
7 ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

7.1 HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

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File No: CS/12/085

Attachments: 1. Men's Shed collateral wrap up

SUMMARY

Mitchell Shire Council has undertaken extensive community consultation investigating the support for the construction of a Men's Shed facility located at the Village Green Reserve, 238 Hidden Valley Blvd, Hidden Valley.

A men's shed is a community-based, not for profit and non-commercial organisation that is accessible to all men. The primary activity is to provide a safe and friendly environment where men can work on meaningful projects at their own pace in the company of other men. A major objective is to advance the wellbeing and health of participants.

Consultation conducted in February 2020 indicates strong support for the construction of a Men's Shed facility at 238 Hidden Valley Blvd, Hidden Valley. This construction is based on the successful application for the Men's Shed to the annual DHHS Men's Shed Funding round.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Support the Hidden Valley and Wallan District Men's Shed application for the DHHS Men's Shed grant.
2. Resolve to provide a lease arrangement to the HVaWD on property number 238 Hidden Valley Blvd, Hidden Valley for the purpose of the construction of a Men's Shed facility.

BACKGROUND

The Men's Shed Program is a funding program (\$1m p/a) offered through DHHS for the construction of new sheds or refurbishment of existing sheds to support the Men's Shed model.

Under the funding round, men's shed groups can apply for a grant of up to \$80,000, for the construction of a new men's shed or the replacement, extension or refurbishment of an existing shed. There is a requirement to match the funding 2:1 (for example if a grant of \$30,000 is sought, the total project cost would be at least \$45,000). The applicant will need to provide a contribution of at least \$15,000 towards the project from other sources.

HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED (CONT.)

In May 2019 the newly formed Hidden Valley and Wallan District Men's Shed (HVaWD) approached Council with the aim of identifying a site for a potential Men's Shed facility in Hidden Valley.

Unfortunately, at this time a lack of community engagement support for the construction of a shed was identified by Council officers and therefore in July 2019 a report was presented to Council with the recommendations to:

1. Resolve to postpone the application for the 2019 DHHS Men's Shed grants
2. Use the next six months to explore three land parcels across Wallan and Hidden Valley for use as a Men's Shed as well as undertake community engagement

In January/February 2020 consultation was undertaken with the community regarding the use of 238 Hidden Valley Blvd, Hidden Valley to accommodate a Men's Shed facility. The consultation also included the potential to upgrade the park space to include the addition of toilet facilities at the park.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The construction of the Men's Shed facility at 238 Hidden Valley Blvd, Hidden Valley will significantly decrease the footprint of public park and recreation open space. Community consultation regarding the site has been undertaken and indicated strong support for this development.

Under the restrictions of the Section 173 Agreement in Hidden Valley, the shed is not to be constructed of corrugated iron. This shed would need to be rendered with a tiled roof, increasing the cost of the shed to approximately \$100k requiring a 2:1 investment from the Hidden Valley Men's Shed. Currently no co-contribution has been raised nor in-kind investment identified.

It should be noted that in discussion with the Department of Health and Human Services there has been no confirmation that the annual Men's Shed Grant Round will be progressing in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently the Hidden Valley and Wallan District Men's Shed Inc are operating out of a temporary facility gifted to them by the Wallan Gateway Church. It is anticipated that this facility will remain in operation as the Wallan sub-branch of the HVaWD Men's Shed after the construction of a shed facility in Hidden Valley.

The Wallan Classic Vehicle Club are still investigating opportunities for land availability for the construction of a shed to accommodate the needs of this large Community Group. Council staff will continue to liaise with the group.

CONSULTATION

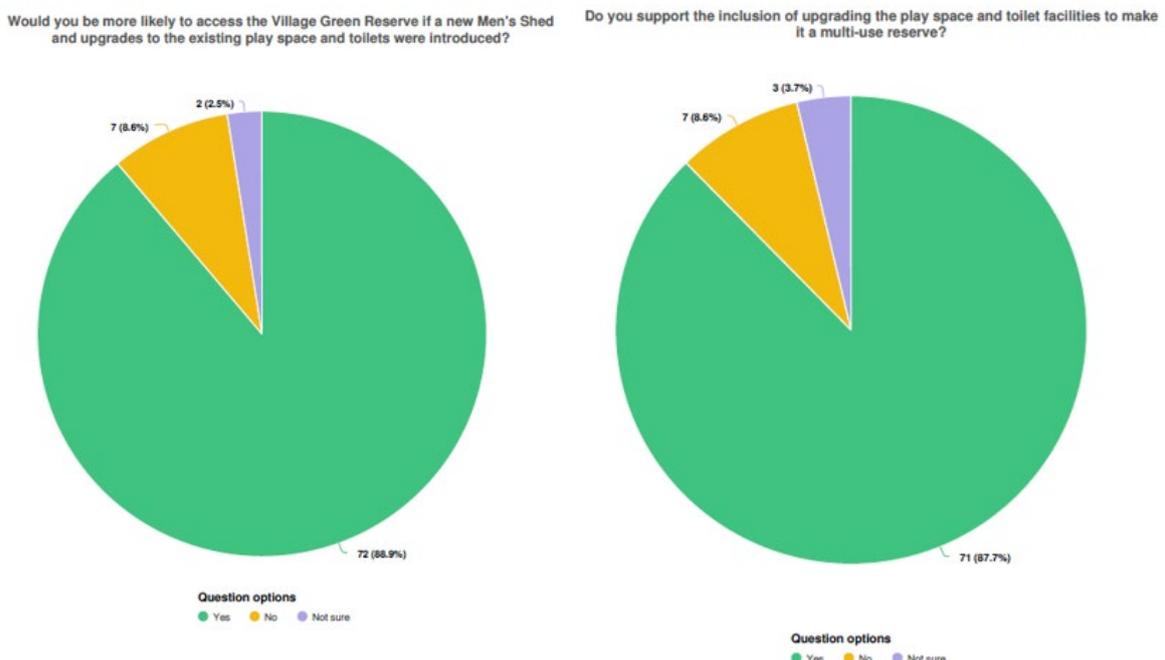
Consultation with the community was open from 12 January through to 21 February 2020.

HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED (CONT.)

Varying methods of engagement were undertaken to identify a cross section of the community, this included:

- Media Release
- Council News
- Website Engagement
- Social Media engagement
- Engaging Mitchell Survey and project tab

This engagement resulted in a total number of 313 people engaged, 92 people completing the survey and 13 people signed up to receive regular information regarding the proposed new shed.



In evaluating survey answers, participant responses indicated support for the inclusion of a Men's Shed facility and playground upgrade of 238 Hidden Valley Blvd Hidden Valley.

Survey highlights include:

- 74% of people completing the survey specified that they do not currently attend a Men's Shed
- 88.9% of survey respondent indicated they were more likely to access the reserve if a Men's Shed and upgrades to the existing play space and toilets were introduced.
- 87.7% of respondent were in favour of the reserve becoming a multi-use reserve
- The age range for people participating in the survey was very diverse

HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED (CONT.)

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

If a Men's Shed is to be constructed on Public Park and Recreation Reserve the ongoing maintenance will become the responsibility of Council. As such it will be added to Council's Asset Database, maintenance schedule and contract.

Proposal for the upgrade of play space and toilet facilities located at 238 Hidden Valley Blvd, Hidden Valley would be drafted as an inclusion in the Capital Works Program. These works would be subject to consideration as part of the overall Capital Works program and may result in the withdrawal of additional projects within the Capital Works Budget.

A Dial Before You Dig enquiry was obtain utility plans in this area to understand what services are currently available to the site and the approximate connection costs that may be expected for a new facility. Please note that costs are very high level and final costs may be influenced by the final location of the building on the site.

Utility Service	Status	Cost allowance to connect to new building
Electricity	Available at the boundary of the site	\$5,000
Water	Available at the boundary of the site	\$5,000
Sewer	<p>Sewer is available nearby to the South of the site, <i>note</i> this Sewer main will require extension to the site over the adjacent privately-owned land (approx. 50m). This will require a service easement over neighboring land and compensation may be payable (not included in costings).</p> <p>Depending on the siting of the new building, up to 50m of sewer would also need to be laid within the site.</p> <p><i>Note: The presence of trees along the desired alignment may also complicate installation and add additional costs.</i></p>	\$50,000
Gas	Available at the boundary of the site	\$5,000
Total (excluding Gas)		\$60,000

Note there may be a case to be made for Council to share some of these servicing costs if it were to decide to establish a public toilet on this reserve. The costs attributed to this public toilet project in the long-term program is currently \$243,000. The estimated costs for renewal of play space equipment is \$100,000.

HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED (CONT.)

On discussion with the HVaWD Men's Shed a quote for the proposed HVaWD Men's Shed was provided with indicative figures of co-contribution. (see below)

Description	Supplier/Organisation	Amount
Funding	Proposed DHHS – Men's Shed Fund	\$80,000
Shed Quote	Black Ace Constructions (indicative costs only)	\$199,100
In-Kind Contribution	Un-confirmed	\$30,000
Fundraising to date	Confirmed	\$2,000
Funds required	Not yet raised	\$87,100

* Further In-Kind contributions recognised will reduce the cash amount required for the construction of the HvaWD Men's Shed.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Local Context

- *Mitchell Shire Council Plan 2017-2021*
- *Mitchell Shire Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2017-2021*
- *Mitchell Shire Social Justice Framework 2017-2021*
- *Mitchell Shire Life Stages Strategy 2019*
- *Mitchell Shire Council Community Engagement Framework*
- *Mitchell Volunteer Framework*
- *Mitchell 2020 Plan*
- *Open Space Strategy 2013 - 2023*
- *Play Space Strategy 2015*
- *Parks and Open Space Asset Management Plan 2012*
- *Environment Strategy 2014 - 2024*
- *Community Leasing and Licensing Policy 2019*

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk Ranking is determined using [ROHS201-G1- Corporate Risk Matrix](#). Risk is identified as Low, Medium, High or Very High.

Risk	Risk Ranking	Proposed Treatments	Within Existing Resources?
There is a risk that the community will not utilise the building as anticipated and as a consequence the community protest the money expended	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage community in design - Advertise/promote engagement process 	Will need to employ others to survey and consult with community

HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED (CONT.)

Risk	Risk Ranking	Proposed Treatments	Within Existing Resources?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow for future expansion as community grows - Keep within budget to demonstrate value for money 	
There is a risk that the 2020 DHHS Men's Shed funding round does not progress due to escalating obligations for DHHS surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HVaWD Mens Shed will need to postpone grant funding application and await next opportunity. - MSC will continue to engage with the HVaWD Mens shed promoting and supporting social inclusive activities to keep members engaged 	N/A

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)

Men's Sheds aim to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian men. They address social isolation and boost men's mental health in terms of feeling safe, making friends and sharing meaningful activities.

Mitchell Shire Council MPHWP

The environment we live, work and play in has significant impacts on our health and wellbeing. A healthy and vibrant community can bring many benefits to the health and wellbeing of Mitchell residents. The ability to engage in physical activity and have access to open space and leisure facilities are vital to preventing chronic diseases, public health emergencies as well as provide social connectedness.

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONSKeeping Children Safe

At Mitchell Shire Council we are committed to ensuring all children and young people reach their full potential as we strive to achieve our mission of working with our communities to build a great quality of life.

We have zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and neglect towards children and young people. We will work actively to provide a safe environment in all our programs and services. We will ensure that any incidents of suspected child abuse will be acted upon appropriately and in accordance with our policy and legal obligations.

HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED (CONT.)

We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and young people. Child protection is a shared responsibility by all councillors, employees, workers, contractors, volunteers, associates, and members of the community.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

CONCLUSION

Consultation undertaken in January/February 2020 indicates support for a Men's Shed facility to be constructed at 238 Hidden Valley Blvd, Hidden Valley. Further to this Hidden Valley and Wallan District Men's Shed Incorporated are requesting support from Mitchell Shire Council for their application to the proposed 2020 DHHS Men's Shed Grant.

In anticipation of a successful application to this grant the HVaWD Men's Shed Incorporated are requesting a lease arrangement to be formed with Mitchell Shire

HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED (CONT.)

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Attachment

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

20 APRIL 2020

7.1

HIDDEN VALLEY AND WALLAN DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

Attachment No: 1

Men's Shed collateral wrap up



Date: February 2020

Media release

Media Release
For immediate release
Friday 14 February 2020

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

Hidden Valley men's shed input wanted

Mitchell Shire Council is calling for community input on the possibility of a new men's shed, playground and toilets on the Village Green in Hidden Valley.

The Hidden Valley and Wallan District Men's Shed group contacted Council to help identify a site as part of a funding application the group is preparing for construction.

Community input is being sought to help Council decide next steps. Council is asking the community about:

- support for the men's shed and potential community uptake of men's shed activities
- the proposed location (The Village Green Reserve, Hidden Valley)
- interest in upgrading nearby play space equipment including the addition of toilet facilities.

There are a number of men's sheds in operation throughout the Shire. The sheds provide a safe and friendly environment where men can work on meaningful projects and provide important social connections at the same time.

The survey is available at www.engagingmitchellshire.com and closes at 9am on Monday 24 February. Hard copies are available by contacting Council on 5734 6200.

Quotes attributable to Mitchell Shire Mayor Councillor David Lowe

"Men's sheds provide enormous benefits to the community and give often isolated men a chance to come together and learn new skills, pass on skills to others and support each other at the same time," he said.

"I'm thrilled that we've been able to support this newly formed group so far. I look forward to hearing from the community about what they think of the idea of using part of the Village Green in this way and upgrading the playground at the same time.

"It's important that the community, particular in Wallan and Hidden Valley, let us know what they think so we can make an informed decision about next steps."

Media enquiries
0400 143 674
communications@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Find us on social media
 MitchellShire
 @MitchellShire



Advertisements



Men's shed proposal
Survey closes, Monday 17 February
 We've identified a possible site in Hidden Valley for a men's shed and we want your input before deciding the next steps. We're also asking if people support the addition of a new playground and toilets on the proposed site.
www.engagingmitchellshire.com

4 and 5 Feb 2020
 North Central Review
 Mclvor Times
 Seymour Telegraph



Council News MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

8AM, FRIDAY 6 MARCH
THE GROVE HIDDEN VALLEY

International Women's Day
 Our Annual International Women's Day (IWD) breakfast is just one of many community events around the world. The theme is Each for Equal. The day aims to raise awareness in our community about unconscious bias and encourage everyone to take daily actions for equality. People at this inclusive event for all community members will hear from award-winning sports broadcaster Tiffany Cherry. From AFL Boundary Rider to the Super Bowl, Tiffany has quickly risen through the sports media ranks.
 Tickets cost \$35. Get yours now from www.iwdmitchell2020.eventbrite.com.au

Are you in for 2020?
Step up to clean up, Sunday 1 March
 We're getting ready for Clean Up Australia Day. We're encouraging community groups, schools and local businesses to register their public clean up events so they can access clean up equipment and be added to local promotions. www.cleannupaustrialaday.org.au

Men's shed proposal
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 We've identified a possible site in Hidden Valley for a men's shed and we want your input before deciding the next steps. We're also asking if people support the addition of a new playground and toilets on the proposed site. www.engagingmitchellshire.com

We've extended our hours at Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre. The facility is now open until 9pm from Monday until Thursday. For more information, visit our website or call Leisure Services on 5735 1500.

Feeling friendly?
Bring a friend for free in February
 Leisure members can bring a guest to their workouts at Kilmore Leisure Centre and Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre. If a guest joins on our Lifestyle Easy Payment Plan, they'll get March free.

Free grant workshop
Broadford, Tuesday 25 February
 Get the latest tips and advice on the best practice strategies and approaches for successful grant writing in 2020. Participants are required to register before the day. For more information visit grant-ready-2020.eventbrite.com.au

Want more information?
 Please see classifieds for employment, tenders and public notices.
 Next meeting: **Community Questions and Hearings** 7pm, 18 February 2020
 Radio: 605PM - 1pm, 24 February SeymourFM - 9.30am, 27 February
www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au www.engagingmitchellshire.com
 5734 6200 mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au [f](#) [MitchellShire](#)





Published 14 February 2020

Hidden Valley men's shed input wanted

Mitchell Shire Council is calling for community input on the possibility of a new men's shed, playground and toilets on the Village Green in Hidden Valley.

[Read article](#)



[Home](#) / [About Council](#) / [News and media](#) / [News articles](#) / Hidden Valley men's shed input wanted

Published Friday, 14 February 2020

Hidden Valley men's shed input wanted

You'll find on this page: [Guest article by Mitchell Shire Mayor Christine Quest-Lewis](#)

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Community input is being sought to help Council decide next steps. Council is asking the community about:

- ... support for the men's shed and potential community uptake of men's shed activities
- ... the proposed location (The Village Green Reserve, Hidden Valley)
- ... interest in upgrading nearby play space equipment including the addition of table facilities.

There are a number of men's sheds in operation throughout the Shire. The sheds provide a safe and friendly environment where men can work on meaningful projects and provide important social connections at the same time.

The survey is available at [communityinput.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](#) and closes at 9am on Monday 24 February. Input responses are available by contacting Council on 08 8328 6500.

THE SHIRE

Guests attributable to Mitchell Shire Mayor Christine Quest-Lewis

"Men's sheds provide enormous benefits to the community and give often isolated men a chance to come together and learn new skills, pass on skills to others and support each other," he said.

"I'm pleased that we've been able to support this newly formed group so far. I look forward to hearing from the community about why and upgrading the playground at the same time.

"It's important that the community, particularly in Wallara and Hidden Valley, let us know what they think so we can make an informed decision about next steps."

HAVE YOUR SAY

You can contribute to issues currently being considered by Council.

Greater Beveridge Community Centre Advisory Group

Are you a Beveridge local and keen to help shape local community life? We're calling for local residents to join the Greater Beveridge Community Centre Community Advisory Group.

[Visit website](#)

Kilmore sport and recreation facilities plan

How do you use sport and recreation facilities in Kilmore? How would you like to use them in the future? Take our survey and help us plan. Closes 5pm, Wednesday 18 March.

[Visit website](#)

Victorian Electoral Commission representation review

The Victorian Electoral Commission has released its recommendations for the representation review of Mitchell Shire. Submissions close 11 March. Public hearing 18 March.

[Visit website](#)

Park naming Wallara Waters

We're proposing to name a park in Wallara Waters, Wallara and we want your input. Submissions close 9am, Wednesday 4 March.

[Visit website](#)

Hidden Valley Men's Shed

We're seeking input on support for a possible men's shed in Hidden Valley, the proposed location and interest in upgrading the nearby play space equipment including the addition of toilets. Survey closes 9am, Monday 24 February.

[Visit website](#)

MITCHELL SHIRE.
Together with the Community, creating a sustainable future





Facebook

Mitchell Shire Council
Published by Sprout Social (7) · 14 January

We're investigating the possibility of a newly constructed men's shed facility in Hidden Valley, Wallan. We're putting the finishing touches on a survey which we'll launch later this month. To sign up to be the first to know when it goes live, please visit <https://engagingmitchellshire.com/>



2,158 People Reached

34 Likes, Comments & Shares

118 Post Clicks

14 Photo views | 24 Link clicks | 80 Other Clicks

Mitchell Shire Council
Published by Sprout Social (1) · 5 February at 16:39

The newly formed Hidden Valley and Wallan District Men's Shed group has contacted Council to help identify a site to assist with a funding application they are exploring. We've identified a possible site in Hidden Valley and we want your input. We've also identified the opportunity to add a new playground and toilets nearby and we want to know what you think before we decide next steps. Let us know your thoughts on our Engaging Mitchell consultation portal: <https://engagingmitchellshire.com/hidden-valley-boulevard>



ENGAGINGMITCHELLSHIRE.COM
Hidden Valley Men's Shed
Mitchell Shire Council is currently investigating the possibility of a newly...

1,428 People Reached

11 Likes, Comments & Shares

38 Post Clicks

0 Photo views | 25 Link clicks | 13 Other Clicks

Mitchell Shire Council
Published by Sprout Social (6) · 13 February at 18:11

The newly formed Hidden Valley and Wallan District Men's Shed group has contacted Council to help identify a site to assist with a funding application they are exploring. We've identified a possible site in Hidden Valley and we want your input. We've also identified the opportunity to add a new playground and toilets nearby and we want to know what you think before we decide next steps. Let us know your thoughts on our Engaging Mitchell consultation portal: <https://engagingmitchellshire.com/hidden-valley-boulevard>



ENGAGINGMITCHELLSHIRE.COM
Hidden Valley Men's Shed
Mitchell Shire Council is currently investigating the possibility of a newly...

1,648 People Reached

16 Reactions, comments & shares

72 Post Clicks

0 Photo views | 24 Link clicks | 48 Other Clicks

Mitchell Shire Council
Published by Sprout Social (0) · 18 February at 16:21

There is less than one week to have your say on the possibility of a new men's shed, playground and toilets on the Village Green in Hidden Valley. We need your help to decide the next steps.



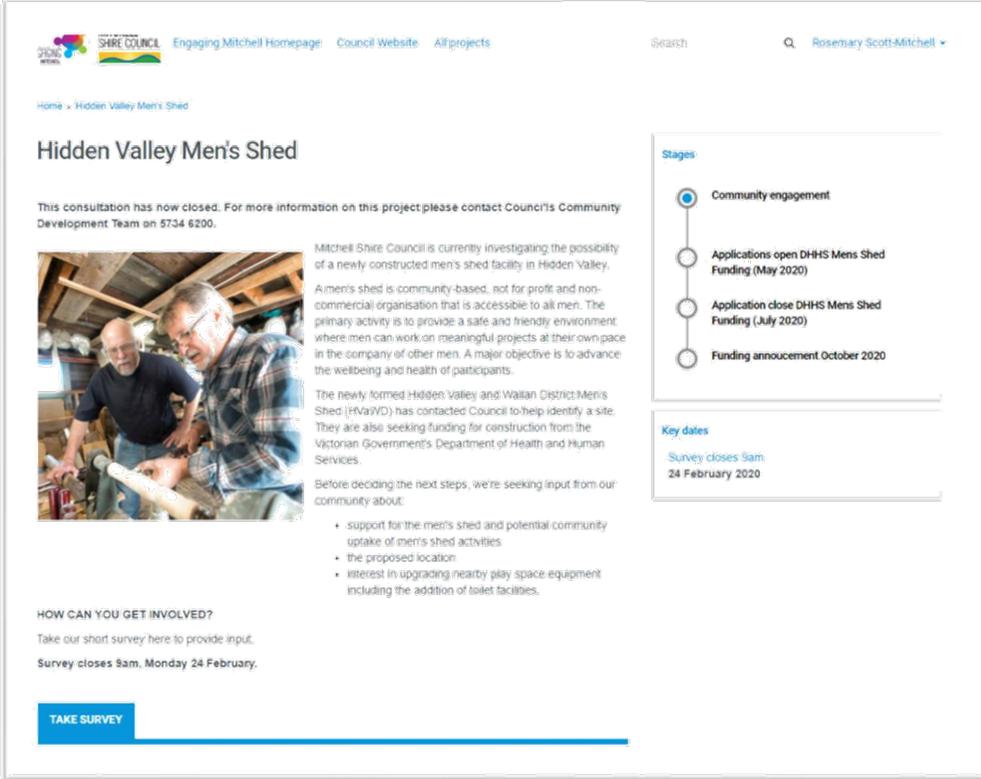
MITCHELLSHIRE.VIC.GOV.AU
Hidden Valley men's shed input wanted
Mitchell Shire Council is calling for community input on the possibility of a ...

1,209 People Reached

4 Likes, Comments & Shares

18 Post Clicks

0 Photo views | 8 Link clicks | 10 Other Clicks

The screenshot shows a webpage titled 'Hidden Valley Men's Shed'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'SHIRE COUNCIL', 'Engaging Mitchell Homepage', 'Council Website', and 'All projects'. A search bar contains 'Rosemary Scott-Mitchell'. The main heading is 'Hidden Valley Men's Shed'. Below it, a message states: 'This consultation has now closed. For more information on this project please contact Council's Community Development Team on 5734 6200.' There is a photograph of two men working in a shed. The text describes the council's investigation into a new men's shed facility and lists key dates: 'Applications open DHHS Mens Shed Funding (May 2020)', 'Application close DHHS Mens Shed Funding (July 2020)', and 'Funding announcement October 2020'. A 'Key dates' section notes 'Survey closes 9am, 24 February 2020'. A 'TAKE SURVEY' button is visible at the bottom.

311 visits to site including
36% referred via social

92 surveys completed

MITCHELL SHIRE.
Together with the Community, creating a sustainable future



➔ How did people find out?

