

# CEO Monthly Report

March 2026



Mansfield Shire

## 1. Customer Service

### Monthly Customer Request Management System (CRMS) Report March 2026

For the month of March, 186 customer requests were received. Of those, 88 requests remain open and 98 were closed during the month.

There were 1,478 calls and 881 visits to Council's customer service centre.

### Complaints received for March 2026.

Council has received a complaint concerning the conduct of an officer during a property visit in March 2026, which is currently being reviewed in accordance with established procedures.

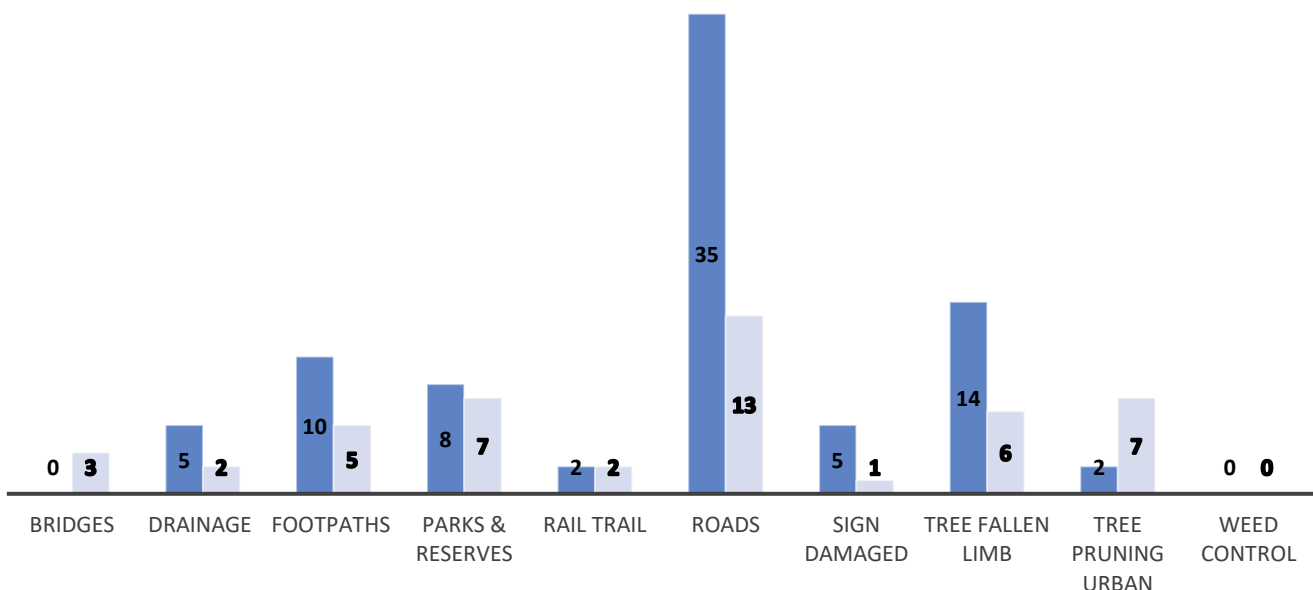
Council received a complaint about the conduct of a Council officer during an event. The complaint was investigated in line with procedures and additional supports have been offered as training for the officer.

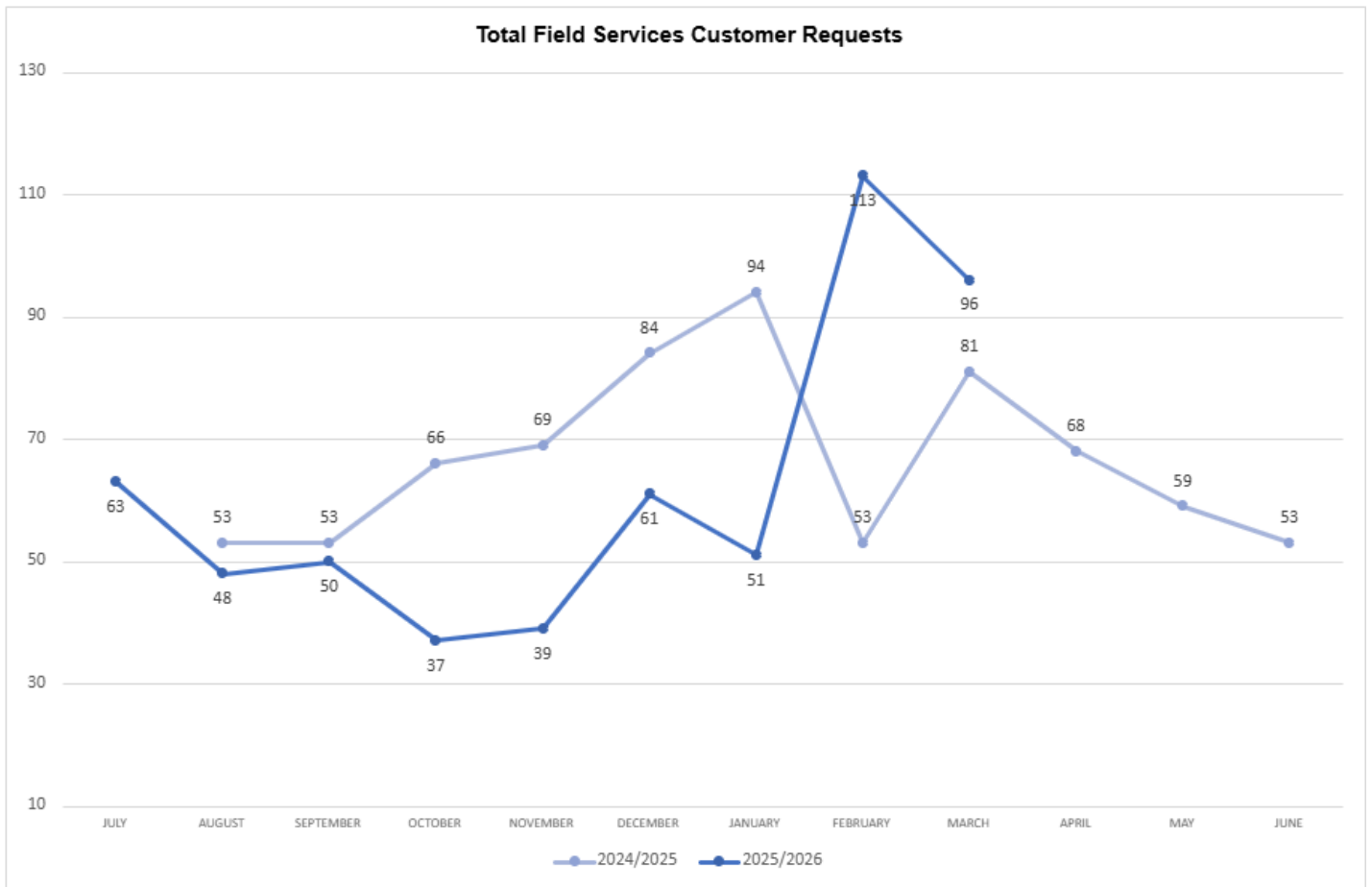
### One expression of gratitude was received for December 2026.

The community member expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Merton community to Mansfield Shire Council's Emergency Management Officer for their work during the January 2026 bushfires. They were appreciative of Tamara and the team for their continued support to the community following the bushfire event.

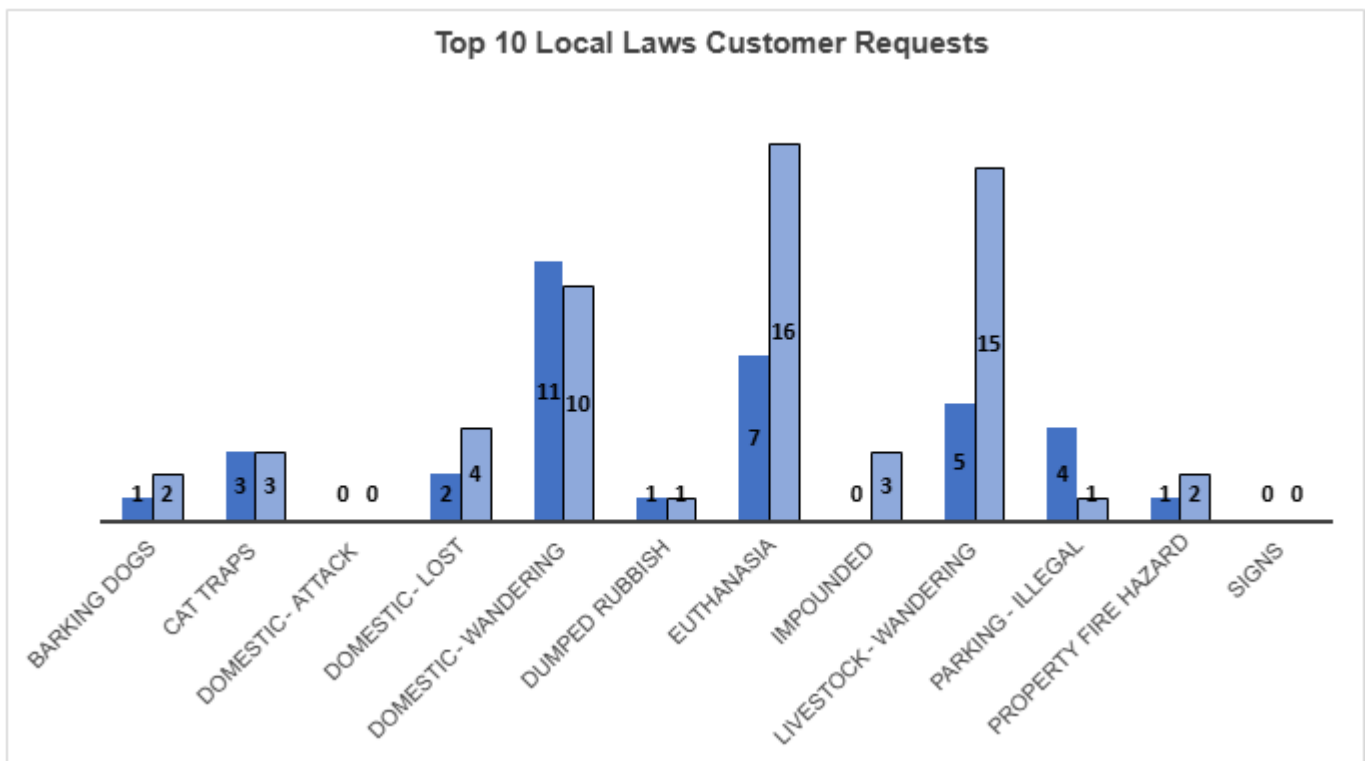
### The highest number of requests was for Field Services, totalling 78 for March 2026.

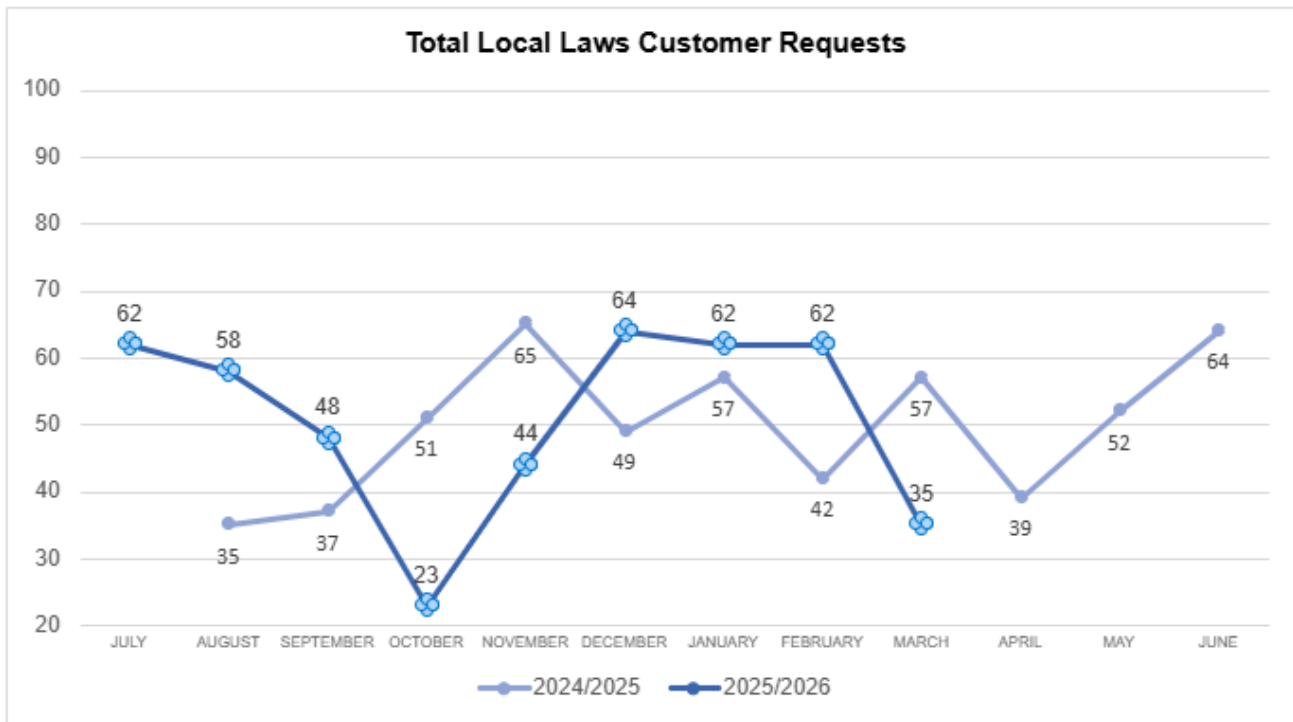
Top 10 Field Services Customer Requests



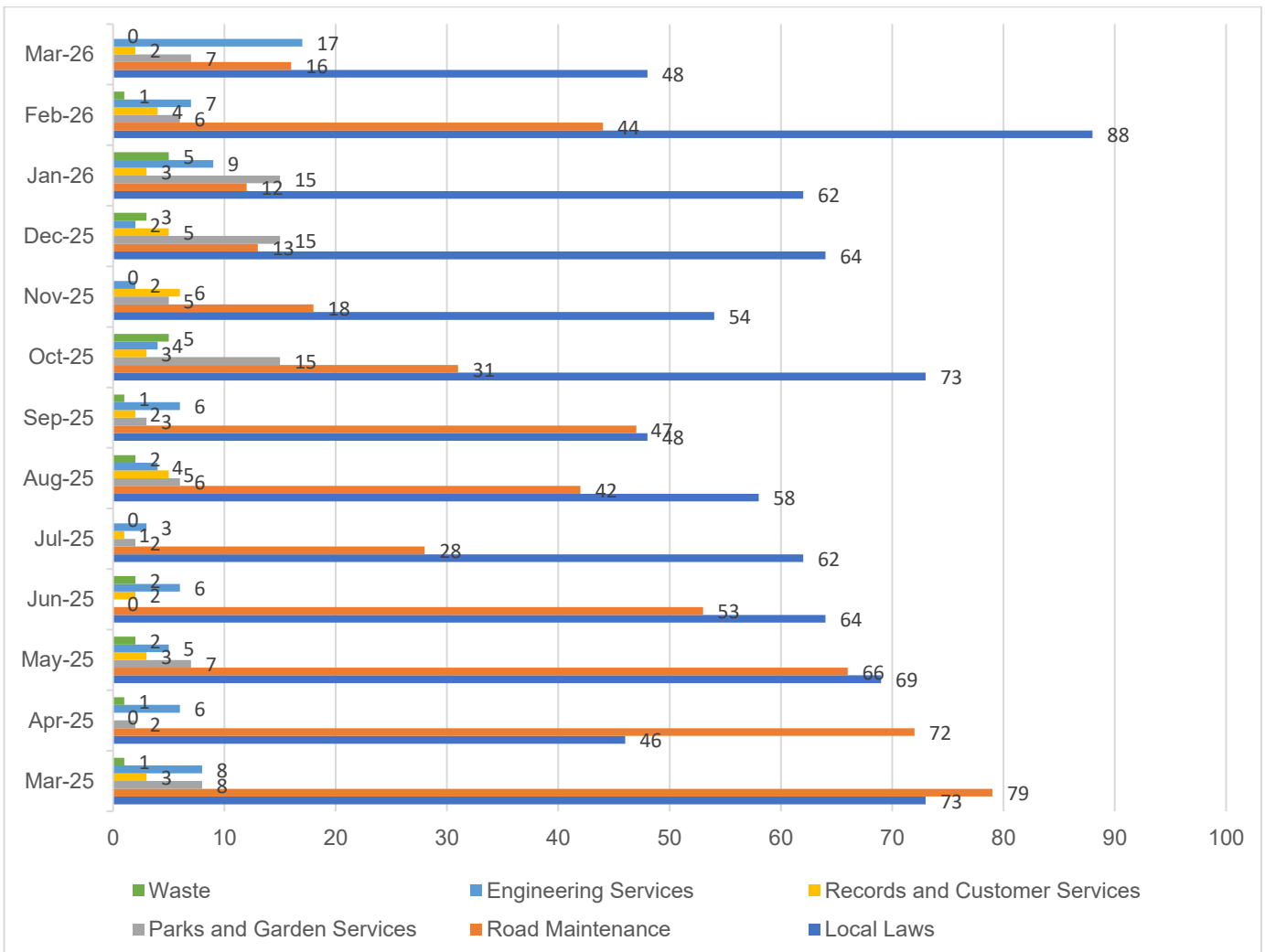


Local Laws received the second highest number of requests, totalling 48 for March 2026.





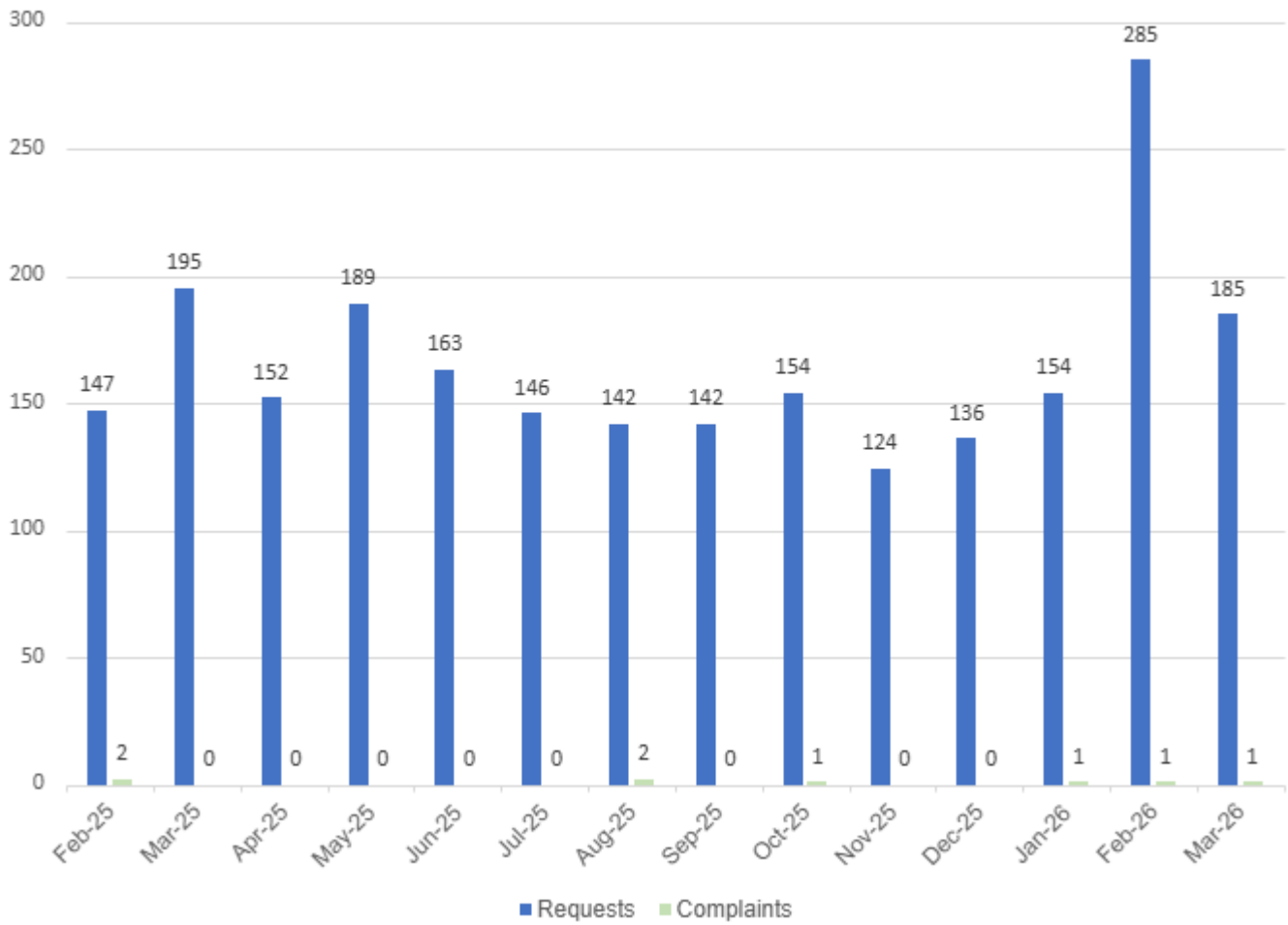
### CRMS Monthly Totals March 2025 – March 2026



Requests and Complaints

	March
Requests	186
Complaints	2

Total Requests and Complaints March 2025 - March 2026



## 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	1	0
March 2026	4	2
April 2026		
May 2026		
June 2026		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>

### Confidential Reports at Council Meetings

Month	No. of Confidential Reports	Comments
February	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEO Employment Matters Committee</li> </ul>
March	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract Update: Sealing Unsealed Roads Program</li> <li>CEO Employment Matters</li> <li>Tender Award: Fenced Dog Park Landscaping</li> <li>Tender Award: Goods Shed Refurbishment</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	3
April 2026	
May 2026	
June 2026	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

**Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests**

Month	No. of FOI Requests	Comments
January	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requestor was seeking copies of any relevant documents Council hold in relation to Jamieson-Licola Road.</li> </ul>
March	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requestor was seeking access to all documents held by Mansfield Shire Council relating to the handling of the FOI requests.</li> <li>Requestor was seeking a confirmation on how many people in total will be attending the ALGA National Conference this year.</li> <li>Requestor was seeking the number of cat related calls (any cat categories recorded by Council) from 2017/18 to 2024/25.</li> </ul>

### 3. Capital Works

As at the end of March, the Capital Works Program for the 2025–26 financial year is 51% complete, based on projects completed during the 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 2025.	On Budget	Completed Aug 2025
Mansfield Library	\$27,000	HVAC improvements at Library. Works completed in January 2026.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Mansfield Sporting Complex	\$55,698	Roof renewal of main building. Tenders received in February. Award targeted for April/May in alignment with award of the tender for the Play our Way changeroom upgrade.	On Budget	June 2026
Mechanics Institute Toilet	\$150,000	Construction of new toilet amenities at the rear of the Mechanics Institute. Design to be finalised in April and construction cost estimate prepared. Project proposed to be re-budgeted in FY2026-27 following confirmation of available kindergarten funding contribution.	On Budget	June 2026
Jamieson Hall	\$88,663	Lower roof renewal works completed at Hall in February, with savings to be used for replacement of the slate roof on the Museum. Replacement scheduled by May in collaboration with the Jamieson Community Group.	On Budget	Completed Feb 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. 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	June 2026

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Public Toilet Renewal Program	\$50,000	Maintongoon Road, Bonnie Doon. Refurbishment of current facility. Quotes received. Award targeted for April.	On Budget	June 2026
Lords Pavilion	\$1,954,750	Construction of the new Pavilion. Roof to be completed in April. On track to complete in September.	On Budget	Nov 2026
Mansfield Recreation Reserve Play Our Way Change Room Upgrades	\$918,789	Award targeted for April/May in alignment with award of the tender for the Mansfield Sporting Complex roof. Construction expected to commence in May.	On Budget	June 2027
Curia Street Police Stables public shower & toilets	-	Public shower and toilet pod was delivered and connected in February. Official opening planned for April/May, on completion of new pavement works.	On Budget	Completed Feb 2026
<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 2025, 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 and connecting pathway funded by the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program. Drainage upgrades are complete; path construction has commenced in March and bridge abutment construction is underway.	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 / sealing unsealed road program.	On Budget	May 2026
Bridge Upgrade Program	\$80,000	Dry Creek Road Bridge (B36) condition assessments identified repair works required. Following resident consultation and further technical review, more extensive widening has been considered. The budget will now be allocated to undertake design for the	On Budget	June 2026



Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
		widening and full upgrade, including guardrails, to enable a future construction upgrade when grant funding becomes available.		
McKees Lane Culvert improvement	\$50,000	Upgrade of the culvert structure and pavement including road sealing. Project complete.	On Budget	Completed Mar 2026
Causeway Upgrade Program	\$200,000	Graves Road Floodway - Construction is pending grant funding, with proposed Council co-contribution amount of \$200,000. Engagement undertaken to support new grant application.	On Budget	Dec 2026
<b>Open Space &amp; Streetscapes</b>				
Botanic Park Stage Platform	-	Project undertaken as a community collaboration and funded with savings from other projects. Stage construction completed in January ready for Australia Day event.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Swimming Pool Upgrade (LAPS Package)	\$750,741	Contract award for learner's pool roof expected in April. Works planned to commence in May.	On Budget	Aug 2027
Tracks & Trails Strategy	\$33,000	Final community engagement planned in April/May on draft strategy. Recommendations currently being added to strategy ready for engagement. Final strategy to go to Council in May.	On Budget	May 2026
Peppin Point Community Hub Design	\$78,840	Concept design being refined to incorporate suitable wastewater solution with GMW. Final design expected to commence in April.	On Budget	June 2026
Billy Maxwell House Relocation	-	Permit for demolition obtained. Application lodged for erection. Project is being undertaken by Bonnie Doon Community Centre in collaboration with Council.	On Budget	June 2026
Street furniture, benches and bollards	\$50,000	Botanic Park bollard solar lighting installation commenced and due to be completed first week of April.	On Budget	Apr 2026
Delatite Valley Riverside Park Masterplan	-	Outlying Community Infrastructure Fund project. Project currently on hold while the Delatite Valley Plan engagement is underway.	On Budget	June 2026

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
		Report to be presented to April Council meeting seeking cancellation and re-allocation of the funding to the mural project.		
Irrigation and Oval Upgrades	\$45,000	Upgrade of Lords Oval and Mansfield Recreation Reserve Oval irrigation. Works completed in January 2026.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Mansfield Tennis Club Roof	\$50,000	Clubroom roof renewal. Scoping and project estimate completed. Design for roof structure to commence in late-April in collaboration with Tennis Club Community Asset Committee, with construction works to follow.	On Budget	June 2026
<b>Drainage</b>				
Drainage Renewal Program	\$50,000	CCTV inspection and jetting of stormwater assets. Scope has been developed and reviewed with Field Services. Request For Quotation has been released, April contract award planned.	On Budget	May 2026
College Park Drainage Improvements (grant funded)	\$25,000	Shade sail, drinking water fountain, drainage and benches. Equipment procurement complete and will be installed in April, with surface drainage works to follow.	On Budget	May 2026
Drainage Study	\$30,000	Malcolm Street from Highett Street to Kidston Parade (West Catchment). Project awarded to Stantec. Works have commenced on the study.	On Budget	June 2026
Stormwater and footpath upgrade	\$208,289	Elvins Street. Detailed design of drainage and footpaths completed. Initial grant application was unsuccessful; however, a further application has been submitted, and drainage works are proposed to be packaged with footpath works in 2026-27, subject to the grant outcome.	On Budget	Design Completed March 2026
<b>Pathways</b>				
Bonnie Doon Community Centre Footpath	\$30,000	Works completed in February 2026 including carpark and path upgrade.	On Budget	Completed Feb 2026

## Mansfield Shire Council | CEO Monthly Report

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Footpath on Mansfield-Woods Point Road, Jamieson	\$50,000	Stage 1: Scoping and community engagement completed, with tree planting in DTP road reserve undertaken in collaboration with the Jamieson Community Group. Stage 2 on hold pending planning permit outcome and DTP review of intersection design. Remaining 2025-26 budget will be allocated to improvement and infill of existing footpath links in Jamieson township. Final scoping and engagement in progress.	On Budget	June 2026
New footpath on Maintongoon Road	\$54,130	Maintongoon Road footpath will occur in two stages. Stage 1, between the two boat ramps will be prioritised for 2025-26. Stage 2 will encompass a connection to the Rail Trail subject to further review and approval with DTP of a detailed design (next financial year). Final scoping for Stage 1 completed with contract award anticipated in April.	On Budget	June 2026
Shared path on Piries-Goughs Bay Rd Stage 3	\$110,000	Piries-Goughs Bay Rd Stage 3 works completed in December 2025.	On Budget	Completed Dec 2025
Footpath missing link on Bellview Court	\$17,550	Works completed in February 2026.	On Budget	Completed Feb 2026
Footpaths Renewal Program - Concrete	\$70,000	Engagement completed. Contract award scheduled for April.	On Budget	June 2026
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. Works planning to start late April.	On Budget	June 2026
<b>Roads</b>				
Kerb & Channel	\$109,560	High Street, Alpine Ridge Drive, Highett Street, Stewart Street, Curia Street completed in October 2025.	On Budget	Completed Oct 2025
Car Park Renewal	\$56,340	Chenery Street, High Street and Collopy Street included in the reseal scope. Works completed in January 2026.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Reseal / asphalt replacement program	\$269,532	Mansfield township. Works completed in January 2026.	On Budget	Completed Jan 2026
Re-seal preparation Road Reconstruction program	\$430,480	Early Street, Alpine Ridge Drive. Works completed in November.	On Budget	Completed Nov 2025
Township Sealing Program	\$718,562	Mansfield township - New Street and Church Street scheduled for April. The township sealing works were packaged with Glen Creek Road, Hearn's Road intersection (IMPACT) and Chapel Hill Rd sealing (IMPACT) which are now completed.	On Budget	April 2026
Dead Horse Ln/ Mansfield-Whitfield Rd Roundabout - Design and Construction	\$2,127,257	Dead Horse Lane/Mansfield-Whitfield Road intersection. An extension of time has been requested from DTP due to the extended design review process which has now been approved through until June 2027. As a result, commencement on site date has been planned to avoid pavement works occurring over Winter. Electrical/services relocation and underground lighting cable work expected to be completed by September 2026.	On Budget	June 2027
Eildon-Jamieson Road Safety Improvement Program	\$357,820	Eildon-Jamieson Road improvements are proposed to be deferred and re-budgeted in 2026-27 pending completion of the approved Motorcycle Safety Improvement project that is grant-funded (refer below).	On Budget	June 2026
Motorcycle Safety Improvement	\$85,000	Intersection upgrade of Barwite Road and Saligari Road and safety improvements to Eildon – Jamieson Road. Scoping completed and concept design with DTP for approval.	On Budget	June 2027
Mansfield Parking Study	\$50,000	Consultant is currently updating draft parking study after internal stakeholder review. Final draft scheduled to go to Councillor Briefing in May and then to Council.	On Budget	June 2026

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Safer Local Roads and Streets Funded Program	\$356,000	Grant funded road safety improvements to Old Tolmie Rd and Tolmie-Mahaikah Rd, Monkey Gully Road and Howqua River Road. Howqua River Road signage has been completed and remaining works are at RFQ stage, contract award in April.	On Budget	June 2026
Resource Recovery Centre Access Road	\$250,000	Drainage upgrade, pavement reconstruction, road widening, resealing and new sealing works planned. Evaluation completed. Contract award to go to April Council meeting.	On Budget	June 2026
<b>IMPACT Project</b>				
Hearns Road Intersection	\$120,000	The project includes Chapel Hill Road sealing. Sealing of both intersection and Chapel Hill Road were completed in February.	On Budget	Completed Feb 2026
Highton Lane (includes new roundabout)	\$1,465,811	Practical completion has been issued for roundabout. Solar lighting planned for installation in April	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 completed in February 2026, intersection works completed in March. Project is also funded by the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program.	On Budget	Completed Mar 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)	Detailed design due for completion in April. Ausnet feedback has been sought.	On Budget	August 2026
Changing Places Facility	As per Playground	Detailed design being finalised. Contract award expected in May.	On Budget	Aug 2026
Museum Exhibit	\$3,205,533	Exhibit design completed and fabrication in progress.	On Budget	Dec 2026
Goods Shed Refurbishment	\$1,511,707	Contract awarded at the March Council meeting. Works to commence in April.	On Budget	Oct 2026

Project	Budget (\$)	Comments	Budget Status	Estimated Completion Date
Taungurung Art Track	\$255,188	Artist EOI closed in March. Evaluation to be undertaken and appointment of artists due in April.	On Budget	Jan 2027
Museum Fit out	Included in Exhibit Budget	Fit-out works commenced in December following award of a tender to Hennessey Constructions and are currently in progress.	On Budget	Nov 2026
Pump Track	\$414,400	Final design due for completion in April. Construction to commence in May.	On Budget	June 2026
Fertiliser Shed Refurbishment	\$546,368	Mezzanine works complete. Skillion design to be finalised in April. Construction due to start in late May.	On Budget	June 2026
Landscaping (Irrigation, Solar Lighting, Furniture)	\$544,373	RFT to be issued in April. Contract award expected in May for first stage of landscaping.	On Budget	Jan 2027
Withers Lane Carpark	\$168,017	Detailed design complete. Construction RFQ planned in April.	On Budget	Sep 2026
Visitor Information Centre Carpark	\$761,868	Detailed design to be completed in April. Contract award due in June.	On Budget	Sep 2026
Kitchen Street Carpark	\$627,203	Detailed design to be completed in April. Contract award due in June.	On Budget	Sep 2026
Precinct Shared Pathway	\$771,680	Works to commence on site in April.	On Budget	June 2026
Fenced Dog Park	\$496,063	Procurement completed and contracts awarded. Works to commence in April.	On Budget	June 2026
Railway infrastructure restore & Woodfield platform relocation	\$176,990	Scoping and design to be completed in April, with further stakeholder engagement planned for May. Construction to commence in August.	On Budget	Dec 2026
Mullum Wetlands Rejuvenation	\$228,325	Contract awarded in February. Works to commence on site in March/April.	On Budget	Mar 2027
Station Precinct Branding	\$33,650	Precinct brand developed and reviewed with stakeholders. Signage currently in development.	On Budget	Jan 2027

Mansfield Shire Council | **CEO Monthly Report**

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

## 4. Planning

### Planning Applications Lodged

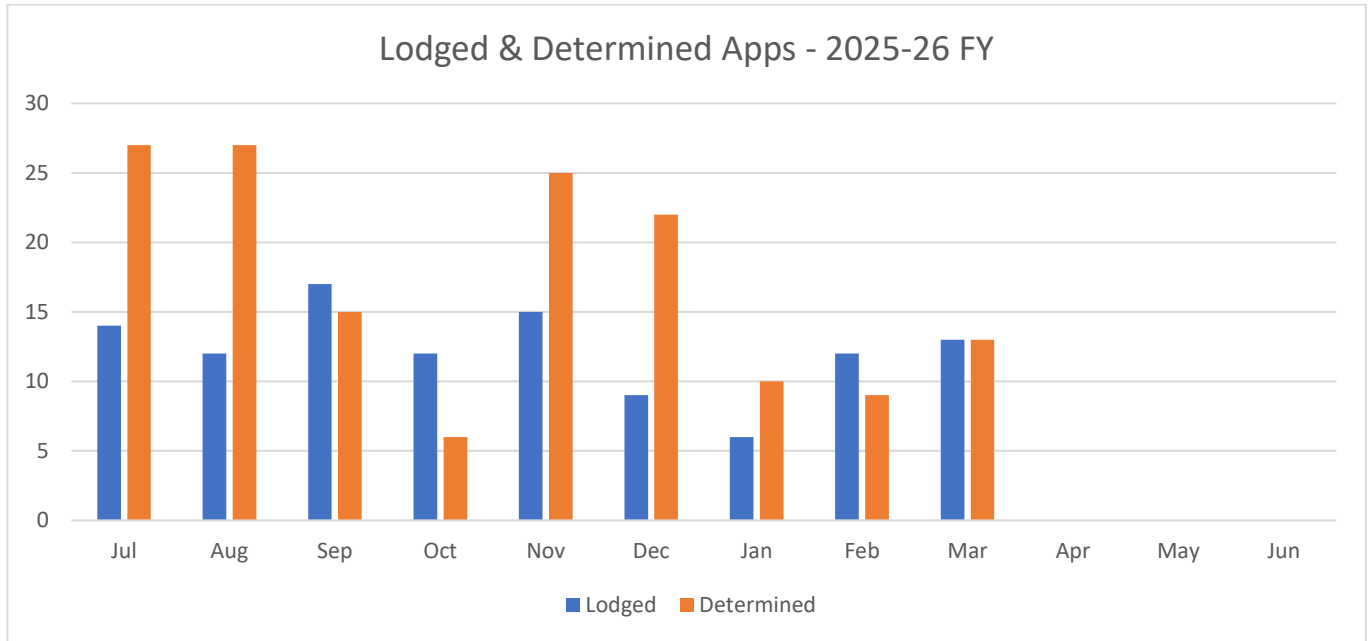
App No.	Property Address	Proposal
P012-26	193 Howes Creek Road Mansfield	Two [2] lot subdivision [dwelling excision]
VS006-26	11 Williams Drive Mansfield	Two [2] lot subdivision
P157B-22	206 Rifle Butts Road Mansfield 98 Rifle Butts Road Mansfield	Use of land for an outdoor recreation facility [mountain bike park], in accordance with the endorsed plans
P231A-22	255 Dead Horse Lane Mansfield	Use and development of land for four [4] warehouses and eighteen [18] stores, removal of native vegetation [5 trees] and associated works
P013-26	120a Malcolm Street Mansfield	Removal of an easement
P014-26	11 Ailsa Street Mansfield	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding
VS007-26	434 Buttercup Road Merrijig	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding
P015-26	3 Cinnabar Lane Jamieson	Use and development of land for a dwelling and associated outbuilding [garage]
VS008-26	3C Timothy Lane Mansfield	Development of land for a Warehouse
VS009-26	224 Purcells Road Merrijig	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding
P016-26	483 Howqua River Road Howqua 484 Howqua River Road Howqua 486 Howqua River Road Howqua	Two [2] lot re-subdivision
P017-26	26 Highton Lane Mansfield	Display of business identification signs
VS010-26	355 Campagnolos Road Mansfield	Development of land for alterations and additions to an existing dwelling
<b>Total Applications Lodged: 13</b>		



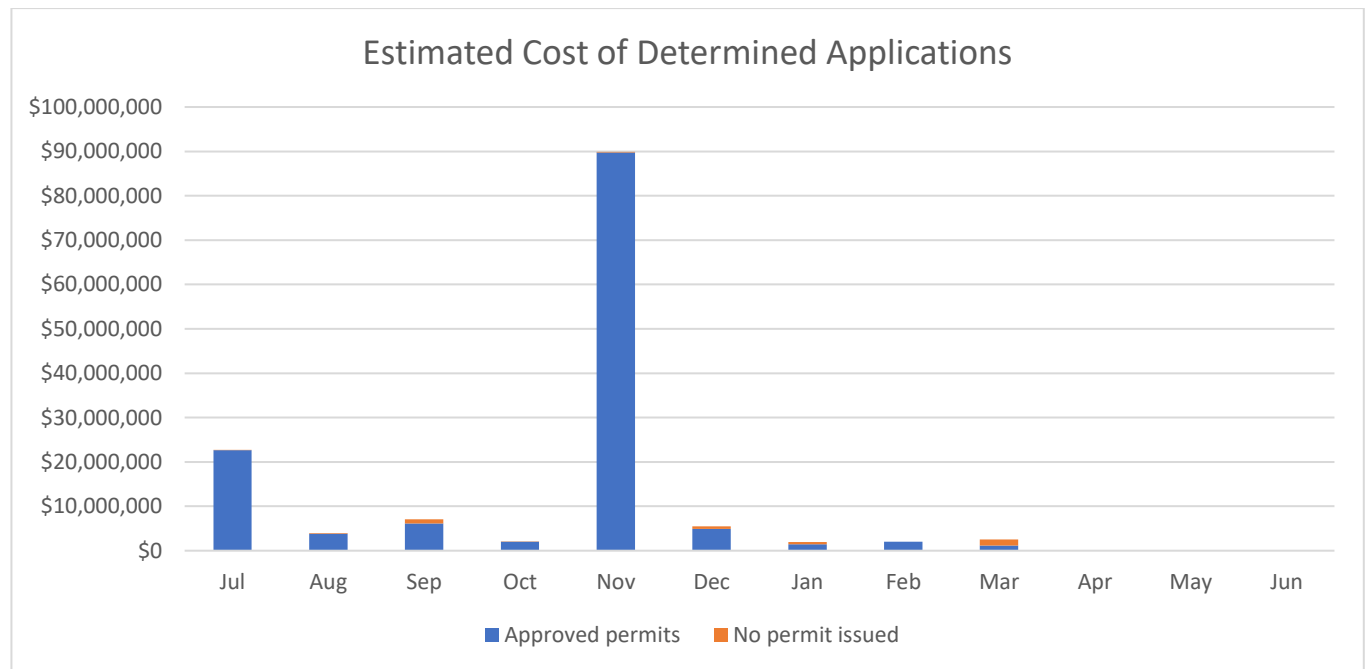
**Planning Applications Determined**

<b>App No.</b>	<b>Property Address</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Decision Type</b>
P114-25	74 Hollams Road Mansfield	Use and development of land for four [4] dwellings	Permit issued
P010-26	4B Ahern Court Kevington	Use and development of land for a dwelling	Withdrawn
P097-24	37 Hilda Court Bonnie Doon	Development of land for a dwelling and two [2] outbuildings	Withdrawn
P057-25	2995 Maintongoon Road Bonnie Doon	Eight [8] lot subdivision	Lapsed
P157B-22	206 Rifle Butts Road Mansfield 98 Rifle Butts Road Mansfield	Use of land for an outdoor recreation facility [mountain bike park], in accordance with the endorsed plans	Permit issued
P112-25	100 Facey Drive Tolmie	Development of land for a dwelling	Permit issued
P005A-25	196 Old Gobur Road Merton	Use and development of land for a dwelling and outbuilding	Permit issued
P003-26	1480 Old Tolmie Road Tolmie	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding	Permit issued
P005-26	5225 Mansfield-Woods Point Road Kevington	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding	Permit issued
VS003-26	327 Macklins Road Merton	Development of land for buildings and works associated with a dwelling	Permit issued
VS005-26	4180 Midland Highway Barjarg	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding	Permit issued
VS006-26	11 Williams Drive Mansfield	Two [2] lot subdivision	Permit issued
VS007-26	434 Buttercup Road Merrijig	Development of land for a domestic outbuilding	Permit issued
<b>Total Applications Determined: 13</b>			

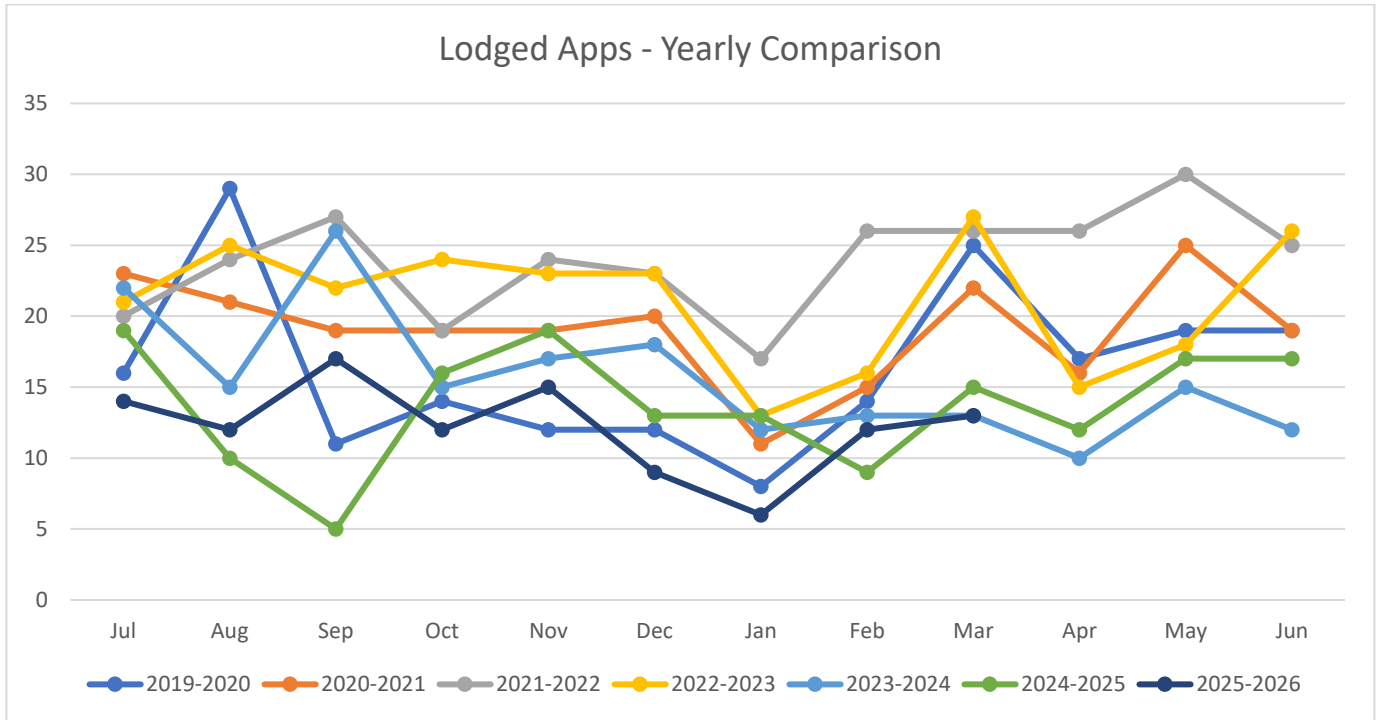
**Number of Applications Lodged and Determined**



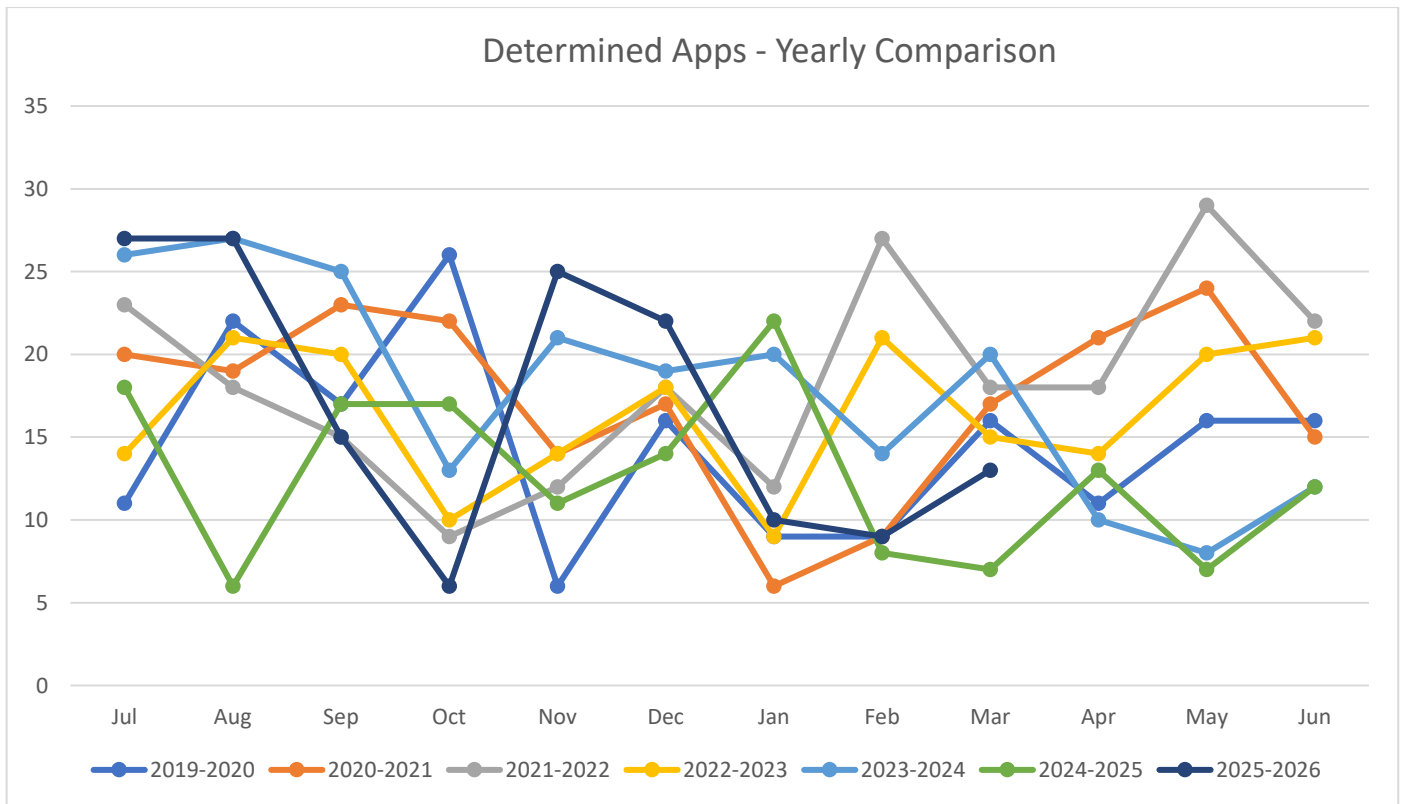
**Estimated Cost of Development of Determined Applications**



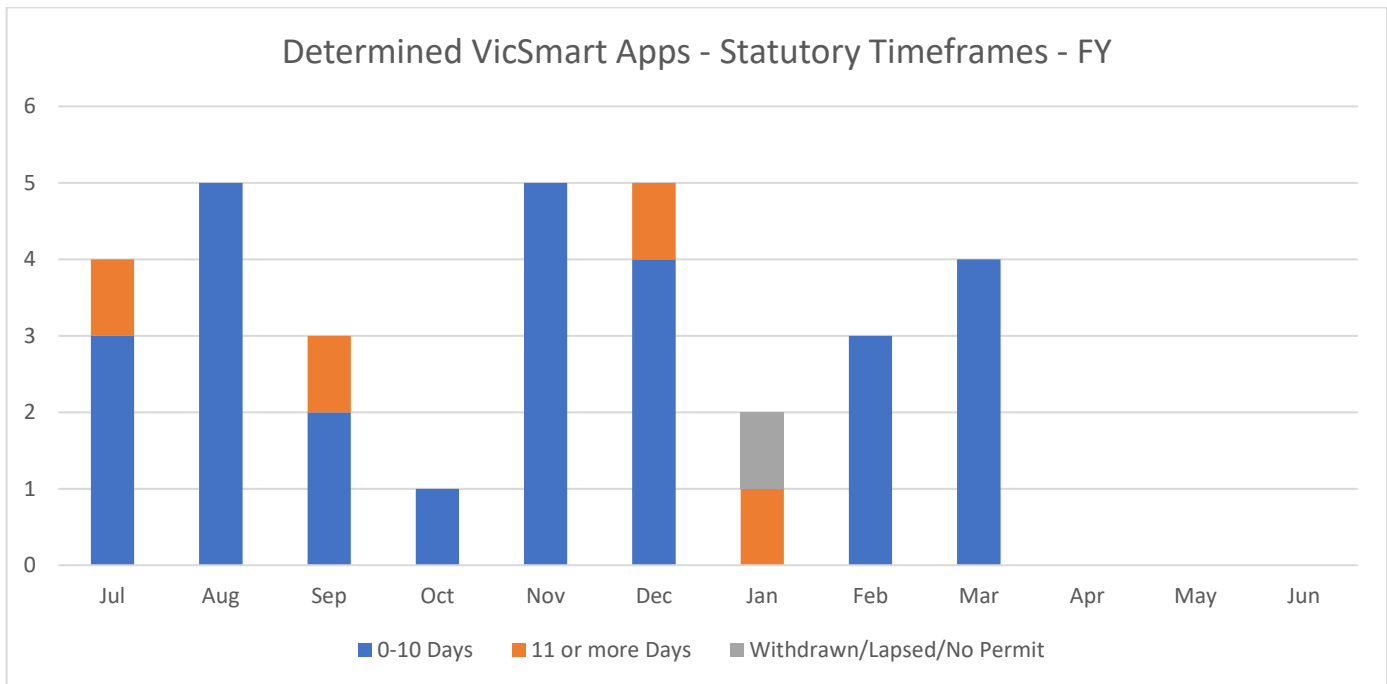
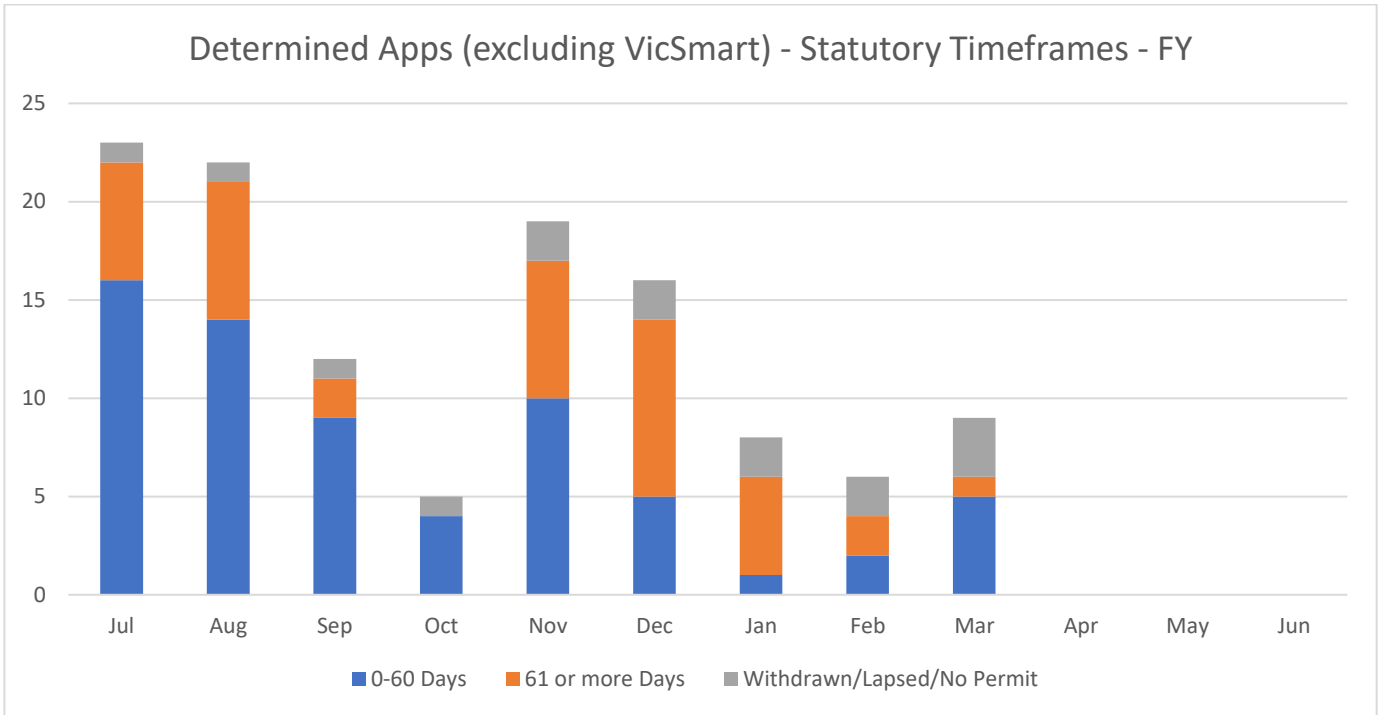
Lodged Planning Applications – Yearly Comparison



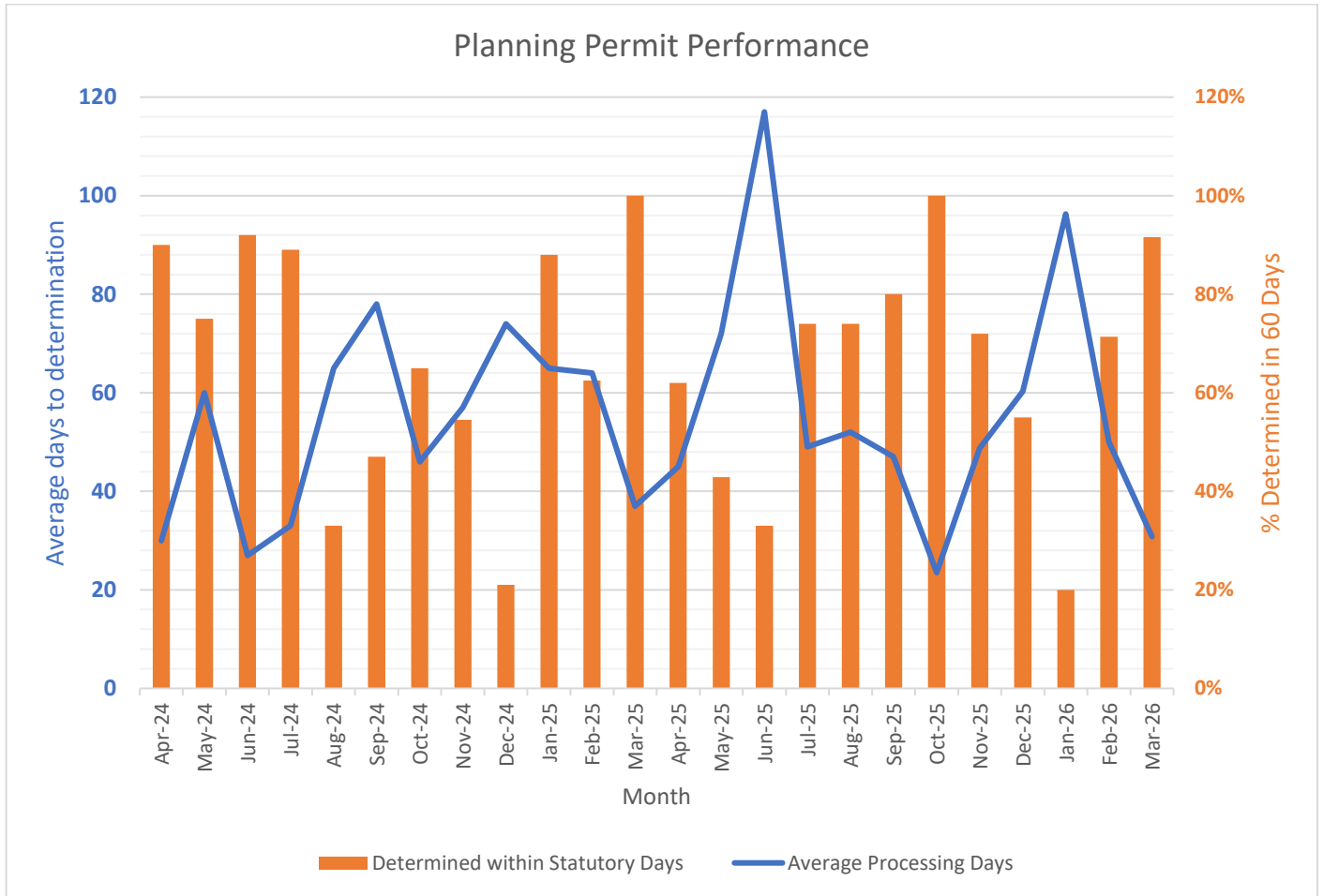
Determined Planning Applications – Yearly Comparison



**Determined Planning Applications**



**Overall Planning Permit Performance**



**Subdivision Certification Applications Lodged**

App No.	Property Address	Date Lodged
S265297S-26	261 Malcolm Street, Mansfield	16/03/2026
S266216P-26	Midland Highway, Mansfield	27/03/2026
<b>Total Applications Received: 2</b>		

**Other Planning Consents & Assessments Determined**

Type of Request	Number Issued
Condition Plans and Engineering Plans for endorsement	2
Secondary Consent	3
Extension of Time	2
Written Planning Advice	
Certification & Statement of Compliance	21
Section 71 Corrected Planning Permits	
Assessment against a Section 173 Agreement	1
Development Plan	
Certificate of Compliance for Existing Use	
Retrieval of Permits and Plans	
<b>Total Applications Issued:</b>	<b>29</b>

## Strategic Planning

### Planning Scheme Amendments

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Next Steps	DTP Response expected by:
<b>C56mans Part 2</b>	In Progress - with consultant	<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. Initial analysis undergoing peer review. Discussion of findings and next steps with Council to occur in April.	
<b>C57mans Part 2</b>	In Progress - with consultant	<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. Initial analysis undergoing peer review. Discussion of findings and next steps with Council to occur in April.	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. Climate change report, and updated amendment documentation and ordinance provided to DTP for authorisation request 26 February 2026. Additional information and analysis provided to DTP 30 March. Officers preparing engagement strategy and documents ready for Exhibition.	DTP advised further review required 9 May 2025. Meeting held 9 July 2025 to discuss requirements. DTP provided formal comment and requested additional information and changes to be made on 11 September. DTP response provided 24 October 2025. A response to the request for authorisation was expected by 27 March 2026. Further Information requested 20 March 2026 and supplied 30 March 2026.
<b>C61mans</b>	On Hold	<b>Creation of a planning scheme amendment to implement the Bonnie Doon</b>	Amendment to be put on hold until July 2026. Assessment of DTP response and determination of next steps commenced to progress amendment.	Draft Amendment submitted to DTP for comment 22 December 2023. DTP feedback provided 19 July 2024.

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Next Steps	DTP Response expected by:
		<b>and Merton Plans</b>		Council response and further information submitted 29 July 2025. DTP response provided 28 August 2025. Meeting held on 26 September 2025 to provide advice regarding DTP response.
<b>C62mans</b>	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.
	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. GMW officer response expected by the end of March 2026. No written response was provided. Meeting with GMW to discuss MOU arranged for 27 April 2026.	
<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 Management Facilities</b>	Meeting held with proponents 15 April 2025 to discuss proposed ordinance and amendment processing through Government Land Planning Service. Draft 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>	Refused	<b>Proponent led amendment to re-zone land at 4 &amp; 5 Lily Court Mansfield to</b>	Council determined to refuse the rezoning request. Notice of decision provided to applicant on 18 March 2026.	Notice of decision provided to DTP 18 March 2026. No response required.

Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Next Steps	DTP Response expected by:
		<b>Rural Living Zone</b>		
<b>Planning Scheme Review 2026</b>	Upcoming	<b>Review of Mansfield's Planning Scheme</b>	<p>Required by section 12B of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> to be undertaken every four years.</p> <p>Project plan approved.</p> <p>Project to be initiated 13 April 2026 commencing with a review of current Scheme and seeking input from internal stakeholders and Referral Authorities.</p>	

**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>	<p>Engagement on draft plan closed 31 August 2025.</p> <p>126 submissions received. Summary of community feedback presented at October briefing for Councillor input. Summary of submissions shared with community 17 October.</p> <p>Draft plan updated in line with community and Councillor feedback and presented at November Council briefing.</p> <p>Community feedback and summary presented at March Councillor Briefing.</p> <p>Engagement on revised draft plan closed 15 February 2026.</p> <p>63 submissions were received.</p>	Plan to be updated in line with comments and presented to Councillor Briefing in May or June.

**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>	<p>Draft hydrology report received. Engagement plan and draft findings presented at September Briefing.</p> <p>Mitigation location options confirmed with consultants.</p>	Location-specific mitigation options and draft hydrology modelling expected 6 July. 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</b>	Analysis of study results and proposed planning controls	Engage with affected landowners regarding the



Project Name	Status	Description	Comments/ Actions Completed	Next steps
		<b>into Planning Scheme.</b>	completed for every affected property. Engagement strategy and materials prepared.	impact of the flood study on planning controls.
<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 prior to community engagement.
<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 an updated draft report.	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 was reviewed by Council officers and feedback provided to the consultant.	Review of consultation results and draft Study to be presented to a Council Briefing in May 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 period with Councils extended until April 2026.	Meetings arranged with involved Councils early April to discuss draft responses.  Review of submissions received.  Presentation of prioritised projects to Councils for approval by end of April.

## 5. Waste Services

The landfill diversion rate for the month of March 2026 was 42.07%. This is a small increase from February's rate and is due to an increase in both recycling and FOGO for the month.

The average diversion rate year to date (YTD) has remained steady 40.12%.

	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	77.94	38.58	176.24	292.76	116.52	39.80%
Mar	84.32	58.00	195.97	338.29	142.32	42.07%
Apr						
May						
Jun						
<b>Total Tonnage</b>	<b>758.84</b>	<b>465.37</b>	<b>1819.47</b>	<b>3043.68</b>	<b>1224.21</b>	
<b>Average Landfill Diversion Rate for FY</b>			<b>40.12%</b>			

### Project Updates:

#### Stages 5 & 6 Public Bin Upgrade

Stages 5 & 6 of the Public Bin upgrade project have nearly all been installed. The new bins left to be installed includes 4 new bins to be installed at main roundabout and 1 new bin to be installed at Western entrance to Botanic Park. Responsible photographers will be acknowledged via the Council website page supported by a QR code sticker and short message which has been affixed to each bin allowing community members and visitors the opportunity to scan and identify both the location of the photo and the amazing photographer responsible.

#### Easter Long Weekend Camping Waste

The 2026 Easter Long Weekend camping waste drop off campaign received 258 bags of camping waste at the Resource Recovery Centre. Note, free camping waste drop off is open until 30 April 2026 which will capture the Anzac Day public holiday period to support residents and visitors.

#### Gaffney's Creek Fire Support – Waste Management

The Gaffney's Creek Fire in January/February created the need to provide further support to residents due to road closures because of the event. A total of three skips had been provided for a period of 4 weeks working in liaison with CFA members. The skips have since been collected.

## 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
- ▶ EVIE Networks Addendum for additional EV car park charging at Foodworks
- ▶ Merton Euroa Road – potential lease of Greenfields Road Reserve
- ▶ Station Precinct - Historic Goods Shed and Visitor Information Centre Commercial Activation EOI
- ▶ High Street Car Park EV Changing 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	\$13,040,933	\$3,685,173	\$4,045,519
Mar	\$4,027,281	\$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>\$51,952,692</b>	<b>\$95,025,307</b>	<b>\$79,649,339</b>

**NB:** Figures for July – September 2025 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	1	37	4	49	4	50
Mar	8	45	2	51	5	55
Apr			4	55	10*	65
May			1	56	9	74
Jun			5	61	6	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>		<b>61</b>		<b>80</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

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

Type	Number	Value
Residential	1	\$381,252
Alt & Additions	2	\$46,040
Sheds & Carports	6	\$770,948
Swimming Pools, Spas & Fences	5	\$677,972
Commercial & Public Amenities	2	\$11,164,721
<b>Total Cost of Building Works</b>		<b>\$13,040,933</b>

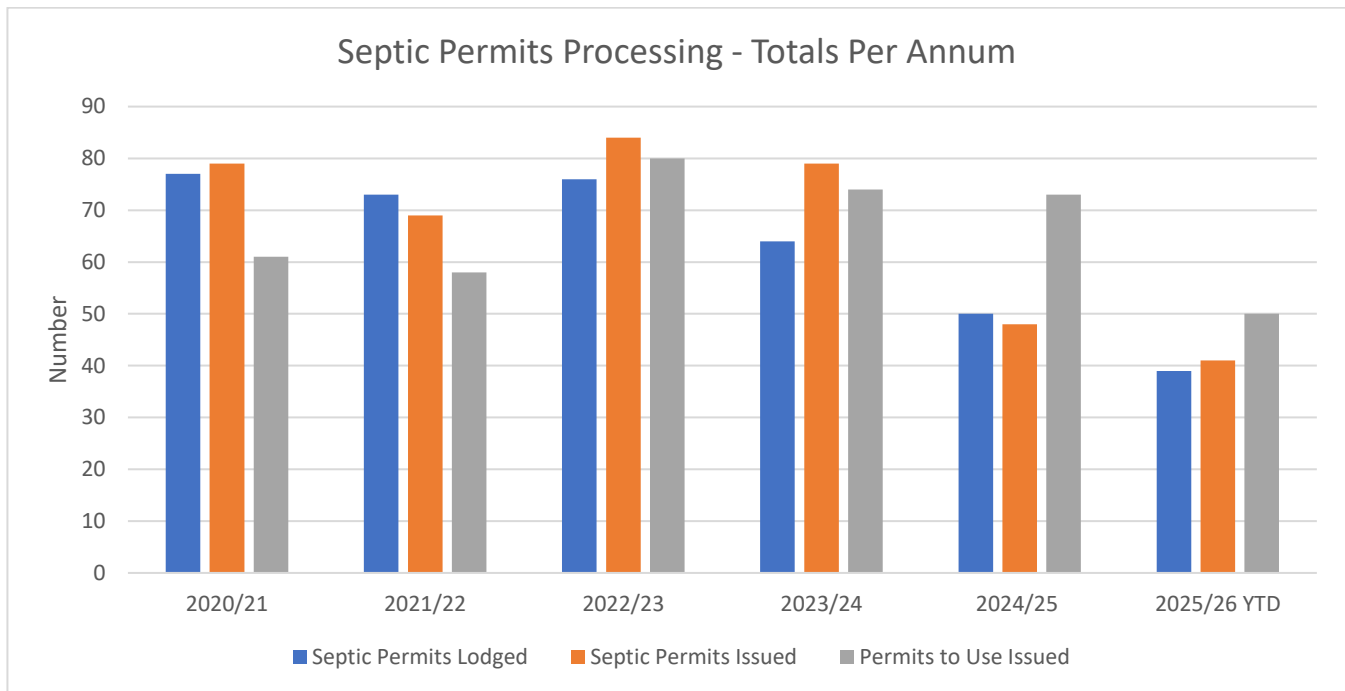
**Value of Building Permits Lodged with Council: March 2026**

Type	Number	Value
Residential	8	\$2,466,893
Alt & Additions	3	\$395,008
Sheds & Carports	8	\$634,635
Swimming Pools, Spas & Fences	3	\$530,745
Commercial & Public Amenities	0	0
<b>Total Cost of Building Works</b>		<b>\$4,027,281</b>

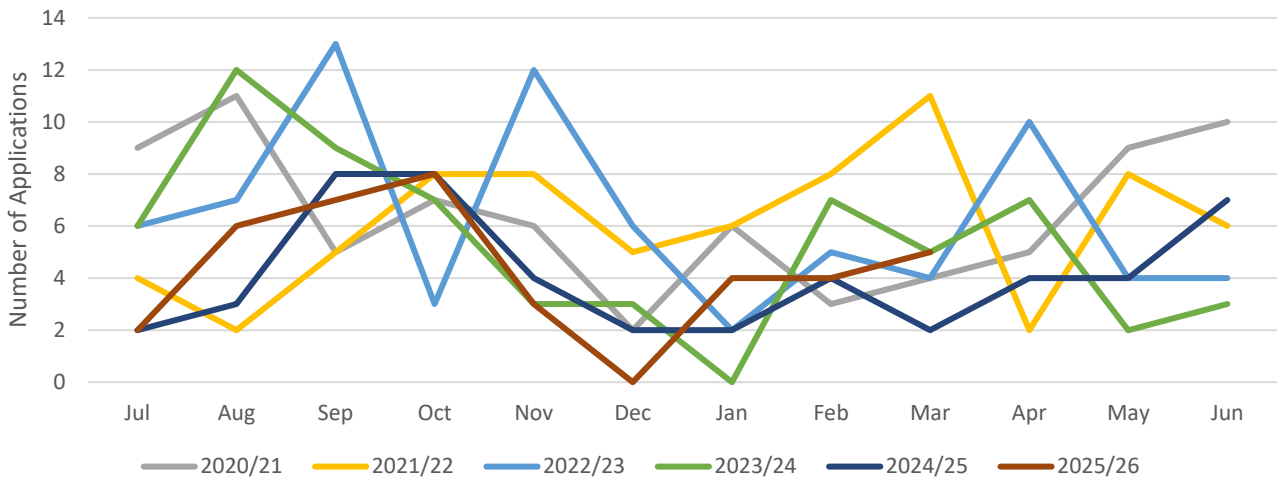
## 8. Regulatory Services

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

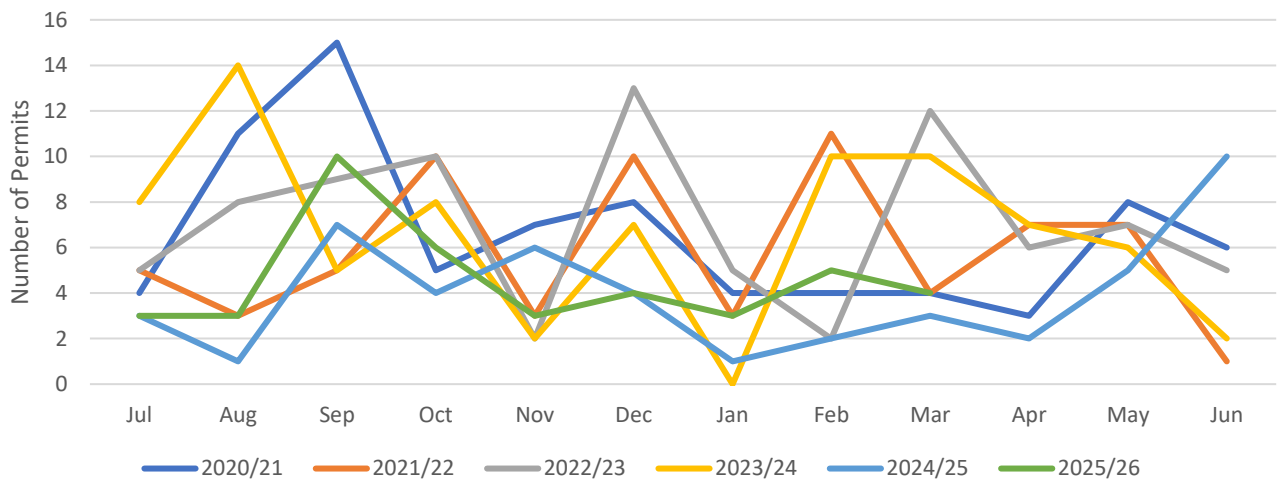
	Applications Lodged			Permits to Install Issued	Permits to Use Issued	Total
	New	Alteration	Total			
Jul	2		2	3	4	9
Aug	5	1	6	3	8	17
Sep	3	4	7	10	7	24
Oct	2	6	8	6	7	21
Nov	1	2	3	3	7	13
Dec			0	4	6	10
Jan	3	1	4	3	4	11
Feb	3	1	4	5	2	11
Mar	4	1	5	4	5	14
Apr						
May						
Jun						
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>130</b>



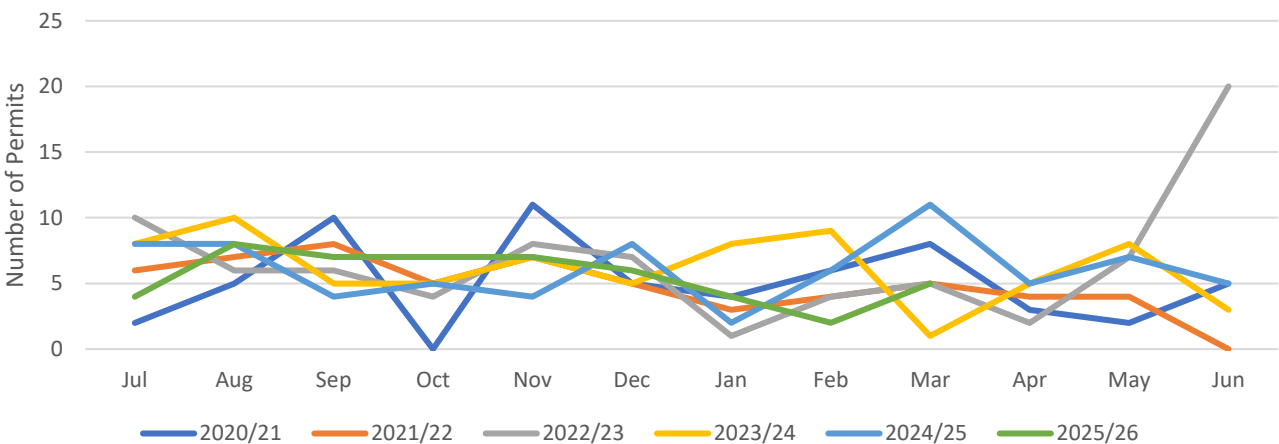
Septic Applications Lodged - Yearly Comparison

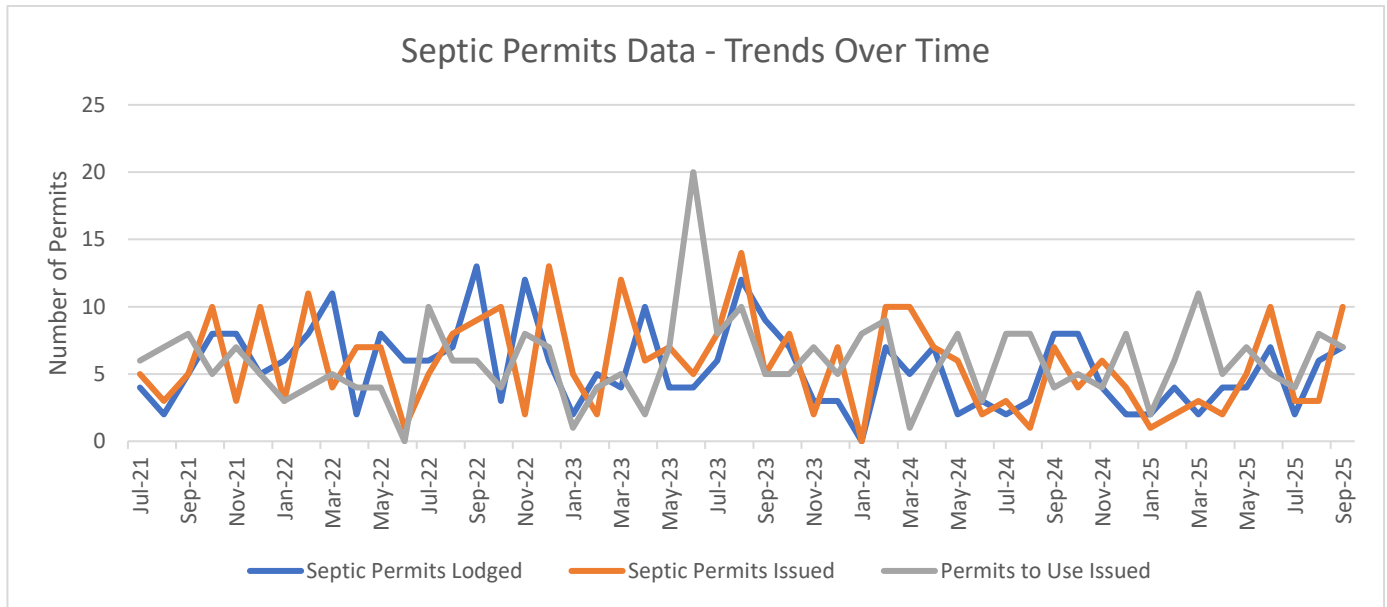


Septic Permits Issued - Yearly Comparison



Permits to Use 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	450	6	4	10
Mar	452	8		8
Apr				
May				
Jun				
<b>Total</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>44</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	10				2	8	
Mar	17	2				12	3
Apr							
May							
Jun							
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>20</b>
2024/25	135	8	1	7	19	90	10

**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	1	8		2	3	2		16
Mar		11		1	1	4		17
Apr								
May								
Jun								
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>238</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	13			13		
Mar - Jun						
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>			<b>31</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					31
Aug	5	9	5	9		15	2		1		46
Sep			3	10		7					20
Oct	3	8	10	6		1	1			1	30
Nov	2	8	2	8		6				71	97
Dec		4	2	4		14	6		1	117	148
Jan	1	5	1	5		47	1		1	37	98
Feb	1	4	1	1	1	19	4		3	24	58
Mar	2	6	4	6		26				22	66
Apr											
May											
Jun											
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>594</b>

## 9. Field Services

### Parks and Gardens

The Parks and Gardens team has completed the following activities for the month of March:

- ▶ Annual maintenance program of sporting fields, the Recreation Reserve, College Park Fields 1 & 2, Bonnie Doon and Lords Reserve. Works include over sowing, topdressing and fertilising grounds
- ▶ Pruning of Salvias and general tidy up of garden beds in the main roundabout.
- ▶ 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) of the narrow strips, the Gadhaba Gathering Place, Mansfield Aquatic Centre, Youth Centre, Buckland Community Centre & High Street Carpark
- ▶ Mowing and brush cutting in Jamieson
- ▶ Weed Spraying around the Botanic Gardens zigzag path, roundabouts, and at Jamieson
- ▶ Mansfield Cemetery mowing and brush cutting and plaque replacement
- ▶ Garden maintenance, mulching of roundabout, weed and spray at Botanic Park, weeding and pruning at the Shire office, weed and spray mechanics institute and pruning radio station and Erril Street.
- ▶ Litter pick up on High Street, at the Skate Park and on Highett Street
- ▶ Tree pruning works on Somerset Crescent, Botanic Park and Jamieson
- ▶ Irrigation repairs at Lords Reserve, Recreation Reserve and High Street
- ▶ Repair tree damaged fence at Mansfield Cemetery.
- ▶ Events set up and pack down, Harmony Day, signage for downhill event.
- ▶ Three burials, stallion of headstones and plaques
- ▶ Installation of pitch cover at Bonnie Doon in readiness for the upcoming football season.
- ▶ Seed and straw and general tidy up following the Lords toilet block refurbishment
- ▶ Brush cutting at the Mansfield Cemetery and on Buller Road
- ▶ Excavator works, clean-up of tree at Bonnie Doon and shrubs in Maindample
- ▶ Mulching Len Lynch Reserve and College Park

## Roads Crew

Grading kilometres completed for the month of March were 30.7 kms, totalling 100.7 kms for the year. At this time of year, grading slows down so that crews can respond to storm impact events, such as drainage infrastructure impacts. The team do maintain regular street sweeping to support drainage. Street sweeping activity will increase as autumn is upon us. The roads crew have also completed the following activities:

- ▶ Banner and flag change over
- ▶ Vandalism repairs
- ▶ Toilet blockages and repairs
- ▶ Removal of fallen trees
- ▶ Assist in delivery of capital works projects including Curia Street toilet & shower pod, Botanic Park Stage landscaping and Rifle Butts Road drainage reinstatement
- ▶ Installation of new bins
- ▶ Street sweeping of CBD
- ▶ Drain jetting in Goughs Bay

## Maintenance Grading

- ▶ Howqua Track
- ▶ Grammer School Road
- ▶ Rosella Street Sawmill
- ▶ Buttercup Road
- ▶ Royal Town Road
- ▶ Old Dry Creek Road
- ▶ Dry Creek Road
- ▶ Glenn Creek Road

## Drainage

- ▶ Fords Drive
- ▶ Bunstons Road
- ▶ Old Tolmie Road
- ▶ Rifle Butts Road
- ▶ Dry Creek Road
- ▶ Old Dry Creek Road
- ▶ Howqua Track
- ▶ Buttercup Road

## Excavator

- ▶ Replace damaged galv water pipe at depot
- ▶ Repair drainage issues on Rifle Butts Road
- ▶ Malcom Street maintenance
- ▶ Lords Reserve toilet block drainage
- ▶ James Street Bonnie Doon
- ▶ Installation of Solar Bollard Lights at Botanic Park

## Roadside Slashing

- ▶ Mt Battery Road
- ▶ Greenvale Lane
- ▶ Reardon walking trail



**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



## 10. Community Health and Wellbeing

### Maternal and Child Health

On 25 March, Kidsafe Victoria visited Mansfield to deliver their *Safe Seats, Safe Kids* program, funded by the Maternal and Child Health Service.

This free initiative provides child car restraint checks, professional fittings and practical education to help ensure children are travelling as safely as possible.

#### Session snapshot:

- ▶ 14 bookings
- ▶ 23 child car restraints inspected
- ▶ 22% were correctly installed and adjusted
- ▶ 35% required minor adjustments
- ▶ 17% required full reinstallation
- ▶ 26% were new installations (straight from the box)

These results highlight the importance of expert guidance, with the majority of restraints needing some level of correction or support.

The session also received excellent feedback from the community:

“Thank you for the fitting. My fitter was excellent and gave me helpful tips on how to install my two car seats securely. We had followed the manual, but our forward-facing toddler seat still felt loose when installed using the seat belt. The fitter showed me how to use an Infasecure belt clamp, which secured the seat without any movement.”

Programs like *Safe Seats, Safe Kids* play a vital role in building confidence among caregivers and improving child safety on our roads.

Universal MCH 2026	January - March	2025-2026 Financial Year
Birth Notifications	25	59
Enrolments	26	62 (105% target = 99%)
Key Ages and Stages Visits	189	572
Child Counselling	14	59
Child Referrals	17	66
Maternal Counselling	7	28
Maternal Referrals	14	25
Telephone Consultations	19.63 hours	51.01 hours
Additional Consultations	40.5 hours	124.5 hours
<b>Family Violence Support</b>		
Family Violence Consultations	3	8
Family Violence Counselling	1	4
<b>Groups</b>		

Universal MCH 2026	January - March	2025-2026 Financial Year
New parents group, sleep and settling, Introduction to solids	10 hours	37.5 hours
<b>Enhanced MCH hours</b>		
	110.44 hours	327.97 hours
<b>Sleep and Settling Outreach</b>		
	16.41 hours	46.99 hours

**Initiatives**

Council’s Maternal and Child Health team has launched a new initiative in Mansfield, introducing local antenatal classes to address a long-standing gap in services, as no classes have been held in the district for the past five years. The program is delivered in partnership with Mansfield District Hospital, Central General Practice and Dads Group, with nine attendees participating in the first sessions.

Week one and two covered labour and birth, and breastfeeding. The next session, led by Dads Group, will focus on surviving the early years, with the final session addressing the first few weeks after birth.

This initiative restores local access to antenatal education, reducing the need for families to travel outside the district and providing practical guidance and support from pregnancy through early parenthood.



**Staff Development**

The Maternal and Child Health Team attended the statewide Maternal and Child Health Conference on March 27, focused on Families Leading the Way. The conference provided valuable insight into strengthening family-led approaches and better responding to the needs of children and their families.

On 25 March, the team also attended MARAM Collaborative Practice Training: Together in Practice, delivered by Ovens Murray Family Violence Partnership. The session reinforced the importance of collaborative practice in supporting families experiencing family violence, including strengthening accountability for people using violence, improving support for victim-survivors through secondary consultation, applying the Information Sharing Schemes and enhancing risk assessment and management.

Overall, the training highlighted the value of cross-sector collaboration in building stronger relationships, sharing expertise and improving outcomes for families.

### **Mansfield Dads Group Grant**

Maternal and Child Health hosted a Dads Group - Family Fun Day on Sunday 15 March at Mansfield’s High Country Estate – Gardens, Gallery, Café and Maze.

There was an incredible turnout, with 26 adults and 26 children joining in the fun. Families enjoyed exploring the beautiful gardens, hunting for gnomes in the maze, and most importantly spending quality time together in great company.

Dads Group offers a relaxed and welcoming space where dads can connect, talk openly about parenting, share tips, and support each other—so no one feels like they’re doing it alone.



### **Supported Playgroup**

Crawl and Play have combined session one and two this term and running a longer group as most participants were staying for both sessions.

#### **Current Playgroups**

<b>Term 2 - 2026</b>	<b>Groups</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday	Crawl and Play	St Mary’s Mercy centre, 39 Malcolm St, Mansfield	9:30-11:15
Wednesday	Youth Centre 1	Mansfield Youth Centre, 7 Erril St, Mansfield	10:00-12:00
Friday	Youth Centre 2	Mansfield Youth Centre, 7 Erril St, Mansfield	10:00-12:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 per week</b>		



**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	498
Term 4	155	99	111	109	N/A	474
Term 1	159	N/A	69	65	N/A	293
Term 2					N/A	
Total	434	177	280	276	98	1265

**Integrated Family Services**

The Integrated Family Services (IFS) team continue to work with cases involving some level of family violence. We have also seen an increase in the number of clients requiring material support, many most recently for fuel vouchers to attend medical appoints in Albury, Wangaratta, Benalla and Shepparton.

We continue to collaborate with various community organisations who are also assisting clients with various means of support.

The Coordinator Community and IFS will meet with Mansfield Shire's Family Violence Liaison Officer in the coming weeks, to continue to monitor and implement strategies to combat the number of family violence incidents in Mansfield Shire.

Practitioners are currently working with 14 open cases all located across Mansfield Shire and Benalla.

- ▶ Service Hours January to March – 497 (1692.04 YTD)
- ▶ Target hours for the 2025/26 year - 2253.59

**Financial Counselling**

During January to March we have received 14 financial assistance requests, 5 are currently open and active, 1 disengaged and 8 are on the waitlist to be seen. The current waitlist is 6-8 weeks.

Financial Counselling clients are presenting with multiple issues making them complex to manage. Many are presenting as a result of cost of living increases, loss of income, homelessness, mental health issues, family violence and disability.

To date we have been able to support clients with having over \$7,000 worth of debts waived. This allows clients a break from the stress and anxiety of ongoing debt and generally being unable to make repayments or having to choose between rent and food for the family.

We are continuing to collaborate with Mansfield District Welfare Group and Mansfield District Hospital Social Worker regarding referrals and supports for clients.

## Community Strengthening

### Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG)

#### Mansfield Health, Community and Volunteers Expo 2026

The second annual Mansfield Health, Community and Volunteers Expo 2026 offered community members the opportunity to explore 30 different stalls, providing information on various services and community groups within the shire. Held on 18 March 2026 in the main street, the event was supported by the Council, Mansfield SIAG and Mansfield District Hospital. A diverse array of stallholders participated, all of whom were featured in a booklet containing contact details and information for each represented organisation.

Council officers served a free BBQ throughout the expo, face painting was popular for children, while performances by talented young musicians Minne Aldridge and Eamon Nealon were a highlight for all attendees.



#### SIAG - General Community Stream Proposed Initiatives

The following new initiatives have been identified through engagement with community groups across the Shire and are supported by SIAG for funding this financial year. Each initiative has been reviewed by officers to ensure alignment with the grant guidelines and feasibility within the FY2025-26 Budget:

- ▶ Goughs Bay Progress Association - fundraising event for community support after the recent fires
- ▶ Rotary/VFF - 'Just a Farmer' movie screening promoting mental health awareness amongst the farming community
- ▶ North East Triathlon Club - marquee and flags to help launch the new club
- ▶ Ancona Community Group - split system and new stove for the Ancona Community Hall, allowing more events to be run through all seasons
- ▶ Delatite Pickle Ball Club - equipment to support inclusion of additional members
- ▶ Woods Point Progress Association - new mini golf flags and a coffee machine to support more

social inclusion activities

- ▶ Tolmie Sports/Community Group - printed newsletter and tennis/pickle ball 'come and try' day
- ▶ Jamieson and Howqua/Macs Cove Community Group - Running a bush dance to bring the community together and as a fundraising opportunity to recognise efforts of the local volunteers
- ▶ Bonnie Doon Community Group – provide a new coffee machine for the Community Hub and to run a Barista course for anyone interested, encouraging employment opportunities in hospitality
- ▶ Mairdample Community Group – install a small basketball space and basketball ring for social engagement opportunities
- ▶ Merton Community Group – Pickle Ball setup or table tennis tables to provide additional social connection and inclusion activities
- ▶ Rotary Club - support promotional activity for 'Say No' campaign
- ▶ Mansfield Tennis Club Pickle Ball - pickle ball equipment to support the addition of new members
- ▶ Barjarg Community Group – mobile table and chairs for the community gathering space being established
- ▶ Mansfield Badminton Association - equipment and operational costs to keep the sessions going
- ▶ Mansfield Let's Talk - free community mental health first aid training
- ▶ Merton Community Group - sewing equipment and accessories for the craft group
- ▶ Mansfield Cycling without Age - operational costs to keep this initiative running
- ▶ Jamieson Community Group - support Jamieson Autumn Festival
- ▶ Mansfield District Hospital Respond Project - facility hire for Mother Goose Program
- ▶ Mansfield Armchair Cinema - 'View, Chat and Chew' sessions

**SIAG - First Nations Stream Proposed Initiatives (via Gadhaba):**

- ▶ Catering for monthly meetings
- ▶ Wandana Artefacts Cultural Kits for schools
- ▶ Reconciliation week films
- ▶ Pyrographic Pen for burning pelts during workshops
- ▶ Purchase of pelts for workshop and then for the resulting cloak to be displayed in museum
- ▶ Mural along Youth Centre fence for NAIDOC week
- ▶ Funding to support the editing of footage from a previous cloak workshop for the film to be part of the Museum project

## Health and Quality

Activity within this role has been relatively steady, with a continued focus on maintaining core functions and progressing key areas of work. An L2P program review is underway.

Funding for the Fresh Fruit in Schools initiative has been extended, allowing the program to continue through to 30 June 2026. This extension supports ongoing access to healthy food options for local students and reinforces Council's commitment to improving health outcomes for children and young people.

Council is also working in partnership with the Mansfield Football and Netball Club to support delivery of the 'Mansfield Girls Can' program, strengthening opportunities for participation, inclusion and community connection.

## Community Networks and Wellbeing

### Outlying Communities Infrastructure Fund

2025/26 Round – Four community groups have been successful in applying for funding for this round: Barjarg Community Group, Bonnie Doon Community Group, Delatite Valley Association and Peppin Hub Inc.

The Delatite Valley Association were successful in applying for funding for a mural on the Carters Road water tank; however, due to maintenance works planned a new location was sought. They have approached the Merrijig CFA to potentially install a mural on the CFA shed. Merrijig CFA voted in support of this project.

2024/25 Round - Five community groups have completed and acquitted their projects. It is proposed for one project to be cancelled due to further engagement needed on the Delatite Valley Plan (Delatite Valley Association's Merrijig Public Park study).

2023/24 Round - All projects have been completed and acquitted.



**Fair Access Action Plan** – Council was successfully awarded a ‘Change our Game’ grant of \$3,700 to run fair access and equity workshops for sporting clubs. The 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 May and will be held at the Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve.



**Gadhaba**

A Meet and Greet Gathering was held on Monday 23 March 2026.

**Arts Collaboration Forum**

From the expressions of interest collated from Council's Engage page, 10 submissions were received and members presented at February Council Meeting were noted by Council. Initial meeting organised for 21 April 2026.

**Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Community Reference Group**

Next meeting organised for 20 May 2026.

**Sport and Recreation Reference Group**

Held on 16 March 2026 with 9 members in attendance.

Items discussed: Mansfield Sporting Complex gender neutral change rooms, Lords Oval pavilion progress, College Park shade sail, water fountain and picnic table progress, locations for additional playing fields, Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund, introduction to Delatite Pickleball Club and Junior Netball interchange benches for the bottom court.

**Community Health and Wellbeing Facebook Page**

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

**Volunteer Coordination**

In the last quarter, two learners from the L2P program successfully obtained their probationary license. There are currently nine 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 with another two to be matched this month.

Mansfield L2P program submitted a quality assurance report and 2026-27 program application to Transport Accident Commission and Department of Transport in March 2026. Council is waiting to hear the outcome.

The Visitor Information Centre is currently supported by three volunteers who have been gaining invaluable experience and enhancing their knowledge to collaborate effectively with staff and provide visitors with accurate information. There are three dedicated volunteers who accompany the community on the Thursday Community Bus service. The Friends of Mansfield Botanic Park (FOMBP) is thriving with seven members actively involved in maintaining the community garden and surrounding areas at the Botanic Park. Following a recommendation from the FOMBP, Council officers are currently organising a sign for the community garden beds. The sign will invite the community to enjoy the fresh produce and encourage those interested to join the group.

## Community Connections

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

### Harmony Festival 2026

Harmony Festival is part of Harmony Week which celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. The event was held on 21 March 2026. After months of planning, it was an extremely well received event and enjoyed immensely by the community from near and afar. The event, run by Rural Australians for Refugees, was supported by SIAG funding, along with grants and donations from other organisations.

### Learner Accessible Pool Scheme (LAPS) Participation Project

The Community Connections Officer role in this project is to support community engagement and awareness of the project. Community feedback is reported back to the LAPS project team for consideration.

### Seniors Festival 2026

This 2026 Seniors Festival will be held during the month of October. Planning has commenced for this year's festival with communications seeking community group engagement recently sent out via email. Feedback from community groups interested in being involved is sought by early May, so the final plan of activities and events can be completed well in advance.

### Emergency Recovery Support

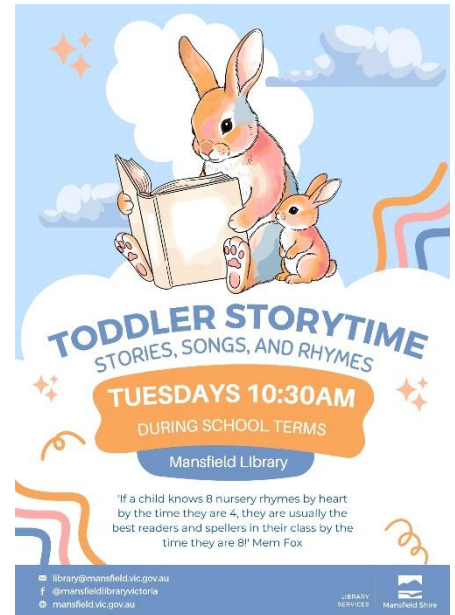
The Community Connections Officer is actively involved in the coordination of recovery efforts post the Longwood Fires. The Business Recovery Breakfast was attended where the community connector role was discussed and how the role could be of assistance along with Recovery assistance information.

In addition, a post fire wellbeing session was organised with a DFFH Psychologist to come and talk with staff who were involved with the fires in any way.

## 11. Library

### Toddler Storytime

This month the Library successfully launched an expanded Storytime program. Following a review of internal programming, wider community offerings for young children and through community feedback, a service gap catering to the toddler age group was identified. As a result, the program has transitioned to a toddler specific session and increased from twice monthly to every Tuesday morning during school terms. This move nearly doubles the previous number of sessions on offer, and ensures the Library remains a primary destination for early childhood development in Mansfield, providing families with consistent high-quality literacy support and guidance. Each session includes a 30 minute immersion in a language rich environment incorporating stories, songs and rhymes.



### Mansfield Health, Community & Wellbeing Expo

The Library participated in the Mansfield Health, Community and Wellbeing Expo sharing a stand with Supported Playgroup. The event enabled the Library to engage directly with community members who may not be regular library users.



### Bunny Baskets

In the lead up to the Easter long weekend, the Library offered a drop-in craft initiative with free 'Bunny Baskets' for children to decorate on site or take home as a holiday project. The community response was overwhelmingly positive, with the activity receiving a near 100% uptake, with only one basket remaining at the end of the program.





## Facebook

A snapshot of the Mansfield Library Victoria Facebook page:

- ▶ Followers – 1,224
- ▶ Posts published – 25
- ▶ Views – 8,700
- ▶ Visits – 348

Most popular posts for March:

**Mansfield Library Victoria**  
Mar 17 • 🌐

🐰 Hop into the Library for a sweet Easter treat. 🐰

Our wonderful Friends of The Mansfield Library have put together these adorable fundraising Easter packs. For just \$5, you'll get a specially chosen book and some fun treats tucked inside!

We have two versions available:

- 👶 Preschool Packs
- 🎒 Primary School Packs

📍 Available now at the Library  
⚠️ Note: \$5 per pack, cash only please!






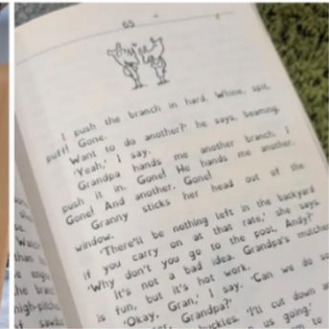

👍❤️ 29      4 Comments

**Mansfield Library Victoria**  
Mar 19 • 🌐

Did you know we have children's books designed specifically for dyslexic readers?

These editions feature:

- ✅ Specially designed fonts to help differentiate between letters
- ✅ Heavy bottomed characters to keep their eyes anchored on the line
- ✅ Extra space between words and lines for easier tracking

👍❤️ 15

Statistics for March 2026

	Visits	Loans	Library Programs	Program attendees	Room Use	IT help	Holds placed	New users
<b>March</b>	<b>3114</b>	<b>3266</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>39</b>
Feb	2818	3212	8	57	13	146	714	46
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
<b>March 2025</b>	<b>2639</b>	<b>2711</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>31</b>

## 12. Youth Services & Events

### School Holiday Program

Mansfield Shire Youth launched its School Holiday Program for early April, featuring a mix of activities that proved highly popular — reaching 70% capacity within four days of opening bookings.

### Code Club

Code Club has attracted a steady group of new students throughout Term 1, with a focus on the fundamentals of the Scratch programming platform. This foundation will set participants up for a range of tasks including robotics in Term 2. The use of SIAG grant funding to support a weekly trainer has kept attendees engaged and attendance consistent.

### Youth Advisory Group (YAG) & Amplify

Both the newly formed YAG and Amplify groups are now meeting regularly, with encouraging early results. The YAG is reviewing the plan presented to Council in 2025 to identify key focus areas for the year. Early indicators suggest mental health access and support, as well as the creation of dedicated spaces and groups for 18–25 year olds, are likely to emerge as priorities.

The Amplify group is heavily involved in planning the Amplify Youth Stage at the Jamieson Autumn Festival — their first full-scale event. New solo artists have joined the lineup through an expressions of interest process and Council officers have already created performance opportunities to help build their confidence and experience.

In April, the youth team will travel to Melbourne as panel guests at the State Amplify Conference hosted by Youth Affairs Victoria, presenting on Council's successes. This is a significant achievement for the team and reflects the sustained engagement and interest of young people in Council's services.

### Youth Centre

Term 1 has seen a steady increase in attendance at the weekly program, with a growing core group of regulars. The current weekly schedule is as follows:

- ▶ Monday — Various 4-week programs (Pickleball, Sewing) and Computer Games
- ▶ Tuesday — Amplify Meetings and Social Crafternoons
- ▶ Wednesday — Code Club and Board Games
- ▶ Thursday — YAG Meetings and Switch It Up Nintendo Switch Tournaments
- ▶ Each afternoon — Music Room and Study Spaces available

## Events

### Council Run Events

#### **Mansfield Volunteer Expo – 18 March**

Equipment setup, site setup and additional musical acts sourced through the Amplify youth team.

### Council supported Events

#### **Mansfield Pottery Festival – 6 – 9 March**

Council supplied in-kind support with equipment loan, waste costs and water cart support. Council offered further support with music costs and invited media from the Australian Pottery Journal to cover the event.

#### **Merrijig Rodeo – 7 March**

Council supplied in-kind support with equipment loan, waste costs and water cart support for main areas of access.

#### **Mansfield Campdraft – 14 – 15 March**

Council supplied in-kind support with equipment loans, waste management and water cart support.

#### **Vic Downhill Mountain Bikes – 14 – 15 March**

Council supported the Vic Downhill Series by supplying traffic management setups in-kind and waste costs.

#### **Tom Curtin Experience – 20 March**

Council supported the Tom Curtin Experience through in-kind equipment hire, chair rental, waste costs, additional toilet rental and marketing support. A focus on bushfire recovery with free entry to those impacted by the Longwood fires.

#### **Mansfield Harmony Day – 21 March**

As a major sponsor, Council was heavily involved in many aspects of the Harmony Day planning and delivery. Site map planning, equipment loan and setups, waste costs, furniture hire, co-ordination of staging setup and on-site assistance was provided. The Harmony Day event was well attended and a credit to the main organisers. As well as being operationally supported by Council, this event was a SIAG sponsored event.

#### **Bald Archies – 21 March – 19 April**

Support with marketing and promotion through social media posts and content creation by our in-house tourism officer.

#### **Equine Revival Weekend – 21 – 22 March – High Country Arena (Mansfield Zoo)**

Council supported this Equine event in its second year with in-kind equipment including chairs, marquees, urns and umbrellas. This event is attended by approx. 60 people who stay in town at the Alzburg Resort for two nights, dine out at the Delatite Hotel, receive catering from The Kitchen Door and Produce Store. This is a high end experience that brings in economic benefit to

multiple businesses in town and we will work with organisers to grow this further as part of our equine event research from our Destination Management Action Plan.

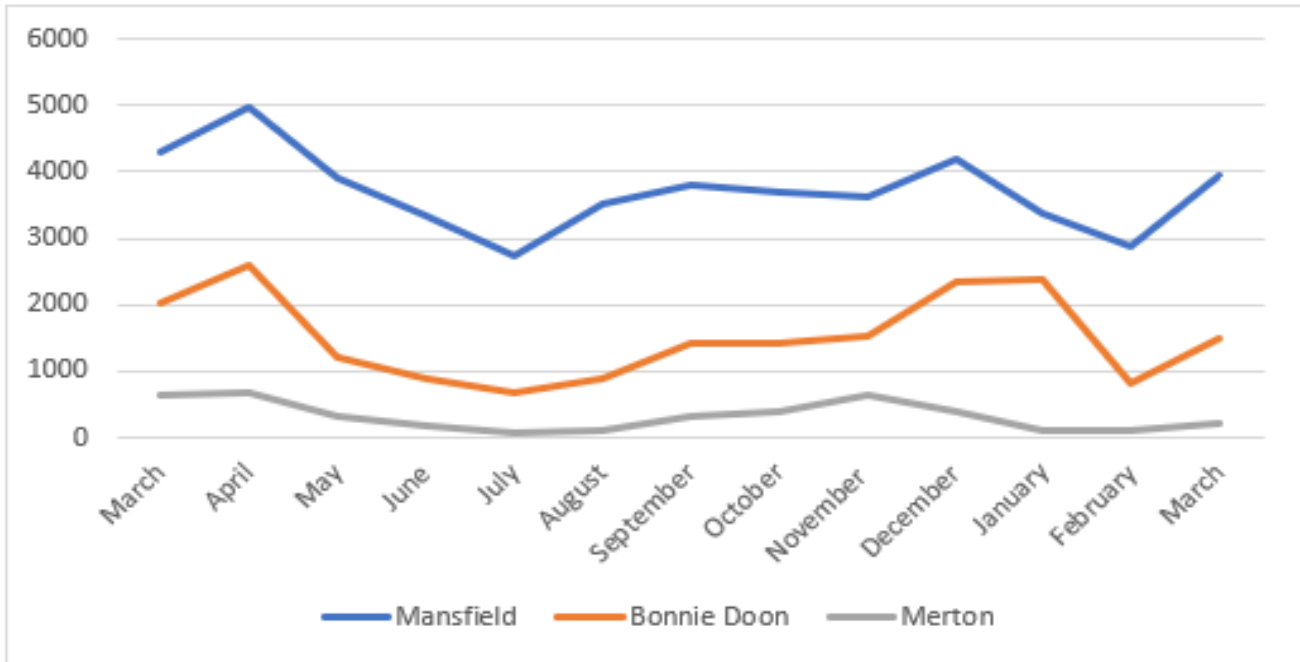
**Upcoming Events**

April	May	June
4 – Bush Market	9 – Farmers Market	13 – Farmers Market
11 – Farmers Market	9 – Parkrun x Lauriston	19 -21 – Lantern Festival
17 – 19 – Jamieson Autumn Festival	10 – Mother Day Classic	20 – That’s My Farm Market
18 – That’s My Farm Market	18 – That’s My Farm Market	27 – Farmers Market
25 – ANZAC Day Events – Mansfield, Merrijig, Jamieson	23 – Farmers Market	
25 – Farmers Market		

### 13. Economic Development

#### Visitor Services

##### Great Victorian Rail Trail Rail Trail usage

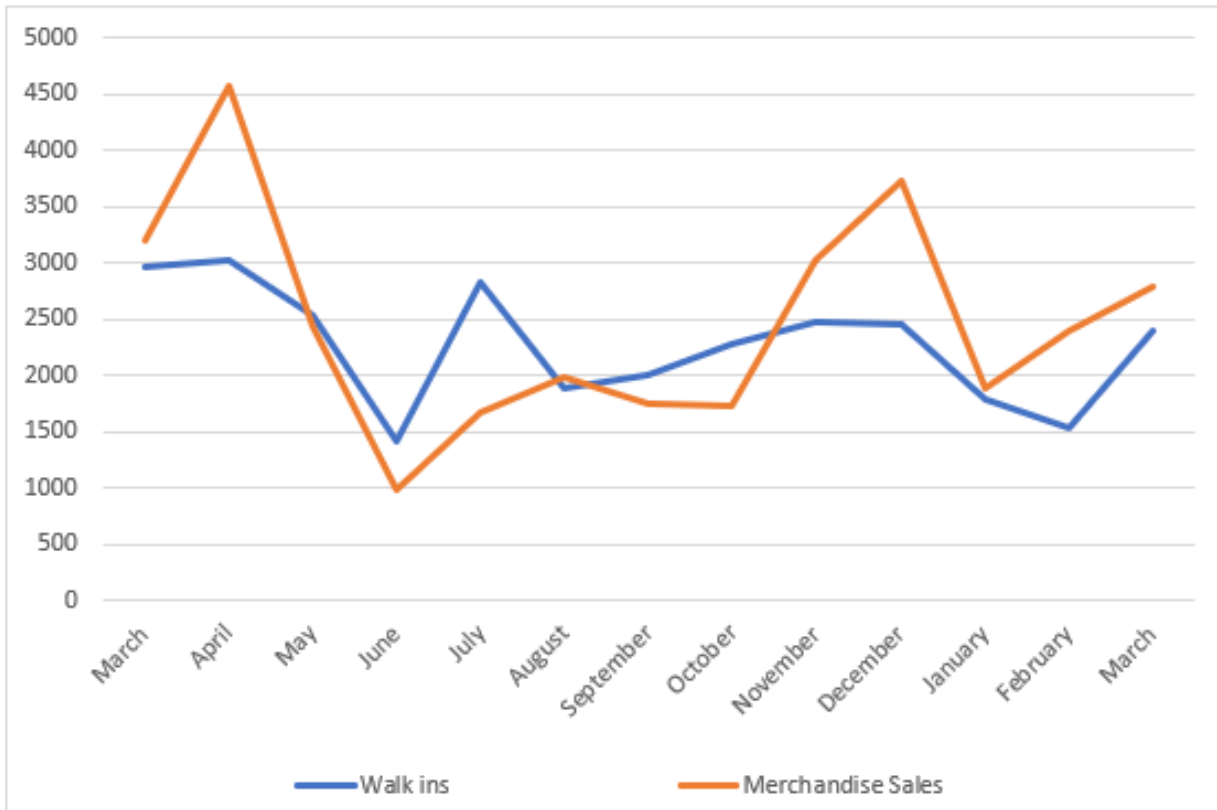


Location	Mar 2024 – Mar 2025	Mar 2025 - Mar 2026	+/-	%
Mansfield	53,913	44,050	-9,863	-18%
Bonnie Doon	26,732	17,728	-9,004	-40%
Merton	7,284	3496	-3,788	- 59%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87,929</b>	<b>65,274</b>	<b>-22,655</b>	<b>-25.76%</b>

	March 2025	March 2026	+/-	%
Mansfield	4,289	3,935	-354	-8%
Bonnie Doon	2,025	1,506	-519	-25%
Merton	647	213	-434	-67%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,961</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>-1,307</b>	<b>-18.7%</b>

A significant 25% decrease in Rail Trail usage is attributed to the effects of the January bushfires. Regular, local users are maintaining numbers on the Mansfield section, while Bonnie Doon has experienced a 40% decrease in usage and Merton a 59% decrease.

Council officers are working closely with Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires on a recovery plan for the trail, however until Murrindindi have been able to conduct full impact assessments for their section of the rail trail no timeframe can be provided for recovery.



**Visitor Information Centre (VIC)**

Location	March 2024 – March 2025	March 2025 - March 2026	+/-	%
Visitors	30771	29611	-1160	-3.7%
Retail Sales	\$35,001.69	\$32,165.95	-\$2,835.74	-8.1%

Location	March 2025	March 2026	+/-	%
Visitors	2,972	2,397	-575	-19%
Retail Sales	\$3,202.5	\$2,797.5	-\$405	-12.6%

Considering the impacts of January and February on the VIC the year on year, the team are working to recoup some costs with busier periods predicted. March can be considered an indicator of the reduction in people not returning to the shire yet after the bushfires and is reflected across the shire in businesses and accommodation feedback. Council officers will continue to work with these businesses and Tourism North East to encourage return visitation.

## 14. Communications

### Media releases

Ten media releases were generated and distributed:

- ▶ Mansfield Shire counts cost of busy bushfire season
- ▶ Mayor Rabie welcomes Governor of Victoria to Mansfield Shire
- ▶ Mansfield goes wild as 18,000 flock to Hunting & Fishing Expo weekend
- ▶ Mansfield Health, Community and Volunteers Expo returns for 2026
- ▶ ‘Recovering Together’ Workshop Success in Merton
- ▶ Lessons to be learned from inquiry into community consultation
- ▶ Mansfield Shire pet registrations now due
- ▶ Runs on the board at Lords Reserve
- ▶ Adventure into space at Mansfield Library this school holiday
- ▶ Bushfire Recovery Breakfast turnout signals clear intent

### Responses to media enquiries

Responses were provided on the following topics:

- ▶ Fire-impacted councils MoU

### Social media

Council’s Facebook page is followed by 11,466 accounts. Page activity over the past 4 months:

	December	January	February	March
Change in followers	+486	+2,052	+331	+212
Content interactions	4,487	28,588	7,647	5,732
Link clicks	1,359	3,240	544	276

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

Topic	Reach	Interactions	Comments
Roads and road safety in Mansfield Shire	81,633	2,215	203
Road closure update: Woods Point Road	79,284	275	6
Free Camping Waste Disposal: Easter Long Weekend	24,376	82	7
Dogs for Adoption, Milo and Coco	23,646	141	23



## Engage Mansfield

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

	December	January	February	March
New registrations	23	13	8	16
Visits	2581	2143	2524	1134
Engaged	65	111	246	38
Engagement rate	3.2%	6.7%	11.8%	3.6%

## YouTube

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

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Views	No meeting	No meeting	70	73

## 15. Digital Transformation Project

### Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) - Civica

Mansfield has now entered its fifth month of using the Civica ERP system. The system is stabilising, with ongoing resolution of minor issues as they arise.

A meeting was held with Civica to clarify support arrangements. It has been confirmed that charges apply for non-defect-related requests, including configuration changes, process guidance, and general support queries.

### Civica's Animal Registration module

An initial solution questionnaire has been provided to Civica. Relevant staff has been invited to Animals Module Configuration/Data Discovery Session with Civica and Pacesetter on 16/04. Implementation is progressing as planned.

### Civica's Infringement Management module

Business process training for Infringement Management has been completed. Implementation is proceeding as planned.

### Civica's Debt Recovery module

A series of configuration and operational training sessions are scheduled across late April and early May. These will be followed by business process validation, UAT and a planned go-live on 4 June. Implementation remains on track.

### Citizen Central

The CRM, IT and Communications teams have completed initial configuration training and commenced setup of the Mansfield Citizen Central portal. Progress has been impacted by access permission issues, which are currently being addressed with Civica. While configuration is slower than planned, overall delivery remains on track.

### Rates

The rates team is undertaking targeted upskilling through UAT-based process validation and additional Civica-led training. Support is being coordinated across Civica and partner councils to ensure readiness. This approach is consistent across participating councils.

### Data Archival Solution

The proposed archival solution has been demonstrated in the Benalla environment, with positive initial feedback. The Mansfield environment setup is scheduled between 14 April and 28 August.

### Health and Wastewater (HWW)

Contracts have been executed across all councils for the Enterprise Creative Cloud solution.

Focus is now on securing a data migration partner, as the current system licence expires at the end of June. Implementation is scheduled to commence in April 2026.

### Information and Records Management (IM)

Migration from G: Drive to SharePoint is approximately 50% complete, with current focus on Capital Works and Assets. This has also provided an opportunity to improve folder structures and align them more closely to business needs.

The new Information Management Centre (IMC) have been demonstrated, with strong initial feedback. A broader demonstration, including Information Concierge, a solution that helps to manage incoming documentation is scheduled for governance groups.

Targeted SharePoint training is being delivered to Capital Works team, alongside the establishment of a SharePoint & IM support channel for superusers. Additional user guidance materials are currently in development.

### **Planning, Building and Regulatory (PBR)**

All PBR modules are now operational across participating councils and managed under Business as Usual. Ongoing collaboration with the vendor continues to focus on system improvements and enhancements. Key areas include:

- Alignment of Local Laws configuration with updated strategy.
- Resolution of planning data issues, particularly related to advertisement processes.
- Process improvements in Animal Management, including pool barrier registrations.
- Rework of the Civica–EVis integration following an unsatisfactory initial demonstration. In the interim, manual workarounds are in place to address the lack of integration.