

# Background and quotes on remaining Mallee back on track projects

## **Murrayville Wetlands and Walking Trails Project**

The Murrayville Wetlands and Walking Trails project is a community initiative focused on economic, social and environmental outcomes.

This project is based on a community plan to establish environmental wetlands in Murrayville, rejuvenate existing walking trails and repurpose town storm water from planned drainage upgrades already completed by Council.

"This project will be great in terms of the wellbeing benefits of having water in the town, it will make the town more attractive and complement the nearby Recreation Reserve.

"It will also help with the birdlife and the ecotourism we're already involved with, which will be a plus in attracting tourists to the town and the economic benefits associated with that.

"I believe it will really give us a chance to put the town on the map and there are future opportunities it would create, such as festivals and live music acts that could play on a deck out on the wetlands."

- Murrayville Wetlands and Walking Trail committee representative Kym Kingdon, in association with the Murrayville Landcare Group.

## **Ouyen Fitness, Health and Wellbeing Centre**

Establishment of a 24-hour community-owned gym that can be utilised by the community to run fitness, health and wellbeing programs, personal training, group fitness and training classes, featuring quality equipment.

"This has very much been a community-driven project that will provide benefits to so many people in the community

"It will provide both social and physical benefits, including for sporting clubs, it will allow opportunities for rehabilitation for older people or those with medical issues.

"The community has put in a lot of work, including people donating money, which is why we're really excited about the fact that we now have funding that will enable us to complete the gym."

- Ouyen Inc. outgoing Chair Scott Anderson

## **Underbool Bowls Artificial Turf Project**

Replacement of the existing grass surface with a low-cost maintenance and long-term cost effective synthetic green.

"It's always been a battle to maintain the grass greens, and water is obviously essential for maintaining grass. It's also quite expensive buying all the chemicals and sprays to keep it in good condition, as well as the volunteer hours required to keep up this maintenance.

"The huge benefit of a synthetic green is it will take away a lot of the burden from the volunteer members, who currently curate and nurture the grass green.

"Looking ahead, the artificial turf will mean our current members and casual bowlers from the community can bowl on a consistent surface whenever it suits them, with the aim to entice some younger players.

"It's much more than just a sporting facility. It's a real asset and a social centre for our community."

- Immediate past President Underbool Bowling Club Robert Gloster

## **Walpeup Hall Restoration Final Stage**

Complete the restoration of the Walpeup Hall, including completion of internal and external works.

"We've already made a lot of progress since the restoration started and this funding will allow us to complete the work.

"It will allow us to paint the supper room, some work on the outside, and a little bit of work on refurbishment of the walls around the stage area.

"The aim of the whole project was to preserve the building, which will have been there for 100 years in 2023, and once it is completed, I think it will certainly be there for another hundred years."

- Walpeup Hall Committee President Greg Vallance.

