



Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into Climate Resilience

Hearing Date: 3 December 2024

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Barmah Community Group

Received Date: 4 December 2024

1. **Melina BATH, page 30**

Question Asked to Maureen BLAIR:

I guess I am interested in the community plan. Would you like to provide that to this committee? After we finish today, could you submit that to this committee, take that on notice?

Response:

See Community plan below.



Barmah

Community Plan
2024 - 2029

Barmah is 247 kms directly north of Melbourne, and is 63 kms north west of Shepparton, the closest large rural city. Barmah is 34 kms east of Echuca, and is 67 kms west of Cobram, Moira Shire's administrative centre.

Barmah



- 1 Barmah Bridge Caravan Park
 - 2 Barmah Hotel Motel
 - 3 Barmah Punt
 - 4 Jack Edwards Park Toilets and BBQ
 - 5 Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation
 - 6 Tinklers Park
 - 7 Country Fire Authority (CFA)
 - 8 Barmah Roadhouse and Post Office
 - 9 Yenbena Centre
 - 10 Barmah Food Shack
 - 11 Murray Perch Caravan Park
 - 12 **Off map:**
 Barmah Island
 Barmah Muster Yards
 Dharnya Centre
- Barmah Walks

Our History

Yorta Yorta Country

The Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation are the custodians of this ancient land, deeply connected to the river, Country, and culture that have sustained them for thousands of years. Living alongside the mighty Dhungalla, or what we call the Murray River today, their bond with its meandering waters runs deeper than the riverbed itself. For generations, the river and land have been more than just geographical features; they're a lifeline, a vital part of their identity, and a pathway for spiritual journeys.

Stretching from Violet Town to Finley, and from Howlong to Cohuna, Yorta Yorta Country blankets a vast expanse nourished by Dhungalla and its tributaries.

Barmah is an important cultural and spiritual site for the Yorta Yorta people. Evidence exists of a long and continuous presence in Barmah, whose very name is thought to derive from paama, meaning meeting place, and where there was a plentiful supply of food.

Today, the Yorta Yorta Nation stands strong as guardians of their ancestral lands, asserting their inherent rights to water, land, and cultural heritage. In the embrace of Dhungalla, the Yorta Yorta find strength, belonging, and purpose. Theirs is a tale of resilience, deeply rooted in the rivers, lands, and cultures that have shaped their identity for generations.

Post-settlement

Originally named "Parma" on early maps, "Barmah" is uniquely located north of the Murray River/New South Wales border but in Victoria. This River not only divides the states, it also separates Barmah from the New South Wales communities of Cumeragunja and Bama. However, its waters are the lifeblood of Barmah and the surrounding forest.

Charles Sturt was the first white person to pass by Barmah in 1838 while droving cattle from Sydney to Adelaide. Edward Curr took up the first squatter run which included the Barmah area in 1841. The steamer Lady Augusta passed by Barmah in 1854 and Waldo Rice in 1855 was the first white settler in the district.

The township sprang up from a need for a crossing point and landing for the timber and agricultural industries, after initially being established on the Cobb & Co Coach Route at Barmah East community on the Broken Creek. It comprised a School, Roman Catholic Church, Post Office, Cobb & Co Changeover, Forest Commission Depot, Wine Palace, Tennis and Football Clubs.

The ensuing years saw the town evolve from an 1866 survey. Buildings and structures such as a Punt, Store and Hotel, Barmah Muster, School and Sawmill were established prior to the 20th century with the community largely dependent on the timber industry.

The course of the next century saw more infrastructure, industry and events, and replacement of old buildings, with disruption by World War I and World War II.

Who are we?

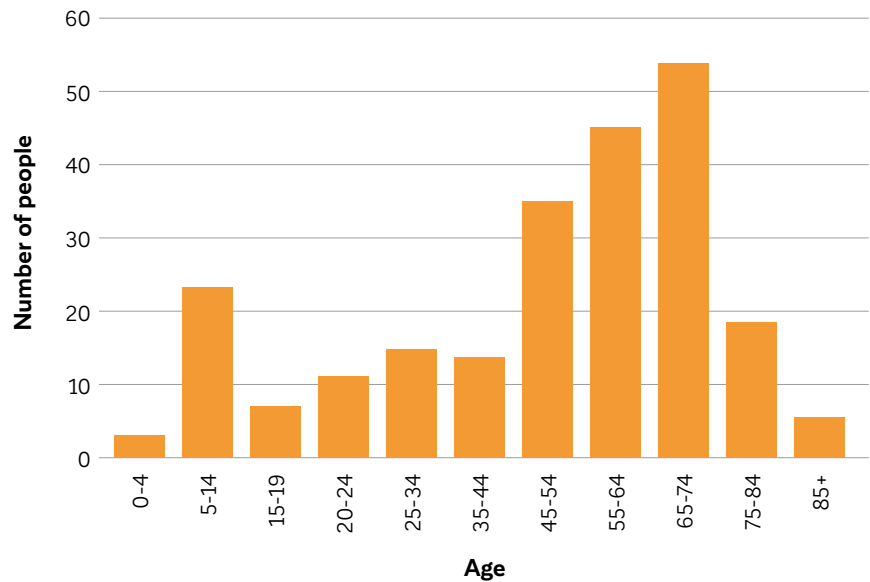
Population

Total: 229

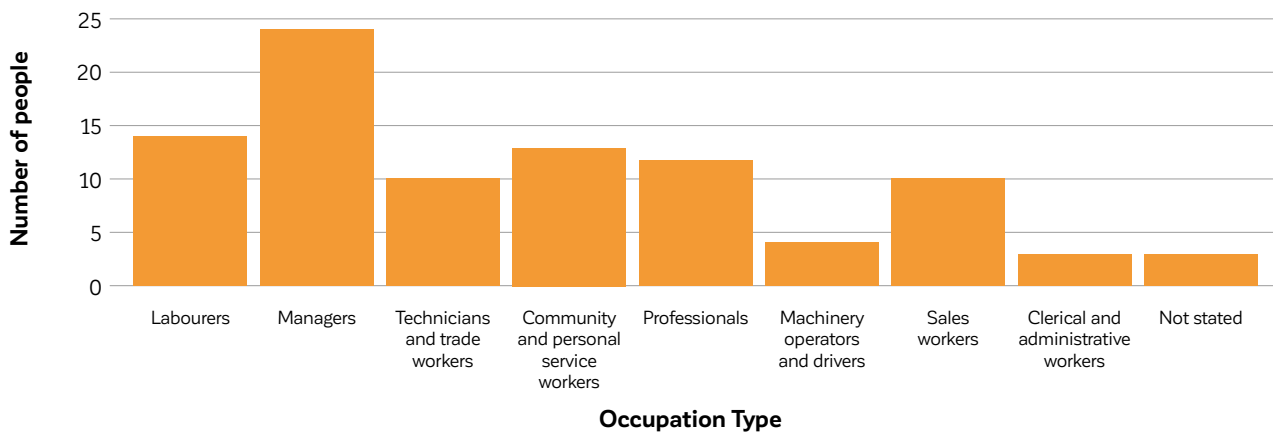


52% Male 48% Female

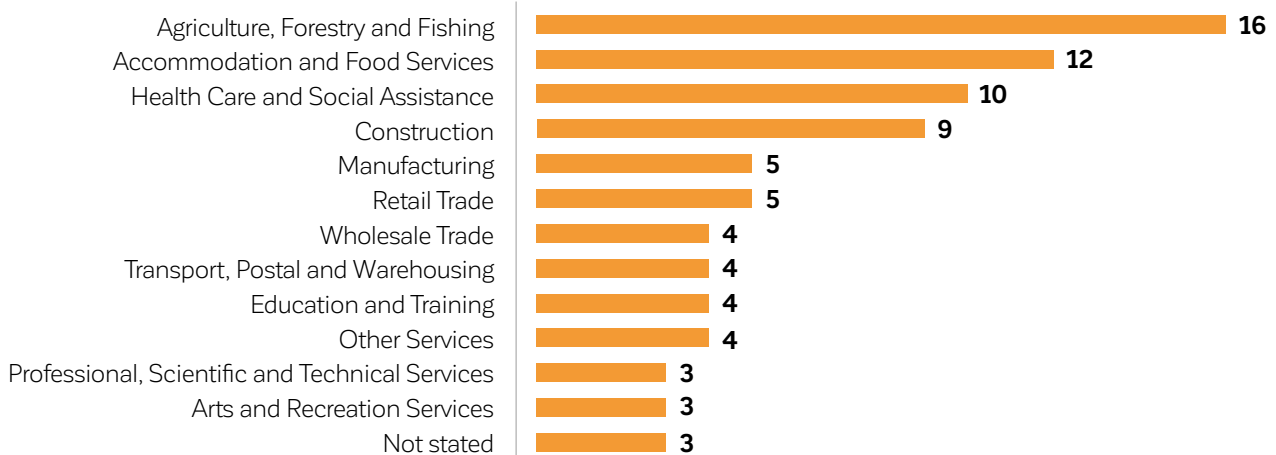
Age



Occupations



Workforce by Industry





Community Contacts

Emergency Information

Call 132 500 from anywhere in Victoria for flood, storm, tsunami and earthquake emergency.
For life-threatening emergencies call 000.

Emergency Radio Stations

ABC Local 91.1 FM
594 AM, 675 AM and 774 AM

Closest Police Stations

Nathalia Police Station
66 Blake St, Nathalia
(03) 5866 2404

Local CFA

Barmah CFA
27 Lawford St, Barmah

Local Council

Moira Shire
44 Station St, Cobram
03 5871 9222

Medical Centres

NCN Health Nathalia
36-44 McDonnell St, Nathalia
(03) 5866 9444
Open 24 hours

Echuca Regional Health

226 Service St, Echuca
(03) 5485 5000
Open 24 hours

Orange Door

Family violence hotline 1800 737732

Defibrillator Locations

Barmah Bridge Caravan Park
52 Murray Street, Barmah

Barmah Hotel Motel
1 Maloney Street, Barmah

Electricity

Powercor
24hr Faults and Emergencies
13 24 12

Roads

regionalroads.vic.gov.au
Hotline (Barmah is in Hume Region)
13 3778

Water

GV Water
Faults and Emergencies
1800 454 500

GM Water
24hr Emergencies
1800 064 184

WaterLINE
1300 469 469

Community Communication

Messages and information can be posted at the Barmah General Store for the community to view

Facebook Pages

Barmah Community
Barmah Social Club

Community Planning

Community Planning is about creating a safe space for you and your neighbours to discuss the future of your town, to explore all those questions and more, and come up with ideas to make your local area an even stronger and more inclusive community.

Community Planning isn't about giving Council a wish list, although Council will take on board all of the views and opinions expressed during the process. It's about local people making sustainable change collaboratively, and making good things happen for everyone in their community. Community Planning is about wrapping realistic strategies around everyone's hopes and dreams so that they can become a reality.

Barmah has made Community Plans and Action Plans previously, in 2003 and 2011. From these, many things have been achieved, although there is still an understandable concern for flood mitigation measures among the residents.

In 2023, calls were made from the community for a renewed Community Plan. Council responded by helping with a consultation exercise involving a survey, and a large town BBQ event. The survey response was extremely high and resulted in the following data being collected. A new Steering Committee has been formed to implement the Goals that have been made.





What do you love about Barmah?

Everything! **Community** Heritage

Largest Red Gum Forest in the World

Horse Riding Along the River **Friendly Locals**

Nature, Wildlife, Environment

Home and Family **Peace and Quiet**

The Bush Camping **The River** Fishing

Great Pub **Great Lifestyle** Gorgeous Location

Having Land and Spaces for Animals

What do you want Barmah to be best known for?

Best River Town in Moira Shire New Information Board

Arts and Crafts **Beautiful Unique Setting**

Nature, Wildlife, Environment

Indigenous Tours **Friendly Community**

Serenity Great Holiday Destination **Family Friendly**

Fishing and Camping Progressive Town

The Bush Great Pub Environmental Education

Largest Red Gum Forest in the World Barmah Heritage Centre Horse Riding

Bush Crafts **Barmah Brumbies** Home Cooked Meals

Victorian Town North of the Murray **Tourism**

Heritage Muster Cyclone Fencing Jack Edwards Park

Kingfisher Tours **The River**





Barmah is a really great place!

"Barmah is a really great place.
Living here puts a smile on my face!
Let's spell it out letter by letter,
So Barmah gets better and better!"

Bush walking
And playing on the playground
River—Dungula
Murray Cod—fishing
And going to kinder
Having fun!



Poem and artwork created by Barmah Kindergarten pupils

Our Goals



GOAL 1

Building our Community

We aim to enhance the sense of inclusivity, connection, and empowerment within our community.

We will:

- Organise town-wide community events to engage and involve everyone.
- Recognise and celebrate the friendly and tight-knit nature of the Barmah community.
- Establish a Neighbourhood Watch initiative to promote safety and well-being.
- Enhance signage for fishing safety rules, water requirements, fishing alone guidelines, and other notices to increase public awareness.
- Provide community training on essential skills such as AED use, first aid, and other identified needs.
- Establish an Emergency Meeting Point within Barmah.
- Undertake Digital Connectivity Planning in Barmah with assistance from NBN.
- Install a public 24 hr defibrillator.



GOAL 2

Growing our Economy

Our focus is on cultivating a dynamic and diverse economy in Barmah.

We will:

- Encourage the growth of local businesses and fostering employment opportunities.
- Position Barmah as an RV-friendly town to attract more visitors.
- Enhance tourism by promoting proximity to the Murray River Adventure Trail (MRAT).
- Collaborate with various agencies to showcase Barmah as a unique tourist destination with unparalleled access to the Murray River, Kingfisher Boat Tours, Barmah Forest, fishing, camping, bird watching, horse riding and the Barmah Hotel.
- Develop a comprehensive Barmah Calendar to highlight local events and attractions.



GOAL 3

Developing our Town

Our objective is to address Barmah’s infrastructure needs and promote sustainability.

We will:

- Work towards a shared community facility housing the CFA, men’s shed, community garden, meeting space, and a central hub.
- Investigate the potential relocation of the kindergarten and explore alternative uses for the community hall.
- Create a larger shelter near the punt for the community’s benefit.
- Advocate for improved road drainage.
- Install solar street lighting strategically.
- Collaborate with Parks Victoria to install entry signs promoting Barmah’s town and river lifestyle.
- Promote sustainable living practices, such as solar panels and batteries.



GOAL 4

Protecting Environment and Heritage

Our commitment is to protect Barmah’s natural environment and heritage.

We will:

- Collaborate with relevant agencies to prioritise levees, flood defences, and emergency response procedures.
- Celebrate Barmah’s unique environment and its riverside location.
- Capture the diverse voices and stories that constitute Barmah’s unique heritage, both pre and post-European settlement.
- Establish History Boards to visually display and share the rich history of Barmah.



Implementing our Plan

- The Barmah Steering Committee and the wider Barmah District community are responsible for this plan
- The Committee will continue to meet regularly and drive the achievement of the identified actions and goals. The Committee will also celebrate any achievements to date, and as they occur.
- The community plan is a dynamic, flexible document. Priorities change over time, and these will be reviewed over a period of 5 years.
- Any substantial changes to the plan will be decided at a Public Meeting of the Barmah Community

Want to know more?

Scan the QR code to go to Barmah Community website.



This Plan has been developed by the Barmah Steering Committee with support from Moira Shire Council.

Photo credits: Barmah John

