
Review of Recreational Vehicle Friendly Strategy



Adopted 25 November 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Following significant community consultation, Moira Shire Council (hereafter Council) adopted the Recreational Vehicle (RV) Friendly Strategy in 2016.

In 2020, Council received a petition to make Numurkah RV Friendly once again under the Caravan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) accreditation scheme.

On 22 July 2020, Council carried the motion to thank the organisers of the petition and to undertake a review of the RV Friendly Strategy, with a particular focus on how it relates to Numurkah, with a report to go back to Council on any recommended changes to the Strategy.

PETITION TO MAKE NUMURKAH RV FRIENDLY AGAIN

In June 2020, Council received a petition to make Numurkah RV Friendly. The initial petition was tabled at Council's meeting on 24 June 2020 with a following two related petitions with additional signatures submitted early July.

The petition requested that the Moira Shire do all things necessary to enable Numurkah to qualify for the CMCA RV Friendly Town status. By having RV Friendly status Numurkah could reap an economic benefit from the significant number of self-contained RV's currently travelling past.

The petition argued that:

- Numurkah businesses have been suffering since the Covid-19 lockdown started, many are struggling to survive;
- Reinstating Numurkah as an RV Friendly town would capitalise on the opportunity presented by very limited overseas travel, so travelling in their RV's will be the only holiday option for many grey nomads, retirees, holidaymakers and families. (The petition states that there over 700,000 (RV's) registered caravans, camper trailers and motor homes currently registered in Australia);
- RV travellers do more than just stay overnight, they enjoy time in Numurkah, stopping for a coffee, browsing in the shops or going for a walk along the creek; and
- Reinstating Numurkah's RV friendly status would not take business away from other accommodation venues. It would bring more tourists to the town, enabling businesses to work together to realise Numurkah's tourism potential.

The organiser of the petition stated that:

- the petition signatures were collected in just a few days
- 90% of CBD businesses have already signed the petition, but some business owners away and very few of the community have had the opportunity to sign
- more petition pages will be sent prior to the next council meeting in July.

The matter of making Numurkah RV Friendly was discussed at the Council meeting on 22 July 2020 with the following motion carried:

MOTION

CRS MARIE MARTIN / KEVIN BOURKE

That Council:

- notes the petition to reinstate Numurkah as an RV Friendly Town and thank the organiser of the petition for their efforts in this regard; and
- Staff and stakeholders review the RV strategy as it relates to Numurkah and report back to Council on any recommended changes to the strategy.

(CARRIED)

The following section will review the implementation progress for the 2016 RV Friendly Strategy.

PROGRESS UPDATE ON RV STRATEGY

This section will provide an overview of the RV Strategy that was adopted by Council on 26 April 2016.

THE RV STRATEGY 2016

In 2015/16 Council set up an RV Friendly Working Group and prepared a Draft Recreational Vehicle (RV) Friendly Strategy.

Broad community consultation informed the preparation of the draft RV strategy with the RV Friendly Working group meeting monthly for a full year and subsequent consultation with community on the draft RV Friendly Strategy.

The draft RV Friendly Strategy included provision for trialling for one year, the provision of low cost overnight parking in the showgrounds of each of the Shires major towns (i.e. Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah and Nathalia).

The 2016 draft RV Friendly Strategy noted that the provision of low cost overnight parking is somewhat controversial and it would require Council to comply with a number of regulatory requirements and service standards. Other issues were also relevant in terms of managing a low cost overnight parking site for example Council would be required to find a respectful and legal solution for how to address the issue of non-RV users using the sites once they are established, such as itinerant workers and homeless people that are not travelling in self-contained vehicles.

At its meeting on 26 April 2016, Council considered the draft Recreational Vehicle (RV) Friendly Strategy. In response to advocacy from some S86 Committees and caravan parks Council resolved to adopt a revised version of the RV Friendly strategy. The revision was to exclude showgrounds and the major towns with caravan parks from the trial of overnight parking.

PROGRESS ON THE RV FRIENDLY STRATEGY

Four years have elapsed since the strategy adoption and times have changed. Council also appreciates that in these unprecedented times of COVID 19 the economy is under unique and unforeseen duress.

Reviewing Council's strategic position on all manner of topics is a regular occurrence. In acknowledging the passage of time and the current global (and local) situation a review of the current RV position is timely.

There are a number of issues relating to the provision of free dump points and low cost or free camping that must be considered, including management and maintenance of dump points, enforcement and policing, cost of water/power, noise, risks and insurance, application and adherence to regulatory requirements.

Taking into the consideration the range of challenges and issues, Moira Shire Council's vision, as outlined in the RV Friendly Strategy 2016, is to become an RV Friendly Shire. To achieve this vision, Moira Shire Council set out to implement ten actions. This presents an overview of the progress of Council's current RV Friendly Strategy in relation to these ten action items:

ACTION PROGRESS LIST

1. Endorse and Promote Moira Shire as an Attractive RV Friendly Shire - COMPLETED

- RV friendly brochure developed
- Freedom camping page on [tourism website](#)

2. Establish Economic Data and Visitor Profile of RV Market - IN PROGRESS

- Economic Impact Study of CMCA Combined Victoria Chapter Rally, 'Wanderings of the Wizard of Oz', 2015 – D15/65607
- Data gathered from Tungamah RV friendly destination
- Further data required for local RVers

3. Transition to Commercially Managed Dump Points - IN PROGRESS

- Dump point installed at Numurkah Caravan Park
- Dump point installed in Tungamah near the silos.
- Further work required to transition to commercially managed dump points

4. Trial the continuation of Council managed dump points - COMPLETED

- No further complaints received from the water authorities.

5. Develop RV Friendly Low Cost Overnight Sites in smaller towns and surrounds - IN PROGRESS

- RV Friendly low cost overnight site established at Lions Park in Tungamah
- Council has explored the establishment of an RV Friendly low cost overnight site at Picola. This site requires occupation of VicTrack land – issues with VicTrack Leases are currently being negotiated with VicTrack.
- Council applied to make Wunghnu Rec Reserve an RV Friendly Destination with the CMCA – it was rejected and is only a recommended camp site until further works can be completed on the ground to make it a suitable site for more RVs in dry and wet weather.
- Council is yet to progress the proposed RV Friendly Camp sites on Parks Victoria managed land (i.e. Forges Beach, Barmah Lakes Camping Area, Killawarra Camp and Lower Ovens Wildlife Reserve), but these sites are promoted as suitable sites for RVers on the [tourism website](#).
- Council is yet to explore further Yarroweyah as a potential RV Friendly Destination.

6. Commit resources to enforcement - NOT COMPLETED

- No additional resources has been provided to enforcement at this stage.

7. Encourage local businesses to become CMCA RV Friendly Destinations - IN PROGRESS

- Council has only been dealing with enquiries and have not yet been actively encouraging local businesses to become CMCA RV Friendly Destinations

8. Provide long-vehicle parking close to shopping precincts - COMPLETED

- Council is providing long vehicle parking at the following locations:

- Punt Road, Cobram
- Behind Federation Park, Cobram Railway Station, Cobram
- Mivo Park, Cobram
- Blake St, Nathalia
- Weir Street, Nathalia
- Irvine Parade, Yarrawonga
- Hunt Street, Yarrawonga
- Hume Street, Yarrawonga
- Hovell Street, Yarrawonga
- Gilmore Street, Yarrawonga
- Melville Street, Numurkah
- Knox Street, Numurkah
- Lions Park, Tungamah
- Barr Street, Tungamah
- Swamp Road, Lake Rowan
- Hotchin Street, Katamatite
- Off Murray Valley Highway near Goughs Lane, Bundalong
- Off Murray Valley Highway, Strathmerton
- Wunghnu, by the creek
- Moran Street, Picola

9. Offer access to potable water from designated locations - COMPLETED

Council offers potable water from the following locations (as promoted on the [tourism website](#)):

- Cnr Barr Street and Tungamah Main Road, Tungamah
- Cnr Benalla - Tocumwal Road and Moore St, Katamatite
- Benalla-Tocumwal Road, Katamatite
- Blake Street, Nathalia
- Weir Street, Nathalia

10. Provide new signage - IN PROGRESS

- Council has installed new signage at Tungamah
- Council has installed dump point signage at Numurkah showgrounds

ISSUES

A number of issues with offering RV Friendly facilities were discussed in the RV Friendly Strategy. In this section, these issues are reviewed.

MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL'S RECREATION RESERVES LOCAL LAW 2009

Council's Recreation Reserves Local Law 2009, which was highlighted in the RV Friendly Strategy¹, sunset in 2019 and is no longer applicable.

MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT LAW

Council's Community Safety and Environment Law is effective until 30 November 2023.

Clause 2.16 of the Community Safety and Environment Law outlines that "A person must not, except with a permit, camp on any Council land, on any public land, or on any privately owned vacant land within the municipal district unless within a designated camping area."

In order for Council to provide camping facilities for RVers on Council managed land, Council would have to amend this local law or on a case by case basis resolve to approve the erection of signage stating "free camping allowed" at the designated location(s).

In other words, a motion could be put to Council as part of the recommendations of a review to Trial overnight camping at any location on Council land (e.g. Numurkah Showgrounds or Lion's Park on the Broken Creek), subject to the planning scheme allowing this use. If Council endorsed a motion to erect signage stating free camping is allowed at this location, this would address the issue of the local law for that specific location.

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY POLICY

As highlighted in the RV Friendly Strategy, Council needs to ensure that it does not breach the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

As per the policy, "The objective of competitive neutrality is set out in Clause 3(1) of the CPA [read Competition Principles Agreement] as 'the elimination of resource allocation distortions arising out of the public ownership of entities engaged in significant business activities: Government business should not enjoy any net competitive advantage simply as a result of their public sector ownership."

These principles only apply to the business activities of publicly owned entities, not to the non-business, non-profit activities of these entities'."

This means that if Council was to supply overnight camping facilities to the RV market as a significant business activity, Council would have to comply with the same regulatory environment that commercial caravan parks must comply with. This includes fire, safety and environmental regulations.

Council would also be required to charge the true market value for the provision of such service and facility. The Emergency Management requirements can be particularly arduous.

Council is not proposing to engage in significant business activity through the delivery of the RV Strategy and therefore the Competitive Neutrality Policy does not strictly apply.

¹ The following is an extract from the RV Friendly Strategy: Part 3, 12.1(d) of the Recreation Reserves Local Law outlines that no camping is allowed at a recreation reserve. Clause 9, however, states that the Section 86 Committee of Management may issue a permit for an event. There is a process for hiring of a recreation reserve that needs to be followed in order for any permit to be successfully granted. The end decision for the approval of any application for hire of the reserves lies with the relevant Section 86 Committee. In order for Council to provide camping facilities for RVers in Council's Recreation Reserves, Council would have to amend this local law in order to allow camping (outside of permitted event) to be allowed in recreation reserves.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT 1997

The Residential Tenancies Act 1997 outlines the residency rights and duties of people staying in caravan parks (Parts 4 and 4A) and provides for the regulation of caravan parks and movable dwellings (Part 14).

Part 14 of the Act contains key definitions that are important in understanding the Regulations, prescribes obligations of owners in respect to fire safety and emergency management planning, and provides for caravan park inspections and proceedings for offences.

The Act defines a Caravan Park as an 'area of land on which movable dwellings are situated for occupation on payment of consideration, whether or not immovable dwellings are also situated there';

Part 14 of the Act does not apply to the following:

- a) a caravan park that operates for a limited period to house seasonal agricultural workers or workers engaged in short-term construction jobs; or
- b) a caravan park that operates for a limited period in conjunction with a festival or other similar event; or
- c) a caravan park exempted by the Minister.

Council will need to make it very clear that any proposed overnight parking sites for RVs only allow for overnight parking of up to 48 hours. There will be no provision of facilities or amenities at these sites; the recreational vehicles are to be fully self-contained and no tent camping allowed.

Council cannot require a direct payment for camping at this location, otherwise this Act will apply. In other words, if payment is expected for RV's to use a Council site even if it is for one night then that site should be registered and comply with all requirements under the Act and Regulations.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (CARAVAN PARKS AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS REGISTRATIONS AND STANDARDS) REGULATIONS 2020

A new set of regulations were developed in 2020.

The Residential Tenancies (Caravan Park and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulation 2020 sets out the following requirements for operating a caravan park in Victoria:

- registration with council and associated duties of owners;
- fees for registration;
- standards for fire safety and emergency management planning in caravan parks;
- construction standards and installation requirements for movable dwellings in caravan parks; and
- standards for services and amenities and the maintenance of sites and dwellings.

It is an offence under the regulation for anyone to operate a Caravan Park without holding a current registration with Council.

NUMURKAH

In the original agreement with the CMCA, the long term parking option was identified as Katamatite-Nathalia Rd., which is not suitable for overnight parking. The next section discusses three identified potential sites for a trial in Numurkah.

IDENTIFY AND ASSESS POTENTIAL SITES IN NUMURKAH

The following sites have been identified as potential sites for overnight parking for up to 48 hours by RVers in Numurkah:

- Numurkah Showgrounds;
- Lion's Park; and
- Numurkah Youth Club Oval

An assessment of each of these sites is provided in this section.

Numurkah Showgrounds



The Numurkah Showgrounds is covered by the Public Park and Recreation Zone with the following key purposes under the planning scheme:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To recognise areas for public recreation and open space.

- To protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate.
- To provide for commercial uses where appropriate.

Permitted uses without a planning permit include informal outdoor recreation and open sports ground. As the proposal is not a listed use within the land use table, it would be considered "any other use", which does not require a planning permit provided the proposal is conducted by or on behalf of Council as detailed below.

Use	Condition
Section 1 - Permit not required	
Informal outdoor recreation	
Open sports ground	Must be conducted by or on behalf of the public land manager. Must not be on coastal Crown land under the <i>Coastal Management Act 1995</i> . Must not be costeaning or bulk sampling.
Any use listed in Clause 62.01	Must meet the requirements of Clause 62.01.
Contractor's depot	Must be either of the following:
Heliport	A use conducted by or on behalf of a public land manager or Parks Victoria under the relevant provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> , the <i>Reference Areas Act 1978</i> , the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i> , the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> , the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i> , the <i>Forest Act 1958</i> , the <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i> , the <i>Water Act 1989</i> , the <i>Marine Act 1988</i> , the <i>Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958</i> , or the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> .
Office	
Retail premises	
Store	
Any other use not in Section 3	A use specified in an Incorporated plan in a schedule to this zone.

If any buildings and works are proposed on behalf of Council a planning permit would not be triggered under the Public Park and Recreation Zone, Heritage Overlay, Floodway Overlay or Land Subject to Inundation Overlay provided the cost does not exceed \$1m.

The Numurkah Showgrounds are used for a variety of sporting uses including but not limited to cricket, football, netball, and soccer. It is also used by the Agricultural Society and a range of casual users.

The Numurkah Showground is currently managed by a Community Asset Committee (former Section 86 Committee).

Since this site is management by the Community Asset Committee, any consideration and decision to trial overnight parking at the Numurkah Showgrounds would require the Committee's approval and support.

Lions Park



The Lion's Park is located next to the Netball Courts on the Broken Creek in Numurkah and is a picturesque location for an RV overnight parking area.

The Lion's Park is covered by the Public Park and Recreation Zone with the following key purposes under the planning scheme:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To recognise areas for public recreation and open space.
- To protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate.
- To provide for commercial uses where appropriate.

Permitted use without a planning permit include informal outdoor recreation and open sports ground. As the proposal is not a listed use within the land use table, it would be considered "any other use", which does not require a planning permit provided the proposal is conducted by or on behalf of Council as detailed below.

The site is also subject to a Floodway Overlay but it does not impact on the use and provided it is by or on behalf of Council as required above, it will be exempt from Planning Permits for any buildings and works under \$1 million.

The Lion's Park also falls under Council' Community Safety & Environment Law. If Council endorsed a motion to erect signage at the Lion's Park stating free camping is allowed at this location, this would address the issue of this local law for that specific location.

36.02-1 08/08/2019 VC159	
Table of uses	
Section 1 - Permit not required	
Use	Condition
Informal outdoor recreation	
Open sports ground	Must be conducted by or on behalf of the public land manager. Must not be on coastal Crown land under the <i>Coastal Management Act 1995</i> . Must not be costeaning or bulk sampling.
Any use listed in Clause 62.01	Must meet the requirements of Clause 62.01.
Contractor's depot	Must be either of the following:
Heliport	A use conducted by or on behalf of a public land manager or Parks Victoria under the relevant provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> , the <i>Reference Areas Act 1978</i> , the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i> , the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> , the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i> , the <i>Forest Act 1958</i> , the <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i> , the <i>Water Act 1989</i> , the <i>Marine Act 1988</i> , the <i>Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958</i> , or the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> .
Office	
Retail premises	
Store	
Any other use not in Section 3	
	A use specified in an Incorporated plan in a schedule to this zone.

Numurkah Youth Club Oval



The Numurkah Youth Club Oval is situated on 32 Nelson Street, Numurkah.

The Numurkah Youth Club Oval is covered by the Public Park and Recreation Zone with the following key purposes under the planning scheme:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To recognise areas for public recreation and open space.
- To protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate.
- To provide for commercial uses where appropriate.

This site is also covered by a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

Permitted use without a planning permit include informal outdoor recreation and open sports ground. As the proposal is not a listed use within the land use table, it would be considered "any other use", which does not require a planning permit provided the proposal is conducted by or on behalf of Council as detailed below.

36.02-1 08/08/2019 VC199	
Table of uses	
Section 1 - Permit not required	
Use	Condition
Informal outdoor recreation	
Open sports ground	Must be conducted by or on behalf of the public land manager. Must not be on coastal Crown land under the <i>Coastal Management Act 1995</i> . Must not be costeaning or bulk sampling.
Any use listed in Clause 62.01	Must meet the requirements of Clause 62.01.
Contractor's depot	Must be either of the following:
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Office	
Retail premises	
Store	
Any other use not in Section 3	
	A use specified in an Incorporated plan in a schedule to this zone.

CRITERIA AND METHODOLOGY FOR HOW A TRIAL WOULD BE MEASURED AND ASSESSED

Unless a type of payment or honesty or booking system is put in place, it will be tricky to measure the direct outcome of the trial.

One proposal could be that RVers are encouraged to purchase a Why Leave Town voucher (minimum of \$25) to support local businesses in town. Through the Why Leave Town data it may then be possible to identify if people knew about the scheme from the overnight RV Parking stop.

The Why Leave Town vouchers can either be purchased online before arriving to Numurkah (<https://www.whyleavetown.com/product-page/numurkah-gift-card>) or locally from one of the participating shops (<https://www.whyleavetown.com/numurkah>). This would encourage the RVers to spend money locally and act as a measure to the success of the trial.

Other measures of success could include:

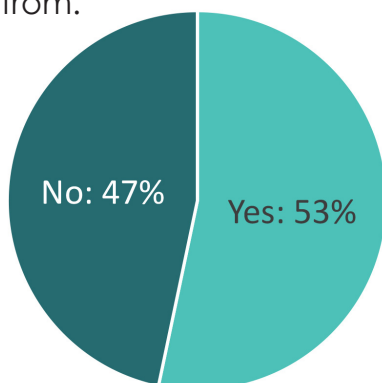
- Number of complaints received from the community
- Number of reports of disturbance
- Anecdotal feedback from officers in Operations, Safety and Amenity
- Occasional interviews/surveys of RVers
- Casual observation of patronage
- In the case of the Numurkah showgrounds, feedback from the Community Asset Committee

SURVEY – RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FRIENDLY NUMURKAH

A survey with 13 questions was developed and advertised on 26 August 2020. The survey was live for three weeks and closed on 16 September 2020, resulting in a total of 481 responses. The following provides an analysis of these responses.

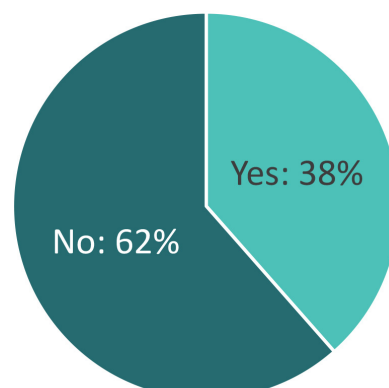
Where do the respondents live?

The first few questions of the survey were designed to identify where the respondents come from.



Q1. Do you live in Moira Shire?

The first question identified that only just over half (53%) of the respondents live in Moira Shire, with 47% of the respondents not living in Moira Shire.



Q2. Do you live in Numurkah?

The second question was to identify if the respondents that live in Moira Shire lived in Numurkah. A total of 184 respondents live in Numurkah.

Finally, the last question, asked respondents to put in their Postcode. All respondents completed this question, with the following word map highlighting the post codes with the most respondents.

Q3. What is your postcode?



The top five responses were:

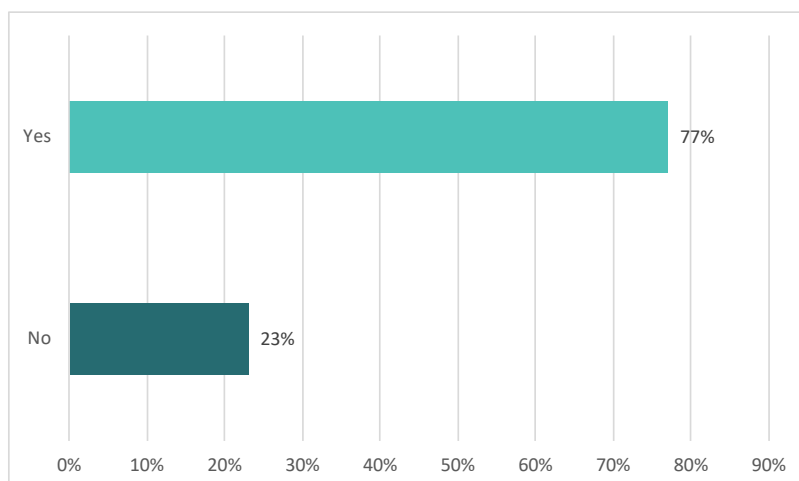
- 3636 – Numurkah, with 193 respondents;
- 3640 – Katunga, with 14 respondents;
- 3635 – This postcode covers Kaarimba, Mundoona, Wunghnu, with 12 respondents in total;
- 3638 – This postcode covers Kotupna, Nathalia, Yielima, with 9 respondents in total; and
- 3544 – This postcode covers Chinangin, Gowanford, Murnungin, Springfield, Ultima, Ultima East, Waitche with 8 respondents in total.

Responses were received from as far away as New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Do the Respondents Own a Recreational Vehicle?

Not all respondents answered question four with only 473 responses to the question. However, the vast majority of the respondents (364) own a recreational vehicle, which is not surprising as owners of recreational vehicles will have a stronger interest in a town becoming RV Friendly than those without RVs.

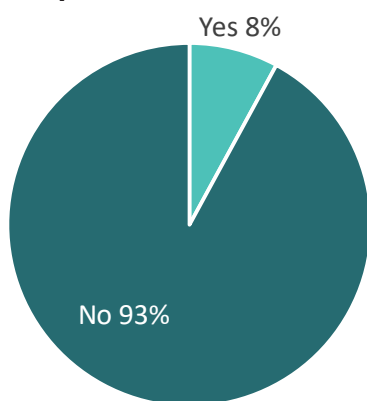
Q4. Do you own a Recreational Vehicle?



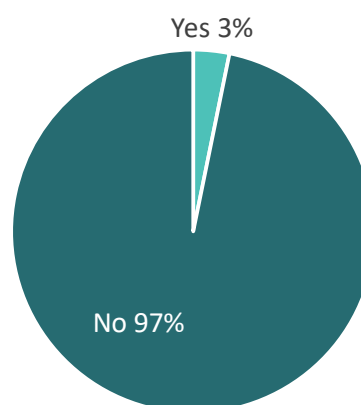
Have we heard from the business owners in Numurkah and in particular the retail sector?

A total of 36 business owners or operators completed the survey. Of these, 13 are from the retail sector. REMPLAN data shows that there is a total of 56 retail trade businesses in the postcode of 3636. Although these survey responses represents a small proportion of all of the responses received, it is still a good response from the business community.

Q5. Are you a business owner or operator in Numurkah?



Q6. If yes, are you a retailer in Numurkah?

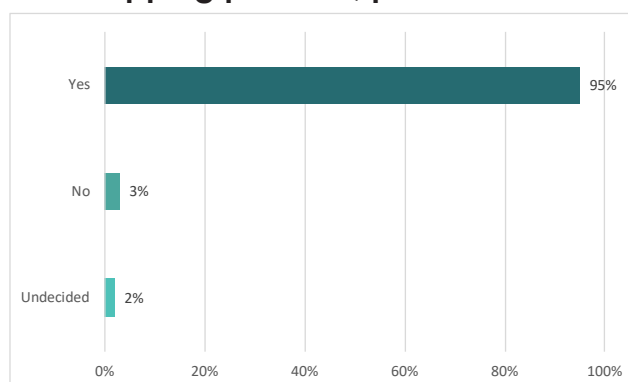


Should Numurkah be an RV Friendly Town?

In question seven, the respondents were asked the question: Do you think Numurkah should be made RV Friendly (i.e. offer overnight parking of up to 48 hours, parking close to shopping precinct, potable water and RV dump point)?

The response was overwhelmingly yes, Numurkah should be made RV Friendly with 458 responses voting yes and only 13 responses voting no and 9 respondents being undecided.

Q7. Do you think Numurkah should be made RV Friendly (i.e. offer overnight parking of up to 48 hours, parking close to shopping precinct, potable water and RV dump point)?



Of the 256 Moira Shire residents, 237 respondents (93%) thought that Numurkah should be made RV Friendly. Of the 184 respondents living in Numurkah, 173 respondents (95%) thought Numurkah should be made RV Friendly, with 6 respondents (3%) thinking Numurkah should not be made RV Friendly and 4 respondents (2%) undecided.

So how does the business and/or retail respondents feel about Numurkah being RV Friendly? Of the 36 business owners, 34 believe that Numurkah should be made an RV Friendly and two believe it should not be RV Friendly. All 13 retailers believe that Numurkah should be made RV Friendly.

Which location is the preferred location for an RV Friendly Overnight Parking area?

As mentioned earlier in this report, the following locations have been identified as potential sites for a trial of overnight parking of up to 48 hours within Numurkah:

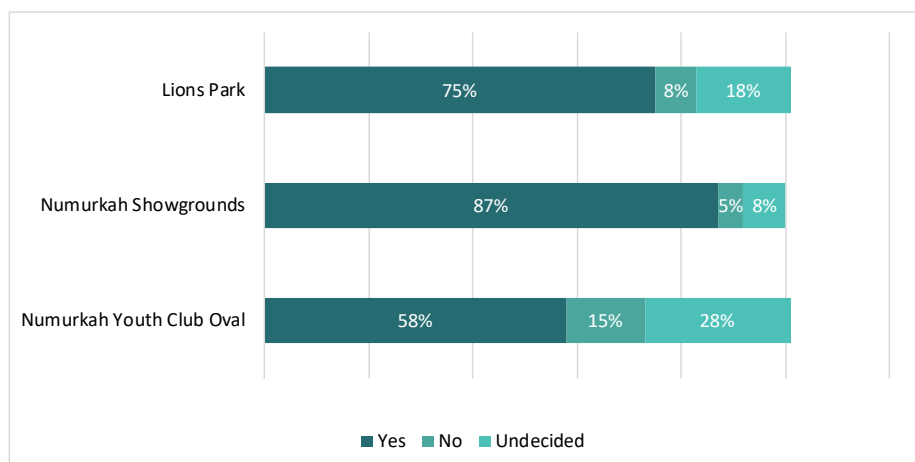
- Lion's Park, McNamara Drive;
- Numurkah Showgrounds, Boulevard Rd; and
- Numurkah Youth Club Oval, 32 Nelson Street.

Respondents were asked if they believed these sites were suitable. A total of 475 respondents answered this question with the majority thinking all sites were suitable. However, the Numurkah Showgrounds took the lead with 87%, followed by Lion's Park with 75%. The Numurkah Youth Club Oval was the least preferred site with 58% thinking it was a suitable site.

Similar results in terms of priority of sites is reflected in the responses from people living in Numurkah

- Numurkah showgrounds (89%);
- Lion's Park (77%); and
- Numurkah Youth Club Oval (59%)

Q8. The following locations have been identified as potential sites for a trial of overnight parking of up to 48 hours within Numurkah: Lions Park, Numurkah Showgrounds, Numurkah Youth Club Oval. Do you think these are suitable?



Other suggested sites for RV Friendly Overnight Parking included:

- Kinnairds Wetlands
- Wunghnu Recreation Reserve – The Wunghnu Recreation Reserve is already recognised as a potential overnight parking area for RVs in the original RV Strategy and it is currently recognised by the CMCA as a camping location. However, further work is required to the site before the CMCA will recognise it as a RV Friendly destination.
- Next to the local shire depot
- Carpark at the lake near Madigan St and Quinn St
- Nathalia

There was a total of 89 comments in relation to the RV Friendly Overnight Parking. Some recommended new sites, as listed above, others re-enforced the selection of existing sites such as Numurkah Showgrounds and Lions Park, and others yet reinforced that they did not think Council should offer free overnight parking for RVs.

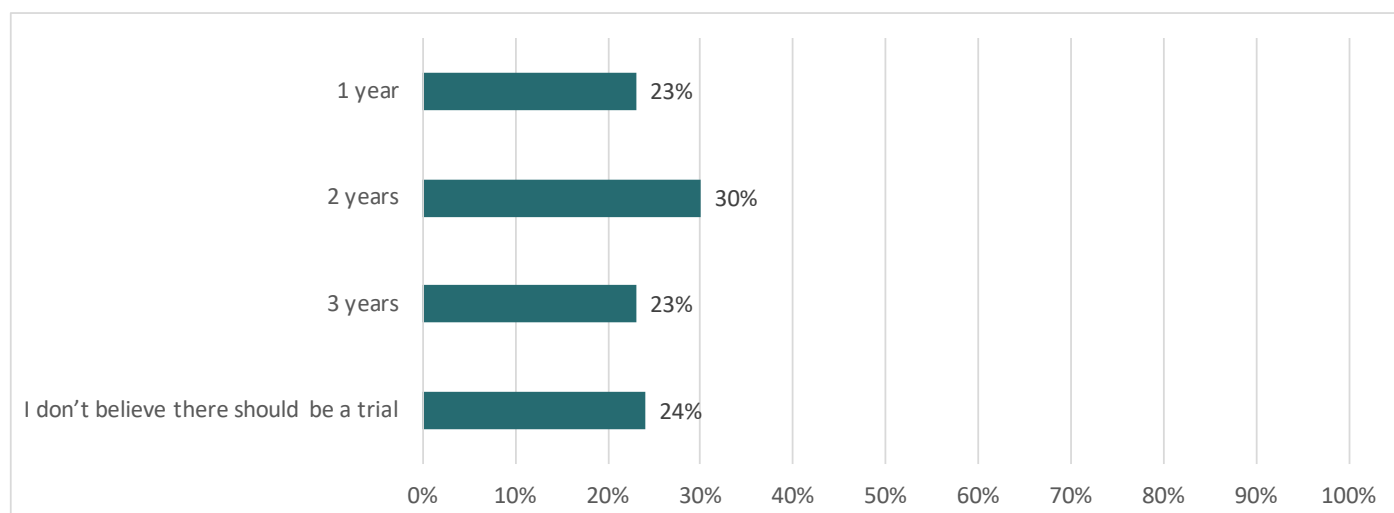
A few other comments made are worth noting below broken into two themes:

- The caravan park should be the location for overnight parking of RVs:
 - o “Stay at the registered caravan park who employs local staff & trades and re-invests in the local community.”
 - o “the Shire doesn’t have to provide this, and key factor is free or LOW COST. negotiate with existing infrastructure ie caravan park to provide cheap in services sites to those that would otherwise meet proposed site requirements and would offer monitoring of site, safety and security, opportunity upgrade and benefit an existing ratepayers. remember, it doesn’t have to be free to meet CMCA requirements”
 - o “No. Support the local places to stay. Don’t use My rate money on freebies for out of towners.”
 - o “Please do not create a de facto caravan park in our beautiful Showgrounds.”
 - o “Caravaners and people with recreational vehicles should stay at the Numurkah Caravan Park. The idea of free stays are objectionable and cause loss of business to Numurkah. We don’t want them here unless they stay at the Caravan Park.”
- Proximity to town is important to ensure there are benefits to the retail and hospitality sectors:
 - o “The closer the trial overnight area is to the town centre the more business it will generate.”
 - o “somewhere within walking distance of a hotel with meals”
 - o “For a town to get full value from campers the site ideally needs to be close to shops and eateries.”
 - o “Needs to be walking distance to Main Street and cafe/restaurants”
 - o “walking distance to town please”
 - o “...The economic benefits to small and medium sized businesses should be significant.”

A Trial of Provision of Overnight Parking of up to 48 Hours

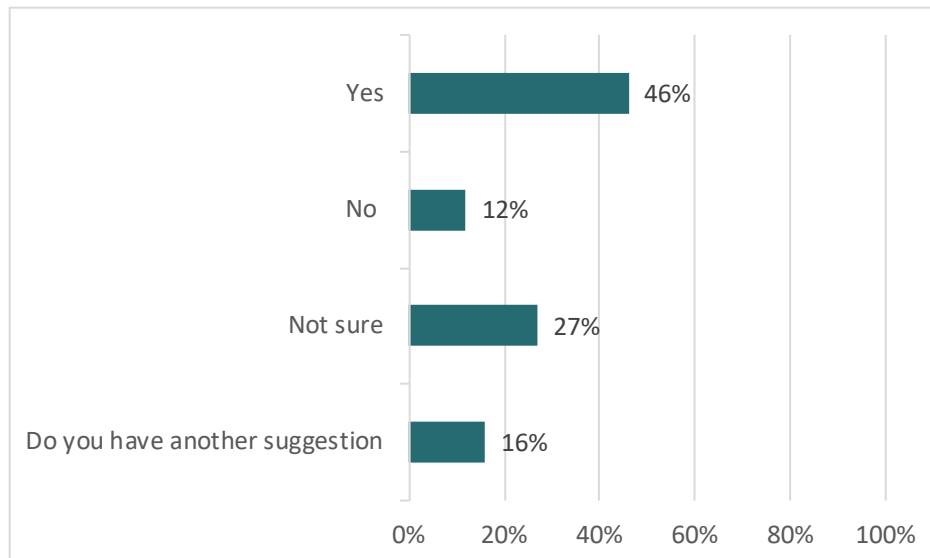
480 respondents answered question nine around how long the respondents thought a trial of overnight parking of up to 48 hours should go for. The responses were mixed, with a two-year trial being the preferred option for 143 participants (30%). Second was the option of not having a trial at all (117 participants), followed by three years (111 participants) and one year (109 participants).

Q9. Should a trial go for:



The majority of respondents (46%) believe it would be of value to accompany a trial with other initiatives, such as Why Leave Town voucher cards, as a way of giving back to the community.

Q10. As no direct payment can be associated with a trial overnight parking site, do you believe a trial should be accompanied by other initiatives (such as Why Leave Town voucher cards) as a way of giving back to the local community for staying for free overnight?



The majority of respondents (46%) believe it would be of value to accompany a trial with other initiatives, such as Why Leave Town voucher cards, as a way of giving back to the community.

A total of 75 comments were made in relation to other suggestions for how RVer's staying at a free overnight parking area could give back to the community. These comments have been broken into key themes below:

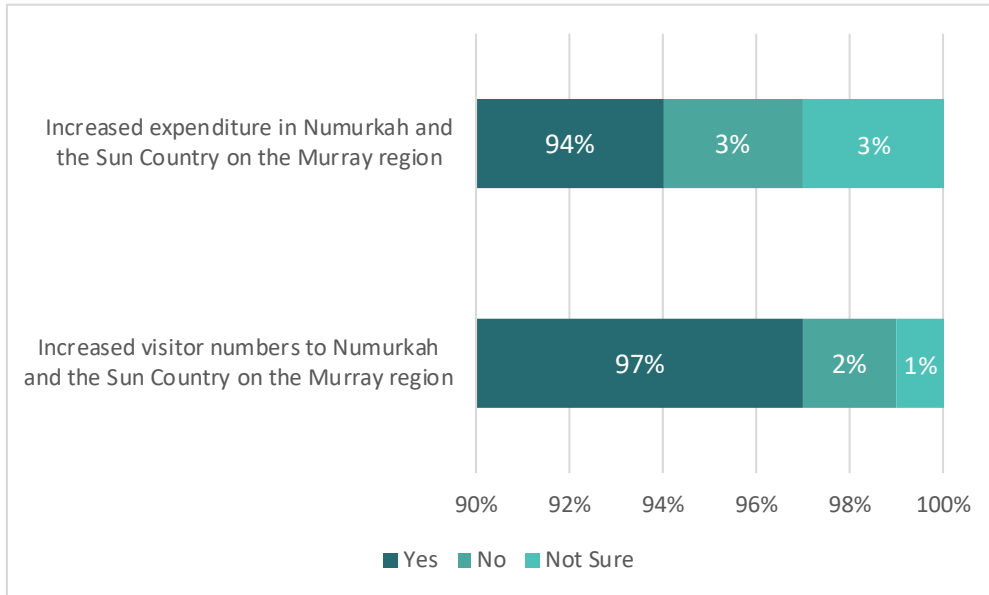
- Honesty box
 - o "A community trust box, (can't remember the real name). To get emptied every morning and night by council. Where the visitors can leave a donation - towards the town - for their stay if they wish."
 - o "Request donation so a show good faith by travellers"
 - o An honesty box can cause issues in its own right – who collects the money and manages the honesty box and where does the money go. Honesty boxes also encourage vandalism. Finally, if any charge is suggested, Council runs the risk of the overnight parking area being considered a caravan park.
 - o "Donation to caretaker for upkeep of toilets. Discounted waste vouchers for the tip"
 - o "I am a firm believer that a form of permit for camping along with a envelope for a donation to be placed in a honour box on site also a box on site where RV folk can leave their expenditure whilst staying"
- Low cost fee should be charged
 - o "It should be free OR LOW COST so how about a small fee, e.g. \$5 per rig, via an envelope placed into a secure box which contains personal details and a specific tag detachable from said envelope to be displayed in window of rig? Some showgrounds and parks are using these effectively.?"
 - o "Should be a cost \$5 to \$10 a night"
 - o "it doesn't have to be free just cheap. work something out with local van park"

-
- Collection of receipts to prove benefit to retail and hospitality sectors
 - o “collect receipts of spending by travellers. This will prove having RV stay benefits small businesses in towns.”
 - o “We leave our shop documents at information centre to show what we spend in town”
 - o “Receipts from local shops”
 - o “collect receipts in a box at the RV site”
 - o “Request the RVer to drop receipts or copies into tourist center to show council the value they bring”
 - o “A collection box for visitors to leave purchase receipts, this would allow the Shire to have some idea of money spent in local businesses and help evaluate the trial period.”
 - Benefits to town should be enough
 - o “I would anticipate that the custom brought to the community with the additional tourism would be ample reward. Many tourists dislike van (holiday) parks for short durations due to crowding and messing about parking, unhitching and all the reverse when leaving. That's ok for a week's holiday with the kids, not basically en-route travellers that want dinner, a walk around town, fuel, groceries, etc.” “I do know that when we use town free camps we shop for groceries ,fuel, dinner at pub, lunch at cafes. We certainly give back to the town. As we own a big MH caravan parks are not our first choice as sites too small and we are totally sc.”
 - o “Don't really understand the vouchers. But do believe that if people are staying in town they tend to give back anyways. They wander down the street, spend money, fill up with fuel, get groceries.”
 - o “RV campers spend money in the town on food , fuel, laundry, and gifts/souviners. Encourage them to stay, play and spend. We have alot to offer with walking tracks, golf, bowls and town history.”
 - o “we have averaged \$120 spend when overnighting in a town. So being walking distance encourages an evening meal then morning tea before departing. Groceries and fuel may bolster that figure. Nowhere to stay then we drive through.”
 - Promotion of the area on site
 - o “Donation tins do work, most RV ers (unless they are strickley driving through) will look at the area and spend money an area map and advertising billboard wold be wise, if it can be kept up to date. Lions clubs will do this if you get them on board.”
 - o “I have visited Numurkah often in my travels. Provide leaflets, promotions, discount offers, etc. to visitors that encourage spending. Nothing free. Prove you are a visitor, spend a minimum, get a discount”

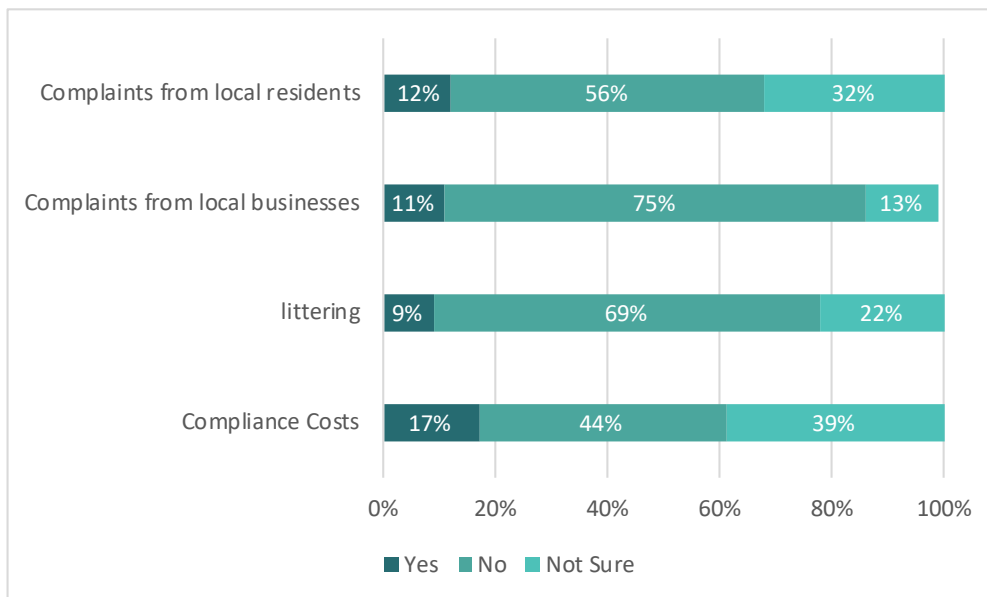
Benefits and Costs of RV Friendly

The majority of respondents believed that making Numurkah RV friendly would provide benefits in terms increasing visitor numbers (97%) and visitor expenditure (94%), and believed there would be no costs in terms of complaints from local residents (56%), local businesses (76%), littering (69%) and to a lesser extent compliance costs (44%).

Q11. Do you think making Numurkah an RV Friendly Town will provide the following benefits to town?



Q12. Do you think making Numurkah an RV Friendly Town may provide the following costs to town?



Respondents also provided written responses to these questions, which have been manually analysed and is presented below.

A total of 56 responses were received around the perceived benefits of making Numurkah RV Friendly with suggested benefits such as:

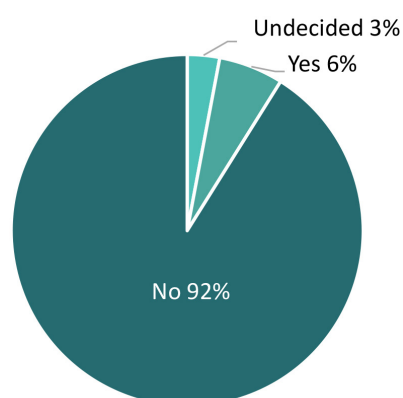
- Fundraising opportunities
 - o "Opportunities for charity fund-raising...e.g. coffee cart, sausage sizzle for visitors."
 - o "opportunity for other cottage industries to start up, sausage sizzles etc for local charity as happens in other towns"
- Increased employment
 - o "Increase employment for young people"
 - o "Helps the town by sight seeing buying food general shopping, fuel, in general keeping local business alive. Rat there do this then paying for piece of ground every nite spend that money shopping"
 - o "Would be a much needed boost to local businesses including the caravan park as not all travelers wish to free camp"
 - o "Encourage house sales and employment opportunities"
 - o "Tourism is big. More tourist made to feel welcomed will visit thus increasing more jobs!"
- Promotion of the area and potential future investment
 - o "Give greater exposure to the general community and importantly create opportunities to promote Numurkah as a holiday destination. Being an RV Friendly Towns entices RVers to give a town a go, certainly in my case I aim for them, and use them as a reason and way of discovering the area. In many cases it leads to longgger stays in local caravan parks - much depends on friendly and welcoming a town is, and what it has to offer."
 - o "Word of mouth to other visitors, a positive entry in Wikicamps to encourage more visitors, posts and photos shared on rv social media sites"
 - o "Potential to attract new residents and businesses, especially those looking to get out of cities at the moment"
 - o "Free advertising to others associated with those who stay"
 - o "once a visitor finds a nice welcome town they may revisit, just as importantly they may share their experience of social media suggesting others visit too."
 - o "Increasing visitation to the area may increase investment in our area, whether is be people purchasing properties or new businesses"
 - o "Promote the surrounding areas"
 - o "Visitors will experience the advantages Numurkah has to offer. eg sporting facilities, friendly and welcoming commuity etc. it is a chance to sell Numurkah to possible future residents and to spread the word to other travellers on how good Numurkah is."
 - o "Potential for settling here when finished with traveling."
 - o "In my home town an RV Park (5 night max stay has generated) \$2.27 million expenditure in town from surveys collected in just on two years and that doe snot include 5 houses that visitors have bought to eventually settle in the region."

A total of 84 responses were received around the perceived costs of making Numurkah RV Friendly. Many of these comments talked about the benefits of making Numurkah RV Friendly or discussed complaints from local residents or businesses, littering and compliance costs. Finally, the following themes were highlighted throughout the comments:

- Businesses in town would miss out if Numurkah is not RV Friendly
 - “Some caravan park owners complain; some rigs are too big to fit, especially in the older, cramped parks. If I stay in a caravan park I do NOT spend any other money in town.”
 - “complaints will only probably come from caravan park owner but it if wasn’t for the rv park we wouldn’t come to your town anyway. So the end result is that the other businesses are benefiting and the caravan park owner is no missing out on something he wouldn’t have got anyway”
- Local caravan park could be detrimentally affected if Numurkah is made RV Friendly
 - “We may also lose our fantastic caravan park”
 - “Covid-19 will be with us for some time, and it has no boundaries. I would suggest that Caravan Parks that are registered and must comply with all regulations be paramount in economic stability and recovery”
 - “The council has to protect the the local caravan park(s). To avoid them losing business don’t over provide services. Eg. Don’t have toilets too close. However, fully self contained RVs, caravans, etc. will reduce the number of potential visitors.”
 - “Please consider your existing long term accommodation businesses that have supported Numurkah for years”
- Reduction in vandalism
 - “reduction in hooning and grafitti.”

Finally, respondents were asked if they saw any issues with Numurkah being an RV Friendly town (or trialing to become one). The vast majority (92%) saw no issue with either making or trialing Numurkah as an RV Friendly Town.

Q13. Do you see any issues with Numurkah becoming and RV friendly town?



A total of 120 comments were received as part of the last question of the survey, where respondents were asked if they have any further comments.

In the comments some respondents:

- thanked Council for considering making Numurkah RV friendly;
- emphasised some of the benefits and/or costs of making Numurkah RV Friendly;
- highlighted the issue of the dump point at the showgrounds being locked (a stipulation in the agreement the water board has with Council) and the management of grey-water;
- feared what it would do to the local caravan park;
- highlighted concerns in relation to COVID-19, whereas some highlighted the need to focus on tourism in the recovery from COVID-19;
- suggested the installation of CCTV cameras;
- suggested the disconnection of power at the showgrounds, so RVers cannot connect to power;
- highlighted the concerns about bigger RVs fitting easily within caravan parks;
- said it is long overdue and that Council should never have removed the RV Friendly Town accreditation; and
- Thought this will be at the cost of ratepayers.

FURTHER FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION

A number of emails were also received as a result of the consultation surrounding making Numurkah RV Friendly. As well as comments to the social media post promoting the survey. The feedback received in these emails and social media comments mirrors what was covered in the survey, but an overview is provided below:

- Suggestions to broaden the RV Friendly Town scheme to other towns in Moira Shire
 - o "I would like to see the council consider Cobram Showgrounds also. The CMCA lists Cobram as a RV friendly town [overnight parking at Dead River Beach], but we do not offer anywhere in the Cobram CBD for RVers to stay overnight. Cobram Showgrounds is an ideal position, walking distance to shops and RVers do spend money in the towns in which they stay."
 - o "Done and please extend to include Nathalia. Nathalia was an RV Friendly town but the sign was removed several years ago without community consultation, big mistake. The tourists and travellers now just drive through without stopping"
- Positive that Council is continuing to support RV Friendly locations
 - o "It is great that the Moira Shire is still working on more overnight parking areas, as I feel there will be more need for this kind of get away with our "New Normal"."
 - o "I was very pleased to see that Moira Shire is still moving forward re being RV friendly perhaps not as what the original discussion was but I believe that Numurkah being a RV friendly town would be a positive move for the town and surrounding district. I again make the point that travellers should be given a method of jotting down their expenditure whilst staying for the 48 hours".

-
- Now is the time for local travel and supporting local businesses
 - o “Now, more than ever it is so important to open up all country Victorian towns for the tourist dollar. I suppose the cost to keep the areas clean is a concern for local council. But with some smart thinking and a bit of outlay I’m sure a solution could be found to encourage us city slickers to come and spend a dollar. Come on and get us spending here in Victoria. I must say there are plenty of great places here in Victoria, and I’m a peeved at our boarder states that have locked us out. So why not holiday here.....”
 - o “Done... Tourists bring \$\$\$\$. A small overnight charge helps to pay for maintenance.”
 - o “Done! Bring them in and support our local towns & businesses”
 - o “Agriculture used to be this area’s main income but now that water has left, farms gone, we need to find another industry and Tourism is the most logical.”
 - o “Done. Travellers will support the town if they are welcome to stop for a night or two”
 - o “There are well over one million Grey Nomads travelling Australia, spending around \$10 Billion annually, also the Manufacturing industry alone is worth \$21 Billion employing 53,000 people if most Grey Nomads can’t free or low cost camp then we will stop travelling.”
 - o “Get on with it Numurkah, you have a lot to offer.”
 - Unlocking dump point
 - o “Unlock the dump point would be a great start.”
 - o “The Dunny dump is locked and the procedure for use of it is convoluted to say the least. I’m also a member of several caravan groups that when Numurkah is discussed, the recomendation is to bypass the town because of a lack of interest in providing a camp ground and free dunny dump that is not locked.”
 - Value of the RV market
 - o “...Port Hedland Council collected receipts from people staying in their free camping area. On average, people spent \$140 per caravan, per night stayed in the free camp. They bought fuel, groceries, meals etc. at the pub, and other items. If we could encourage just one caravan to stay per night, that would mean around \$50,000 into the local community. Caravanners who are looking for a free camp will not stay in a caravan park, they will take their van, and their money on to the next town...”
 - Value of tourism to commercial caravan parks
 - o “...Visitors to commercial caravan parks spent on average \$610.00 per trip compared to visitors to non-commercial sites who spent \$352.00. This is a 73% difference. From Tourism research Australia a Federal Government website <https://www.tra.gov.au/Economic-analysis...>”

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the review of the RV Strategy and the survey of the community, the following recommendation is proposed.

A TWO-YEAR TRIAL OF RV FRIENDLY OVERNIGHT PARKING AT TWO LOCATIONS

It is proposed to trial two locations of RV Friendly overnight parking to allow choice for the RVer's coming to town and managed any difficulties around overnight parking when events are on at the Numurkah Showgrounds.

The locations are:

- The Numurkah Showgrounds; and
- Lion's Park.

Each location is discussed in more detail below, before the conditions of the trial are outlined.

THE NUMURKAH SHOWGROUNDS

It was clear from the survey data that the vast majority of respondents would like to see Numurkah be made an RV Friendly Town.

It is therefore proposed that a two-year trial of free RV Friendly Overnight Parking of up to 48 hours is provided at the Numurkah Showgrounds, subject to the approval of the Numurkah Showgrounds Committee.

Three sites within the Numurkah Showgrounds were explored, as shown on the map below:

- Area 1 – South of the main entry, which in the past has been used by RVer's – this is closed to residential area.
- Area 2 – North of the courts – this area floods and is too close to traffic and people crossing the car park.
- Area 3 – North East of the main entry – This is the preferred site.



Proposed RV Trial Site (Area 3)

The below map shows the North Eastern section of the Numurkah Showgrounds with the proposed sites marked out. In red is the recommended site, the blue dots create a delineation between the road and proposed site, and the green dots are suggested tree plantings to create avenues for future shade.



This site is ideal for the following reasons:

- More aesthetic location.
- Located near the walking track and the Broken Creek with easy access by foot to town, Broken Creek walking circuit and exercise stations and Kinnaird's wetlands.
- Located away from residential area and away from highly used areas of the Numurkah Showgrounds.
- Green space with limited coverage of Eucalyptus trees that can present a tree hazard with limbs falling.
- Access via side entrance across from Newby St. rather than the main entrance.

Below are some photos of the proposed site:



THE LION'S PARK, MCNAMARA DRIVE

The second most preferred site from the survey responses was the Lion's Park in McNamara Drive on the Broken Creek.

Given that overnight parking at the Numurkah Showgrounds may not be ideal when events are on; it is proposed that a two-year trial of free RV Friendly Overnight Parking of up to 48 hours is also provided at the Lion's Park, McNamara Drive, Numurkah.

This is a beautiful location on the Broken Creek. There are toilets close by, with picnic benches, walk into town, wetlands within walking distance, bowling club, tennis courts, indoor swimming pool all on the positive side of things.

The cons – there is no dump point (but two in town already), no power, which would not be provided anyway, bats in trees on the other side of the creek (could be good or bad) and the area can chop up a little if wet. Therefore, it is recommended to put some crushed rock/fill to elevate the problem if it was to become the location of choice for RVers.

Offering a second site will enable RVers to make a choice as to their preferred site for overnight parking.

Below is a map of the area and zoomed in map on the section near the toilet building.



Below are some photos of the site.



CONDITIONS OF THE TRIAL

The conditions of the trial are as follows:

- A maximum of 15 RV vehicles parked on site at any time - If site is fully occupied please move on to another approved location or stay at a Caravan Park;
- Overnight parking of up to 48 hours only allowed;
- Only fully self-contained recreational vehicles are allowed – i.e. The RV vehicle must carry its own on-board water supply, washing and toilet facilities, and waste water tank;
- Dogs on a leash within the designated overnight parking area;
- Any fires to be within contained fire pits and within fire regulations;
- No laundry – clothes drying outside the RVs;
- No tent camping;
- No facilities or amenities are provided;
- No disposal of solid waste or discharge of waste water must occur. A RV dump point is available at the Numurkah Showgrounds and at the Numurkah Caravan Park.
- No fee - Council cannot require a direct payment for camping at this location, otherwise the Residential Tenancies Act will apply. In other words, if payment is expected for RV's to use a Council site even if it is for one night then that site should be registered and comply with all requirements under the Act and Regulations;
- Any breaches of conditions for the use of the RV overnight parking site will incur an infringement notice (\$200); and
- The trial can be suspended or revised by the CEO at any time.

SIGNAGE

Signage should be erected clearly stipulating the conditions of the overnight parking. Wayfinding signage is also required to be installed throughout the Numurkah Showgrounds leading RVers to the preferred site, as well as at the Lion's Park.

It is also suggested that information signage is installed that promotes the region and all its activities, such as the Sun Country on the Murray Nature Escape and the Murray Farm Gate Trail and other local RV Friendly stops, as well as the local gift voucher cards – Why Leave Town, encouraging any visitors that do stay to spend locally and do sightseeing and the local postcard initiative Moira vPostcard, encouraging visitors to share their experiences from the region with friends and family by sending them a postcard.

As part of the launch, Council may consider to partner with Numurkah Love our Lifestyle and donate Why Leave Town vouchers (e.g. \$20) for the first 50, 100 or 250 visitors that stay at the site. There may also be options to include a \$20 discount voucher for anyone staying another night at the Numurkah Caravan Park.

MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW OF TRIAL

Council's Operations team will monitor litter, even though it is within the showgrounds, which is technically managed by the Showgrounds Committee. Council will consider placement of additional bins at the showgrounds near the dump point and regular emptying of these to prevent littering becoming an issue.

Council's Operations team will do ad-hoc compliance during office hours Monday to Friday when driving past or cleaning the toilets on site. If they see any issues in relation to compliance, the Operations team member will CRM the compliance issue to Local Laws, who will then attend on site and deal with the issue. Any breaches of conditions for the use of the RV overnight parking site will be given infringement notices of \$200 immediately. There will be no compliance checks on weekends or public holidays, neither during after-hours.

An economic impact survey should be developed that anyone staying at the Numurkah Showgrounds overnight parking site could complete, consequently helping to identify the economic impact. This could be set up electronically and linked via a QR code on the information signage.

It is recommended that any RVers are encouraged to register their attendance for safety purposes. A site has been set up on Council's website and a QR code can be included on the sign at the specific location:

www.moiravic.gov.au/rvrego - this is for the registration

www.moiravic.gov.au/rvregodone - this is the confirmation page, once the registration has been completed.

FEEDBACK ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The draft RV Friendly Strategy Review report together with a summary document was sent to:

- Moira Shire Tourism Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from each of the Local Tourism Associations;
- The former Moira Shire RV Friendly Working Group, which established the Moira Shire RV Strategy;
- Caravan Parks in Moira Shire; and
- Lead organisers of the community petition.

Overall Feedback

A total of eight email responses were received, which was overwhelmingly positive. Only one response received was against the proposed recommendation to provide free overnight parking for RVs.

The following provides an overview of the key themes that came through feedback received.

- A wonderful outcome for Moira Shire and the RV travellers
 - o “I would like to thank...the Moira Shire for looking at and taking action on the Numurkah RV friendly petition. I am extremely pleased with the result. ...As stated we are hoping this will bring more visitors to our town of Numurkah and surrounding district towns. With the RV friendly status I am also sure that once visitors discover Numurkah again and wish to stay longer they will also stay at our local caravan park and other accomodation venues creating more foot traffic throughout which is what the business houses are looking for, especially at the moment.”
- More opportunities to further expand RV overnight parking across the shire
 - o “I would like to see this same availability for overnight night stays, be made available in all town areas within the Shire...There are more opportunities in Whunghu [Wunghnu], Katamatite, Cobram (showgrounds), etc, if areas could be made available.”
- Proposed sites are the most appropriate
 - o “I don’t know of any RVFT site between Melbourne and the NSW border that is as picturesque as ours and being a 2 to 3 hour drive from Melbourne it is the ideal distance for an overnight stopover.”
 - o There were however differing views as to whether the Showgrounds or the Lion’s Park was the most suitable location of the two.
- Making Numurkah RV Friendly is about benefiting the wider community
 - o “Reinstating Numurkah as RV Friendly will be a huge bonus for all businesses including the Numurkah Caravan Park, to promote Numurkah as a “home-base”. RV’ers can set up camp in the caravan park and stay a few days or a week to check out the district, Numurkah is central with so much to see within an hours drive.

I would hope that the Moira Shire, businesses and community can work together with the Caravan Park to make RV Friendly a mutual benefit to us all. "Why Leave Town" vouchers are a brilliant idea to encourage expenditure, RV'ers know it's a privilege to stay in a RVFT and are generally happy to show their support and appreciation. Not everyone chooses to stay in a caravan park but they all have to eat, buy groceries and fuel. The potential for Numurkah post Covid-19 is enormous, we need to embrace it, if not another town or shire will.

- Access to dump points (DP) is important
 - o "The DP at the showground would be unavailable to travellers to use if the showground's were in use for an event by my understanding. I remember that during our study group we talked re the area around the DP for big rigs to get close to but it may have been the DP at the Yarrowonga. Other Show Ground where we thought that this could be a problem. The DP at the caravan park I seem to remember that there would be no charge for using the parks DP would this still be so and would the DP be in a position that would be available 24/7 and would there be room for large caravans and Motorhomes to turn around with out creating a disturbance to park users."
- Is it safe?
 - o "Will it be safe in these times of COVID-19? As of today, the rate is still increasing worldwide."
 - o "Parks must comply with stringent laws in order to receive their approval to operate. These laws are designed to ensure the preservation of the environment and the safety of guests/customers. Cost of compliance is significant for business owners, and they have a right to expect that their competitors should also be required to be compliant with fire safety regulations, sanitation standards, lighting, road access and all the other requirements of a commercial caravan park."
- There is no such thing as free camping
 - o "There is a cost to free camping to Moira Shire, and rate payers, there is no quantifying in place to suggest that this will work. We are just hoping they might spend something in town before going on to their destination."

Feedback from the CMCA

Specific feedback from the CMCA on the recommendations are as follows:

Some comments on the strategy moving forward are:

- Council should be applauded for offering a trial of freedom camping. The showground site would be considered more appropriate from a CMCA perspective because there is more land, the soil type is better for heavy vehicles, there will be fewer issues with wet weather impacting operation and it is easier to monitor access and operation of the camp ground. Possible conflict with other showground users can be managed through camping closure periods as long as these are communicated, and alternatives can be provided in town.
- Assessment of the trial's success seems to be more aligned to how many complaints are received rather than what positive impact the camping ground can have on the community and economy. The trial could be measured by the following:

-
- a. Shopping receipts provided in a collection area within the campground
 - b. Activity reported by retailers - can you offer a code for discounts in town or ask campers to let retailers know that they are staying at the camping ground at point of purchase?
 - c. Numbers staying at the camps
 - d. Success or failure should not be based on the number of complaints received during the trial period, those against the campgrounds will complain, others who support it will be silent, so you only get one side of the argument.
- Compliance issues - what standard will council set for self-containment? CMCA has a Self-Contained Vehicle Policy which can be shared with council if needed.
 - Council should continue to seek RV Friendly camping options for Natalia, Cobram and Picola.