

Project update – Lake Charlegrark Precinct Development

July 2016

Lake Charlegrark Precinct Development – project update

The Lake Charlegrark Precinct Development continues to gain momentum, with \$300,000 of the Commonwealth's Drought Communities Program funding going towards the project.

The Lake Charlegrark Precinct Development was highlighted in the Edenhope-Apsley Social Infrastructure Study as an opportunity for the shire to expand its visitor offering and capitalise on existing local assets. The project includes the installation of three phase power, construction of modern, all-access amenities and upgrades to the barbeque and seating facilities.

Lake Charlegrark is a significant tourist attraction for the shire and draws at a minimum 15,000 visitors annually plus local usage. The completion of this enabling infrastructure will allow the West Wimmera region to attract significant numbers of additional visitors. This aligns with council's economic development action plan to strengthen the local tourism industry and destination appeal. Over a 25-year period, using economic value created as the basis for the calculations and a 7.55 discount rate, this project has a:

- Net present value of \$9.8 million
- Cost benefit ratio for the whole project of 10.5.

It is important that the area is upgraded to meet the demands of visitors, so that people continue to stop in the shire. It is expected that the proposed upgrades will increase annual visitation to the Lake by at least 40%. In addition, the upgrades will allow for the annual music festival to expand, further increasing attendances at this event.

Lee Pretlove, Chairperson of the Lake Charlegrark Committee of Management, is pleased to see the project progressing. "The Committee realised the importance of this facility to locals and visitors many years ago and have been dedicated to this project for some time."

Council has submitted an expression of interest to the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (Regional Development Victoria), to support the committed contributions. It is hoped that this application will be successful and announced soon. This funding would guarantee the project can go ahead.

For further details on this project, please contact

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