



## STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10 JULY 2018 AT THE EUROA COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTRE COMMENCING AT 5.00 P.M.

**Chair:** Amanda McClaren (Mayor) (Lake Nagambie Ward)

**Councillors:** Malcolm Little (Hughes Creek Ward)  
Debra Swan (Lake Nagambie Ward)  
Alistair Thomson (Mount Wombat Ward)

**Officers:** Phil Howard - Director, Innovation and Performance (DIP)  
Jeff Saker - Group Manager, Community Assets (GMCA)

#### **BUSINESS**

1. Welcome

2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners  
*'I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting.  
I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present'*

3. Apologies  
Councillor John Mason (Deputy Mayor) (Seven Creeks Ward)  
Councillor Kate Stothers (Honeysuckle Creek Ward)  
Graeme (Mick) Williams (Seven Creeks Ward)  
Steve Crawcour - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
David Roff - Group Manager, Corporate and Community (GMCC)

4. Disclosure of Interests

Nil.

5. Petitions

Nil

6. Reports of Council Officers

- 6.1 Climate Change
- 6.2 Infrastructure
- 6.3 Private Enterprise
- 6.4 Public Institutions
- 6.5 Housing and Recreation
- 6.6 Tourism
- 6.7 Organisation

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7. Urgent Business
8. Closure of Meeting to the Public to consider matters listed for consideration in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989
9. Confirmation of 'Closed Portion' Decision/s

An audio recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting, as per Local Law No. 1 - Meeting Procedure (2014) or as updated from time to time through Council Resolution



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## 6. REPORTS

### 6.7 ORGANISATION

#### 6.7.1 Draft Tree Management Policy May 2018 - Receiving / Hearing of Submissions

##### **Author and Department**

Group Manager, Community Assets / Community Assets Directorate

##### **Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest in relation to advice provided in this report**

The author of this report and officers/contractors providing advice in relation to this report do not have a direct or indirect interest, as provided in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

##### **Summary**

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Council resolved to undertake a section 223 submissions process calling for submission in relation the Draft Tree Management Policy.

A public notice was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with 22<sup>nd</sup> June as the closing date for submissions.

One submission was received (see attached). The submitter has not requested to speak to the submission.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council, in relation to the Draft Tree Management Policy May 2018, resolve to:-**

- 1. Receive and hear submissions.**
- 2. Consider and determine submissions at the Ordinary Council meeting on 21 August 2018.**

31/18 **CRS THOMSON/SWAN** : *That the Recommendation be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

##### **Background**

One of the key strategies for 2017/18 in the Council Plan 2017 – 2022, under *Our Goals 2. To sustainably manage our natural and built environment*, is for Council to “*Adopt Council’s Tree Management Plan*”.

The current *Shire of Strathbogrie Tree Management Plan – Urban & Rural Strategies, Draft March 2018* has been separated into two documents: –

1. Tree Management Policy, and
2. Tree Management Guidelines.

6.7.1 Draft Tree Management Policy May 2018  
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

The policy is a concise and easily understood four (4) page policy that provides a framework on how trees on public land owned or controlled by Strathbogie (urban and rural areas) are to be managed. It provides clear principles and direction for the planting, care, protection and removal of trees.

As a new policy, Council is required to undertake a section 223 submissions process.

**Alternative Options**

The author and other officers providing advice in relation to this report have considered potential alternative courses of action. No feasible alternatives have been identified.

**Risk Management**

The author of this report considers that there are no significant Risk Management factors relating to the report and recommendation.

**Strategic Links – policy implications and relevance to Council Plan**

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Council Policies, key strategic documents and the Council Plan.

**Best Value / National Competition Policy (NCP) / Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA) implications**

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Best Value, National Competition Policy and Competition and Consumer Act requirements.

**Financial / Budgetary Implications**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no capital or recurrent budget considerations.

**Economic Implications**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant economic implications for Council or the broader community.

**Environmental / Amenity Implications**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant environmental or amenity implications for Council or the broader community.

**Community Implications**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant community or social implications for Council or the broader community.

**Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation does not limit any human rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

**Legal / Statutory Implications**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no legal or statutory implications which require the consideration of Council.

6.7.1 Draft Tree Management Policy May 2018  
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

**Consultation**

The proposed Section 223 process has provided an opportunity for the community to consider the matter and respond to Council.

**Attachments**

- Submission 1
- Draft Tree Management Policy



## Submission 1

20<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The Euroa Arboretum and the Euroa Environment Group remain keen to work with Council to further the goals of the Council's Tree Management Policy, particularly in relation to planning, species selection, tree valuation and amenity. Sharing our expertise can greatly expand the vision and the outcomes.

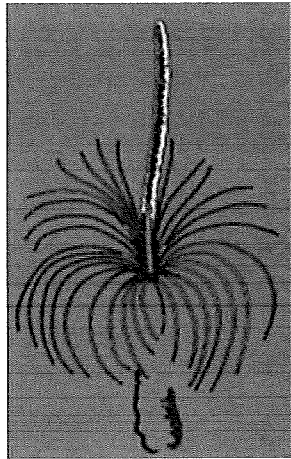
We see opportunities to work in collaboration with Council to develop: -

- An urban forest plan
- Community based street tree plantings ( to further the program initiated by Rotary in recent years ).
- A significant tree register

We would welcome a discussion regarding the poor health and diminishing rate of urban trees in Euroa, and how the community and Council can collaborate to address this.

As the president of both the Euroa Arboretum and the Euroa Environment Group, and a member of Council's Sustainable Development Reference Group I see multiple opportunities to engage and support positive tree management programs. I understand an Urban Greening Strategy will form part of the Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Strategy. Again, we would be keen to participate in the development of this Strategy.

Regards, Shirley Saywell



*Euroa Arboretum Inc*  
*P O Box 77*  
**EUROA 3666**



euroa environment group  
p o box 77  
euroa 3666  
email: [ee3666@gmail.com](mailto:ee3666@gmail.com)  
ph: 0427-244900

## Draft Tree Management Policy



# TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

<b>COUNCIL POLICY</b>	
Effective Date:	TBA
Last Review:	May 2018
Current Review:	TBA
Adopted by Council:	TBA
Next Review Date:	TBA
Responsible Officer	Group Manager, Community Assets

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## **POLICY STATEMENT:**

Strathbogie's trees are of immense environmental and aesthetical value to the Shire and its residents. Trees brighten up streets, increase civic pride, provide habitat for wildlife, act as the Shire's lungs and also help to reduce the rising temperatures caused by climate change.

Strathbogie Shire recognises that trees are a vital part of the shire's urban and rural areas, underpinning the character of the Shire and its natural ecosystems. It also recognises the expectation of the public that trees should not pose excessive threats to their safety and that of their property.

Strathbogie Shire is committed to conserving trees within its areas of responsibility. It will achieve this through new tree plantings and managing existing trees.

The purpose of this policy is to set the framework within which Council intends to manage the existing and future trees on Council owned or managed land within the urban and rural areas, including increasing the number of trees within the Shire, how the tree stock will be managed effectively and how the risk that trees may pose to the public will be minimised.

## **POLICY APPLICATION:**

This policy applies to the management of all existing and future trees within parts of road reserves and Council owned and managed properties.

This policy does not cover management of trees on privately owned land or trees on rural roads other than those affecting safety and managed by Council in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan. Trees in private ownership are the responsibility of the private landowner.

## **GENERAL**

Trees must be managed in a systematic manner, in accordance with Council's Asset Management Policy and general tree management principles and guidelines.

The following are the key principles that define the Strathbogie Shire Council's Tree Management Policy:

- This policy outlines Council's commitment to managing and caring for trees in line with public safety, conservation and tree health.
- This policy is based on the need to achieve a balance between the management of risk that Council is exposed to through the presence of trees in the Shire; the need to preserve, develop and improve the amenity of our urban areas and to enhance their natural environmental values and benefits.
- Council will manage its trees in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards, tree management principles and current best practices.
- Council will manage its trees to comply with all Federal, State and local legislative requirements.
- Council will keep residents informed about proposed works that directly affect them, and will consult with the community in regards to any major change in this policy.
- Best practice tree management will be maintained at all times.
- Council will respond to reported tree issues to manage the risk posed by trees to people and property.

- To manage risks associated with trees, Council will:
  - Deliver a reactive tree maintenance program (including tree roots) to assess and manage reported tree risks and public requests associated with tree management;
  - Deliver proactive tree maintenance programs for the purpose of delivering effective tree management while meeting the requirements of its Electric Line Clearance Plan and to meet the objectives of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and the Municipal Fire Management Plan;
  - Provide guidance and instruction for residents and developers wishing to plant trees on nature strips; and
  - Undertake species selection, placement and planting of trees in accordance with this policy to reduce long term risk.
- Council will avoid tree removal where possible and will only consider removing a tree if one or more of the following criteria are met:
  - Tree is dead;
  - Tree poses a danger to the public;
  - Tree is infected with a disease where the recommended control is not applicable and removal is the recommended practice to prevent transmission of the disease;
  - Tree is dying or performing poorly;
  - Tree has been vandalised and structurally damaged;
  - Tree has been severely damaged by a storm;
  - Tree is inappropriate species for the location;
  - Tree is interfering with the health or structure of "higher value neighbouring" tree(s);
  - Tree is substantially affecting public or private infrastructure and there are no other appropriate management options.
- Council will consider existing trees when considering applications for new development. Where appropriate, trees will be protected from development and other activities that threaten their health or (subject to conditions) may be considered for removal to facilitate the proposed development.
- All public requests for tree removal, maintenance, management and/or planting must have approval prior to the works being undertaken.
- Trees provide both environmental and aesthetic benefits to the community. Council will consider and promote opportunities to increase the number of trees within the urban areas. Tree Planting Programs, including Precinct and Park plans, will be developed to provide the direction to future planting programs.
- Planting programs will be developed with community and stakeholder consultation. As appropriate, planting programs will consider a number of factors including, but not limited to, preservation of the historic character of particular areas, strengthening of existing themes and the introduction of more contemporary landscaping.
- A diverse range of native and exotic tree species appropriate to the Shire's urban areas will be maintained.
- The urban tree canopy will be maintained with the implementation of a strategic replacement program.
- Tree species will be selected for planting after consideration of a number of factors including:
  - Risk management
  - Physical management requirements
  - Potential for attack by pests or disease
  - Suitability and appropriateness for the proposed planting site

- Potential to contribute to the landscape
- Tree behavioural characteristics (including leaf fall volume and propensity to drop limbs)
- Potential effect on existing Council and private assets (including footpaths and fences, kerb and channel, stormwater drainage and road surface).
- Council will regularly review and monitor its tree data base.
- Council will develop and implement a five (5) yearly program of tree inspections in streets, parklands, urban roadsides and other Council facilities to satisfy Council's risk management responsibilities and protection of assets.
- To protect Council's existing community infrastructure assets, Council will consider a number of options including the relocation or reconfiguration of the infrastructure or the removal of a tree to reduce the need for regular excessive pruning that could damage the structure of the tree.
- Historically significant trees will be managed as far as practical to ensure preservation.
- Catchment management principles will be considered in the management of remnant urban bushland.
- The nature of works may change in response to environmental conditions, community priorities, government policy and best practice management.

#### **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION:**

Council will develop the *Shire of Strathbogie Tree Management Guidelines* which will specify how Council will implement this policy and for the strategic and operational management of trees.



**6.7.2 Draft Community Pools Strategy Report  
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions**

**Author and Department**

Group Manager, Community Assets / Community Assets Directorate

**Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest in relation to advice provided in this report**

The author of this report and officers/contractors providing advice in relation to this report do not have a direct or indirect interest, as provided in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

**Summary**

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Council resolved to undertake a section 223 submissions process calling for submission in relation the Draft Community Pools Strategy Report.

A public notice was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018, with 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 as the closing date for submissions.

Sixteen submissions were received (see attached). One submitter has requested to be heard.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council, in relation to the Draft Community Pools Strategy Report, resolve to:-**

- 1. Receive and hear submissions.**
- 2. Consider and determine submissions at the Ordinary Council meeting on 21 August 2018.**

**32/18 CRS LITTLE/SWAN : That the Recommendation be adopted.**

**CARRIED**

**Background**

Consultants, Otium Planning Group, has been working since July 2017 to develop a strategy to guide Council's planning for aquatic recreation facilities.

The consultants have been guided by Council's Pools Working Group, acting as a Steering Committee, for Council's consideration.

Otium's work involved: -

- A review of Council's existing strategic documentation, current operations, community demographics, and other facilities in the region.
- Stakeholder interviews and workshops
- Community surveys

6.7.2 Draft Community Pools Strategy Report  
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

- An assessment of Industry trends and new technologies, and
- Development of a draft strategy based on the findings.

Council considered the draft report at the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Ordinary Council meeting and resolved that: -

1. Council adopt the draft Community Pools Strategy Report for the purpose of Community consultation;
2. In accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, the draft Strategy Report be placed on exhibition for a 28 day periods from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.
3. Council adopt timelines for the public notice and hearing and consideration of submissions as follows:
  - a. Public Notice Wednesday 23 May 2018
  - b. Submission(s) due date Friday 22 June 2018
  - c. Receive and hear submissions at Special Council meeting 5pm – Tuesday 10 July 2018.
4. Following the public exhibition period and hearing of any submissions, the draft Community Pools Strategy Report is reviewed, amended as appropriate and submitted to Council for formal consideration at a date to be determined.

154/18 **CRS THOMSON/SWAN** : That the Recommendation be adopted, subject to the word "Report" being included in the title of this report, in the Recommendations, and in the body of the report, where required.

**CARRIED**

**Alternative Options**

The author and other officers providing advice in relation to this report have considered potential alternative courses of action. No feasible alternatives have been identified.

**Risk Management**

The author of this report considers that there are no significant Risk Management factors relating to the report and recommendation.

**Strategic Links – policy implications and relevance to Council Plan**

The author of this report considers that the report is consistent with Council Policies, key strategic documents and the Council Plan.

**Best Value / National Competition Policy (NCP) / Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA) implications**

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**Financial / Budgetary Implications**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no capital or recurrent budget considerations.

6.7.2 Draft Community Pools Strategy Report  
- Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

**Economic Implications**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no significant economic implications for Council or the broader community.

**Environmental / Amenity Implications**

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**Legal / Statutory Implications**

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**Consultation**

The proposed Section 223 process has provided an opportunity for the community to consider the matter and respond to Council.

**Attachments**

- Table identifying the key points of the submissions (16) to be received.
- Submissions.



Submissions to Draft Community Pools Strategy Report		
1	Strongly supports Euroa Pool development	Information about the Euroa Swim Club not adequately stated.
		In the report it states that the schools need to engage the pool more - however the pool is highly utilised by all three schools in Euroa.
		Euroa has limited active spaces for young people. The pool creates a social hub and provides a space for health, fitness and rehabilitation purposes.
2	Strongly supports Euroa Pool development	Query date of completion/opening of Euroa Pool?
		Euroa pool not marketed effectively - programming could definitely be improved.
		Extra suggestions - a blanket for the medium sized pool, removal of tree that drops leaves in toddler pool, provision for morning lap swimmers 2-3 mornings per week.
3	Avenel Pool Corrections	* <u>page 7 4.2</u> ..... the Avenel Pool was built by the community over the 1966/67 period NOT 1980
		* <u>page 9 4.2.6 Area Change rooms and toilets.</u>
		It says that ..."refurbish toilet/shower fit out, existing stalls are aged and deteriorating" Cost estimate \$25,500 ..."Completed" in last column. This has not been completed nor started. The roof has been completed only - not the fit out.
4	General Comments	Concern over pool entrance fees and impact on low income families that use the pool.
		Not charging entrance fees or a more flexible "user pays" arrangement may cost less to administer.
		Support of various pool maintenance and improvements strategies.
5	Strongly supports Euroa Pool development	Toddlers splash park would potentially increase patronage.
		Incorporation of shade very important to make facility 'sun-safe'.
		Change rooms are hardly utilised and need upgrading.
		Could the temperature of the pool be raised?
6	Euroa Pool	Earlier opening hours would suit pensioner better.
7	General Comments	All children in the Shire should have access to a local pool and not have to travel far to learn to swim and go swimming.
8	Strongly supports Euroa Pool development	Euroa Secondary College use all parts of the 50 metre pool, including the deep water section, and it is vital to their swimming, sport, educational and water safety programs from Years 7 -12.
		The changerooms require an urgent upgrade, as current facilities do not allow students to be able to adequately wash Chlorine off.
9	Supports Draft Report	Urges Council to commit to act on the report and support implementation of it.
	General Comments	Euroa pool is unique and should be repurposed, not removed.
		Euroa Pool - Bring forward stage 3 to be stage 1.
		Engage a professional grant writer to increase chances of success in applying for grants.
10	Supports Draft Report	Member of the Pool Working Group - full endorsement of the Otium Report.
	Strongly supports Euroa Pool development	Member of the Friends of the Euroa Pool for over 10 years.
		Important for Council to adopt the strategy and implement its recommendations by allocating budget funds and staff to carry out project.

11	Supports Draft Report	Supports Euroa Pool Development Regularly uses Euroa Pool over summer.
12	Supports Draft Report	Would like Council to set up time frame for implementation of the report.
	General Comments	Suggests seeking assistance from local pool groups to prepare State/Federal funding applications. Obtain structural report on Euroa and Violet Town Pools. Blanket pools over winter and use solar heating to extend swimming season. Upgrade amenities and change rooms. Any carpark re-alignment should not impact on existing trees. Admission to Euroa pool should be free or highly subsidised. Conduct Feasibility Study for Hydrotherapy pool.
13	Strongly supports Euroa Pool development	All Euroa Primary Schhol students participate in swimming lessons each year at the Euroa Pool. Euroa pool is used for swimming carnivals and social activities. Euroa Pool is an invaluable community resource.
14	Supports Draft Report	Pools are an exceptional public assets - would Council prioritise urgent pool upgrades by progressing planning and financing of these upgrades. Request that Council commission full structural assessment of Public pools immediately. Please ensure Euroa pool will not lose any of its existing features - 50m pool and dive pool zone. This deep water zone could be used for a future water slide and is currently used for water safety programs. It was not included in the sketch on page 71. The Community Pool Strategy strongly affirms the goals of the Council Plan 2017-2021. There is a need to boost patronage at the Euroa pool. This could occur if the water was warmer, extending the pool season; provision of more shade; provision of a sports and recreation program and other and provision of a community run kiosk. User-pays system should be re-introduced. Revitalisation could occur with participation of community members.
15	Supports Draft Report	All pools need to be reviatlised, especially the Euroa Pool. Funding opportunities have been lost - this needs to change. Council please take action to enure water safety of our youth.
16	Strongly supports Euroa Pool development	St John's Primary School utilises the Euroa Pools for its swimming program and District competitions. Upgrade of the Euroa pool needs to be a priority Important place for students to socialise over the summer. Query report statement that 'getting the school into the pool is a challenge', as all three schools utilise the pool for numerous weeks with programs and carnivals.



## Submission 1

Dear Roy,

I would like to make a few comments about the newly released 'Community Pools Strategy'.

I am the Physical Education Teacher at St. John's Primary School in Euroa and I am also the Euroa Swim Club Manager.

I feel like the report has taken a very long time to get to draft form and that it is already partly out of date.

For instance, at the Euroa pool, we have had over 50 swimmers in our swim club this season with over 25 families taking up the opportunity to use our pool and our swim coach. We have been swimming 4 days a week over the January holidays and then 2 days a week when school resumed, until the pool closed. We have up to 15 swimmers at a time in our Junior Swim Squad and our swim coach also has 'Pre-squad' and learn to swim lessons. With some difficulty, we have hired a lane in Seymour and we now swim once a week at their indoor facility. We are not currently an incorporated club but we are moving in that direction as our kids develop and we hope to enable our members to swim for us over the summer months in carnivals - and hopefully we can have our own carnival where swimmers from around the region come to compete. I don't believe that this information is adequately stated in your report.

I am unsure of why the report states that 'getting the schools into the pool is a challenge'. We have 3 schools in Euroa. All 3 use the pool for numerous weeks. St. John's uses it from the time it opens in December for 2-3 weeks, then has a carnival in term 1. The Euroa Primary and Euroa Secondary College both use the pool at the start of the school year. They both have their own swimming carnivals (The primary school has a junior and a senior) and we also host the District Primary School Swimming Carnival - which includes EPS, St. John's, Murchison, both Nagambie schools and Perambin. It says in the report that the schools need to engage the pool and I truly believe that all schools have a vested interest and are enthusiastic to use the Euroa pool and ensure their students can swim and be safe in the water.

In a town that has limited outdoor active spaces for young people, the Euroa pool provides a 'social hub' over the summer. Young people and families can meet each other and participate in healthy and safe physical recreation. As well as providing the community with a pool to learn to swim/be in water safely, the community can participate in swimming for health, fitness and rehabilitation purposes. Euroa pool is a positive place where myself and hundreds of other families, choose to raise our children. It really is vital to our town.

Thanks



## Submission 2

Thank you for compiling the extensive Draft Community Pools Strategy Report and for the opportunity to view it. I would like to offer the following feedback.

- Firstly, I would like to point out that the 1957 date for when the Euroa Pool opened is incorrect. I am nearly 100% positive that the plaque at the pool says that it was opened in 1970.
- Each summer, I do laps at the Euroa Pool nearly every day. I love swimming in the outdoor pool as it is so refreshing. The provision of lap swimming lanes is very helpful for this activity.
- I feel the current contractor is doing a good job to promote and enhance the Euroa pool. Being a local, he takes a real interest in the pool, a vast improvement on when there were out-of-town contractors running the pool.
- Water temperature in the 50m pool is mostly very pleasant now with the blankets being put on each night. I feel that some locals who say that the pool is so cold have not been down to try it out since the blankets have been used.
- The pool is definitely not marketed effectively as when I mention to people that I am going swimming, they ask me where I am going???!!!
- Of course, as a ratepayer, I take advantage of the opportunity for free pool entry. But I do agree that this excludes many residents, plus I do not feel the season ticket prices were unreasonable – maybe there could be provision for concession card holders.

### Comments on improvements suggested for Euroa pool

- Yes for solar heating as it would extend the season and make the temperature appealing to a wider range of people.
- Yes for splash park – great for families with young children.
- Yes for covers over the change rooms
  - o Would also be good to have curtains fitted on the change cubicles
  - o Would also be good to have hooks for hanging clothing re-installed in main section
- Yes for BB court and table tennis tables to increase appeal for adolescents.
- It seems a logical suggestion to keep water in the pools over winter and blanket them for many reasons outlined in the report.
- Programming at the pool could definitely be improved. I noted in your report that Indigo Shire has a Recreation Officer to drive this.

### Suggestions not covered in draft report

- Blankets for medium sized pool – great that it has the shade sail, but the water is often colder than the water in the 50m pool, because of no blankets and the sun not warming the water.
- Remove tree between entrance gate and toddler pool, as it drops stickler leaves, etc.
- I believe there is a lot of interest in the community for morning lap swimming on some mornings each week. Back when the YMCA was contracted to run the pool, Nola Caines got permission for morning lap swimming 2 or 3 mornings a week, which I participated in. There were at least 10-15 swimmers each morning and Nola had a list of I think up to 100 people who were interested in participating in morning lap swimming.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

### Submission 3

Dear Sir/Madam

The following corrections need to be made to the Draft Strategy with respect to the Avenel Pool.

\* page 7 4.2 ..... the Avenel Pool was built by the community over the 1966/67 period  
**NOT 1980**

\* page 9 4.2.6 Area Change rooms and toilets.

**It says that ..."refurbish toilet/shower fit out, existing stalls are aged and deteriorating"  
Cost estimate \$25,500 ..."Completed" in last column.**

**This has not been completed nor started. The roof has been completed only - not the fit out.**

Please make sure these inaccuracies are corrected in the final document



#### Submission 4

Hi Amanda,  
I just learned that Kate is on leave and that you are looking after her Council affairs.  
Below copy of my Pool Survey input addressed to Shirley cc Kate:

Hi Shirley,  
I read the survey and proposals.

My concerns are the proposed pool entrance fees:  
Impact on socially disadvantaged families?  
To which extend do these families / members attend the pools? Is this known?

Entrance fees require accounting = costs. How much?

I recall other community policies of providing free entrance etc, as in the long run this is cheaper than charging.

'Pay as much you feel it's worth to you' - is another approach. Respectively pay as much as you can afford.

I support the various pool maintenance / improvement strategies listed.

How much did the numerous pool surveys cost the Shire? I think there were three.

Please forward my input to your mtg and to the 'Pool Committee'.

I'm still in Germany enjoying warm weather and free swimming in super clean lakes.

Regards,

In addition to my written submission I would also like to present it in person during the 10.07. Council mtg.

Please confirm.



### **Submission 5**

The following is feedback on the Strathbogie Shire's draft Community Pools Strategy. I am a Euroa resident and particularly interested in the Euroa pool future planning. The plan includes several positive aspects that I would love to see incorporated into our local pool.

Adding a toddlers splash park to replace a currently unused pool has the potential to increase the number of children using the facility, particularly if shade is incorporated into the structure. Shaded areas to sit are sorely needed to qualify the pool as 'sun safe'.

Most locals currently avoid the change rooms. The upgrade of these facilities would be wonderful.

If anything could be done to raise the temperature of Euroa pool it would improve the comfort of pool users substantially!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. It is good to see a plan for some investment in one of our greatest resources.



**Submission 6**

Hello Info,

I am a pensioner who plans to use the pool in the summer season.

If the hours were more user friendly say 6 to 10 am it would suit me better.

Cheers



### **Submission 7**

I would like to see that every child in the Strathbogie Shire has access to a local Swimming Pool.

As a lot of parents cannot afford to take their children out of town to be taught to swim.

It is very important that the local pools are available and open to every child.

I pass on my Pool Passes onto local families at the school to enable them to go swimming at our local pool.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular loop followed by a few strokes extending to the right.

## Submission 8

### **RE: Support for the upgrade of the 50m Euroa Swimming Pool**

To Whom It May Concern:

Euroa Secondary College supports the upgrade to the Euroa 50m outdoor swimming pool. It is a vital recreation facility that the College uses throughout the swimming season. As part of our swimming program we have all of our junior classes undertake swimming as part of their PE programs. This equates to 140 students at Year 7 and 8 levels who visit the pool weekly as part of this program. We also have students in our middle and senior levels also use the Euroa Swimming Pool as part of their PE subjects., this would be another 70 students who use it too.

Within the Swimming and Water safety program at Years 7 and 8, we undertake rescues both in shallow water and deep water. We also teach our students how to safely dive into the water. The 3m diving area at the Euroa Swimming pool is vital in us being able to deliver the deep water safety program and diving to our students, as the deep end of the Euroa Swimming pool is only 1.5m, which is not a safe depth to teach diving. The depth required is at least 1.8m. Being able to teach students how to save themselves within deep water ensures we are assisting them in being able to stay safe when they are in Lakes, Rivers and Dams.

The 3m section of the Euroa Pool is also utilized with our middle and senior students to run laboratories for water activities and play sports such as Water polo, which requires the water to be deep enough that students cannot touch the bottom.

The College runs the House Swimming Sports Carnival at the Euroa Swimming pool to compete and select our team to represent Euroa Secondary College for School Sports Victoria swimming.

An upgrade to the amenities is vital as students have to go back to school for class and there is not enough hot water for them to wash Chlorine off. This means students go back to school with the smell of Chlorine and this is not healthy. The showers and toilets are very run down and are in need of immediate action to bring them into current expectations and standards.

The Euroa Swimming Pool needs to be maintained to ensure the future education of our students. It would be detrimental to our programs if students were no longer able to use the 50m Pool and 3m zones. We understand that it is a large financial cost to our community, but it is a cost that is worth the future education to our students and use of such an asset to our community.

Regards

K R Saxon  
Kim Saxon  
Sports Coordinator  
Principal

K Bott  
Kevin Bott  
Assistant





## Submission 9

22nd June 2018

Dear Councillors,

Re: Submission Draft Community Pools Strategy Report

The Pools Working Group first met in June 2016 and in that time two(2) opportunities for Victorian State Government funding have passed totalling \$6 million dollars. The community has been waiting decades for an improved facility and it has been well documented in surveys, media releases and as recently as this week with public submissions to council all highlighting the value our community places on our pools.

I would like to highlight the need for council to commit to making a decision in actioning the proposed report by Otium. Past reports have been prepared by third parties at significant cost and no action has eventuated. I am asking for commitment and action by council to support the implementation of the draft pool strategy report.

I would also like to make the following points:

**1. Decisions & action** – It has already been two years since the pool committee was formed. We do not want the recent report to be out dated before any action is taken.

**2. Euroa pool is unique** - The only 50m pool in the shire and the L-shaped diving pool is a unique feature which should be re-purposed and not removed.

**3. Pool shell structure** - Bring forward stage 3 to stage 1 in the Otium proposal. The shell structure is fundamental to all other redevelopment of the facilities. Re-lining the pools only delays the inevitable of replacing the structure in the future and wastes funding and valuable ratepayers money in the mean time.

**3. Grants/Funding** – A commitment to applying for state and federal funding by appointing a professional grant writer to seek funding opportunities and ensure a higher probability of application success.

Thank you for considering this submission.

## Submission 10

I feel my opinions and input have been conscientiously put forward for the last 2 years in this group and I fully endorse the Otium Report that has arisen from the actions of the Working Group.

Furthermore I have been involved as a volunteer with our Euroa Pool for over 10 years and instrumental in the formation of Friends of the Euroa Pool in 2006. I was also constructive in seeing the Aquatic Facilities Strategy for Strathbogie Shire Council June 2007 come in to existence.

In my opinion it would be a gross injustice if the Council failed to deliver yet again on adopting a strategy and allocating appropriate funding for our pools after another consultants report has been put on public display.

I am yet to see any substantial budgetary commitment for the pools in the 2018/2019 upcoming year.

As councillors it is important that you as a group are collaborative and constructive in ensuring that these community assets are both maintained and appropriately financed to allow for both improvements and longevity of these important community hubs. There have been many opportunities lost in applying for state funding over the last 20 years if not longer.

There has been little done to ensure best practice in operational matters and cost effectiveness when our pools are open. The tender document has not appeared to vary for the last 10 years that I am aware of. The facilities have failed to have any significant capital improvements in the last 10 -20 years that I am aware of.

This Community Pools Strategy needs to be both adopted and implemented. Appropriate staff and funding should be allocated in this upcoming budget and I appeal to you not to delay any longer.

In adopting this strategy whole heartedly there is an enormous opportunity to generate goodwill in the community and to build positive relationships with the Shire, both for the outgoing CEO it would be fantastic for him to go out on a high note, and for the yet to be appointed next CEO an opportunity to constructively engage with the community in implementing the strategy over the next 10 years.

Warm regards



## **Submission 11**

### **COMMUNITY POOLS STRATEGY - DRAFT REPORT**

I write in support of many of the positive proposals in the Community Pools Strategy Draft report.

Every summer I attend the Euroa Pool and appreciate, and thank council for my free pool pass.

For a number of years I have taken the Euroa Health bus to Benalla and find the warm water exercises most beneficial for my health. During the Christmas break the Euroa Health bus does not run to Benalla, so having the Euroa Pool operating is of great benefit. I regularly visit the Euroa Pool over summer.

My three children learnt to swim at the Euroa pool.

I am a long-time resident and as a child, I swam in the pool at the Seven Creeks Park. Although the water in the Bury Street pool is now warmer than when it was first opened in 1957, it would be beneficial if it could be made warmer so the swimming season could be extended.

Many thanks.



## Submission 12

### COMMUNITY POOLS STRATEGY - DRAFT REPORT

Firstly, I would like to thank Council for commissioning the pools strategy draft report. I would like Council to set a time frame to implement as much of the report as possible.

1. Seek assistance from local pool groups to prepare submissions for Grant money (State/Federal).
2. Obtain an engineer's report on structural soundness of Euroa and Violet Town pools.
3. Blanketing the pools over winter and solar heating, starting with Euroa, (the coldest pool).
4. Upgrading of amenities and change rooms. (Landscaping only undertaken if major surrounding works are not required.)
5. Any re-alignment of the existing car park should not be at the expense of the established trees.
6. Euroa is a low socio-economic town. It would be preferable if admission was free, or highly subsidised, (as in the past), with the season ticket permitting pool access across the whole shire.

The swimming pools should not be viewed as just an expense. They play an important part of the recreational and health pursuits of the residents of Strathbogie Shire.

Writing as a resident of Euroa, Council must be congratulated for the recent amenities provided. Such as: new footpaths, pedestrian crossings, netball courts with electronic scoreboards and the Friendlies Oval (impending upgrade). The Shire council, along with an energetic, committed community, has played an important role in not only providing these facilities, but overseeing their ongoing maintenance.

The missing link now is the revitalising of our recreational water facilities. The swimming pool must not be viewed in isolation.

By covering and solar heating the pools, it would be ideal if the summer swimming season could be extended to five months a year, irrespective of the day-time temperature. A recent report by the Royal Life Saving Society-Australia, (RLSS) revealed that three out of four children had quit swimming classes by age eight, long before they'd learned skills that could save their lives. The report says that learning to swim earlier is not always better.

Children who had regular weekly lessons were most likely to reach national safety and swimming benchmarks at age nine and 10. Yet only 25 per cent were staying in lessons long enough to reach this standard, the analysis revealed. An extension to the present swimming season in the Strathbogie Shire would be of benefit.

Many people travel to Seymour, Benalla or Shepparton to use the heated pool facilities. Extending the Euroa pool

swimming season to five months, would reduce the need for residents to travel out of town. Pool users range in age from very young to the elderly. Water aerobics is not limited to any age group or skill level.

Exercising in the water is great for reducing arthritis and other joint pain because it puts less stress on the joints and the buoyancy of the water helps reduce the pressure on the body. Water also acts as a form of resistance, so strength exercises can be performed in the water without heavy weights.

Euroa Health presently runs a ten seater bus to the hydrotherapy pool in Benalla twice a week. Monday, (pick up Violet Town), and Tuesday. There is a waiting list for the Tuesday group.

I remember in the mid-1950s, Euroa dared to dream. Under the leadership of local doctor, Robert Dunn, an Olympic Lshaped pool was built. The new pool had become a necessity, as many people were getting infections from swimming in the sectioned, weir area, of the Seven Creeks. Unfortunately, the new, spacious site chosen for the pool, had underground streams running below the surface, and the water was always bitterly cold.

I have swum in the local pool in the Seven Creeks, and by comparison I found the new Olympic pool too cold. I took my children to the Shepparton heated pool for several years, during the winter months, to prepare them for the Euroa pool opening in summer. They also attended learn to swim sessions at the local pool in January, and swam with the school in February. It was not a particularly enjoyable time for them. If it was a cool day, the water was freezing. For a much more pleasant experience, we sometimes drove to Violet Town, or on the odd occasion, to Avenel.

I often hear the comment that Euroa needs a hydrotherapy pool, and the question is asked, "Why doesn't the town have one?" I understand it is **not** the building of a hydro pool that is cost prohibitive, it is more the ongoing costs to run a facility. What is needed, once the present pool facility upgrade is underway, is for Council to look to the future, and undertake a feasibility study. If the survey reveals a heated hydro pool is viable, the Euroa community and Council could chase funds to make it happen.

In the meantime, most of Community Pools Strategy should be implemented in a timely manner, with Euroa retaining its Olympic L-shaped pool, 3.0m at its deepest point, (***subject to engineers report.***)

It is known that young people achieve more academically, if they have worthwhile past-time pursuits to be involved in. Euroa has always been known as a "sporting town".

I look forward to hearing the outcome of Council's decision, and trust that steps will be undertaken this time to improve the Shire's missing link to water recreational activities.

Yours sincerely,



### Submission 13

Principal – Ross Davis  
PO Box 125  
Euroa 3666  
<http://www.euroa-ps.vic.edu.au/>

20<sup>th</sup> June 2018



Telephone (03) 5795-2212  
(03) 5795-3782  
Facsimile (03) 5795-1057

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my belief that the Euroa Pool is a vital part of our community and is valued by our school, staff, students and families.

The Euroa Pool is used by Euroa Primary School every summer, with every student in the school participating in swimming lessons in term 1. The school uses the pool for several weeks each year, for 4 hours a day so that every student is given lessons on water safety, stroke development and survival swimming techniques.

On top of the lessons, the Euroa Pool is utilised by the School for School Swimming Carnivals, as well as District Swimming Carnivals. The social aspect of the pool is also a feature, with many classes using the pool as an end of year party.

As well as the use of the pool during school hours, I know that a large number of our students and their families use the pool after school, on the weekend, and during the school holidays.

The Euroa Pool is an invaluable community resource and I strongly believe that it is a required asset for our community, that has a strong benefit for our school, our children and the wider community of the Strathbogie Shire.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read 'Ross Davis'.

Ross Davis  
PRINCIPAL

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## Submission 14

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

The EEG is increasingly involved in community endeavours which not only advocate for good management of natural resources but also good management of community assets. To this end our members wish to commend the Pools Committee for overseeing a report which identifies and recommends the upgrade of our community pools. We wish to make the following comments: -

1. Our community pools are an exceptional public asset, just like roads, bridges and libraries. **We ask Council to acknowledge this by progressing the planning and financing of the recommended pool upgrades as an urgent priority.** A "return on investment" cannot be measured simply in economic terms. The benefits derived from public aquatic facilities include a sense of community, social capital, access to water safety education, improved health outcomes and patron enjoyment. Australia's public aquatic facilities generate significant economic benefits for their patrons and for the Australian health care system. Increased physical activity, in the form of swimming and other aquatic exercise, leads to a valuable improvement in health outcomes. <http://www.swimaustralia.org.au/docs/rlss-economic-benefits-report-2017.pdf>
2. This is one of many reports commissioned by Council to determine the issues and opportunities presented by our community pools. Council must urgently act to ensure this report does not get filed away with the others. Our pools are in a poor state because for too long they have been viewed as liabilities, not assets. We understand there is not a current engineering report available which can give an accurate assessment of the pools structural integrity. **We request Council to commission full structural assessments of the public pools immediately.** Funding is available ( however Council would need to move quickly ), to assist with this. <http://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/community-sports-infrastructure-fund>
3. **We seek clarification that Council will ensure the Euroa pool does not lose any of its existing features.** We recommend that the 50m pool structure be retained and upgraded. Euroa's Olympic sized pool is the envy of many other towns. The attached video link Giaan Rooney speaks positively about the Euroa Pool and its multiple community benefits. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zmctw\\_CzMUE&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zmctw_CzMUE&feature=youtu.be)

Swim staff have voiced their concern about the loss of the dive pool zone ( it has been completely removed from the sketch on page 71 of the report ). While no longer utilised for diving this area serves is an important training area for water safety programs and must be retained.

There may be an opportunity in the future for a water slide ( which could be installed here ). Ararat's public pool facility shows how a tired asset can be re-vamped and become a much publicised drawcard for locals and visitors. Clever integration of sporting facilities can minimise costs and maximise participation rates, eg. Ararat have amalgamated their pool and their skate park, enabling the shared use of toilets, change rooms and kiosk.

4. The "Community Pools Strategy" strongly affirms the goals of the Council Plan 2017-2021. **Every effort should be taken by Council to enhance community health and well-being, to sustainably manage our natural and built environment, to provide quality infrastructure, to support and drive economic development, and to be a high performing Shire.**
  
5. While attendances at Euroa have been solid, **a Council commitment to boost patronage is now required to ensure these assets realise full potential. Council must respond to the community needs and act on the recommendations presented in this report immediately;** the pool upgrade offers many exciting possibilities: -
  - a. the installation of solar power to heat the pool to extend the season, as well as run the pumps, offering significant cost savings,
  - b. the opportunity to provide more shady spaces and aquatic events to counter the effects of heat-stress as global warming brings higher summer temperatures,
  - c. the opportunity to provide a range of aquatic activities to address the lack of swimming competency of school children, and thereby reduce the number of drownings. <https://lsv.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Victorian-Drowning-Report-2016-2017.pdf>
  - d. the inclusion of a sports and recreation program, to better utilise the toilet and change rooms facilities, including opportunities for other activities ( a volley-ball court, "beach" cricket pitch, skate rink, etc )
  - e. the inclusion of a community run kiosk, with light-filled spaces for murals, art, music, games, and wi-fi, etc
  
6. **The user-pays-system should be re-introduced.** While some in our community should be exempt from this cost, most in our community have indicated a willingness to pay. The ability to pay electronically would eliminate a task that is otherwise time-consuming. The season's token should enable pool access to all Strathbogie Shire's public pools.
  
7. Finally, it is critical that **community members be given the opportunity to participate in the revitalisation of this asset.** We have in our community sports-people, artists and designers. We also are renowned for our volunteerism. With local skills and broad participation we could transform the Euroa Pool into a local landmark. The Pool Strategy provides the framework to once again make our pool a vibrant community hub. We urge you to seize the moment.

Regards Shirley  
shirley saywell  
euroa environment group  
p o box 77  
euroa  
email: [eeg3666@gmail.com](mailto:eeg3666@gmail.com)  
ph: 0427-246900

3666



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### **Submission 15**

The report on the state of the STRATHBOGIE shire's swimming pools seems to be very positive and encouraging. Clearly money needs to be spent on all the pools in the near future. In particular the Euroa pool is a very important asset ... The good news is that the federal and state govts are both offering aquatic grants. Unfortunately the deadline for one of these grant is Monday 25th July. This is the second year in a row that this opportunity has been missed. The shire needs a grant officer who will submit timely applications for essential projects such as these. There are too many bandaid solutions. We need some serious work done so the future is good.

As a member of the Longwood community and as a school councillor and PE teacher of 30 years I know how important it is for every child to learn how to swim. Unfortunately over the past 10 years swimming has become so expensive making it impossible for this to be a reality for many families. As from 2019 I understand that the education department will be endeavouring to ensure that every child learns how to swim. Therefore it is essential that we have these pools in our shire.

Please don't shelve this report. Rather take some action to ensure the water safety of our youth.

Yours sincerely



## Submission 16

Letter of Support for the Euroa Pool  
St John's Primary School Euroa  
25 JUN 2018

### Refer to.

To Strathbogie Shire Councillors,

The Euroa Pool is imperative to the success and learning of our students. We use the pool for an intensive two week block when the pool opens in December to teach our students water safety and survival. We also teach students the correct stroke technique and improve their swimming fitness. We feel like our program sets our students up for the summer swimming season, where the students can then practise their skills and socialise over the summer holidays. We also have a proportion of our students who swim with the Euroa Swim Club over the entire opening season. We conduct a whole school swimming sports, swim trials to choose a school team and then participate in District swimming, all at Euroa pool. Some of our students experience success at Divisional and Regional level. This could not be possible without the facilities of our 50m local pool.

We believe that our students need active spaces and value the pool as one of the few active spaces in Euroa that caters for a large proportion of age groups in our community. Our pool is the social hub of our town in summer months and provides our students with recreation and fitness options to improve health and wellbeing.

We value the 50m pool because we can practise and use this pool for competitions and we don't have to drive out of town for these purposes. We also value the diving section because we are able to teach our students to dive, as it's a safe depth to do so.

We support the upgrade of the pool, but this upgrade really needs to be a priority now. We don't want the pool to get any more run down.

We question the statement in the report that says 'getting the schools into the pool is a challenge'. We have three schools in Euroa. All three use the pool for numerous weeks with programs and carnivals. It says in the report that the schools need to engage the pool and I truly believe that all schools have a vested interest and are enthusiastic to use the Euroa pool and ensure their students can swim and be safe in the water.

We sincerely hope we can further improve this great asset.

Yours sincerely,  
Melinda Watson  
Physical Education Teacher



**7. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**8. CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER MATTERS LISTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 89(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989**

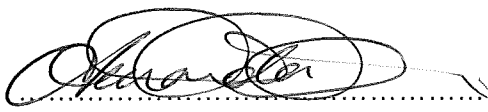
Nil.

**9. CONFIRMATION OF 'CLOSED PORTION' DECISION/S**

Nil.

***THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.05 P.M.***

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

  
.....  
Chair

*21/08/2018*  
.....  
Date

