Longwood Fire, a cleanup of vegetation along Council managed roadsides has commenced with all timber carted to the Resource Recovery Centre for storing. This will be made available to members of our community and donated to fire affected areas for milling into new strainers and fencing posts as those affected rebuild thousands of kilometres of fenceline lost during the emergency.



## 6. Property

Description	Total
Licences Active	22
Leases Active	15
New Licence	0
New Lease	0
Licences due to renew	0
Leases due to renew	0
Licences due to end and not renewed	0
Leases due to end and not renewed	0

### Leases/Licenses under negotiation:

- ▶ Jamieson Community Hall Community Asset Committee Agreement
- ▶ Bonnie Doon Community Centre Community Asset Committee Agreement
- ▶ EVIE Networks Addendum for additional EV car park charging at Foodworks
- ▶ Merton Euroa Road – potential lease of Greenfields Road Reserve
- ▶ Mansfield Fly Fishers new Licence at Lords Oval
- ▶ Station Precinct - Historic Goods Shed and Visitor Information Centre Commercial Activation EOI

## 7. Building Services

### Monthly Comparative Value of Building Permits Lodged

	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24
Jul	\$6,384,746	\$4,611,001	\$9,416,143
Aug	\$5,413,491	\$7,447,793	\$9,660,939
Sep	\$5,678,353	\$15,468,547	\$8,285,734
Oct	\$6,942,010	\$33,277,285	\$5,983,269
Nov	\$1,286,268	\$6,392,500	\$4,946,338
Dec	\$7,361,554	\$5,996,363	\$8,675,149
Jan	\$1,818,056	\$2,857,043	\$5,409,263
Feb		\$3,685,173	\$4,045,519
Mar		\$2,506,558	\$5,631,967
Apr		\$7,839,512	\$7,796,948
May		\$1,783,727	\$5,797,218
Jun		\$3,159,805	\$4,000,852
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,884,478</b>	<b>\$95,025,307</b>	<b>\$79,649,339</b>

**NB:** Figures for July – September have been audited and revised following receipt of a new reporting tool from Greenlight

### Monthly Comparison of Permits Lodged for Dwellings

	2025-26		2024-25		2023-24	
	Monthly Total	Cumulative Total	Monthly Total	Cumulative Total	Monthly Total	Cumulative Total
Jul	6	6	9	9	5	5
Aug	7	13	7	16	9	14
Sep	10	23	7	23	6	20
Oct	7	30	10*	33	6	26
Nov	0	30	8	41	6	32
Dec	2	32	3	44	10	42
Jan	4	36	1	45	4	46
Feb			4	49	4	50
Mar			2	51	5	55
Apr			4	55	10*	65
May			1	56	9	74
Jun			5	61	6	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>61</b>		<b>80</b>	

**Value of Building Permits Lodged with Council: October 2025**

Type	Number	Value
Residential	7*	\$3,853,363
Alt & Additions	8	\$1,038,303
Sheds & Carports	8	\$222,226
Swimming Pools, Spas & Fences	10	\$1,025,008
Commercial & Public Amenities	1	\$803,110
<b>Total Cost of Building Works</b>		<b>\$6,942,010</b>

\*Permit issued for 2 dwellings

**Value of Building Permits Lodged with Council: November 2025**

Type	Number	Value
Residential	0	
Alt & Additions	4	\$401,700
Sheds & Carports	7	\$385,123
Swimming Pools, Spas & Fences	4	\$248,339
Commercial & Public Amenities	2	\$251,106
<b>Total Cost of Building Works</b>		<b>\$1,286,268</b>

**Value of Building Permits Lodged with Council: December 2025**

Type	Number	Value
Residential	2	\$1,447,650
Alt & Additions	2	\$39,500
Sheds & Carports	4	\$343,620
Swimming Pools, Spas & Fences	3	\$178,727
Commercial & Public Amenities	3	\$5,352,057
<b>Total Cost of Building Works</b>		<b>\$7,361,554</b>

**Value of Building Permits Lodged with Council: January 2026**

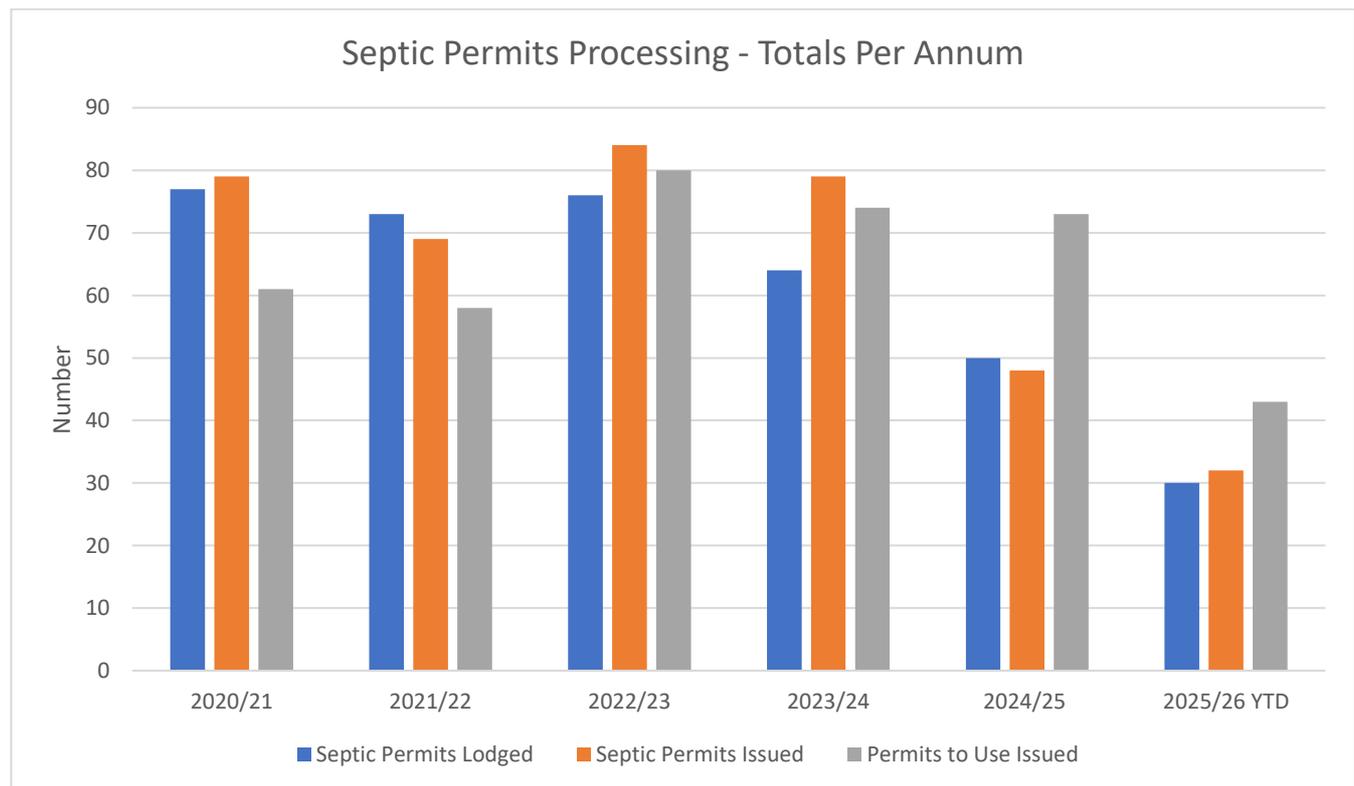
Type	Number	Value
Residential	4*	\$1,654,143
Alt & Additions	3	\$136,613
Sheds & Carports	1	\$27,300
Swimming Pools, Spas & Fences		
Commercial & Public Amenities		
<b>Total Cost of Building Works</b>		<b>\$1,818,056</b>

\*Permit issued for 2 dwellings

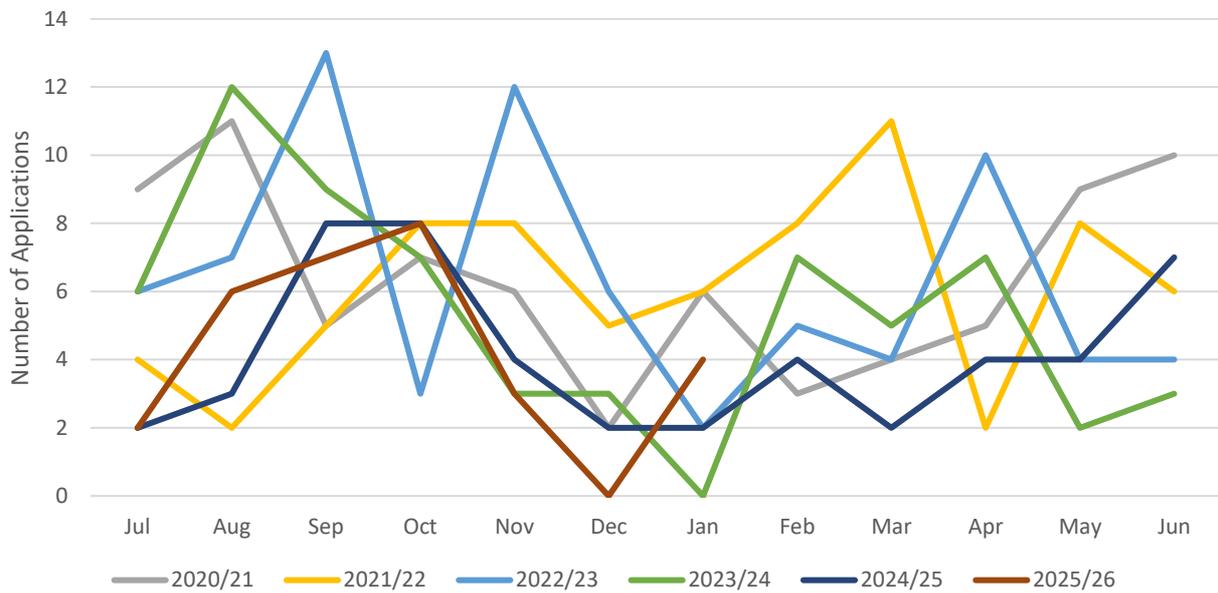
## 8. Regulatory Services

### Summary of Septic Applications Lodged, Approved and Issued – Financial Year

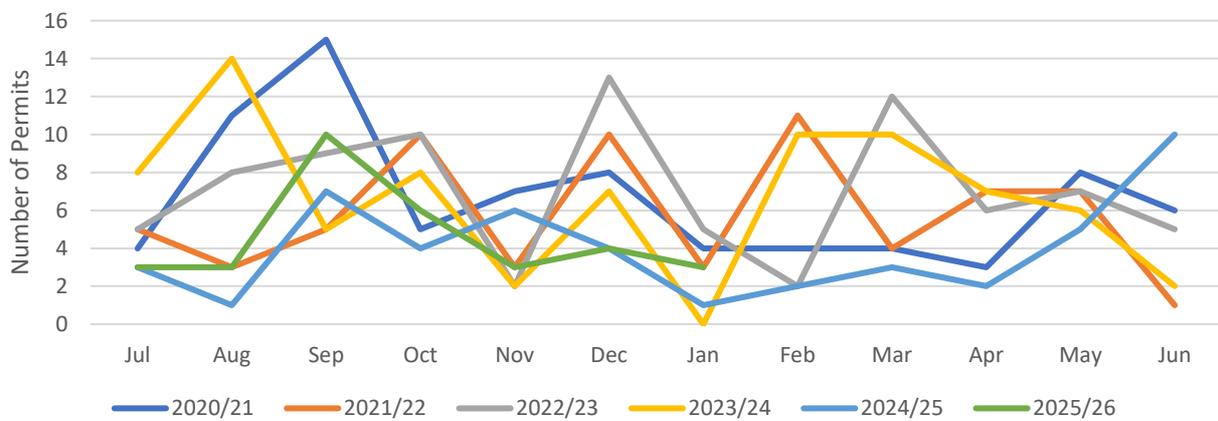
	Applications Lodged			Permits to Install Issued	Permits to Use Issued	Total
	New	Alteration	Total			
Jul	2		2	3	4	9
Aug	5	1	6	3	8	17
Sep	3	4	7	10	7	24
Oct	2	6	8	6	7	21
Nov	1	2	3	3	7	13
Dec			0	4	6	10
Jan	3	1	4	3	4	11
Feb						
Mar						
Apr						
May						
Jun						
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>105</b>

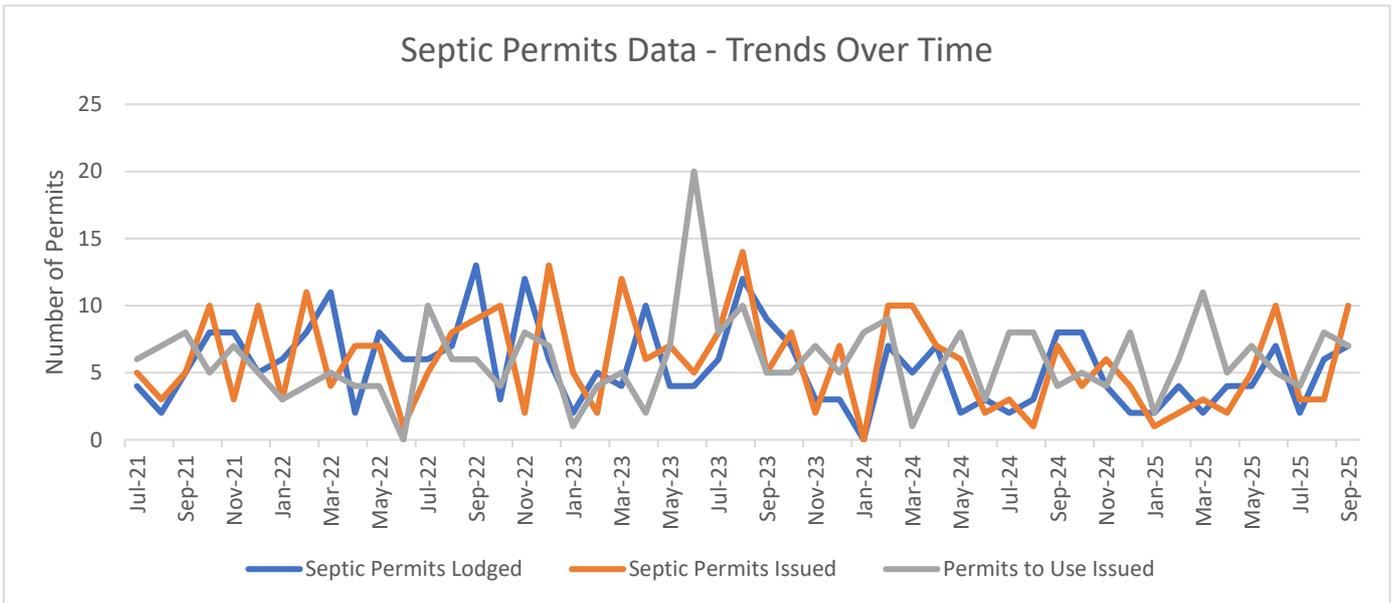
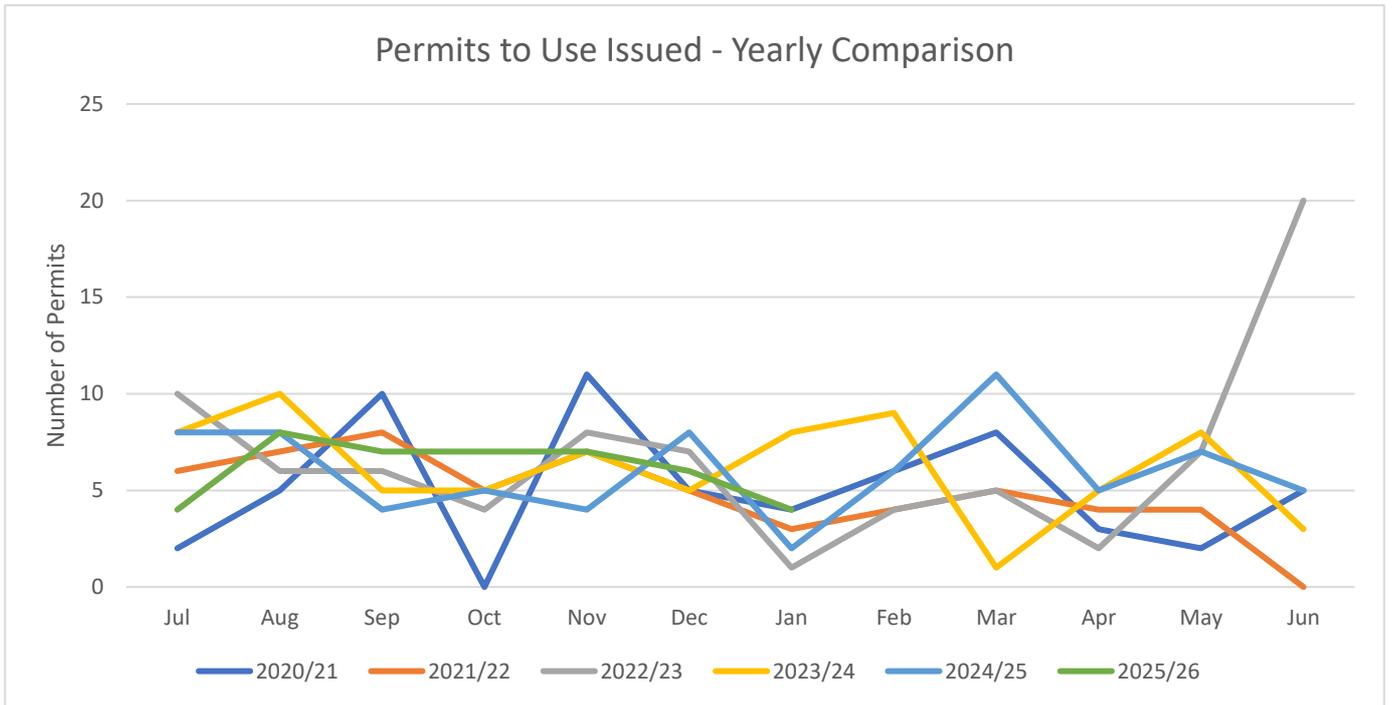


Septic Applications Lodged - Yearly Comparison



Septic Permits Issued - Yearly Comparison





**Other OWMP and Septic Systems Consents and Assessments – Financial Year**

Month	No. of Treatment Plants	AWTS Overdue Service Reports	Expiring Permit Notification	Total
Jul	439	5	10	15
Aug	440	2		2
Sep	443	7	2	9
Oct	445			0
Nov	445			0
Dec	448			0
Jan	448			0
Feb				
Mar				
Apr				
May				
Jun				
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>

## Notes:

1. Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) must be regularly maintained by a professional service technician. Council monitors the lodgement of service reports to ensure systems comply with these requirements. AWTS are required every 3 months.
2. The total number of AWTS can increase each month and are tracked by Council.
3. Compliance checks for reporting are undertaken every second month.

**OWMP Inspections – Financial Year**

	OWMP Inspections Conducted	Major Alterations Requested	Minor Alterations Requested	Maintenance Requested	System Report Requested	Compliant	No Access Available
Jul	20				2	18	
Aug	25	1			4	16	4
Sep	10	1			5	3	1
Oct	18		1		8	9	
Nov	16				1	15	
Dec	13				3	10	
Jan	16		1			3	12
Feb							
Mar							
Apr							
May							
Jun							
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>2024/25</i>	<b>135</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>

**Health Inspections – Financial Year**

Month	Food Premises				Prescribed Accom.	Health Premises	Complaint Inspections including nuisances	Total
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3A	Class 3				
Jul		21	1	6	37		1	66
Aug		16		4	15	3	1	39
Sep		9		3	3	1		16
Oct	4	7		4		2	5	22
Nov		13		9	1		1	24
Dec	1	10	1	4	7	3	3	29
Jan		3		1			5	9
Feb								
Mar								
Apr								
May								
Jun								
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>205</b>

**Other Environmental Health Consents & Assessments Determined**Food Sampling – Financial Year

	Samples Analysed			Results		
	Microbiological	Allergens	Other	Satisfactory	Marginal	Unsatisfactory
Jul – Sep	10			8	2	
Oct – Dec	11			10		1
Jan - Mar						
Mar - Jun						
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>			<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

## Mansfield Shire Council | CEO Monthly Report

Month	Extension to Permits	Planning Referrals	Tobacco Inspections	Food Recalls	Gastro Outbreaks or Single Incident Investigations	Statement of Trade (Mobile/Temporary Premises)	New Food Reg.	New Prescribed Accom. Reg.	New Health Reg.	Reg. Renewals (Annual)	Total
Jul	3	8	6	5		9					23
Aug	5	9	5	9		15	2		1		37
Sep			3	10		7					17
Oct	3	8	10	6		1	1			1	
Nov	2	8	2	8		6				71	
Dec		4	2	4		14	6		1	117	
Jan	1	5	1	5		47	1		1	37	
Feb											
Mar											
Apr											
May											
Jun											
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>77</b>

## 9. Field Services

### Parks and Gardens

#### December

- ▶ Watering street trees and gardens
- ▶ Fertilising of annuals and pruning of native grass beds in High Street
- ▶ Mowing (ride on) in Mansfield, Jamieson, Merton, Macs Cove, Goughs Bay and Bonnie Doon
- ▶ Mowing (ovals) at the Mansfield Recreation Reserve, Lords Reserve, College Park Field 1 & 2, Bonnie Doon and Merton
- ▶ Mowing (push mowers) Narrow strips, Gadhaba, Pool, Youth Centre, Buckland & High Street Carpark
- ▶ Brush cutting Benalla road
- ▶ Mansfield Cemetery mowing and brush cutting and plaque replacement
- ▶ Garden maintenance at Botanic Park and Visitor Information centre
- ▶ Irrigation repairs at College Park, Mansfield Hotel Garden beds, roundabout and ski statue
- ▶ Litter pick up on High Street, at the Skate Park and on Highett Street
- ▶ Pruning works with chipper Botanic Park, Redfern Court, Visitor Information Centre, Withers Lane, Maindample, Hunter Street and High Street
- ▶ Event set up for L2P 15-year recognition
- ▶ Traffic management training for four staff
- ▶ Assetic work orders, repair college park field 2, edge drop on footpaths, weed spraying

#### January

- ▶ Mowing (ovals) at the Mansfield Recreation Reserve, Lords Reserve, College Park Field 1 & 2, Bonnie Doon and Merton
- ▶ Litter pick up on High Street, at the Skate Park and on Highett Street
- ▶ Watering street trees and gardens
- ▶ Mowing (push mowers) Narrow strips, Gadhaba, Pool, Youth Centre, Buckland & High Street Carpark
- ▶ Irrigation repairs at College Park field 1, Bonnie Doon Rec Reserve and High Street
- ▶ Mansfield Aquatic Centre, mowing and irrigation repairs
- ▶ Assetic Work Orders, pruning, edge drops, soft fall top up at Botanic Park and Tennis Club play grounds
- ▶ Clean up from wind events, cemetery, High Street and Highett Street and carparks
- ▶ Woods Point mowing brush cutting of cemetery, tidy up of toilet block including garden beds.
- ▶ Tree works including removal of suckers on Chenery Street, Malcom Street and Highett Street
- ▶ Jamison mowing and brush cutting

- ▶ Fertilise and watering of annuals roundabout, monument, memorial gates and ski statue
- ▶ Botanic Park and Visitor Information Centre, weeding, clean up of bark, spraying and mulching
- ▶ Assisted with response to bushfire emergency including staffing at the Emergency Relief Centre
- ▶ Events set up and pack down, Australia Day, Horse Power in the High Country



## Roads Crew

### December

Grading kilometres completed for the month of December were 19.5 kms, totalling 585 for the year, a great result for the team and highlights how dry conditions were through winter allowing grading to continue regularly.

All of the 11 in-house resheets have been completed as part of the Capital Works Program for 2025/26, along with the upgrade and resheeting of Fern Street off Old Tolmie Road.

In addition, the Roads Crew maintained street sweeping throughout town, cleaned up vandalism, completed banner and flag changeovers, completed asset routine inspections and work orders, cleared toilet blockages, provided event assistance, set up of the Christmas tree in High Street, repaired potholes.



### January

Grading kilometres completed for the month of January 23.2 kms and is the beginning of the new grading year.

The Roads Crew maintained street sweeping throughout town, cleaned up vandalism, completed banner and flag changeovers, completed work orders, cleared toilet blockages, provided event assistance, pack up of the Christmas tree and decorations in High Street, repaired potholes, assistance with construction of Botanic Park Stage and clean up storm damage. The team were exceptional in responding to the bushfire event including cutting 16.5km of mineral earth brakes and water cartage for the CFA.

**Maintenance Grading**

- ▶ Goughs Bay low level boat ramp access track
- ▶ Byrne Lane
- ▶ Dry Creek Road
- ▶ Ancona Road
- ▶ Anchorage Way
- ▶ Lavender Farm Road
- ▶ Bunstons Road
- ▶ Monkey Gully Road
- ▶ Carlisle Hill Road
- ▶ Long Lane
- ▶ Salagari Road
- ▶ Godwills Road
- ▶ Howes Creek Road
- ▶ Ross Road
- ▶ Paxtons Lane
- ▶ Mcleods Lane

**Drainage**

- ▶ Sawmill Settlement
- ▶ Cummins Road
- ▶ Tolmie area
- ▶ Spring Creek Road
- ▶ Goughs Bay township
- ▶ Mullum Wetlands
- ▶ Rail Trail and CBD
- ▶ Cambertong Road

**Excavator**

- ▶ Goughs Bay township
- ▶ Botanic Park Stage
- ▶ Curia Street shower pod
- ▶ Lords Oval retaining wall



**Resheeting Program 2025/26**

Road	Status
Aldous Road	Complete
Banksia Street (Court Bowl)	Complete
Cambatong Road	Complete
Desmonds Road	Complete
Dry Creek Road	Complete
Long Lane	Complete
Merton-Strathbogie Road	Complete
Sonnberg Drive	Complete
Spring Creek Road	Complete
Woolshed Road	Complete
Royal Town Road	Complete
Fern Street	Complete

**Asset Maintenance**

- ▶ Installation of new bins as part of the capital works project
- ▶ Council building air conditioning maintenance
- ▶ Repairs of vandalism at public toilet facilities
- ▶ Repairs and maintenance at the Aquatic Centre including clock and pool cover
- ▶ Electrical repairs at sporting complex
- ▶ Repainting of public toilet next to Council office
- ▶ Repairs to dump point
- ▶ Coordinate tree pruning at Council offices
- ▶ Air conditioner servicing at all Council sites
- ▶ New keys and fobs for Alex Pullin stadium
- ▶ Assist with response to bushfire including cleaning Emergency Relief Centre



## 10. Community Health and Wellbeing

### Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and Child Health successfully delivered its first evening New Parent Group session, designed to increase father participation. The session was well received, with five fathers attending alongside their partners and infants.

The session included a presentation from Mansfield Ambulance Victoria Paramedics covering common childhood illnesses, basic management strategies, CPR, and guidance on when to call an ambulance. This was followed by a peer-led discussion from a Mansfield Dads Group leader, who shared his personal experience and outlined the support and purpose of the Dads Group.

This initiative represents a positive step toward improved father engagement and inclusive family support within early parenting services.

In September, after completing more than 95 hours of specialised education, one of the Maternal and Child Health nurses sat the International Board of Lactation Consultants examination and successfully achieved IBCLC certification. The service now has two IBCLC-qualified nurses/midwives, strengthening access to specialist breastfeeding support for women and families in the community.

<b>Universal MCH 2024 - 25</b>	<b>October - December</b>	<b>2025-26 Financial Year</b>
Birth Notifications	15	34
Enrolments	15	34 (100%) target = 99%
Key Ages and Stages Visits	188	385
Child Counselling	22	49
Child Referrals	19	45
Maternal Counselling	10	21
Maternal Referrals	2	11
Telephone Consultations	12.77 hours	31.39 hours
Additional Consultations	44 hours	85 hours
<b>Family Violence Support</b>		
Family Violence Consultations	1	5
Family Violence Counselling	3	3
<b>Groups</b>		
New parents group, Introduction to solids	14 hours	42.5 hours
<b>Enhanced MCH</b>		
Hours	131.24 hours	218.27 hours
<b>Sleep and Settling Outreach</b>		
Hours	6.83 hours	21.83 hours

## Mansfield Dads Group Grant

Maternal and Child Health hosted a successful dads Group Christmas Event in December. More than **100 dads, mums and children** gathered to celebrate the festive season, making this the largest community Dads Group event delivered in the region to date. The morning was filled with connection, laughter, and activities designed to bring families together and support positive engagement between fathers and their children.

The local Dads Group provides a welcoming space for fathers to connect, share experiences, build friendships, and access support in a relaxed and inclusive environment.



## Supported Playgroup

Supported Playgroup continues to have strong attendance at all sessions throughout the week.

Childrens Week was celebrated on 22 October at the Uniting Church, bringing local families together for a morning focused on children, connection and community.

Each year Children’s Week is held across Victoria in October, celebrating the talents, achievements and rights of children. This year’s theme “Everyone Should Know Children’s Rights” inspired a range of hands on activities that encouraged learning, play, and wellbeing.

Families enjoyed a healthy morning tea and took part in activities that explored children’s rights, active play, healthy eating and understanding emotions. The event also offered an opportunity for children to meet some of the friendly community helpers who keep Mansfield safe including members of the Victorian Police and Mansfield’s own State Emergency Service (SES).

Children also received a copy of The Invisible String, a heartwarming picture book for all ages that beautifully reflects this year’s Children’s Week theme “Everyone Should Know Children’s Rights.” The story explores the invisible yet unbreakable connections between people, helping children understand their right to feel loved, safe and connected to others.

Around 70 people came along to enjoy the event, which was proudly supported through a Department of Education grant.



#### Current Playgroups for Term 4 2025

Day	Groups	Where	Time
Monday	Crawl and Play 1	St Mary’s Mercy Centre	9:30-10:15
Monday	Crawl and Play 2	St Mary’s Mercy Centre	10:30-11:15
Wednesday	Youth Centre 1	Mansfield Youth Centre	10:00-12:00
Friday	Youth Centre 2	Mansfield Youth Centre	10:00-12:00

**2025-26 Attendances Supported Playgroup**

Playgroup	Crawl and Play 1	Crawl and Play 2	Youth Centre 1	Youth Centre 2	Sing & Rhyme Library	Total
Term 3	120	78	100	102	98	<b>498</b>
Term 4	155	99	111	109	N/A	<b>474</b>
Term 1					N/A	
Term 2					N/A	
<b>Total</b>	275	177	211	211	98	<b>972</b>

**Integrated Family Services**

The Integrated Family Services team has seen a significant shift in the complexity of cases being referred with the majority coming from The Orange Door. Family violence is the predominant factor in these cases and a lack of confidence in local police response is a common theme. As such the team will be working on developing a relationship with the local VicPol team, particularly the Family Violence Liaison worker to create a greater sense of support among the community.

Practitioners are currently working with 15 open cases all located in Mansfield Shire.

- ▶ Service Hours October to December - 1195.04
- ▶ Target hours for the 2025/26 year - 2253.59

**Financial Counselling**

Our Financial Counsellor finished in early November and a new Financial Counsellor commenced in January.

Between October and January, 3 clients were seen with a total of 2.25hrs. Client issues included rates arrears, notices to vacate and Centrelink navigation.

All open clients were referred to Upper Murray Family Care or the National Debt Helpline for continued support.

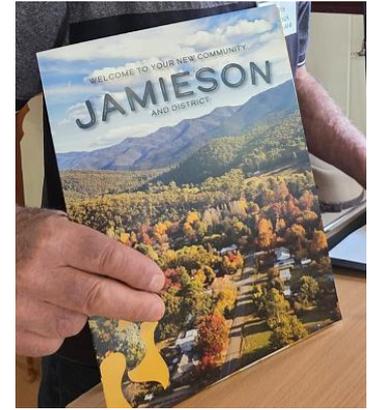
**Community Strengthening****Social Inclusion Action Group**

Three new SIAG members (two - community, one - organisational) have completed onboarding and attended the first SIAG meeting for the year. There are a total of 10 SIAG members.

**Funding Opportunities**

- ▶ Direct Partner Funding – Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) have approached SIAG with an application for a further \$7,500 to help fund a first nations artist to perform at their 2026 Harmony Day Festival. This application follows a collaborative discussion with GADHABA members. The SIAG have reviewed the application and allocated the funds. MACE, in collaboration with Bendigo Bank, have applied for \$13,450 to fund the creation of a community directory (2-year project). The SIAG group have reviewed the application and have allocated the funding.

- ▶ The SIAG have been gradually reviewing and evaluating the 14 initiatives funded in the 2024/25 small grant round to determine whether further support should be provided and to identify any successful social inclusion initiatives that could be expanded to other groups and locations around the Shire. Council officers are in the process of approaching outlying community groups and offering funding support to develop Welcome Packs for their area using the “Jamieson Community Groups – Welcome Pack” as an example.



The SIAG have recommended funding the following projects:

- ▶ Anglican Parish of Mansfield – Plant and Pick
- ▶ Jamieson Community Group - Autumn Festival
- ▶ Mansfield Armchair Cinema – View, Chat and Chew monthly sessions
- ▶ Mansfield Badminton Association - Project operational expenses
- ▶ Mansfield Cycling Without Age – Project operational expenses
- ▶ Mansfield Social Table Tennis - Project operational expenses
- ▶ Mansfield Let’s Talk – Mental Health First Aid training for the community
- ▶ Merton Recreation and Memorial Hall Reserve Inc – Craft sessions
- ▶ Respond MDH – Facility hire cost for Mother Goose program
- ▶ Merton Recreation and Memorial Hall Reserve Inc – Digital Drop in Cafe

Preparations for the Mansfield Health, Community and Volunteers Expo 2026 have started. Council officers have met with Mansfield District Hospital staff to collaborate on the event. The expo will be held on 18 March from 2pm-6pm. EOI have been sent to community groups and advertising for the event has started.

## Health and Quality

December and January saw reduced activity in this role, as the current officer was backfilling another position. During this time, an additional staff member supported the role two days per week to ensure work continued. Despite this, several significant milestones were achieved:

The Financial Acquittal for the VicHealth Local Government Partnership was approved. This enabled funding to be carried forward and distributed in the form of catering, services, and materials to the following priority areas:

- ▶ Mansfield Girls Can
- ▶ Fresh Fruit in Schools
  - ▶ Dental Health Week (DHW) – This year’s campaign focuses on the importance of children’s oral health milestones.

An application was submitted to VicHealth for the Partners in Place grant. This grant supports local governments to prioritise improvements to the health and wellbeing of children and young people through programs, services, and/or infrastructure upgrades aligned with VicHealth’s key priority areas. If successful, the grant would provide between \$300,000 and \$500,000 over a three to five year period.

The Health and Quality Officer also delivered several special Christmas projects:

- ▶ Three MERRY XMAS signs were installed around town as part of a festive and well-received collaboration between Council, Mansfield Men's Shed, and students from three local primary schools. The project received very positive community feedback and there are plans to invite outlying schools to participate this year.
- ▶ A second project encouraged community and Council participation to decorate the High Street median strip, helping to create a bright and festive atmosphere during the holiday period.

## **Community Networks and Wellbeing**

### **Outlying Communities Infrastructure Fund**

2025/26 Round – Four community groups were endorsed for funding at the December Council Meeting: Barjarg Community Group, Bonnie Doon Community Group, Delatite Valley Association and Peppin Hub Inc. Two groups have signed the funding agreement and payment is being processed. The Community Networks and Wellbeing Officer is waiting for proof of landowner consent for Barjarg Community Group before processing this funding agreement. The Delatite Valley Association were informed that they are no longer able to paint a mural on Carter's Rd water tank so are looking at other options, such as the CFA shed in Merrijig, to bring back to Council for approval.

2024/25 Round - Three community groups have completed and acquitted their projects and two community groups will be completed by end of January. One community group (Delatite Valley Association) currently has their Feasibility Study for the Merrijig Riverside Park on hold until the Delatite Valley Plan is completed.





2023/24 Round - All projects apart from Goughs Bay Progress Association playground have been acquitted. Now that the playground is installed, the Community Networks and Wellbeing Officer is following up on the acquittal.

**Fair Access Action Plan** – Council was successfully awarded a ‘Change our Game’ grant of \$3,700.00 to run fair access and equity workshops for sporting clubs. First workshop was held on 8 December 2025 at the Mansfield Football Netball Club with 19 participants from 7 local sporting clubs in attendance. The second workshop is planned for March and will be held at the Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve.



**Gadhaba** – No meetings held in December and January. Gadhaba members planned to have a small ceremony for Australia Day, however due to the weather decided to cancel.

**Arts Collaboration Forum** – Expressions of interest were open on Council’s Engage page from 12 November until 5 December 2025. 10 submissions were received and the Community

Networks and Wellbeing Officer will be presenting the group members at the February Council Meeting for endorsement.

### **Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Community Reference Group -**

Meeting held on 19 November 2025 with 12 members in attendance.

Items discussed: asset maintenance report, Netball court redevelopment grant application, trophy cabinet installation, Public Records Office of Victoria history grant is now acquitted, cricket pitch installation and the need for more engagement in future with projects (however members all agreed that the cricket pitch is a good addition to the reserve).

### **Community Health and Wellbeing Facebook Page**

- ▶ 15,402 views
- ▶ 142 interactions
- ▶ 140 new followers
- ▶ 25 posts published

### **Volunteer Coordination**

The volunteers for the Mansfield Shire Council received their Christmas presents with thank you cards at the end of 2025.

The Mansfield L2P Program had a celebration to recognise the 15 years of the program in December. Volunteers and learners were recognised for the involvement in the program. The celebration was also a way for the unveiling of the new L2P vehicle for the program.



In January, one learner successfully obtained their probationary license, while a second learner is scheduled to test later in the month. There are currently five learners on the waiting list who are taking driving instructor lessons before they can be cleared to drive with a L2P mentor. At present, five learners are actively driving with L2P mentors.

On 26 November Council, in collaboration with Benalla Police, held a learner driver safety program called “Cool Heads” at the Performing Arts Centre. Around 70 people attended and the event was made possible by a generous donation from the Rotary Club of Mansfield.

Currently the Visitor Information Centre is supported by three enthusiastic volunteers who are actively engaging with the team and gaining valuable knowledge. There are three committed volunteers who ride alongside the community on the Thursday community bus. Friends of Mansfield Botanic Park is growing, currently having seven members who have been working in the community garden bed at the Botanic Park, collaborating with groups such as Yooralla to exchange seedlings and share produce.

## **Community Connections**

The Community Connections Officer has worked on and supported a number of important projects across this reporting period:

### **Seniors Festival 2025**

The Seniors Festival, held last October, was a huge success. There were more than 10 events held which were all fully booked, including a Dinner Dance at the Mansfield Golf Club. An evaluation was completed with very positive feedback. Ideas have been collected and planning has commenced for the 2026 festival.

### **Emergency Relief Centre (ERC)**

The Community Connections Officer was actively involved in setting up and coordinating the ERC at the Youth Centre and the Mansfield Sports Complex during the Longwood fire. There were a number of MSC staff involved, providing a vast array of support and services, with support provided to over 1,000 people.

### **Harmony Day 2026**

Harmony Day is part of Harmony Week which celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. Planning is well advanced with the site plan completed as well as sponsorship confirmed. Mansfield Shire Council equipment has been organised and the SIAG program has contributed to funding for the event. The event scheduled for 21 March 2026 has an exciting array of entertainment and fun activities planned.

## 11. Library

### School Holidays

#### Christmas Storytime

The Library's annual Christmas Storytime was another highly successful, sold out event. With 48 children in attendance, the session remains a cornerstone of our seasonal programming, fostering community connection and holiday spirit. The event is supported by Friends of Mansfield Library both in providing a visit from Santa and the gift of a book for all participating children.

#### Big Summer Read

The Big Summer read kicked off in December and concluded 23 January recording a strong engagement level with 157 entries. Supported by a \$900 donation from the Friends of the Mansfield Library, the initiative utilised instant rewards and grand prizes, including five \$100 Armchair Cinema vouchers. The initiative aims to both encourage children to continue reading through the holidays to mitigate the "summer slide" in literacy.

#### Museums Victoria Pop-up Exhibition

The Museums Victoria pop-up 'Native Animals and Mega Fauna' exhibition was a significant success, attracting 142 visitors of all ages across two one-hour sessions. Participants could touch casts of dinosaur bones and Australian animals such as a crocodile, birds and marsupials. The program was funded by the Friends of the Mansfield Library, providing a high-quality educational experience for the community.



#### NGV Nature Play Workshop

The Library ran a sold-out Nature Play workshop in collaboration with the National Gallery of Victoria. Twenty children participated in the session, utilising foraged natural materials to craft unique wall hangings, promoting both environmental awareness and creative expression.

#### Fire Emergency and Programming

Due to the recent fire emergency, the library was unfortunately required to cancel the scheduled Teddy Bears Picnic and one NGV children's workshop. This decision was made due to poor air quality and staff shortages.

## Collection

The Friends of the Mansfield Library have generously donated \$2,000 toward the development of the Children's collections. This funding will be used to refresh and expand these high-circulation areas, ensuring our resources meet the evolving needs of younger patrons.

## Reporting

The following reports were completed:

- ▶ 6-month Local Government Performance Reporting Framework
- ▶ 6-month Public Libraries Funding Program

Additionally, the HCLN co-ordinators agreed on shared fees and charges for the 26/27 budget.

## Facebook

A snapshot of the Mansfield Library Victoria Facebook page:

- ▶ Followers – 1,213
- ▶ Posts published – 20
- ▶ Views – 13,191
- ▶ Visits – 718

Most popular posts for December:

**Mansfield Library Victoria**  
Dec 5, 2025 · 🌐

A big congratulations to Eliza for completing the 1000 Books Before School challenge!



71 🍎 4 Comments

71 👍 4 🗨️

**Mansfield Library Victoria**  
Dec 8, 2025 · 🌐

👁️ Sneak peek! School holidays are fast approaching and we're putting the final touches on an exciting collaboration to keep the kids entertained. Watch this space, more details coming soon.

[National Gallery of Victoria](#)



12 🍎

12 👍 🗨️

Most popular posts for January:

**Mansfield Library Victoria** 6d · 🌐

Exciting scenes from today's Melbourne Museum pop-up exhibition! If you missed out, we have another session running at 11am tomorrow (Thursday), pop into the library to explore Australia's native animals and mega fauna.

18 🍌 1 💬 2 ➦

**Mansfield Library Victoria** 4d · 🌐

Prize time 🎉 Congratulations to our Big Summer Read winners! These lucky ducks are in for a treat with each child receiving a \$100 [Mansfield Armchair Cinema](#) voucher.

A big thank you to the Friends of the Mansfield Library and the [Little Shop of Good Reads](#) for funding these vouchers, as well as our small prizes that every child received upon entering.

10 🍌 10 🍌 10 🍌 10 🍌 10 🍌 10 🍌 10 🍌 10 🍌 10 🍌

Statistics for December 2025 and January 2026

	Visits	Loans	Library Programs	Program attendees	Room Use	IT help	Holds placed	New users
Jan	1954	3419	10	205	6	119	902	42
Dec	2230	2691	10	129	7	119	639	43
Nov	2597	2946	10	95	9	141	689	42
Oct	3648	3559	13	227	15	180	789	38
Sept	3270	3294	17	300	20	93	758	40
Aug	3924	4360	31	554	22	126	756	54
Jan 2025	3099	4755	15	461	16	124	750	61
Dec 2024	2639	2711	10	211	15	92	536	31



## 12. Youth Services & Events

### School Holiday Program

Mansfield Shire Youth had a busy Summer School Holiday program, with over 60 individual young people aged 12–20 participating in activities. Programs included barista training and safe food handling certification, supporting young people in developing skills for workforce readiness.

The youth team delivered the popular Chop and Chat program with Mansfield Respond Volunteers, featuring woodfired pizza made in our outdoor oven, as well as an Aussie Classics menu to celebrate Australia Day. Craft activities included a sewing workshop delivered by the CWA and two pottery workshops facilitated by MAD Potters, where participants created their own mugs. In addition, the group travelled to Jamieson for a kayaking experience on the Goulburn River, led by Kayak Australia.

The Youth Centre remained open across several days, providing a cool space for young people to relax and play board games. The holiday program concluded with one postponed training session due to a power outage and the cancellation of a cooking class as a result of the fires.

### Code Club

Code Club will return in February with a dedicated trainer funded through the SIAG program. It is hoped to return to the high numbers seen when the program was initially launched by guaranteeing a trainer each week through this fund. Volunteers will still be assisting with the program.

### Youth Advisory Group (YAG) & Amplify

Amplify and YAG committees have been formed for 2026 with 9 members for Amplify and 7 YAG currently enrolled. The Youth team aims to increase these members by another couple for each program. Meetings for these groups will commence early February with set goals for the year to be established by young people for young people. The YAG will be looking to advise and collaborate with council in a more formal manner with members of council seeking input invited to come and present to the YAG group during one of their meetings to formalize the process.

### Youth Centre

The first week back at school has seen an increase in attendance of young people to our weekly program which is as follows.

Monday – Various 4-week programs (Pickleball, Sewing) & Computer Games

Tuesday – Amplify Meetings & Social Crafternoons

Wednesday – Code Club & Board Games

Thursday – YAG Meetings & Switch It Up tournaments on Nintendo Switch

Each afternoon – Music Room & Study Spaces available

## Events

### Council Run Events

#### **5 December – Mansfield Community Christmas Picnic**

A large number of residents and families turned out for the annual Christmas Picnic in the Botanic Park. Around 400 people were in attendance until a windstorm caused branches to fall and saw quite a few participants leave. The picnic continued but with only about 100 people till the end.

#### **12 December – Shop n Sip**

A joint program from Council, Delatite Chamber of Commerce and Mansfield Courier saw the Main Street come alive with the Produce Store Artisan Market, Late Night Shopping and live music. Traders reported the night as a success with increased revenue and visitors during the evening.

#### **24 January – Horsepower in The High Country**

After an uncertain go ahead due to the Bushfires council, Delatite Drivers Car Club and MASS were able to push on with the 2026 Horsepower Event. An unexpected large turnout of vehicles who found their way here via the Hume Highway was in attendance with over 130 cars at the show and an estimated 1,800 people throughout the day.

Raising \$50,000 for the Mansfield Autism Services the event was a great success given the conditions.

#### **26 January – Australia Day Ceremony**

The new stage at the Botanic Park featured as part of a wonderful Australia Day Ceremony. Community pride was in high spirits as awards for citizen of the year, community group of the year and more were presented. We also welcomed our new citizens and worked with the MAD Orchestra, High Country Cattlemen Association and the scouts and girl guides groups to deliver this community day.

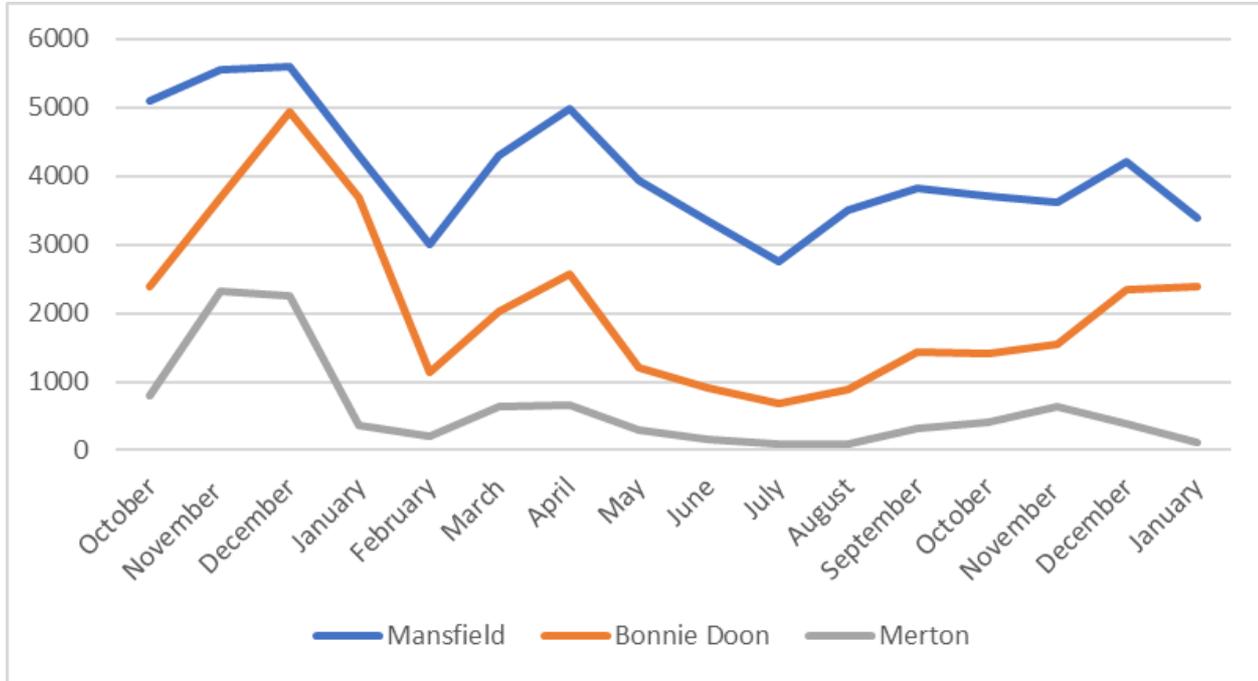
**Upcoming Events**

February	March	April
14 – Farmers Market	1 – Get out there (Find Your Wild Experiences)	11 – Farmers Market
14 – Tolmie Sports	6 - 9 – Mansfield Pottery Festival	17 – 19 – Jamieson Autumn Festival
21 – That’s My Farm Market (formerly Outdoor Provedore)	7 – Merrijig Rodeo	18 – That’s My Farm Market
27- 1 – Find Your Wild Outdoor Festival	13 – 15 – Mansfield Campdraft	25 – Farmers Market
27 – Are You Game? (Find your wild Dinner)	14 – Farmers Market	
28 – Mansfield Hunting & Fishing Expo	18 – Volunteers Expo	
28 – Farmers Market	20 – Tom Curtin Experience Bushfire Relief Concert	
	21 – Harmony Day Festival	
	21 – That’s My Farm Market	

### 13. Economic Development

#### Visitor Services

##### Great Victorian Rail Trail Users



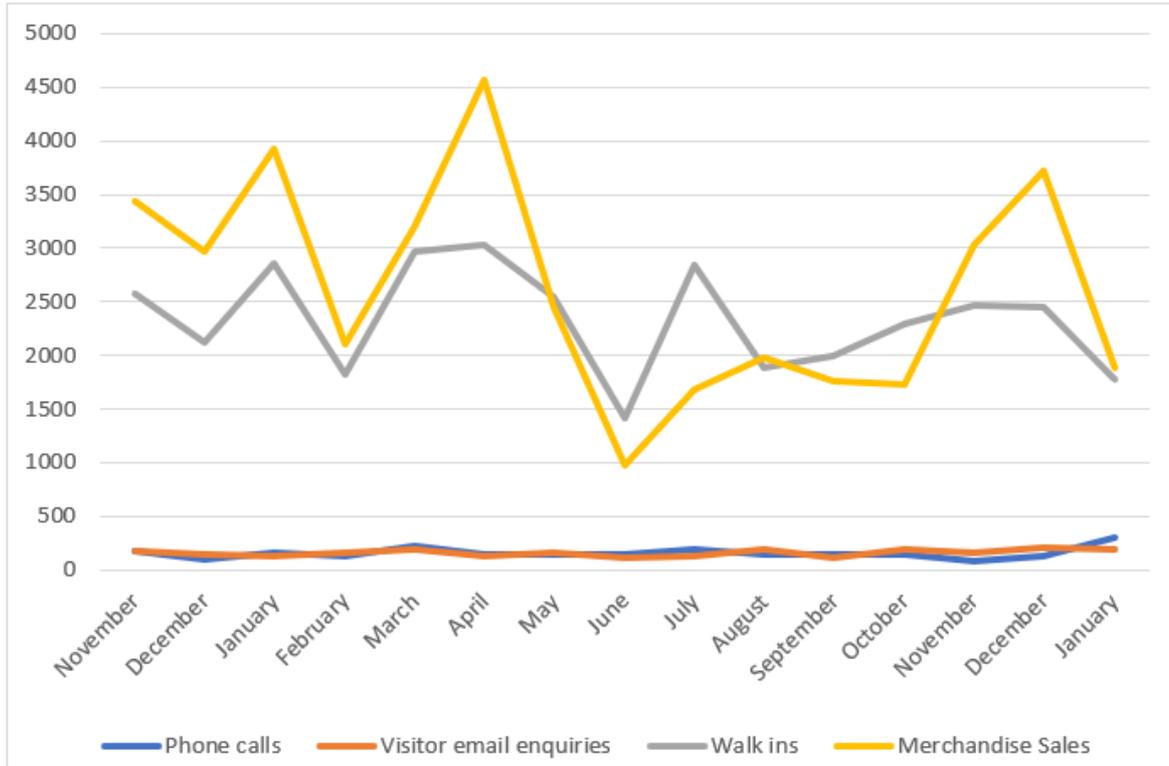
Location	Oct 2024 – Jan 2025	Oct 2025 - Jan 2026	+/-	%
Mansfield	18269	14905	-3364	-18%
Bonnie Doon	12911	7718	-5193	-40%
Merton	3827	1547	-2280	- 59%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26678</b>	<b>18257</b>	<b>-8421</b>	<b>-32%</b>

	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	+/-	%
Mansfield	4293	3386	-907	-21%
Bonnie Doon	3679	2397	-1282	-34%
Merton	357	124	-233	-65%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8329</b>	<b>5907</b>	<b>-2422</b>	<b>-29%</b>

A significant decrease in year-on-year usage when compared to 2024 can be attributed to two things. November 2024 saw a huge increase due to the Great Victorian Bike Ride using the trail. Then half of January 2026 saw the trail closed due to the Longwood bushfires. When these two

factors are considered, usage is tracking consistently. A slight decrease which could be attributed to the extreme weather high temperatures keeping some riders off the trail.

**Visitor Information Centre (VIC)**



Location	Oct 2024 – Jan 2025	Oct 2025 - Jan 2026	+/-	%
Visitors	10141	8995	-1146	-11%
Retail Sales	\$12366.50	\$10364.55	-\$2001.95	-16%

Location	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	+/-	%
Visitors	2863	1783	-1080	-37%
Retail Sales	\$3923.00	\$1884.00	-\$2039	-51%

A fantastic December in the Visitor Information Centre and visitation was tracking nicely until the Longwood fires. A 37% decrease year on year for January heading into the quiet month of February.

The VIC was closed for a four-day period over the longwood fires and staff deployed to assist in the relief centre. The rear meeting room of the VIC is now acting as a recovery centre.

## Social Media

As of 1 June 2025, the Mansfield Mt Buller Instagram and Facebook pages are managed by Mansfield Shire Council. Mansfield Shire Council is working closely with Tourism North East to make the most of the Visit Mansfield Mt Buller and social channels owned by Tourism North East. Collaborations with Tourism North East owned pages and with the Mt Buller page owned by Mt Buller Ski lifts have contributed to a great reach and view count.

With the channels now managed locally, there is a strong advantage in being able to respond in a more timely, more authentic, and more ‘like a local’ — ensuring the content reflects what is happening right now in the region, supports local businesses in real-time, and connects with the community and our visitors.

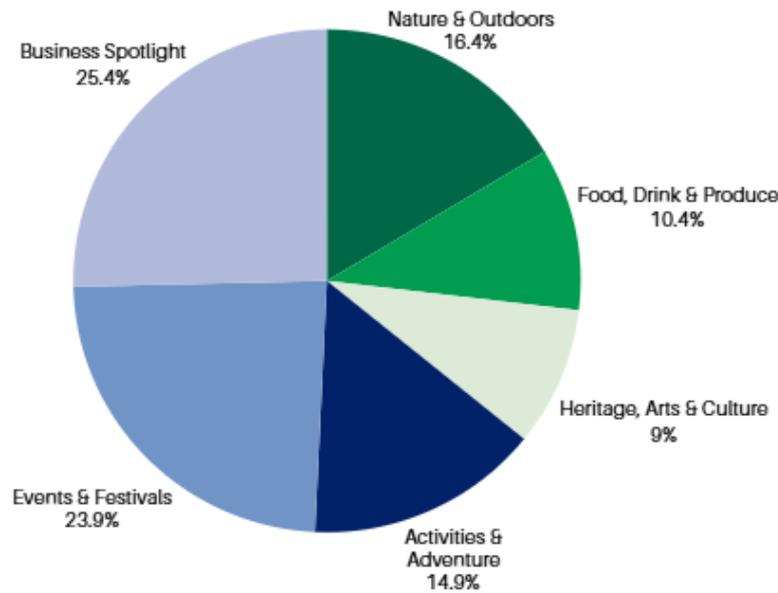
The pages will continue to highlight the best of the region such as local businesses, arts and culture, seasonal beauty, local food and events, and a taste of life in the High Country.

For the October – December period we have seen the following results:

Facebook – 2.7% increase in followers to 12,368

Instagram – 3% increase in followers to 8,301

A 13.2% increase in posts created or collaborated on with a breakdown below of content types:



Top performing posts on Facebook

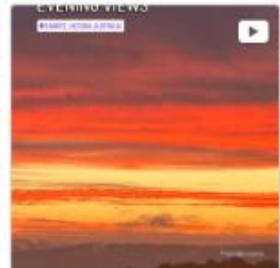
 <p><b>Lake Eildon days aren't complete without a...</b> 5 December 16:38 68.4K views, 428 likes, 28 comments, 83 shares</p>	 <p><b>Those in-between days — when Christmas h...</b> 29 December 19:03 55.6K views, 536 likes, 16 comments, 27 shares</p>	 <p><b>Join the High Country Rodders for their...</b> 6 October 17:35 38.4K views, 179 likes, 15 comments, 29 shares</p>	 <p><b>Merry Christmas! Wishing everyone a...</b> 24 December 11:08 34.7K views, 616 likes, 19 comments, 10 shares</p>	 <p><b>The High Country comes alive this...</b> 29 October 15:08 30.9K views, 201 likes, 8 comments, 50 shares</p>	 <p><b>In the heart of Mansfield, Ink...</b> 8 October 16:18 22.4K views, 645 likes, 78 comments, 22 shares</p>
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Top performing posts on Instagram

 <p><b>Spectacular sunset up here at Mt Buller</b> 10 November 21:07 51.0K views, 803 likes, 8 comments, 54 shares</p>	 <p><b>Here's Romana to show you how to hike...</b> 1 December 18:28 39.3K views, 432 likes, 26 comments, 71 shares</p>	 <p><b>Your Mt Buller summer adventure guide is...</b> 3 December 18:08 33.0K views, 295 likes, 0 comments, 57 shares</p>	 <p><b>Have a Family Holiday in Mansfield</b> 11 November 09:32 32.3K views, 283 likes, 12 comments, 53 shares</p>	 <p><b>Summit scenes in full green-season mode ...</b> 26 November 09:25 26.9K views, 250 likes, 9 comments, 12 shares</p>	 <p><b>How good was Sunday's...</b> 12 December 16:46 24.3K views, 295 likes, 17 comments, 12 shares</p>
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228 Stories created (11% increase) with over 77,000 views. An increase of 58.4%

Top performing stories

 <p><b>River days!</b> @seehighcountry 29 December 15:54 14.8K views, 5 likes, 0 comments, 1 share</p>	 <p><b>@mansfieldevents @mansfieldhuntinga...</b> 23 October 16:27 1.5K views, 3 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares</p>	 <p><b>Evening views</b> @seehighcountry 20 October 20:37 1.3K views, 5 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares</p>	 <p><b>Amazing food By @thehorselesscart...</b> 5 December 16:45 1.1K views, 4 likes, 0 comments, 3 shares</p>
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## Business and Industry

### Business Newsletters

Council's business newsletters deliver information to our business community who are looking for funding opportunities, business training and workshops for themselves and their staff. 464 of our local businesses, are currently receiving these newsletters.

	Council's Business Newsletter	Industry Benchmark
Open rate av.	55.3%	19.4%
Click rate av.	6.32%	2.8%

### Business Engagement, Support and Advocacy

Engagement was almost exclusively face to face across November/ December and included the retrieval of State Planning Petitions and a review of the Winter Business Survey outcomes. As reported low consumer confidence/ economic uncertainty were also attributable factors to what was being reflected as an average season for cash flow and the mountain and valleys economic relationship.

#### Longwood Bushfire Impacts Mansfield Shire

Upon return 12 January with the Longwood fires impacting the Shire – business fire impact survey work commenced, and 100 businesses have been visited to gather data on business impacts, with tourists in the Shire being asked to leave under the State of Disaster proclamation. Council conducted personal visits, under the circumstances, that better reflects its empathy to the difficulties affecting local business. Work is ongoing with fire impact surveys, but data to hand reflects a high impact cost to most business sectors across the Shire with Food and Beverage & Accommodation sectors reflecting the highest estimated losses.

It might be noted all visits were acknowledged as being appreciated, and it should also be noted that more than a few of the business owners were physically/emotionally distressed when working through the survey about the impacts to their businesses.

#### Town Booster and Better Approvals Programs

Council actively supports new business enquiry and establishment prior to application processes, during permit activities and continuing once the doors are opened. This program also supports imaginative and creative ways to grow trade and vibrancy in shopping precincts and community spaces.

Requests for permit approval process assistance were reduced during December, as trends annually during summer generally – enquiry that was received included -

- ▶ Business signage placement – A Frame request – was discussed to see if something more imaginative could be done.
- ▶ Existing business to Building Permit process and premises Ausnet power upgrade.
- ▶ Existing business with modified signage request in Alpine Approach Zone.
- ▶ Existing business place tables from footpath to entry area of High Street Car Park

- ▶ Highett Street carpark query re changing direction of traffic flow

### **Telecommunications Advocacy**

A review of all Mobile Wireless Towers and their back-up power capacity throughout the Mansfield Shire is being undertaken.

Once complete this will help to inform Council's advocacy to government and the telecoms around increasing the mobile wireless network resilience within Mansfield Shire.

Business and Community both express their concerns around loss of service during power outs, and a solid data case will strengthen Council's advocacy to increase the resilience of communications services generally but also when confronted by emergency.

### **Delatite Chamber of Commerce – AGM and Elections**

The Delatite Chamber of Commerce AGM saw the election of the new President (Mr Guy Elliott / Director - High Country Technologies), Vice President Jay Cooper (Issimo, Mansfield Bush Market), Secretary Nick Cooper (Issimo, Mansfield Bush Market) and Kylie Richards (MACE CEO) retains the role of Treasurer.

General Committee members – Dean Belle (Produce Store, Delatite Hotel), Lisa Deeble (Summit Outfitters), Polly Ritchie (Delatite Wines), Jon Gifford (Mal, Ryan & Glen) and April Currie (North East Training First Aid).

Co-operation and promotion of the pre-Christmas Shop Local campaign was consolidated and a meeting with the new President was established in early December to ensure that Council could maintain its strong relationship in support of the chamber, and to provide a healthy framework for collaboration in business support going forward.

## 14. Communications

### Media releases

Seventeen media releases were generated and distributed:

- ▶ Fire Danger Period comes to Mansfield Shire
- ▶ Petition Success: Mansfield Shire smashes signature requirement
- ▶ Would you like to see improved car parking in Jamieson?
- ▶ Library aims to keep kids reading over summer
- ▶ New Era for local sport as Lords Pavilion works set to begin
- ▶ Christmas set to arrive on Mansfield's Alpine Approaches
- ▶ Mansfield's L2P Program reaches major milestone
- ▶ State planning reforms ushered in despite vocal opposition
- ▶ New generator to keep Mansfield running in emergencies
- ▶ Unleash your feedback: Mansfield's first dedicated dog park
- ▶ Council votes to strengthen tree policy
- ▶ One for the books: Library Outreach Program awarded funds
- ▶ Mansfield's L2P Program celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ▶ A step in the right direction: Have your say on concrete footpaths
- ▶ An offer campers can't refuse: Carry In, Carry out numbers surge
- ▶ Celebrate your local sporting hero
- ▶ Australia Day Celebrations 2026

### Responses to media enquiries

Responses were provided on the following topics:

- ▶ Council Bushfire Efforts
- ▶ Mayor visits VFF/AgVic Hay Donation operation

### Social media

Council's Facebook page is followed by 8,451 accounts. Page activity over the past 4 months:

	October	November	December	January
Change in followers	+263	+544	+486	+2,052
Content interactions	3,999	6,576	4,487	28,588
Link clicks	1,145	854	1,359	3,240

Posts that received the most interactions this month are listed below:

Topic	Reach	Interactions	Comments
Road closure update: Maroondah Highway	132,125	735	Comments turned off
Longwood fire contained	114,445	2,968	99
Fire danger update: 9 Jan	86,605	733	55
Road Closure Update: Maroondah Highway	84,608	404	Comments turned off

## Engage Mansfield

Regular community consultation is undertaken online via Engage Mansfield. Statistics on activity on the portal is provided below.

	October	November	December	January
New registrations	2	31	23	13
Visits	1.9k	2.7k	2581	2143
Engaged	11	141	65	111
Engagement rate	0.6%	6%	3.2%	6.7%

## YouTube

Council meetings are streamed live on YouTube. Viewership of recent Council meetings within each month is as follows:

	21 Oct	25 Nov	Dec	Jan
Views	92	162	No meeting	No meeting

## 15. Digital Transformation Project

### Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

Mansfield went live on 8 December 2025, the implementation of the ERP is nearly complete, with departments using the system and working through teething issues as they arise, and further training being undertaken on modules that are now ready for use. The Animal Registration and Infringement Management module will be introduced in the first half of 2026. This will link directly with the rates system and the online portal (eServices), making services simpler for the community.

### Health and Wastewater (HWW)

The open tender has now closed, and a tender was awarded at the November meeting of Council. Implementation is expected to start in February 2026.

### Information and Records Management (IM)

The IM system is continuing to settle into business as usual (BAU). Ongoing improvements are being delivered through enhancement requests and regular vendor updates. Council is gathering feedback on staff user experience to help identify areas for improvement and support.

### Planning, Building and Regulatory (PBR)

All PBR modules are now in place across the collaborating councils and are being managed in BAU. Councils are working with the vendor through regular meetings to progress enhancements and further improve the system.