

STRATHBOGRIE SHIRE

... all about our future





The Strathbogie Shire is an easy place to fall in love with.

Perfectly located in the heart of country Victoria, the Strathbogie Shire offers everything from the clear calm waters of our lakes and rivers to stunning views from the heights of our ranges.



All the things you love



... live in Strathbogie

The **Love Strath-bogie** campaign captured the appeal of life in the Shire of Strathbogie.



Strathbogie Shire Council

REPORT OF OPERATIONS | FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome

TO THE REPORT OF OPERATIONS 2014-15

Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community and the Report of Operations 2014-15 is the primary means of advising the Shire of Strathbogie community about Council's operations and performance during the financial year.

The Strathbogie Shire Council encourages feedback on its Annual Report via email to info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au or by telephone on 1800 065 993.

Strathbogie Shire is committed to providing accessible services to its local residents from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you have difficulty in understanding the Annual Report, you can contact us on 1800 065 993 and we will arrange an interpreter to effectively communicate the report to you.

To view previous reports, please visit www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Gentle rolling hills, Strathbogie Ranges

Snapshot of Council

Demographic Profile

Strathbogrie Shire takes in the townships of Euroa, Nagambie, Avenel, Violet Town, Longwood, Strathbogrie, Graytown and Ruffly.



It has a residential population of approximately 10,000 people and 34% of residents are aged 60 years and over.

A quarter of Shire of Strathbogrie's residents also work within the municipality and just over one tenth live in the area but work outside the municipality.



Just over 19% of the Shire's population is made up of older couples and families, 19% are elderly singles and 15.4% are elderly couples.*



Strathbogrie Shire covers 330,326 hectares.



The median property sale price across the Shire is \$225,000 (three bedroom home) and the median rental price for a three (3) bedroom home is \$250 per week.*



Nearly nine out of ten Shire of Strathbogrie residents were born in Australia and only 4% of people came from countries where English was not their first language.

Agriculture is the largest employer in Strathbogrie Shire, making up 26.3% of total employment.

(source: Profile.id - <http://profile.id.com.au/strathbogrie>)

(*source: realestate.com.au - www.realestate.com.au)

Purpose

Vision A Shire that drives and supports investment for population growth, shared wealth and wellbeing

Mission To actively consult with community, investors and industry through advocacy and collaboration; delivering quality infrastructure, lifestyle and sustainable economic and community development

Values Councillors and staff at Strathbogie Shire Council are committed to the following principles (values) as a guide to all its decisions and actions

Good Governance

We value innovation, integrity, accountability, strength and consistency in leadership and decision making with adherence to robust, transparent and equitable policies and processes

Working Together

We value the ability to maximise outcomes by working in partnership and collaboration with an engaged community, government, regional bodies and other stakeholders

Quality Services

We value the role of research, strategic planning, flexibility and innovation in delivering accessible and effective services and regional solutions that enhance the quality of life

Social Inclusion

We value widespread participation in civic and community life among people of all abilities and backgrounds

Environment

We value the Shire's natural and built environment and the importance of local amenity on quality of life

Stability

We value sound financial and resource planning and management to ensure Council's long term sustainability and provision of quality services and infrastructure

Fast Facts

25,905 calls answered in Council's call centre and 8,080 counter receipts issued by customer service staff

Eight residents took part in citizenship ceremonies and received their Australian citizenship

105 sports grounds maintained

2,268 kilometres of footpaths maintained

692 kilometres of storm water pipes maintained

10,623 hours of aging and disability care support provided. (Services ceased as at 30/6/15. Provided externally for the 2015-16 year.)

3,186 meals delivered. (Services ceased as at 30/6/15. Provided externally for the 2015-16 year.)

91 births from families within the shire

341,837 square metres of sealed local roads resealed

Atkins Street Drainage



Highlights of the Year

Strategic Objectives

Community Wellbeing

Plan, support and/or deliver a broad range of responsive and accessible services to our diverse community – See section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements

Supported the community in the recovery from the Creightons Creek bushfire which burnt 5050 hectares, destroyed four houses and nine out-houses and affected 74 properties

Violet Town library construction was completed and is currently awaiting fit out

Euroa Memorial Park - Honouring Our Heroes project, commemorating three local Victoria Cross recipients, was officially opened by the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Alex Chernov on Sunday 16 November 2014

Environment

To continue to protect and enhance the natural and built environment for current and future generations - See section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements

Installation of more than 300 street lights to energy efficient alternatives as part of the Watts Working Better project commenced

Intensive planning, preparation and community engagement on the introduction of a third kerbside bin to divert organic waste from landfill to ensure readiness for implementation on 1 July 2015

Shire-wide Sustainable Development Reference Group was established

Strategic Objectives *continued*

Financial Provide best practice management and administrative systems and structures to support the delivery of Council services and programs – See section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements

Continued participation in the Shared Service Project with the Greater Shepparton City Council. Projects underway include Graders Without Borders, joint legal services procurement and working together to establish a bridge asset management plan. In addition to this a joint funding application was made through the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program for upgrade works to Kirwans and Kellys Bridge

Governance To provide all our stakeholders with consistent and timely decision making – See section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements

Enhanced community engagement through the development of procedures, training and a signed partnership with Our Say to launch an online community engagement space

Industry/Business/Investment Pursue opportunities to increase the range of businesses and industries in the shire to further strengthen our economy – See section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements

Regional Victoria Living Expo showcased the Strathbogies Shire to 10,000 people looking to make a tree-change to regional Victoria
Completed a fishing study in Nagambie to assist, identify and drive tourism and economic development opportunities

Infrastructure

Provide well maintained, affordable and appropriate infrastructure – See section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements

Maintained Council's vast road network with a \$3.51 million reseal, resheet and rehabilitation program

Installed new weir gates at Euroa's Seven Creeks Park to improve water flow and ease of use for workers

Opened the \$455,000 Euroa Saleyards Redevelopment with a new sawtooth design roof to cover 112 pens

Continued to reduce Council's infrastructure gap (cost of maintaining existing infrastructure) with effective long term financial and asset planning. Council is expected to close the infrastructure gap by 21/22 (dependant of government funding and Council direction)

Redevelopment of the existing George Hunter Room at Euroa's Memorial Oval to a fully functional multi-use conference and function centre

Tourism & Hospitality

Ensure a coordinated and effective approach to economic and tourism development is maintained at all times – See section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements

Advanced the Shire's positioning as a Recreational Friendly (RV) destination through the installation of dump points at both the Euroa Caravan Park and Euroa Service Centre

Developed a number of key strategies and plans to steer tourism growth including Tracks and Trails and the Nagambie Fishing Study

STRATHBOGIE SHIRE SHOWCASED



AT THE REGIONAL LIVING EXPO

The benefit and appeal of life in Strathbogiemore was a talking point at the 2015 Regional Living Expo. Strathbogiemore was represented at the expo with staff on hand to chat to the 10,156 strong crowd as they contemplated the different options of making a tree change to regional Victoria. Staff fielded questions and provided information on everything from housing affordability, the Strathbogiemore lifestyle, proximity to Melbourne and other regional Victorian centres, business and investment opportunities, job prospects and education options as part of their interactions with those visiting the expo.

Strathbogie joined with Mitchell, Benalla and Murrindindi Shires to create a hub for the purpose of the event, handing out more than 650 show bags. Over the past four years that Strathbogie Shire has participated in the Regional Living Expo, house and land sales have increased. The Shire has also recorded a steady growth in planning applications in 2014-15 with involvement in events such as the expo deemed beneficial in stimulating economic growth in our municipality.

While the central objective of the expo was to promote regional migration to the metropolitan market, the event provided council representatives with an insight into the perceptions and knowledge of the Shire from within metropolitan Melbourne. We were proud to share the details of our idyllic setting, different lifestyle and leisure opportunities generated by the clear calm waters of our lakes and rivers, and elaborate on the close-knit communities central to the social fabrication of the Shire.

Participation in the three day expo held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 1-3 May 2015 generated positive exposure and compliments the great work achieved by our economic development team to grow and develop the Shire. Council will continue to make a targeted effort to promote our Shire as an attractive destination to live, work and invest.

The **Everything You Love** advertising campaign is another example of the Strathbogie Shire's commitment to further lifting the profile of the Shire. The advertising campaign was played in cinemas across metropolitan Melbourne and hinged on the key message that you'll find 'everything you love' in Strathbogie. The campaign incorporated a fun and creative take on the opportunities that exist within the Shire and was successful in generating additional exposure.



All the things you love



... live in Strathbogie

Challenges and Future Outlook

Challenges

Rate capping and its impact on Council functions and services delivery and long term sustainability

Advocating for better transport options

Continuing to close Council's infrastructure renewal gap

Review of Council services through joint service planning projects with the City of Greater Shepparton

Roll out of the organic waste kerbside collection

Coordination of Council's shared services agreement with the City of Greater Shepparton

The future

Develop Youth Council to encourage young people into Council's decision making

Euroa Saleyards Redevelopment Stage Two which will see the expansion of the sawtooth roof design

Implementation of the Economic Development Master Plan second year actions

To listen and encourage further community involvement in Council's projects and programs

Bridge upgrades to three bridges (Kirwans Bridge, Kellys Bridge, High Street Violet Town Bridge deck)

Complete key capital works projects commenced in 2014-15

Service planning for all services provided by Council

Change of Council in 2016

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Wetlands at Tahbilk Winery, Tahbilk

Message from Mayor & CEO

In the 2014-15 financial year we continued to provide key services to our community, while balancing our responsibilities of sound financial management and good governance. Council's emphasis on effective long term financial planning remained strong and included a commitment to reducing the renewal gap, linked to the cost of maintaining existing infrastructure. Driven in partnership with Council, the organisation has worked strongly on restructuring itself to meet the needs of its community, now and into the future. This has resulted in continued savings throughout our service delivery and operation.

Improved efficiencies also came through the Shared Service Alliance with the City of Greater Shepparton. Innovative projects such as the Graders Without Borders Program, joint legal service procurement and a joint approach to the development of a bridge asset management plan provided cost benefits. Collaboration of this nature continued to provide significant ongoing savings for both Councils. Further to these measures, a review of all Council services has commenced, having been identified as a critical component in ensuring long term viability and is expected to result in additional efficiency improvements into the future.

Taking on board feedback from the community, we have strived to improve our consultation process. This year included presentations at two community forums organised by the "Strathbogie Voices", in Euroa and Nagambie. Submissions presented informed key elements of the budget preparation and allowed Council to consider and respond to community sentiment. As a result the forecast of a 7% rate increase was able to be reduced to 5.5%. We will continue to listen and engage with our residents and look forward to new partnerships with community advisory committees and launching an online community engagement forum.

A major accomplishment for the 2014-15 year was the delivery of a \$7.58 million capital works program and the maintenance and improvements to our vast road network. This year we celebrated the completion of a host of major capital works projects such as the Violet Town library, Euroa Saleyards Stage One Redevelopment, Euroa Travellers Rest and RV Comfort Stop, improvements to the facilities and conference space at the Memorial Oval and the Nagambie tennis courts upgrade. We have much to take pride in with a number of smaller projects also completed to assist community groups throughout the Shire that our community will utilise and enjoy for years to come.

A review of aged care services and the transition to a new provider in the delivery of the Home and Community Care (HACC) program was another significant milestone. In achieving a smooth transition, Council created an effective communication loop to keep HACC clients, staff and volunteers informed of changes. The transition took place on 1 July 2015 and Council would like to thank staff for their professionalism as they continued to provide services and care throughout the transition phase.

As we reflect on the past 12 months, it is important that we acknowledge the strong sense of community that was evident in the aftermath of the Creightons Creek bushfires. The December 2014 fires burnt 5050 hectares, destroyed four houses and nine out-houses, affected 74 properties and caused substantial losses to farm animals, fencing, feed and machinery. The recovery process was a long and arduous one and is continuing on some fronts. During the days, weeks and months after the fires communities, emergency services and Council banded together and have also worked on a manual to assist in future emergencies within our Shire. On behalf of Council we acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who worked to control the fire and our communities who demonstrated such wonderful support for each other during this time.

We now present to you the 2014-15 Strathbogie Shire Council Annual Report. For further information, please visit our website: www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au



Cr Debra Swan
MAYOR



Steve Crawcour
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

Financial Summary

The Shire of Strathbogie continues to be in a strong financial position. A summary of our performance is outlined below. Detailed information relating to council's financial performance is included with the Financial Statements and Performance Statement sections of this report.

Operating Position

The balance sheet indicates that current assets are more than adequate to meet current liabilities, which is an important measure of liquidity. Debt levels continue to be closely managed with debt decreasing to \$2.1 million at 30 June 2015 from \$2.7 million at 30 June 2014.

Debt levels remain low when comparing to Shire of Strathbogie's total asset base of \$278 million providing borrowing capacity for the future.

The 2014-2015 strong operating from continuing operations of \$5.094 million confirms Council's ability to sustain its day-to-day operations in the longer term.

The Shire of Strathbogie's 2014-15 total revenue is \$32.2 million with rates and charges raising revenue of \$16.2 million, based on 7,224 assessments. The reliance on rate revenue in 2014-15 was at around 50%. This rate percentage was significantly affected by the early payment of 2015/16 Financial Assistance Grants allocation paid in the year.

The strong financial position reflects sound financial management and Shire of Strathbogie's commitment to infrastructure renewal and financial sustainability. It also strengthens Shire of Strathbogie's financial capacity to deliver on the objectives and strategies of the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan.

Net Operating Result

The Shire of Strathbogie achieved an operating result of \$5.1 million compared to a budget of \$1.9 million. The favourable variance of \$3.2 million was achieved through increased grants for emergency relief from the Federal Government as a result of the Creightons Creek Fire 2014 and the early payment of half of the 2015-16 Victorian Grants Commission funds.

In addition to these favourable variances costs associated with disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment did not occur within the expected timeframes and have been deferred to 2015-16.

Capital Expenditure

During the 2014-2015 year the Shire of Strathbogie invested \$7.6 million in capital works.

The extensive capital works program funds the ongoing renewal of the Shire of Strathbogie's existing physical assets \$6.3 million, as well the construction of some new community assets \$0.3 million and the upgrade of existing assets \$1.0 million.

Infrastructure works included roads and bridges \$3.6 million, drains \$0.3 million, footpaths / kerb and channel \$0.2 million, land \$0.6 million, buildings \$1.5 million.

Borrowings

No new borrowings were undertaken in 2014-15. The Shire of Strathbogie has low levels of debt when comparing borrowings to total non-current assets. The outstanding loan amount as at 30 June 2015 was \$2.1 million.

Cash and Other Financial Assets

Cash assets at 30 June 2015 total \$13.8 million. The Shire of Strathbogie's liquidity position – (current assets / current liabilities) continues to be very strong with a ratio of 2:1. This ratio means that the Shire of Strathbogie has \$2.00 of cash and current assets for every \$1.00 of current liabilities. This ratio in 2015 is higher than 2014 (1.60:1). This is a result of increased cash at 30 June 2015 due to early payment of Victorian Grants Commission 2015-16 allocation and savings on capital works deferred to 2015-16 (1.02 million).

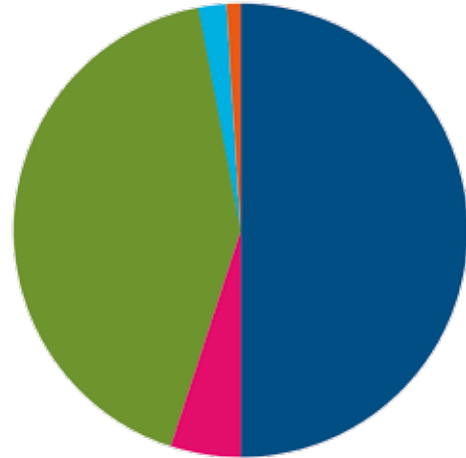
Legislative restrictions on Shire of Strathbogie's cash at 30 June 2015 total \$0.5 million. This statutory obligation means that the Shire of Strathbogie must set aside sufficient cash to fund amounts held in trust and developer levies.

Pavement at Euroa Memorial Park, Euroa



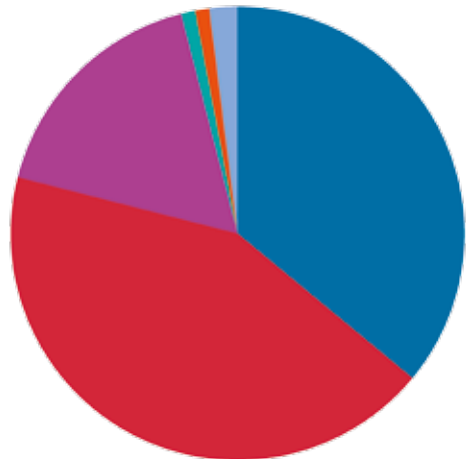
Income

■ Rates and charges	50%
■ User charges and fees	5%
■ Grants	42%
■ Contributions	0%
■ Other revenue	2%
■ Proceeds from sale of assets	1%
TOTAL	100%



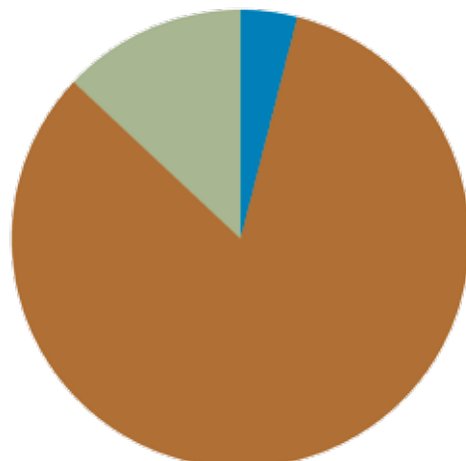
Expenditure

■ Employee costs	36%
■ Materials and services	43%
■ Bad and doubtful debts	0%
■ Depreciation and amortisation	17%
■ Finance costs	1%
■ Other expenses	1%
■ Written down value of infrastructure renewed	2%
TOTAL	100%













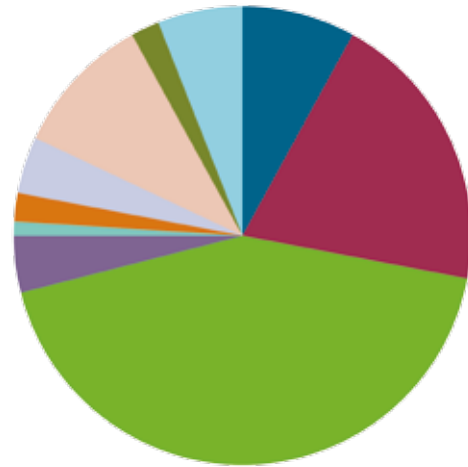
Capital Works Program 2014-15

■ New asset expenditure	4%
■ Asset renewal expenditure	83%
■ Asset expansion expenditure	0%
■ Asset upgrade expenditure	13%
TOTAL	100%



Capital Expenditure 2014-15 in asset areas

	Land	8%
	Buildings	20%
	Roads	43%
	Bridges and culverts	4%
	Kerb and Channels	1%
	Footpaths	2%
	Drains	4%
	Plant and machinery	10%
	Furniture and equipment	2%
	Other Community Assets	0%
	Work in progress	6%
	TOTAL	100%



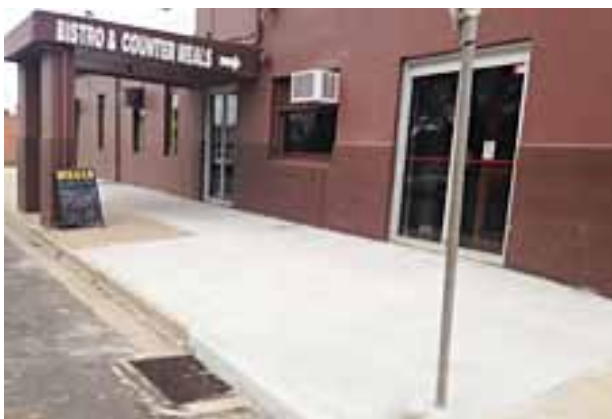
Longwood-Pranrip Bridge



Ruffy Bridge and erosion control



Sealed footpaths Nagambie



Building our Future Roads to Recovery



Description of Operations

Strathbogie Shire Council is responsible for an extensive array of services, ranging from the delivery of maternal and child health services to recreation reserves and youth facilities, waste management and community buildings. Central to its operations is the maintenance of its road network which is one of the largest in Victoria. In addition to this Council provides planning for appropriate development, fosters continued economic development and growth, while also ensuring accountability for its annual budget.

The delivery of a broad range of community services and infrastructure supports the overall wellbeing of Strathbogie Shire residents. Council's vision, strategic objectives and strategies to further improve services and facilities are detailed in our Council Plan 2013-2017 (2015 revision) and the associated Budget 2014-15 and are reported upon in this document. Refer to the section on Our Performance for more information about Council services.

The delivery of services, facilities, support and advocacy to achieve the Strategic Objectives is measured by a set of service performance indicators and measures. Council also has a wide range of responsibilities under the Victorian and Australian legislations.

Economic Factors

Council was presented with a series of financial challenges. These challenges included:

ceasing of the State Government funding for country roads and bridges

ceasing of the State Government's Local Government Infrastructure Fund program

removal of indexation of the Federal Financial Assistance Grants

Creightons Creek bushfires – December 2014

the impacts of future rate capping

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) levies on transfer stations

the ever present requirement to maintain aging assets and continue to reduce Council's infrastructure gap

Major Capital Works

During 2014–15 the major capital works included the following:

Euroa Saleyards Redevelopment

Stage one of the long anticipated Euroa Saleyards Redevelopment saw the construction of a roof spanning 104 of the saleyards 112 pens. The design maximised natural light, ventilation and sound attenuation, while also providing shade and shelter for both stock and clients. The new roof enhances the saleyards competitiveness and long term sustainability with rainwater from the roof collected and stored for re-use on the site.

The upgraded complex was opened in March 2015 by Agriculture Minister the Hon. Jaala Pulford (Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development) and Strathbogie Mayor Cr Deb Swan. Stage two of the redevelopment is now in the planning stage and includes extension of the roof, relocation of powerlines and further upgrades to the yards. Stage one was fully funded by Council for an amount of \$455,000. The design and construct contract was completed ahead of schedule and within budget by local contractor Don Newnham Engineering Pty Ltd.

Sale in progress in new covered saleyards



Euroa Conference and Function Centre

The existing George Hunter Room at Euroa's Memorial Oval was recently redeveloped into a fully functional multi-use conference and function centre. The important community facility plays an important role in the social and sporting fabrication of the town.

The \$400,000 redevelopment project included:

extension and refurbishment of the existing building to double the seating capacity to 250

upgrade of the kitchen to commercial standard

provision of new amenities for all abilities access

baby change room facilities

Local builder Harper and Morphet completed the redevelopment in January 2015 which was officially opened on 5 March 2015 by the Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, the Hon Jaala Pulford. The project was funded by a \$300,000 grant from the State Government's *Putting Locals First Program*, \$35,000 from the Memorial Oval Committee of Management and \$65,000 from Strathbogrie Shire Council.

External view of new conference and function centre



Euroa Memorial Park - Honouring Our Heroes

The Euroa Memorial Park project was the culmination of extensive community participation and saw the establishment of a noble place to pay respect to local Victoria Cross recipients Lieutenant Leslie Maygar, Lieutenant Frederick Tubb and Corporal Alex Burton. Three life sized statues and five double sided information boards provide historical detail for tourists, descendants, military enthusiasts and those with a general community interest.

The bronze statues were provided by the *Honouring Our Heroes* Committee while Council undertook significant works to upgrade the park including:

installation of five double sided three (3) metre high information boards

shade sails to cover information boards

44 metres of stone wall boundary fence

stencilled concrete path and standing area

reticulated turf lawn

linking gravel pathway

low maintenance landscaped garden area

Site works commenced in March 2014 and were completed on 13 November 2014. The \$200,000 project received grant funding of \$150,000 from the State Government, \$30,000 from Council and \$20,000 from the *Honouring Our Heroes* Committee.

Euroa Memorial Park



Weir Gates

The weir gates at Euroa's Seven Creeks Park have been in place for almost 100 years in a form requiring manual handling during times of flood. The ongoing safety risk was deemed unacceptable and has been addressed with the provision of new mechanical gates controlled from a safe and secured location nearby. Works commenced in February 2015 and were completed at the end of March 2015. Critical to keeping de-watering costs to a minimum was the ability to carry out works at a time when the creek bed had dried out.

The new weir gates provide:

safer operation and reduced occupational health and safety risks for gate operators

better control of weir gates during flood events

individual control of gates with variable level control

the ability to maintain an open structure to allow debris to float through gates during floods

local operation from secured control housing

Both environmental disturbance and project costs were minimised by utilising the existing concrete support structure while the gate locations were modified to avoid the existing fish ladder. Associated works included hand-railing, desilting of the weir and rendering of the existing concrete piers. The total project cost was \$174,000.

Weir Gates foreground, Euroa Comfort Stop in the background



Nagambie Tennis Courts

Strathbogie Shire Council provided project management for the upgrade and repair of the Nagambie Tennis Courts. The Nagambie community rallied together to finance 50% of the upgrade with the works counter funded by the State Government Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure through a contribution of \$49,790.

The project involved:

concrete surround to existing Court 4 to replace grass surround

repair to cracked surface of existing Courts 5 and 6

synthetic grass surfacing to Courts 4, 5 and 6

pole mounted 1000W lights to Court 4

coin operated lighting to Court 4

Works commenced in January 2015 and were completed in March 2015. Total cost of the project was \$101,000 with Council providing project management.

Nagambie Tennis Courts repairs and new synthetic grass surfacing



Euroa Traveller and RV Comfort Stop

The Euroa Traveller and Recreational Vehicle (RV) Comfort Stop project involved a major redevelopment of the existing facilities in Kirkland Avenue Euroa. The existing public toilets at the Seven Creeks Park were demolished and new state of the art facilities constructed on the same site to accommodate the large number of tourists who frequent the area. The area is also used by locals who enjoy the walks through the spectacular Seven Creeks Park via the newly painted footbridge adjacent the new weir gates.

The project included:

modern male, female, disabled toilet facilities

separate baby change room with adult changing table

ramps and signs to accommodate disabled users

bright landscaping around three sides of the complex to complement the surrounding features

new wide asphalt access path from Kirkland Avenue to walk bridge to cater for tourists and users during festivals and events in the park

RV dump point to Kirkland Avenue Caravan Park

purpose-built deck with seats to allow users to rest and enjoy the view near adjacent weir and park

The project also included a fully sealed car park in the adjacent area to assist with parking in the vicinity of the Traveller and RV Comfort Stop. Work commenced on the new toilet complex in August 2014, with the building opened to the public in early March 2015. The building contractor for the new building was Douglas Builders of Shepparton. The \$400,000 project was funded by a \$300,000 grant from the State Government through the *Putting Locals First Funding Program* and \$100,000 from Council.

Photos opposite page:

Top ~ New comfort stop with landscaping

Bottom Left ~ RV Pumping Station

Bottom Right ~ Decking and seating at the comfort stop, overlooking the weir gates and Seven Creeks Park



Violet Town Library

The new Violet Town Library replaced the small building to the east of the Violet Town Community Complex with a larger, purpose built, modern library facility.

The new library included:

two large areas of space with an abundance of natural light

low wattage lighting for sustainability purposes

multi-use disabled compliant toilet

kitchenette that can be closed off by folding doors when required

construction of a disabled parking bay in adjacent Cowslip Street to assist disabled users

construction of a crushed rock car park

feature rock wall at the entrance to the new building

free Wi-Fi and computer access

study areas and designated places to sit and read

New walkways from the Cowslip Street footpath and a ramped concrete access from the Community Centre were constructed as part of the project. The 150 year old Victorian style garden was remodelled to complement the new walkways and building footprint. The building contractor for the new library building was Daniel Duna Constructions Pty Ltd of Seymour. Work on the new \$460,000 library began in February 2015 and finished in June 2015 with the fit-out continuing. The facility meets the Living Library Guidelines and was funded through a \$300,000 grant from the State Government Victoria Living Library's Infrastructure Program, \$145,000 from Council and \$15,000 from the Violet Town Action Group.



Violet Town Library and landscaping

Nagambie Streetscape Stage 1

Roundabout corner of Goulburn and High Streets Nagambie

Council undertook four major elements of a proposed roundabout at the south entrance to Nagambie central business district in 2014-15.

These elements included:

preliminary and final engineering designs of the roundabout

relocation of Telstra underground assets to allow for roundabout

relocation of water mains and other assets to allow for roundabout

relocation of electrical and lighting assets to allow for roundabout.

Works were completed in April 2015 in anticipation of the roundabout construction. Council has appointed Wrights Earthmoving Pty Ltd of Kilmore to undertake the construction of the new roundabout and approach roads, with works scheduled for completion by October 2015. The total cost of the project is \$837,090 of which Council is contributing \$337,090 and the State Government Victoria *Putting Locals First Program* is contributing \$500,000.

Nagambie Streetscape Stage 1 rendering



Community support strong at **Thank You Day** following the Creightons Creek bushfire

On 16 December 2014 lightning strikes ignited the Creightons Creek bushfire, burning 5,050 hectares and destroying four houses and nine out-houses within Strathbogie Shire. The fire affected 74 properties and caused substantial losses to farm animals, fencing, feed and machinery. Initially 222 residents were without power, some for a three day period as a direct result of the fire.

While we were fortunate that no lives were lost, the impacts of the fire were devastating for affected communities. In addition to grappling with substantial property loss many residents were forced to euthanise large numbers of stock and were left without feed for surviving stock.

Council was successful in obtaining funding for a Rural Recovery Officer for a six month period which was fundamental in the recovery process. As Council moved from the initial response phase to the recovery phase our attention turned to convening both a Municipal Recovery Committee and Community Recovery Committee and ensuring debriefing opportunities were available for all agencies involved in the recovery. In the weeks and months after the fire, Council set about the task of re-establishing and repairing Council infrastructure damaged in the bushfires while also ensuring communication flow and the sharing of information between the various support agencies and the community.

One aspect of the recovery was a Community Thank You Day held in recognition of the community contribution and support displayed during and in the aftermath of the fires. More than 450 people attended the event held at the Longwood Community Centre on Sunday 29 March 2015. Members from some 25 fire brigades positioned near and far to Strathbogie Shire attended the event, along with the Minister for Emergency Services Jane Garrett, CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley. The Thank You Day was a chance to reflect on the strength shown by residents and allowed Council to deliver a heartfelt thank you to its communities and emergency service personnel. The bushfire saw neighbours support neighbours and also saw many in the community not known to each other band together to render assistance where they could. The Community Thank You Day brought all those touched by the fire in one-way or another together in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Council remains acutely aware of the residual emotional and psychological affects in recovering from a natural disaster of this kind, however as a Council we take comfort in the strength of community displayed in response to the bushfires and the continuing recovery efforts.



good news!



a very big thank you ...



Major Changes

Following a full review of Council's aged care service the decision was made to cease delivery of this service from 1 July 2015. While the Home and Community Care (HACC) program is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Commonwealth, Council made a significant contribution to meet funding shortfalls.

The review was conducted over a seven month period and examined all aspects of the aged care service including: financial analysis; an environmental scan; a risk assessment, which demonstrated there were other providers with the capacity to deliver the services in a flexible and cost-efficient manner; and a communications plan. In addition to this the review process included a number of key components including: regular staff and Council briefings; communication to the public via local media; communication to all HACC clients and volunteers; a presentation of a range of options to Council; and a final report to Council for decision.

Council's focus has been to ensure a smooth transition for clients to the new provider by working together with DHHS to develop an implementation plan. Council successfully achieved this objective and acknowledged the commitment of staff who continued to provide professional services throughout the transition. A total of 36 employees were directly impacted by the decision, many of who have now been employed by the new provider which continues to provide high quality services across the municipality.

Major Achievements

Council introduced a new kerbside organic waste collection from 1 July 2015 as part of its commitment to reduce waste sent to landfill. The 12 months prior to implementation involved extensive planning, preparation, community education and engagement. The new three-bin household waste collection system allows food and garden waste to be collected separately and taken to a composting facility to be processed into natural fertiliser for farm and garden use. The green waste collection is in addition to existing general waste and recycling collections and was introduced to residents with an existing kerbside collection. Not only does the new service reduce methane levels, produced by green waste and food scraps for generations, it also eases the financial burden of landfilling and associated environmental management on Council. Methane is produced from green waste deposited in landfill and is roughly 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a heat trapping gas. The introduction of a green waste bin will reduce the amount of waste sent to land fill by 40 % significantly reducing landfill management costs.

Council continued to map its future financial positioning with the adoption of the 2015-19 Rating Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan. Both the Budget and the Long Term Financial Plan continued to address and reduce the infrastructure gap.

OUR COUNCIL



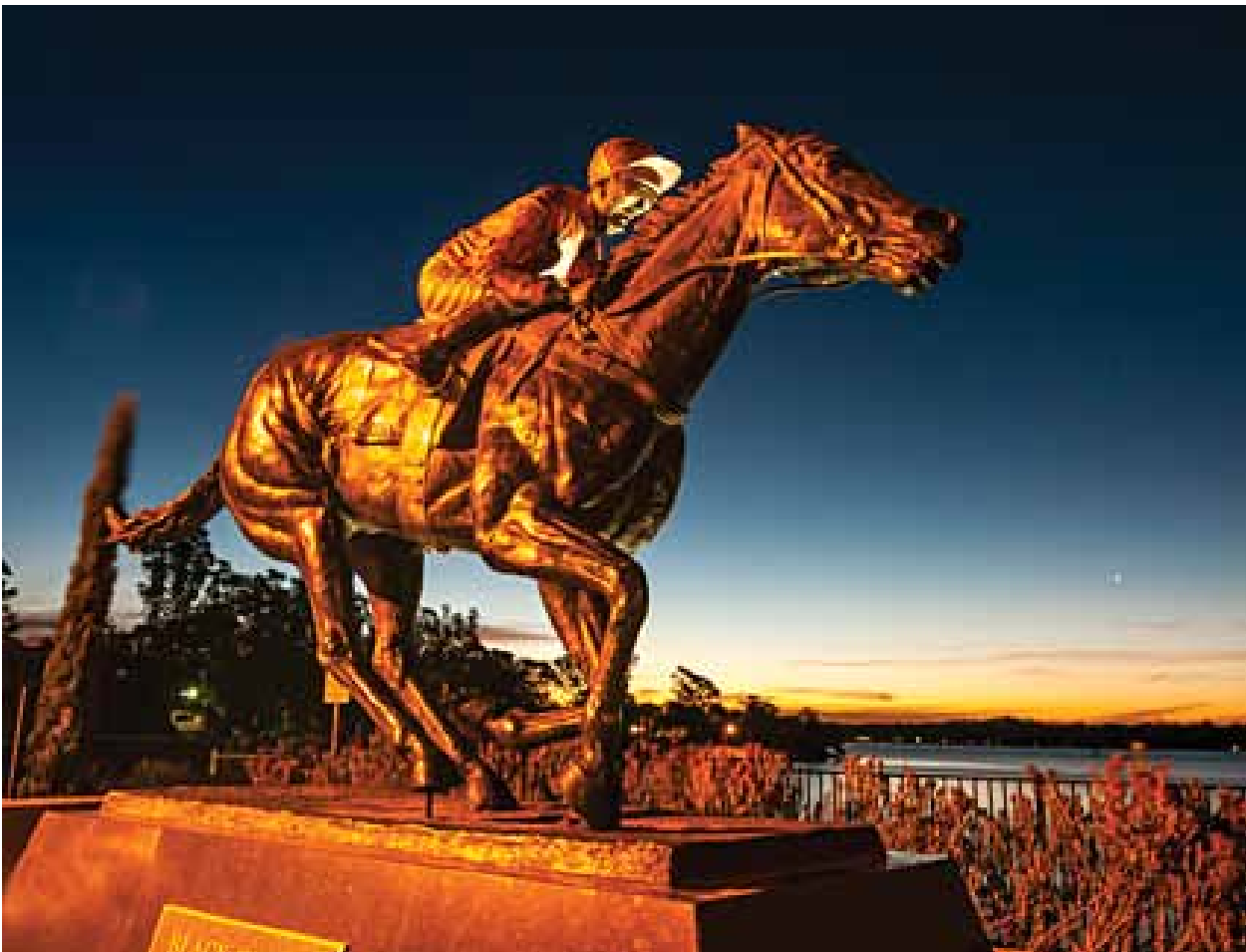
Councillors Graeme (Mick) Williams and Colleen Furlanetto inspecting the new footpaths in Binney Street Euroa

Council Profile

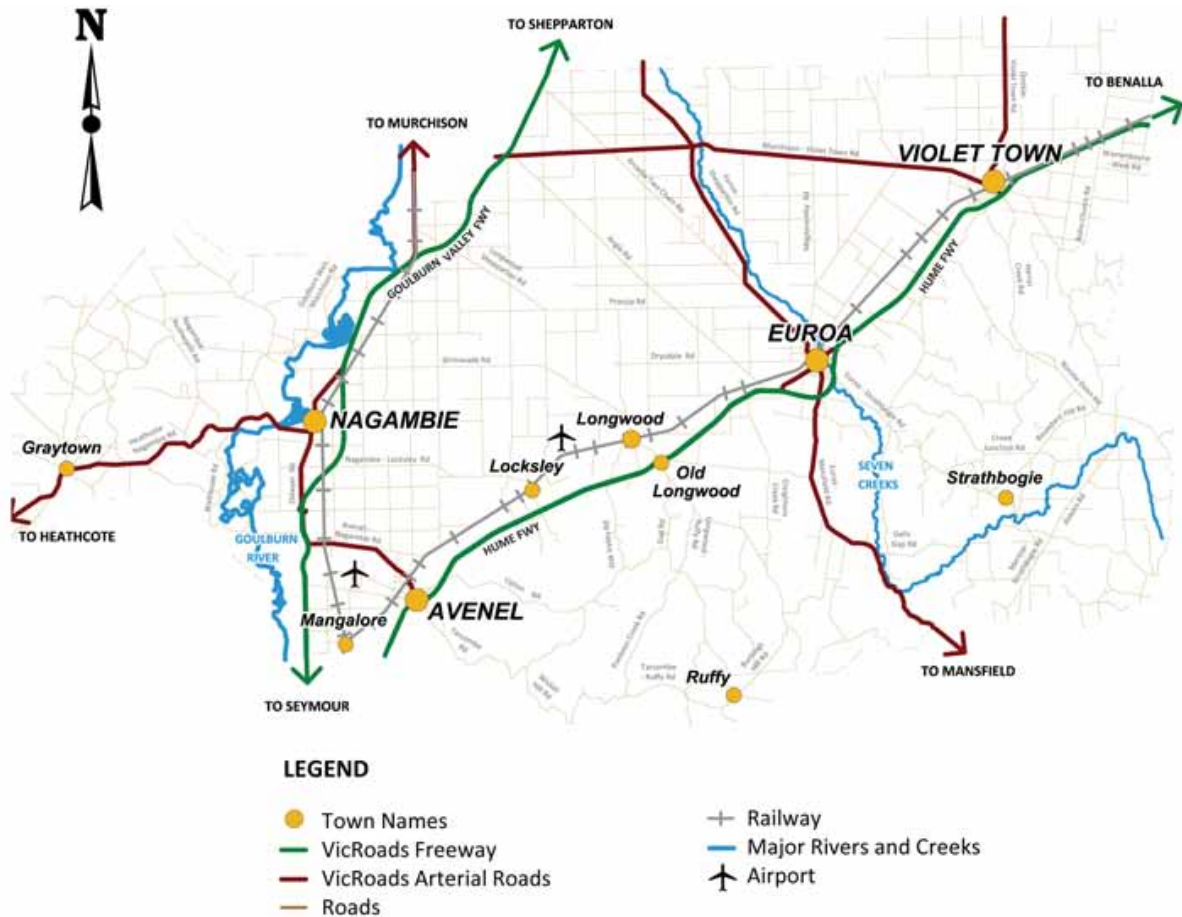
The Strathbogie Shire is a rural municipality located approximately two hours from Melbourne. The Shire is nestled within picturesque surrounds and has a population of approximately 10,000 and growing. Its diverse communities are served by townships such as Euroa, Nagambie, Violet Town, Avenel, Longwood, Ruffy and Strathbogie. The Shire has an aging population with 34% of residents aged 60 years and over. Of this aging portion of the community 19% are elderly singles and 15.4% are elderly couples. Nearly nine out of ten residents were born in Australia and only 4% of people came from countries where English was not their first language.

Strathbogie Shire has a rural economic base of wool, grain, sheep, poultry and cattle production, extensive vineyards, world class wineries and a wide range of intensive cool climate horticultural enterprises. The region is also known as the 'horse capital' of Victoria due to its ever expanding horse industry. Thoroughbred breeding studs are the cornerstone of this important industry, with many prestigious Melbourne Cup winners bred and trained in the Shire. Nagambie is also the birthplace of Black Caviar, the world champion horse, and now has a life-size bronze statue sitting pride of place at Jacobson's Outlook. A quarter of Strathbogie Shire Council's residents also work within the municipality and just over one tenth live in the area but work outside the municipality.

Black Caviar Statue, Nagambie



Shire of Strathbogie



Council offices

Euroa Main office

109A Binney Street Euroa

Opening Hours Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm

Postal Address

PO Box 177

Euroa VIC 3666

Mobile Customer Service

317 High Street Nagambie

Opening Hours Mon-Fri 10am to 4pm (*limited services*)

Telephone 1800 065 993

Email info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Fax 03 5795 3550

Website www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Councillors

The Council was elected to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. On 27 October 2012 the Strathbogie Shire Council community elected this Council for a four-year term. The municipality is divided into five wards, represented by one Councillor in each ward with the exception of two Councillors in the Lake Nagambie and Seven Creeks Wards.

The seven Councillors are the elected representatives of all residents and ratepayers across the Shire. They have responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the municipality, policy development, identifying service standards and monitoring performance across the organisation. Meet your Councillors below.



Councillors (back row L/R): Patrick Storer - Honeysuckle Creek Ward; Robin Weatherald - Mount Wombat Ward; Graeme (Mick) Williams - Seven Creeks Ward; Malcolm Little - Hughes Creek Ward; Alister Purbrick - Lake Nagambie Ward. (front row L/R: Colleen Furlanetto - Seven Creeks Ward; Debra Swan - Lake Nagambie Ward.

MAYOR DEBRA SWAN
LAKE NAGAMBIE WARD

Date elected: 27 October 2012

E debra.swan@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

M 0438 726 671

Debra Swan grew up in Melbourne and moved to Nagambie approximately 19 years ago with her family. After a couple of years settling into Nagambie and with a strong interest in tourism and marketing she was elected President of the Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce Association which led her to stand for Council in 2008. Debra's work history is varied and includes hairdressing, police officer, TAFE administration officer, personal care assistant with the Department of Human Services and small business owner and operator.



DEPUTY MAYOR CR COLLEEN FURLANETTO
SEVEN CREEKS WARD

Date elected: 27 October 2012

E colleen.furlanetto@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

M 0427 537 522

Colleen Furlanetto is currently serving her second term as Councillor. Having lived in the Strathbogie Shire all her life, Colleen was elected Councillor in 2008. Prior to this she was involved in the operations of a family earthmoving business servicing Euroa and district as well as having worked in the health field as a registered nurse for over 20 years. Colleen sits on a diverse range of boards and committees and in 2013 was appointed to the Victorian Disability Advisory Committee by Minister Mary Wooldridge.



CR MALCOLM LITTLE
HUGHES CREEK WARD

Date elected: 27 October 2012

E malcolm.little@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

M 0407 549 020

Currently serving his second term as Councillor, Malcolm Little has been both a farmer and builder in the Avenel district for over 35 years. Malcolm is currently the Chair of the Planning Committee and is committed to seeing the progress and improved liveability of local communities. He believes attracting industry is the key to developing and securing employment to assist in retaining youth to the area. Malcolm is a representative on the Goulburn Valley Bypass Group and the youth program's L2P Committee.

**CR GRAEME 'MICK' WILLIAMS**
SEVEN CREEKS WARD

Date elected: 27 October 2012

E mick.williams@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

M 0417 317 151

Euroa born and bred, Mick Williams first applied for a job as an outdoor staff member of Council in 1963, where he remained for thirty four years. Mick was then elected to Council in 1997 and served as Strathbogie Mayor in 2012. Mick has a strong interest in road safety and has held the positions of Chairman of Goulburn Valley Road Safety, Executive for Road Safe Victoria and Chairman of the steering committee for the state wide drink driving campaign, 'Look after Your Mates'.



CR ALISTER PURBRICK
LAKE NAGAMBIE WARD

Date elected: 27 October 2012

E alister.purbrick@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

M 0428 029 494

Alister Purbrick has over 35 years experience in the tourism, wine and liquor industries. Alister was appointed Chief Executive of Tahbilk Winery in 1980 and immediately set a new strategic direction for the company which included a dramatic increase in vineyard planting in the Nagambie Lakes region, construction of a new state of the art white grape processing facility and installation and commissioning of a modern fully automatic bottling line. He has been actively involved in Australian wine industry affairs since 1984 and has held a large number of positions including President of the Winemakers Federation of Australia.



CR PAT STORER
HONEYSUCKLE CREEK WARD

Date elected: 27 October 2012

E pat.storer@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

M 0407 975 456

Pat Storer is serving his first term as Strathbogie Shire Councillor. Pat is married to Catherine Storer and they have three adult children. Having been a member of Victoria Police since 1978, Pat has worked mainly in the Goulburn Valley area. He has had extensive involvement in a number of sporting groups and is a member of numerous other community groups including the Violet Town Lions Club. Included in Pat's list of impressive achievements is recipient of the National Medal for service to the Victoria community and the Victoria Police Ethical and Diligent Service Medal for service to Victoria Police.



CR ROBIN WEATHERALD
MOUNT WOMBAT WARD

Date elected: 27 October 2012

E robin.weatherald@strathbogievic.gov.au

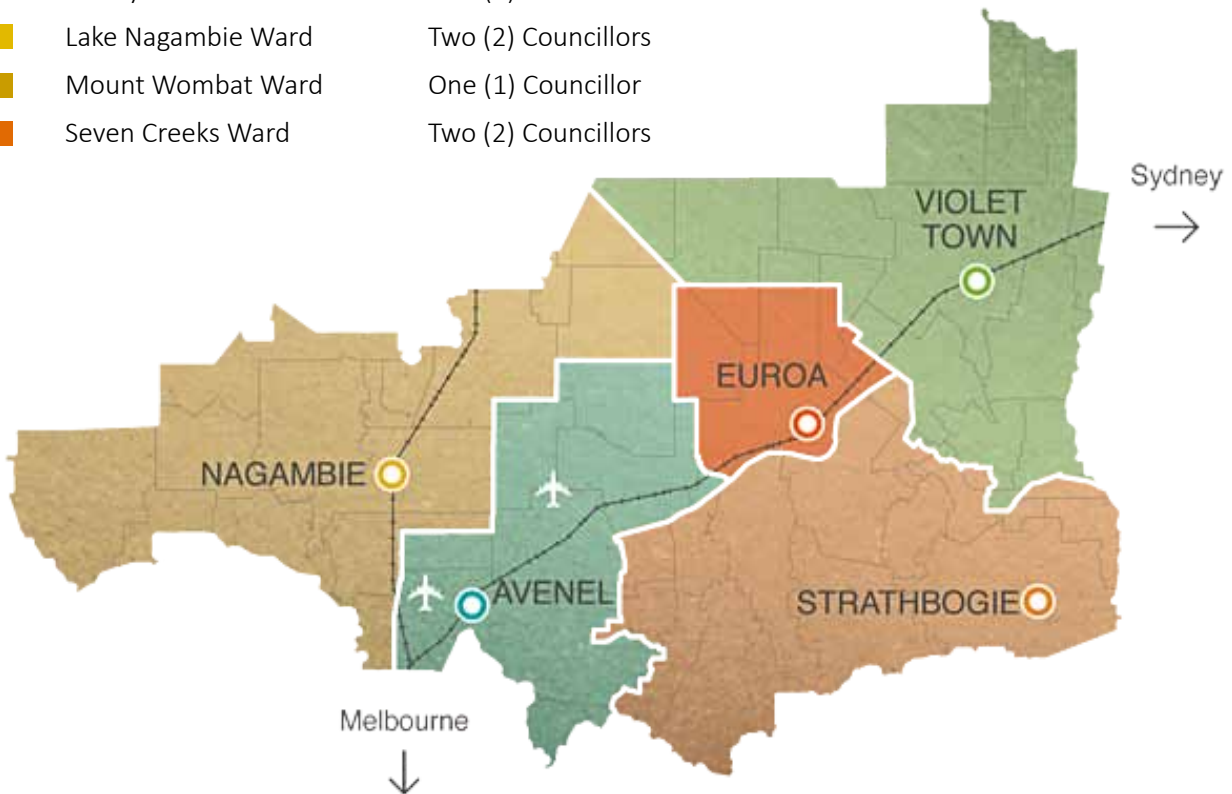
M 0408 918 987

Robin has previously served two terms for the Strathbogievic Shire and the Shire of Euroa before being elected again in 2012. With key interests in waste management, he wants to see an increased understanding of recycling options for all Strathbogievic Shire residents. Robin is a member of the Voices for Sustainability, a group focused on the long term future and sustainability of the Shire.

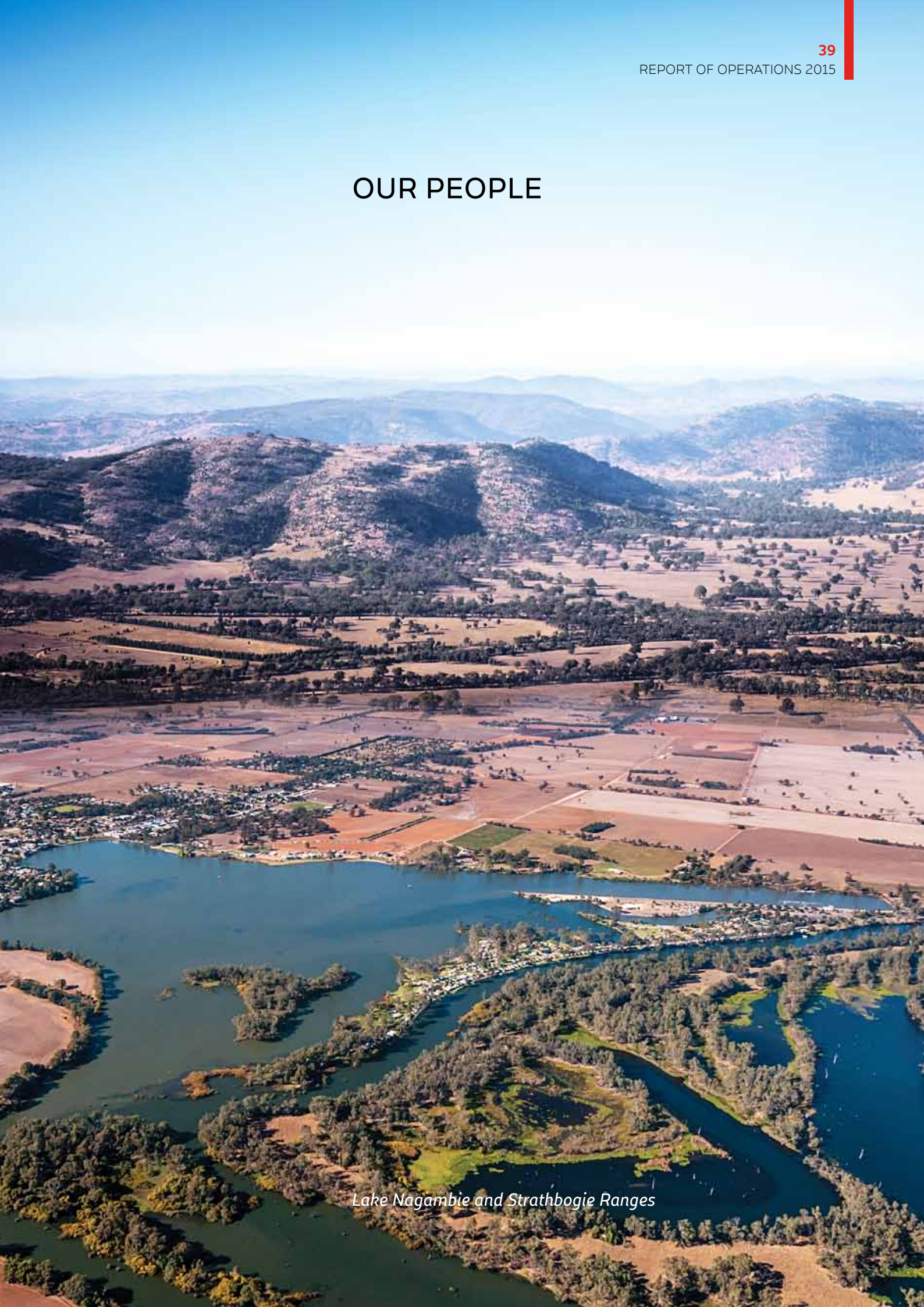


Strathbogievic Shire Wards

- Hughes Creek Ward One (1) Councillor
- Honeysuckle Creek Ward One (1) Councillor
- Lake Nagambie Ward Two (2) Councillors
- Mount Wombat Ward One (1) Councillor
- Seven Creeks Ward Two (2) Councillors



OUR PEOPLE



Lake Nagambie and Strathbogie Ranges

Organisational Structure

Council is the governing body that appoints a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for the day to day management of operations in accordance with the strategic directions of the Council Plan. The CEO and three Directors form the Executive Management Team (EMT) and lead the organisation. Details of the CEO and senior officers reporting directly to the CEO are set out below.

STEVE CRAWCOUR **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Steve was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Strathbogie Shire Council, effective 1 August 2011. Steve was previously Council's Director, Strategic and Community Development, a position he held since his commencement with Council in 2008. Steve has over 30 years experience in Local Government and was previously employed by the Cities of Brimbank, Warrnambool and Springvale. He has an Advanced Diploma of Business Management, Diploma and Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety, Certificate in Critical Incidents Management, a Certificate in Telecommunications (Contact Centres) and a Diploma of Management. He is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, Fellow of LGPro (Local Government Professionals), a member of the Safety Institute of Australia and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Senior Officers Reporting Directly to the Chief Executive Officer

PHIL HOWARD

DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT | DEPUTY CEO

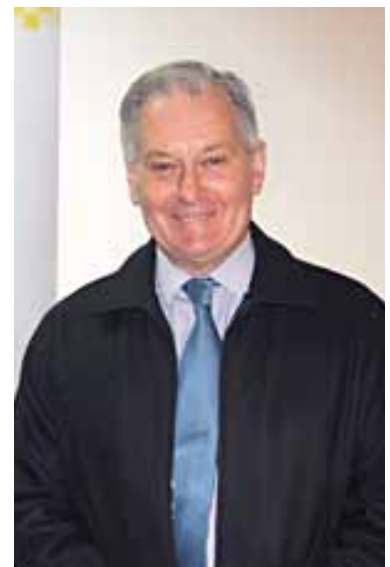
Phil commenced with the Strathbogie Shire Council in 2006 and was appointed Director of Sustainable Development in 2011 and later become Deputy CEO as part of his role. Phil has worked in Local Government for over 20 years and has held roles in finance, human resources, corporate services, planning and economic development. Prior to Local Government, Phil was an accountant for the ANZ Bank. Phil is a full member of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) and past board member (VIC Division) and is also a member of LGPro, Victorian Planning & Environmental Law Association (VPELA) and board member of the Goulburn Valley Regional Collaborative Alliance. Phil has qualifications in Master of Arts (Community Development), Graduate Diploma Rural & Regional Planning, Graduate Diploma in Management, Associate Diploma in Local Government, Diploma of Management, Graduate Alpine Valleys Leadership Program. Areas of responsibility include grants, tourism/economic development, sustainable development, planning, community relations, records, customer service, human resources.



ROY HETHERINGTON

DIRECTOR OF ASSET SERVICES

Roy was appointed Director Asset Services in December 2010. He is responsible for the management of Council's assets including buildings, roads, traffic management, bridges, drains, parks and waste management. Roy is a qualified municipal engineer with over 35 years experience in Local Government. Over the years he has worked for many Councils large and small.

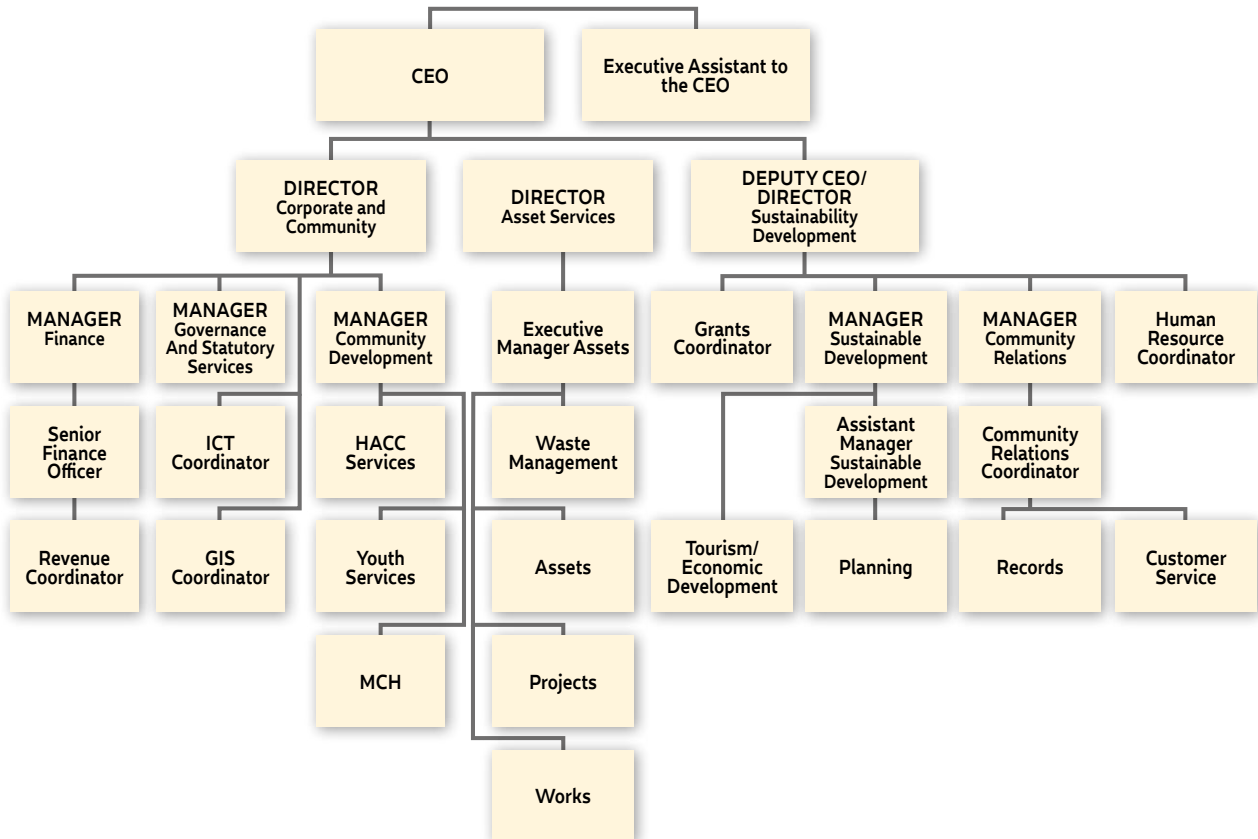


DAVID WOODHAMS
DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

David commenced at Strathbogie in May 2012 having previously been Manager Finance at Greater Shepparton City Council. David has over 36 years experience working in Local Government, primarily in small rural Councils. David is committed to the financial sustainability of rural Local Government through good planning and focusing on core service delivery. David is a Certified Practising Accountant, has a Bachelor of Business, a Diploma in Project Management, a Graduate Certificate in Management and is a member of LGPro and FinPro. Areas of responsibility include finance, governance and statutory services, information and communication technology, community development, home and community care (HACC) services, youth services, maternal and child health.



Organisational Structure Chart

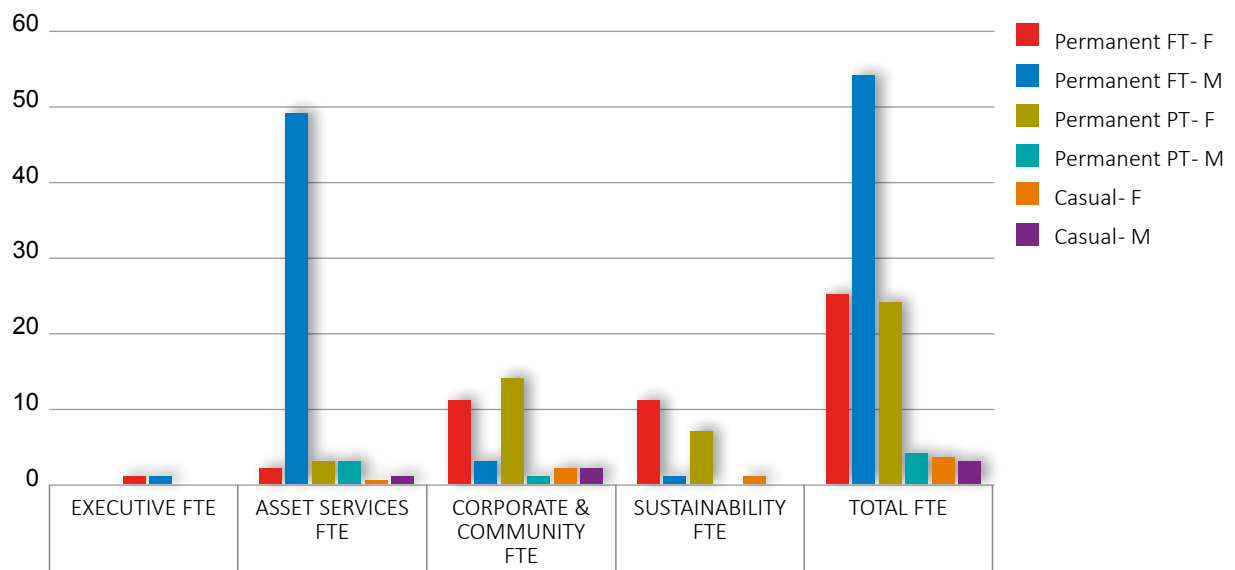


Council Staff

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff by organisational structure, employment type and gender is set out below as at 30/6/2015.

Employee type/gender	Executive FTE	Asset Services FTE	Corporate & Community FTE	Sustainability FTE	Total FTE
Permanent FT - F	1	2	11	11	25
Permanent FT - M	1	49	3	1	54
Permanent PT - F	0	3	14	7	24
Permanent PT - M	0	3	1	0	4
Casual - F	0	0.5	2	1	3.5
Casual - M	0	1	2	0	3
TOTAL	2	58.5	33	20	113.5

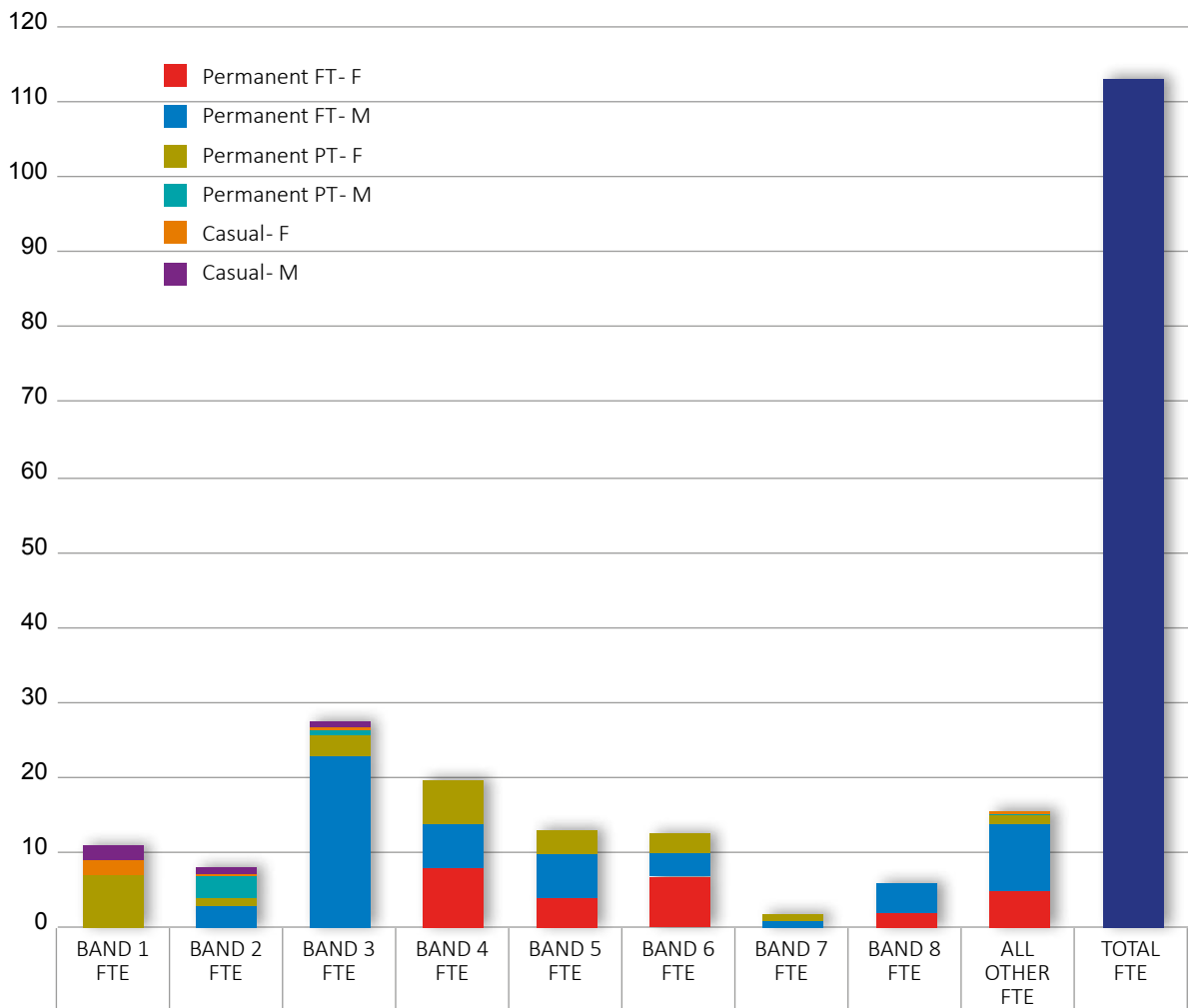
FT - Full time | PT - Part time | F - Female | M - Male



A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by employment classification and gender is set out below.

WORKFORCE DATA										
Structure Classification	Band 1 FTE	Band 2 FTE	Band 3 FTE	Band 4 FTE	Band 5 FTE	Band 6 FTE	Band 7 FTE	Band 8 FTE	All other FTE	Total FTE
Permanent Full Time - Female				8.0	4.0	7.0		2.0	4.0	25.0
Permanent Full Time - Male		3.0	23.0	6.0	6.0	3.0	1.0	4.0	9.0	55.0
Permanent Part Time - Female	7.2	1.0	2.8	5.8	3.1	2.6	0.9		1.1	24.3
Permanent Part Time - Male		3.0	0.6						0.2	3.8
Casual - Female	1.9	0.2	0.4						0.4	2.9
Casual - Male	0.9	0.8	0.8							2.5
TOTAL	10.0	8.0	27.6	19.8	13.1	12.6	1.9	6.0	14.7	113.5

FTE - FULL TIME EQUIVALENT



Equal Employment Opportunity Program

Strathbogie Shire Council's equal opportunity program supports a work environment that is free from discrimination. Council has developed an organisation wide policy framework which outlines the expected standards of behaviour and highlights their significance. In essence, equal opportunity principles are integral to the organisational employment practices.

Council takes proactive, reasonable and proportionate measures to eliminate any form of discrimination against persons or groups of persons with the protected attributes as prescribed under the relevant Equal Opportunity and Antidiscrimination Legislation. Council ensures through its Equal Opportunity Program that any discriminatory practices are avoided from its policies and procedures and recognises employees on the basis of their abilities, qualifications and skills, through the implementation and monitoring of effective Human Resources Policies and procedures. Council provides access to the Contact Officer network as an impartial and confidential forum for discussion of matters pertinent to equality in the workplace. In addition to eliminating discrimination, the program plays a critical role in the promotion of a workplace that is free from harassment and bullying, where all individuals associated with the organisation treat each other with respect.

The indicators that measure the effectiveness of the program and the results for the year include the provision of equal opportunity training sessions to staff and access to contact officers both of which were underpinned by the development of an organisational wide policy framework outlining expected standards of behaviour in the area of equal opportunity.

The indicators are monitored on an ongoing basis as part of the Human Resource functions. A statistical report monitoring gender equality within the organisation is tabled to Executive Management.

The actions taken to facilitate the program over the past 12 months include the development of the CEO directives and guidelines framework and the provision of the training sessions to all employees, managers and volunteers to ensure legislative compliance. Furthermore Council has developed the Parental Leave Kit, providing management with practical tools to support staff in ensuring gender equality in areas such as breastfeeding in the workplace and enabling access to educational information relating to achieving a work-life balance.

Other Staff Matters

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

The Enterprise Bargaining Committee comprising management representatives, nominated workplace delegates (union and non-union) and union officials from ASU and ANMF was established to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement for Council employees. The agreement is being negotiated for four years commencing 1 July 2015 and will include productivity improvements and reasonable wage increases consistent with CPI and the long term financial plan of Council.

Professional development

Council recognises the value in supporting staff to grow and expand their skill and knowledge base, placing a high degree of importance on providing opportunities that allow individuals to reach their full potential. Professional development opportunities are aligned with corporate strategic objectives and training needs assessment, identified through individual performance and development plans. The provision of flexible learning methodologies including e-learning, facilitated workshops and mentoring can assist in balancing an employee's work-life demands and can also optimise the corporate budget. Apprenticeships and traineeship schemes are effectively utilised within Council and provide an additional career pathway. Study assistance is offered for employees undertaking relevant tertiary courses.

Health and safety

Strathbogie Shire Council has an overall responsibility for the health and safety in the workplace and takes a proactive approach to ensuring it allocates necessary resources for practicable health and safety purposes. Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all those associated with Council. A comprehensive review of Council's Integrated Management System has commenced to guarantee compliance with relevant legislation and best practice workplace safety. Community awareness initiatives such as Relay for Life, are supported by the Executive Management Team and deemed to be effective in building awareness about general health and wellbeing matters.

Preventing violence against women

Strathbogie Shire Council continues to champion the violence against women White Ribbon Day initiative and takes a strong stance on violence against women. This focus further strengthens equality and equity principles and continues to shine a light on the impact of violence against women to the community as a whole. The CEO Steve Crawcour and Councillor Pat Storer are official White Ribbon Ambassadors.



Our performance



Our talented Youth:
MUSOmagic 2015 and Fast Track Talent 2015

Planning and Accountability Framework

The Planning and Accountability Framework is found in part 6 of the Act. The Act requires Councils to prepare the following planning and reporting documents:

A Council plan within the six months after each general election or by 30 June, whichever is later

A Strategic Resource Plan for a period of at least four years and include this in the Council plan

A budget for each financial year








An Annual Report in respect of each financial year.

The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the planning and accountability framework for Local Government. It also shows that there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input and feedback at each stage of the planning and reporting cycle.



Council Plan

The Council Plan 2013-17 includes strategic goals, strategies for achieving these for the four year period, strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives and a Strategic Resource Plan. The following are the seven strategic goals as detailed in the Council Plan.

1	Community Wellbeing		A community that has equitable access to a range of quality services which respond to its diverse needs and supports the wellbeing of our communities.
2	Environment		To promote and foster sustainable development in our natural and built environment.
3	Financial		To ensure prudent, transparent and strategic financial planning which results in a sound legacy for the future.
4	Governance		A Shire that builds trust and recognises community needs through transparent, accountable and democratic decision making.
5	Industry, Business and Investment		Encourage investment and development into the Shire by having a responsive and proactive business development culture.
6	Infrastructure		Ensure the Shire's infrastructure enhances efficiency for people and freight movement, service delivery and community amenities.
7	Tourism and Hospitality		A desirable and safe destination that supports the development of tourism and hospitality enterprises that drive economic growth across our Shire.

Performance



Council's performance for the 2014-15 year has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the 2013-17 Council Plan. Performance has been measured as follows:

Results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators in the Council plan

Progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the budget

Services funded in the budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided those services

Results against the prescribed service performance indicators and measures

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Enhance the wellbeing and participation of our community		
Continue to support and participate in the Strathbogie Health and Community Services Consortium	100%	CEO continues to attend consortium meetings providing active participation and support
As part of Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan identify ways to promote Shire-Wide health and wellbeing	100%	Council incorporated health and wellbeing outcomes into local projects, further promoting positive health outcomes. Council committed to the Act, Belong, Commit project to improve mental health and wellbeing in the community. The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan annual review commenced and is underway
Investigate the formation of a Youth Council and seek funding	100%	Youth Council documentation for the formation of a Youth Council was approved by Council
Support Community Action Groups to develop methods of improved communication during emergencies	100%	Council provided ongoing support through its Community Development Officer, who regularly attended Community Action Group meetings, attended annual general meetings and supported the review and development of Community Action Plans
Support the State Government's current "Learn to Swim" programs	100%	Council supported the State Government's Learn to Swim programs through the provision and maintenance of local swimming pools
Collaborate and provide support to the development of Community Action Group Action Plans	100%	Council representatives attended Community Action Group meetings and provided support in the production of new Action Plans. Council provided additional support through Action Group funding
Support the "Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Supporting Safer Communities" Action Plan	100%	Council was involved in regional projects that addressed prevention of violence against women and Council continued to champion White Ribbon Day
Review and improve the Community Engagement Plan	90%	The Community Engagement Strategy outlined Council's commitment to public engagement and incorporated guidelines to that effect. This was agreed to by Council in October 2014. Not with standing this, the Strategy, including guidelines will be the subject of review in the first half of the 2015-16 financial year and formally presented to Council for endorsement



Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Enhance the wellbeing and participation of our community continued		
Investigate opportunities for Shire-wide youth cultural activities	100%	Council applied for funding to deliver Engage and FreeZA programs for young people across the Shire. The Council Youth Committee was involved in a range of cultural activities and organised cultural activities for youth across the Shire. The youth program ran a FastTrack talent event which was highly successful
Advocate for funding for a review of the Aquatic Strategy	100%	Council advocated for funding to undertake this project with a review of facilities currently underway
Support the development of a Men's Shed Program across the Shire	100%	Council's Community Development Officer worked with local Men's Shed Programs across the Shire and offered a range of support relating to committee rules, community grant and sourcing of grants
Investigate and seek funding for Shire-wide safe pick-up and drop off areas at all schools	50%	Facilities at Avenel Primary School were redeveloped in 2014-15. The design and consultation for improved safety at Euroa Primary School was completed. Further review to take place as part of the 2015-16 Capital Works Budget deliberations
Increase Community Services to Nagambie Post Bypass		
Advocate for a full time child care facility in Nagambie	100%	Council sent letters to relevant Ministers addressing the lack of this critical service as part of its commitment to advocate for child care in Nagambie
Advocate for funding of Nagambie Lakes Community House	100%	Council provided ongoing support to the Community House and funnelled information about community grants and other sources of funding
Advocate for an ambulance service in Nagambie	100%	Council continued to highlight the need for an ambulance service in Nagambie by supporting the local Community Emergency Response Team in its communications with the community and funding bodies
Advocate for a high school in Nagambie		Council wrote to relevant Ministers highlighting the need and push for a high school in the town
Provide equitable and high standard public transport services / facilities		
Advocate for improved train station facilities across the Shire	75%	Council continued to advocate for improvements at train stations. This issue was raised with the V/Line Working Group, with some improvements at Euroa Station
Advocate for better time-tabling and shuttle services between Shepparton to Seymour and Wodonga to Seymour	75%	Council continued to participate in the State Government Rail Working Group and advocated for a shuttle or similar service. Strathbogie's CEO will meet with other CEOs from the Hume corridor and develop a plan to provide input into the Regional Rail Services Review, as part of work undertaken by Euroa MP Steph Ryan

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: COMMUNITY WELLBEING | *CONTINUED*

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2014-15 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Completion of the Euroa Memorial Oval Upgrade - Conference and Function Centre	The project was officially opened on 5 March 2015 by the Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, the Hon Jaala Pulford
The new Violet Town Library replaced the small building to the east of the Violet Town Community Complex with a larger, purpose built, modern library facility	Work on the new library began in February 2015 and finished in June 2015. Fit out of the library is continuing
Development of a Wastewater Management Plan	Consultation was undertaken and a public survey completed. The draft plan expected to be completed in July 2015

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014-15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description
Environmental Health	<p>Provision of the following to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of the municipal community as a whole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordination of food safety support programs and public health promotions • inspection and assessment of businesses such as restaurants, cafés, motels, hotels, B&B's, hairdressers, caravan parks, bottle shops and wineries to ensure compliance with operating quality standards • rectification of any public health concerns relating to unreasonable noise emissions, housing standards and pest controls



Service	Description
Libraries & Arts	<p>Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a library service in the towns of Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town and a mobile library service in the towns of Strathbogrie, Avenel and Longwood, provided through a partnership and formal arrangement with Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation • a customer focused service that caters for the cultural, educational, social and recreational needs of residents and provides a focal point for the community where residents can meet, relax and enjoy the facilities and services offered • community display spaces and meeting rooms available for use by community groups, businesses or individuals • the opportunity for community members to establish connections through participation in a variety of programs such as 'Rhyme and Story Time' and school holiday programs • the opportunity to benefit from lifelong learning through access to a wide variety of services and resources such as books, book clubs, the internet, computers, other forms of digital media and newspapers • an outlet whereby community members can come together for social interaction and entertainment at the Euroa community cinema • the opportunity to explore the arts through access to cinema experience
Maternal and Child Health	<p>Provision of the following to support families in the areas of health and development, parenting, safety and wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced maternal and child health services including home visits for parents who need additional support • referrals and assistance linking families with health professionals and local communities • coordination of new parents groups • lactation support • key age consultations at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 8 weeks, 4 months, 7-8 months, 12 months, 18 months, 2 years, 3.5 years and 4 years

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: COMMUNITY WELLBEING | CONTINUED

Service	Description
Youth Services	Provision of the following to young people throughout the Shire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitation of a range of recreation and education based youth activities and programs such as Freeza, National Youth Week and L2P learner driver mentor program • provide support and information to young people and their families on a range of topics and subject matter
Aged and Disabled Community Care and Support	Provision of the following to carers, older people and people with a disability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range of home and community care services for the aged and disabled including home delivered meals, personal care, transport, dementia care, home maintenance, housing support and senior citizen clubs • strategic and forward planning to ensure adequate support and care options for older people and or those with a disability
Parks and Reserves	Provision of the following to ensure the community has access to quality parks and reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responsibility for the management, maintenance and safety of parks and gardens, sporting grounds and playground facilities • continued planning for the future provision and enhancement of open spaces throughout the Shire
Emergency Services	Provision of the following to ensure community safety in the time of a large scale emergency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continued review and assessment of key plans, strategies and documents such as the Municipal Fire Management Plan • fire prevention activities and community education • flood risk planning and mitigation • continued review and upgrade of emergency management practices to ensure an adequate level of preparedness in the case of emergency scenarios
Street Lighting	The provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • street lighting in urban areas to enhance amenity and assist in achieving community safety • regular maintenance and inspection of street lighting infrastructure



The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service / Indicator / Measure	Result	Material Variations
Libraries & Arts		
<i>Participation</i>		
<i>Active Library Members</i> [Number of active library members / Municipal Population x 100]	25.62%	No material variations
Aged and Disabled Community Care and Support		
<i>Participation</i>		
<i>Participation in HACC service</i> [Number of people that received a HACC service/ Municipal target population for HACC services] x 100	31.33%	No material variations
<i>Participation</i>		
<i>Participation in HACC service by CALD people</i> [Number of CALD people who receive a HACC service/ Municipal target population in relation to CALD people for HACC services] x 100	9.76%	No material variations
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)		
<i>Participation</i>		
<i>Participation in MCH key ages and stages visits</i> [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in a year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH Service] x 100	84.66%	No material variations
<i>Participation</i>		
<i>Participation in MCH service by Aboriginal children</i> [Number of actual MCH visits for aboriginal children / number of expected MCH visits] x 100	100%	No material variations

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: COMMUNITY WELLBEING | CONTINUED

Service / Indicator / Measure	Result	Material Variations
Environmental Health		
<p><i>Health and Safety</i></p> <p><i>Critical and major non-compliance notifications</i></p> <p>[Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance]</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>No material variations</p>

Erosion control on Seven Creeks



Tree Management Plan continues



Sunset over the ranges



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ENVIRONMENT

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Encourage clean, green environmental initiatives		
Work with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) to review flood mitigation requirements for residential buildings in Euroa and surrounds with the ability to release land for residential use	100%	Assessment of the appropriateness of the Euroa Water Scheme was completed together with initial flood mapping. Final comments from GBCMA received with GBCMA to undertake final mapping work
Design and install automatic gates at the Seven Creeks Weir to control flood events and sand build up	100%	Project completed in April 2015 as part of the Capital Works Program
Work with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority GBCMA to develop a program to remove sand from the pondage of Seven Creeks and Castle Creek and develop an agreed revegetation program	100%	Agreement was reached for vegetation control on Castle Creek to support self-cleansing, with Seven Creeks regulated by weir gate project. The weir gates were commissioned May 2015
Establish a Shire-wide sustainable Development Reference Group	100%	Establishment task completed with working groups formed and meetings underway. Minutes of meetings are reported to Council monthly at the Ordinary Meeting of Council
Continue to develop the Violet Town flood mitigation scheme	100%	Project to continue to be advanced under the new Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, now in revised draft form
Participate in Regional Street Light Retro-Fit Program	100%	Installation of stage one of the Watts Working Better street light upgrade program completed in November. Stage two will continue in 2015-16
Develop, maintain and protect our natural and built assets		
Support the Euroa Environment Group to develop a Shire-wide significant tree register on public land	100%	Support was provided to the Euroa Environment Group, however the group was unable to commence project at this point in time
Update Council's Tree Management Plan	80%	Draft Tree Management Plan was progressed to 80% completion. Proof-reading of the document is currently underway.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ENVIRONMENT | CONTINUED

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Develop, maintain and protect our natural and built assets continued		
Support the actions in the Shire's Community Safety Fire Action Plan	90%	Municipal Fire Management Plan due for complete review 2015 – 50% complete. Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee Meetings undertaken as per Terms of Reference. Ongoing reporting to Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee
Work with the "Bush Crew" where possible as part of the Shire's revegetation programs	100%	Rubbish clearing along Seven Creeks frontage has been completed

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2014/15 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
The rehabilitation of the former Violet Town landfill site	Negotiations with EPA Victoria continued through to June 2015 to seek a relevant classification of the Violet Town landfill to enable Council to adequately complete site rehabilitation. As such, no construction work was carried out in 2014-15, with works carried forward into 2015/16

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014-15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description
Sustainability Management	Provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> building an awareness within the community of sustainable practices and considerations to help protect our natural environment development of initiatives, strategies and policies that ensure the responsible and sustainable management of the Shire's natural and built environments delivery of a variety of programs aimed at protecting and enhancing the environment, such as the Pests and Weeds Program and the Carbon Footprint Assessment Program
Waste Management	Provision of the following across the Shire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivery of kerbside garbage and recycling collections management of transfer station operations responsibility of waste management in public areas



Introduction of new green waste system demonstrates Strathbogie Shire's strong commitment to sustainable environmental management

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service / Indicator / Measure	Result	Material Variations
<p>Waste Collection Waste Diversion <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x 100</p>	<p>31.51%</p>	<p>No material variation</p>

WATTS WORKING BETTER



good news!



street light upgrade is good for the environment and provides savings

In partnership with nine councils, Strathbogie Shire Council embarked on the Watts Working Better street light upgrade to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve significant savings to council in the maintenance and electricity costs of street lighting. The cost of maintaining street lighting across the Shire is more than \$49,000 each year; a figure that will be significantly reduced by the switch to energy efficient alternatives.

The Watts Working Better project saw Strathbogie Shire upgrade the first 330 of 500 street lights to more energy efficient T5 fluorescent lights in 2014-15. This upgrade will save council around \$618,000 over the life of the lights. In addition to achieving significant savings the upgrade will reduce gas emissions and reflects council's commitment to protect and enhance the natural and built environment for current and future generations. The remaining 170 street lights will be upgraded in 2015-16.

The street light upgrade will see residents enjoy enhanced street lighting, while other advantages include more uniformed street lights, improved visibility and less glare. The project was coordinated by the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance and involves the partner councils of Campaspe, Greater Shepparton, Moira, Benalla, Wangaratta, Mansfield, Murrindindi and Mitchell. The total cost of the Watts Working Better project was \$4.68 million, while Strathbogie Shire Council's contribution

was \$185,172. The project received \$2.95 million in funding from the Australian Government with the nine Council's collectively contributing \$1.73 million.

This project highlights what can be achieved through the formation of effective partnerships with this collaborative approach resulting in a host of efficiencies and benefits. Almost 95% of the old lights will be dismantled and recycled rather than ending up in landfill, providing another win for the environment by further reducing council's carbon footprint.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: FINANCIAL

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Rationalise Council owned assets		
Sell the Euroa Youth Club Hall and relocate current use to a suitable location	75%	Preparation of alternative location at rear of Council offices has been completed. Proposed subdivision plan is being prepared
Develop for residential use and sell Nagambie Shire Depot	100%	Construction work has been completed and allotments are on the market
Investigate and determine underutilised assets within the Shire	20%	Mapping of underutilised property was 20% completed. Findings are to be included in a Building Asset Plan to be completed by December 2015
Continue to focus on improving operational efficiencies by decreasing costs		
Continue to drive the Shared Service Project with Shepparton in an endeavour to reduce operating expenditure and ensure efficiencies of service	80%	Service planning in six key areas across both Councils was completed. Investigations into "One Platform" payroll service commenced. A cost benefit analysis was completed for Regatta Centre and all swimming pools in the Shire
Target major Capital Works Projects to seek government funding to reduce Council's costs	80%	Mayor and CEO attended State Government Launch of new Regional Funding program and State Government Briefings. Council to continue to identify and act on opportunities for external funding
Explore and take up partnership opportunities of non-core services with other Shires and organisations	80%	The successful partnering in joint waste services led to the introduction of an organic kerbside collection in July 2015. In addition, Council completed stage 1 of a street light upgrade to energy efficient alternatives through a collective positioning with other regional and rural Councils
Benchmark Business Units under the Best Value Legislation to ensure efficient, effective and relevant services	70%	As part of the Shared Services Alliance detailed reviews of six projects commenced and progressed. In addition to this a Cost Benefit/Best Value Review Project has commenced for swimming pools and the Regatta Centre. All services will be reviewed by 30 September 2015
Review Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Rating Strategy	100%	Council adopted the 2015-2019 Rating Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan on 9 June 2015
Reduce Council's infrastructure gap in a financially responsible manner as per Council's Long Term Financial Plan	100%	The Budget and Long Term Financial Plan continued to address and reduce the infrastructure gap

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: FINANCIAL | CONTINUED

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
<i>Continue to focus on improving operational efficiencies by decreasing costs continued</i>		
Seek grant funding opportunities wherever possible	80%	Opportunities for grant funding were identified and sought where deemed beneficial. In addition to this Strathbogie and Shepparton Councils sought joint funding opportunities as part of the Goulburn Valley Regional Collaborative Alliance
Conduct a cost benefit analysis for the following operations – Shire-wide operated swimming pools / Euroa Saleyards / Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre / Boating safety (compliance) operations in Nagambie / Shire-wide Youth Services / Open Space / Parks Management	70%	A cost benefit analysis was 70% completed and is continuing. Service planning has started to address these areas
Ensure Council has equitable support financially from both Federal and State Governments		
Advocate to both Federal and State Government to ensure that the current funding formulas provide equitable funds to Local Government	75%	The topic of equitable funding for Local Government was raised at the various levels by the Mayor and CEO during opportunities such as Rural Council Victoria Conference and Municipal Association events

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2014-15 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Continue to investigate and implement a comprehensive range of electronic receipting and payment options for Council services	Council is reviewing the extension of eftpos payments to include transfer stations. Electronic receipting continues to expand through electronic payment options such as Council Bpay, Australia Post Bpay & Centrepay
Continue the development of Council's long term financial planning processes and linkages to asset management systems and the Council Plan	Council is constantly reviewing the Long Term Financial Plan. The Long Term Financial Plan provides input to the annual budget and is supported by the Asset Management Plan and Council Plan. The Long Term Financial Plan now forms part of the Strategic Resource Plan to ensure relevance and constant review



The following statements provide information in relation to the services funded in the 2014-15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description
Financial and Administration Services	Provision of the following to support Council's direct service delivery areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • budget preparation, long term financial planning, periodic reporting, processing of debtors/creditors and statutory financial requirements, including FBT and GST reporting • processing and management of rates and Council charges • managing procurement • coordinating the Audit Committee and external audit • managing payroll services and all accounts payable and receivable

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service / Indicator / Measure	Result	Material Variations
None		

Official opening Euroa Saleyards (L/R): Debra Swan (Mayor), Steve Crawcour (CEO), the Hon. Jaala Pulford (Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development) and Richard McGeehan (Euroa Saleyards Committee).



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: GOVERNANCE

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Engage our community in our decision making processes		
Develop a program that delivers increased Councillor interaction with the community in their local settings	100%	Social media implemented and road shows have been an ongoing activity
Introduce an online system for improved community engagement	100%	Social Media implemented and feedback mechanisms available on website
Review Council's Communication Strategy	70%	Review of the Communication Strategy was 70% completed and continues to progress. The Communications Strategy encompasses social media, community engagement, branding and stakeholder engagements
Provide a workforce that is accountable and transparent in its operations		
Support gender equality in our workforce development	100%	There was an ongoing and active commitment to ensure gender equality within Council. A statistical report for monitoring gender equality was tabled to the Executive Management Team
Address the actions required from the Internal Auditors reports and report back to Council via the Audit Committee	100%	Meetings were scheduled throughout the year. Council is currently undertaking its audit review process to arrive at 2015-17 – two year audit program based on review of last three years schedule
Executive Management Team to monitor and review the ongoing performance of all staff operations	85%	The Director and Senior Management Team completed a 360 performance review process and work plan will be developed from this process. A total review of Asset Services (outdoor staff) has been completed

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2014-15 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
None	



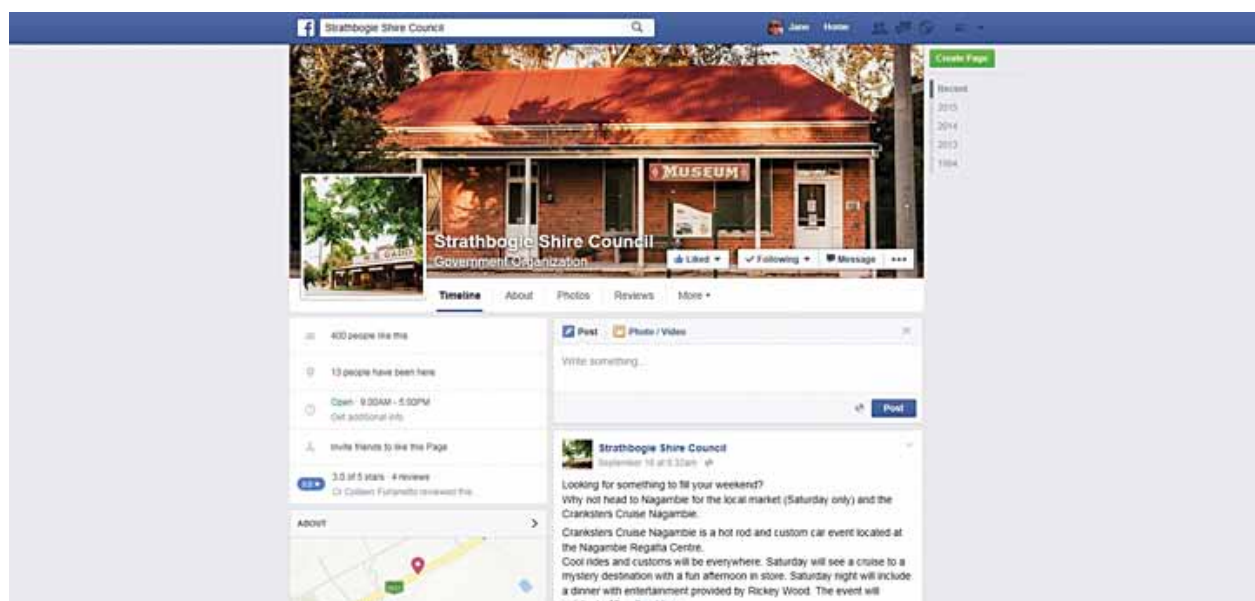
The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014-15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description
Governance	Provision of the following to support Council's direct service delivery areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor, Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Management and administration support • ensuring adherence to statutory registers, authorisations and delegations • responsibility for Freedom of Information and privacy functions • administering the conduct of Council meetings

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service / Indicator / Measure	Result	Material Variations
Governance <i>Satisfaction with Council decisions</i> <i>Community Satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interests of the community</i>	48	No material variation

Shire of Strathbogies Facebook page, a successful part of our social media campaign and marketing strategy.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Ensure Council has the ability to provide a single point of contact for its customers		
Investigate and develop online and hard copy methods for self-service enquiry and resolution for planning applications	100%	Implementation of VicSmart and Internal processes have addressed this action
Investigate a system to broaden Council's current Business Directory on the website to also include individual skill-based details	100%	Information was collected by Customer Service and uploaded to website
Investigate the use of interactive kiosks at each Library with up to date Council information with the ability to print	50%	The process of assessing suitable software options and prices commenced and is continuing
Support Nagambie Traders post bypass		
Support the Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce Committee in relation to branding, marketing and development of High Street Nagambie retail area	100%	Council worked closely with the Visitor Information Centre to promote the 'Love Strathbogie' branding campaign. Council remained a committed member of Goulburn River Valley Tourism which supported initiatives consistent with the objectives of the Committee
Support and enhance a 'Can-Do' Culture		
Conduct a Grants Forum / Expo on External grants for all our community	100%	The Community Development Officer completed a series of <i>applying for community grants</i> information sessions; the Our Community resources are promoted; Council has moved to SmartyGrants, an online application system which improves accountability by Council
Investigate the formation of an education alliance group around advocacy, information sharing, strategic partnership and economic development	100%	An early years network was formed in accordance with the early years plan. Formation of an early years network has commenced. Council representative on the Local Learning Education Network Board



Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Support and enhance a 'Can-Do' Culture continued		
Develop and implement a change program focusing on a 'Can-Do' culture in business service	100%	The Economic Development Master Plan and daily service provision in the Sustainable Development Directorate (economic development, planning approvals and customer relations) fostered a healthy 'can-do' business culture through intertwining this objective into day-to-day operations. Council attended the Rural and Regional Expo with planners and business support staff in attendance to facilitate new business opportunities
Support actions in Council's Economic Development Master Plan	100%	Council successfully advanced actions in the Economic Development Master Plan. The following strategic studies were completed or are currently underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails and Tracks (community feedback period for draft closed 8 July 2015) • Economic Benefits of Fishing in Nagambie (completed) • Equine Gap Analysis (consultation completed) • Longwood Recreation Reserve Master Plan (community feedback period for draft closed 6 June 2015)

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014-15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description
Planning	<p>The provision of the following to landowners, builders and developers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • processing of planning applications and determining development proposals requiring a planning permit • providing advice to the community in relation to the planning application processes and requirements • representing Council at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal where necessary • monitoring of Council's Planning Scheme as well as preparing major policy documents that play a key role in shaping the future of the Shire • preparing and processing amendments to the Council Planning Scheme

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT | *CONTINUED*

Service	Description
Building	<p>The provision of the following to landowners, builders and developers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing statutory building services to the community including processing of building permits • undertaking fire safety inspections • undertaking audits of Council buildings • investigating community complaints and illegal works to ensure compliance with the Building Act and Building Regulations
Grants	<p>The provision of the following to assist in the continued development and prosperity of the Shire for all the community to enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing grant funding opportunities for Council projects and programs • managing the associated application, monitoring and acquittal processes
Strategic Projects	<p>This service area provides resources for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indentifying and planning for key strategic projects that provide long term outcomes for the development of the Shire • building partnerships with other tiers of government and industry bodies • Sourcing of external funding to assist in project implementation
Saleyards	<p>The provision of the following to ensure the sustainability of business and industry reliant on the Euroa saleyards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management and responsibility of the saleyards to allow for its operation of approximately one sale per month basis



The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service / Indicator / Measure	Result	Material Variations
Economic Development Economic Activity <i>Change in number of businesses</i> [Number of businesses with an ABN in the municipality at the end of the financial year less the number of businesses at the start of the financial year / Number of businesses with an ABN in the municipality at the start of the financial year] x 100	0.00%	No material variations
Statutory Planning Decision making <i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that upheld Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of decisions in relation to planning applications subject to review by VCAT] x 100	0.00%	No material variation
Animal Management Health and Safety <i>Animal Management Prosecutions</i> [The number of successful animal management prosecutions]	0.00%	No material variations

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6: INFRASTRUCTURE

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Provide Industry Standard Facilities		
Develop a Risk Management Plan for Euroa Saleyards	75%	Occupational Health and Safety assessment was completed. EU(European Union cattle assessment) accreditation assessment was carried out
Investigate options for the long term sustainability of the Euroa Saleyards including funding models and major capital works programs	100%	This was developed as part of the 2015-16 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan
Support history and cultural monuments		
Investigate the development of a long term master plan for the Euroa RSL and Third Age Club precinct	100%	The Development Plan was completed as part of the Euroa Memorial Park Honouring Our Heroes project
Deliver Council's bridge replacement in line with industry best practice		
Review the management plan for Kirwan's Bridge including funding opportunities	100%	Council submitted a \$200,000 funding application as part of the Bridge Renewal Program for improvement to timber piles for Kirwan's Bridge. Funding was successful and works are planned as part of the 2015/16 capital works program
Investigate and consult in relation to providing a link bridge from the Friendlies Reserve to Memorial oval over the Sevens Creeks	50%	Preliminary design completed. Consultation to commence following determination of Rockies Bridge Proposal
Support community initiative in securing funding to link the Apex Walking track across the Sevens Creeks near the Rockies	100%	Council participated in Rockies Bridge Working Party meetings and has continued to meet with the working party to progress the project. Currently awaiting design details for bridge elements within the floodway, prior to discussion with the Catchment Management Authority
Investigate options for the replacement of the Blayney Lane bridge to Buckley Park in Nagambie	100%	Agreement was reached with a developer over alternative access. Temporary access is expected to be available July 2015



Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Provide passive and active recreational facilities and paths/tracks		
Investigate options to provide a shared pathway connecting the Regatta Centre to the Nagambie Town Centre	80%	Potential for a shared pathway was considered as part of the Shire-wide draft 'Tracks and Trails' report. Community feedback from the draft 'Tracks and Trails' consultation process will be assessed. The community consultation period closed 8 July 2015
Investigate options to provide a shared pathway connecting Kirwan's Bridge Community to Nagambie Town	80%	Shared pathway options formed part of the Shire-wide draft 'Tracks and Trails' report. Community feedback from the draft 'Tracks and Trails' consultation process will be assessed. The community consultation period closed 8 July 2015
Investigate the development of a no boating or fishing area at River Street and introduce a no life guard swimming area	100%	River Street received classification in the Waterway Rules as prohibited to vessels as per Schedule 91.12(a) and was designated by markers accordingly. Whilst Council does not designate swimming areas in the waterway, including the lake, it does set aside no boating areas where passive use of the waterway can be enjoyed
Support the Nagambie Lakes Recreational and Commercial Stakeholders Waterways Committee in implementing the actions in the On-Land and On-Water Strategy	100%	Council provided ongoing support in the area of action implementation through representation on the Nagambie Lakes Recreational and Commercial Stakeholders Waterway Committee. In addition to this Council was represented on the Goulburn-Murray Water On-Land On-Water implementation Working Group, providing the opportunity for additional support
Secure funding to develop options for an additional sport and recreation precinct in Nagambie	10%	While funding options were explored Council did not secure funding. Options for an additional precinct will form part of the review of the Nagambie Recreation Master Plan
Develop a Nagambie Recreation Reserve Master Plan	25%	Initial works on this project commenced. The delay in progressing works further was due to uncertainty about new State Government funding streams
Investigate the development of a Strathbogie Reserve Sporting Precinct Master Plan	25%	Initial works on this project commenced. The delay in progressing works further was due to uncertainty about new State Government funding streams
Seek funding for the upgrade of the Avenel Memorial Hall	20%	Council considered funding streams and is continuing to seek funding for this project. A Council contribution of \$40,000 has been allocated to undertake minor upgrades, e.g. kitchen upgrade

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6: INFRASTRUCTURE | CONTINUED

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Provide passive and active recreational facilities and paths/tracks continued		
Work with Shire-Wide environment groups to develop programs that deliver community benefits	60%	Introduction of the organic waste kerbside collection and review of the Friends of the Seven Creeks Master Plan are examples of what can be achieved by working with the Sustainable Development Reference Group. Council will continue Shire wide focus to achieve community benefits in 2015-16
Investigate and seek funding for the development of strategic walking tracks, horse trails and bike routes for the Shire in conjunction with the Action Groups and Goulburn River Valley Tourism (GRVT)	80%	The draft 'Tracks and Trails' report was completed and available for community feedback until 8 July 2015. Council will consider community feedback and progress the final report in 2015/16
Provide best practice asset management		
Advocate for a pedestrian crossing at the railway gates on Birkett Street, Euroa	100%	Council was active in its advocacy for this safety measure. An application for TAC funding was made, however was unsuccessful. Design works have been completed and Council is awaiting design approval from V/Line
Investigate potential uses for Wesley Hall	50%	Council progressed the review of usage of the Wesley Hall to 50% completion. This review will continue
Clean up town entrances / town entry signs in the Shire	100%	Mowing and clean up completed from Arboretum to Castle Creek Euroa
Investigate and communicate with the community the development of pedestrian crossings in Brock Street, Railway Street and Binney Street area	100%	A safety audit of this crossing was completed and found a pedestrian crossing was not justified
Provide Recreational Vehicle (RV) directional signage to Shannon's Lane Car Park, Euroa	100%	Directional signage to this location was erected
Continue to design and seek funding for town drainage / sewerage schemes	100%	Council completed an update of the Storm Water Management Plan and actively sought funding from VicRoads for the Mansfield Road drainage upgrade and is awaiting a response on funding application
Investigate the expansion of additional street lights in the Shire	100%	Request for additional lighting investigated and listed for future budget consideration. New street lights to be installed in Lime Street Avenel



Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Provide best practice asset management continued		
Advocate to VicRoads and VicTrack for the creation of a roundabout resulting in a safe intersection at Queen Street / Bank Street / Avenel railway crossing	100%	Council raised this important safety improvement at the VicRoads Local Government Liaison meeting in October 2014. The project was prioritised in the Regional Freight Strategy
Investigate costs for Plain Road, Nagambie, to be sealed as an alternative truck route away from the town centre	100%	An assessment of the alternative truck route has been undertaken by Council staff and a cost estimate has been made within the 2015-16 Draft Capital Works Budget. A scoping document will be prepared once funding approval has been successful
Widen Nagambie-Locksley Road to a uniform width and improve signage 'to Euroa'	100%	Widening works were completed and signage improved
Investigate improved signage and road condition of Mullers Road, Nagambie, in line with Council's Road Management Plan	100%	Scoping document completed
Investigate road widening / upgrading options east of the Kelvin View Fire Station ("S" Bends) and Bends in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Longwood Ruffy Road, south of Tarcombe - Longwood Road near Ardroy Corner 	100%	A site inspection was carried out by Council staff allowing for the identification of scope of works. Cost estimate of proposed works form part Draft 2015-16 Capital Works Program. Scoping document was prepared

Road works across the Shire



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6: INFRASTRUCTURE | CONTINUED

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014-15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description
Municipal Building	The provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining Council owned and controlled buildings undertaking maintenance audits of Council owned and controlled buildings to allow for major and routine maintenance scheduling developing and implementing a renewal program for Council owned buildings
Swimming Pools	The provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> operation of outdoor pools in Euroa, Nagambie, Violet Town and Avenel
Roads and Bridge Maintenance Operation	The provision of the following to the municipal community as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining Council's road and bridge networks regular inspection and assessment of Council's road and bridge networks

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service / Indicator / Measure	Result	Material Variations
Pool Facilities Utilisation <i>Utilisation of Pool facilities</i> [Number of visits to pool facilities / Municipal population]	3.3	No material variations
Roads Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	43	No material variations

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7: TOURISM

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Ensure there is consistent branding and marketing of the Shire		
Advocate to relevant State Government departments for extra tourism funding	100%	Advocacy undertaken in partnership with the Goulburn River Valley Tourism
Provide Recreational Vehicle (RV) friendly car parking signage	100%	Signage erected in locations deemed suitable
Develop a tourist map of all the horse studs in Strathbogie Shire in partnership with North East Thoroughbreds	20%	Initial work on the project commenced, however it was not completed as the mapping considerations form part of the Tracks and Trails study which will progress into 2015-16
Investigate funding for a marketing company to work with tourism groups across the Shire	20%	Investigations formed as part of tourism advancements through Goulburn River Valley Tourism. Investigations to continue
Ensure the successful implementation of the Tourism Strategies in the Economic Development Master Plan	80%	Tourism strategies were progressively implemented throughout the year and will be reviewed as part of the Master Plan's second year actions

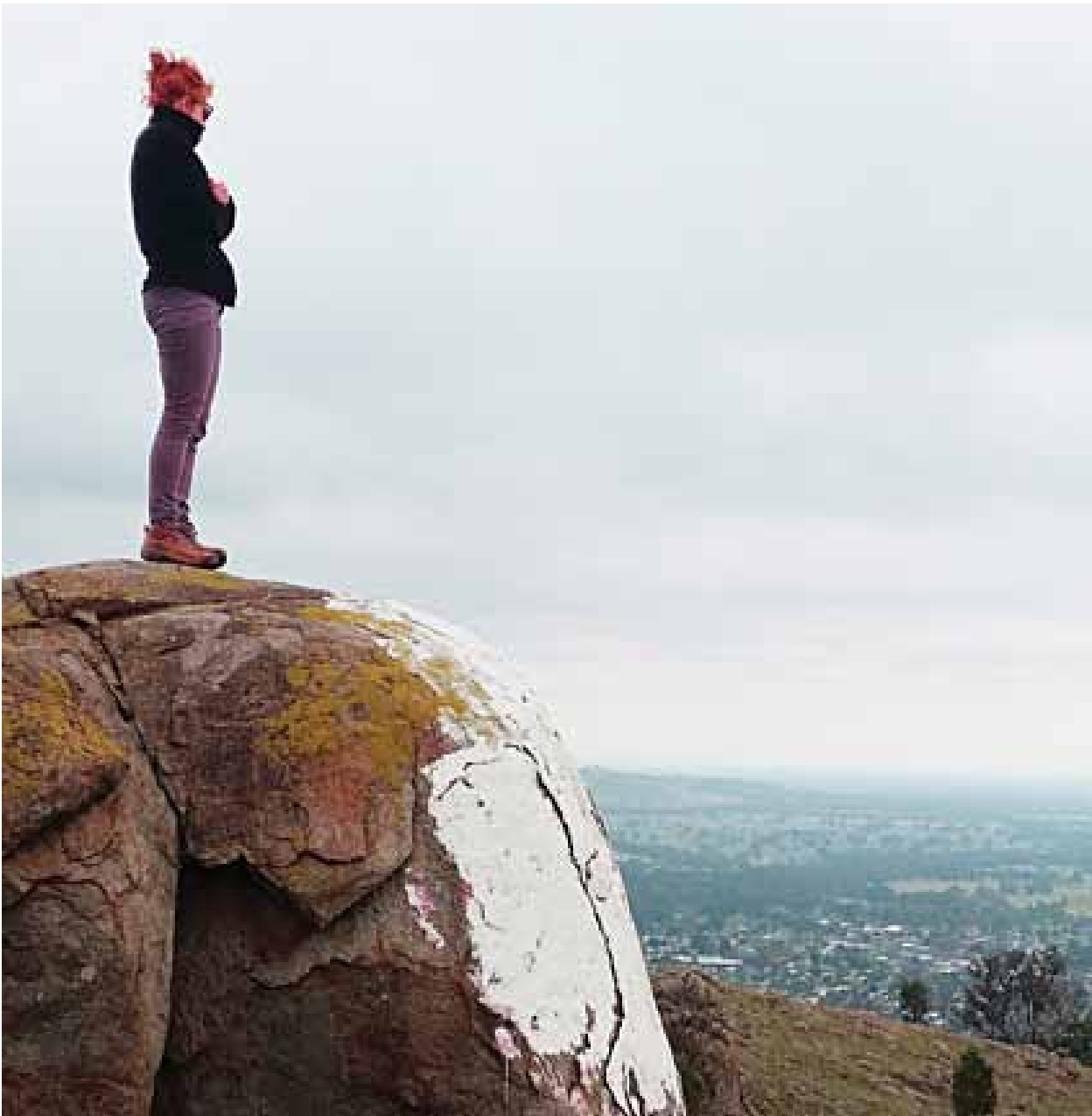
Tracks and Trail Study progressing



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7: TOURISM | CONTINUED

Strategic Indicator / Measure	Result	Comments
Develop the Shire's tourism story and café culture		
Investigate the feasibility of providing plaques on each building to advise of the history of that building	90%	Feasibility considerations were undertaken and \$7,000 approved in 2015-16 Budget
Introduce a phone app, for website with town information	10%	Work on the project plan progressed and is intensive. The delay in completion is due to the broad considerations and coordination of various departments. The project plan will be advanced in 2015-16

Enjoying the diversity of our landscape - lakes and ranges





The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014-15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description
Boating operations and safety	<p>The provision of the following to boat operators and visitors enjoying the water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patrol services, as the boating authority for Nagambie Lakes • maintenance of boating infrastructure • support for on-water recreational activities
Tourism development	<p>The provision of the following to assist in the healthy development of tourism related activity across the Shire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guiding the continued growth of the Shire's tourism profile • developing policies and plans to nurture and map the strategic growth of tourism within the Shire • supporting community based tourism events, particularly in the planning, promotion and management phases • establishing and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships and networks within the tourism sector at a local, regional and state level to assist in the continued development of tourism within the Shire • applying a strategic consideration in the promotion of the area • providing support to local tourism bodies and tourism related events
Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre Precinct	<p>Provision of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management of the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre to ensure its sustainability and growth as a major national rowing complex • maintain the precinct to the highest of standard to assist in securing state and national championship events at the facility • support the attraction, promotion and management of rowing and other water based events at the Regatta Centre
Caravan Parks	<p>Provision of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure adequate and strategic control provisions of caravan parks at Nagambie Lakes and Euroa

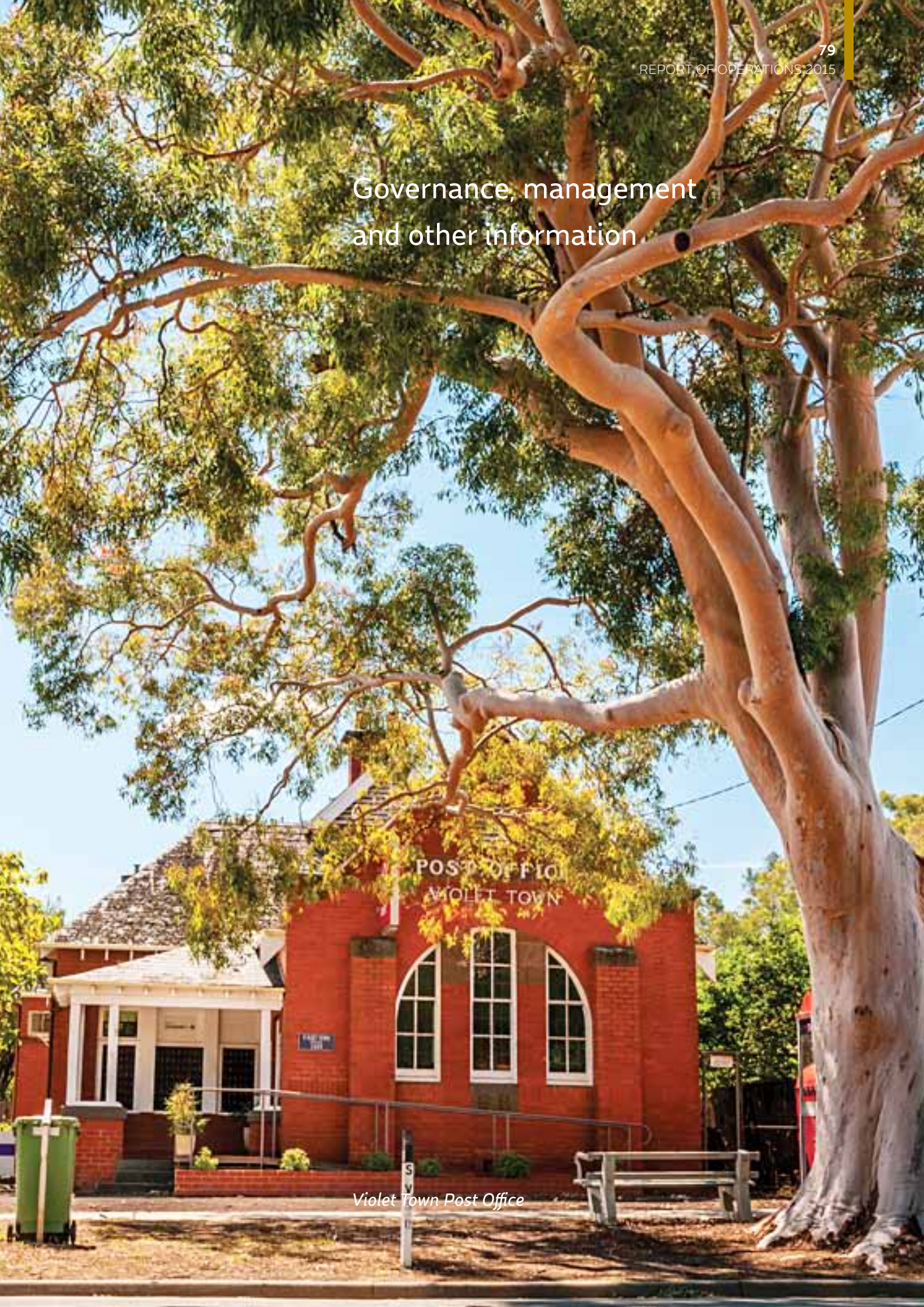
The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Service / Indicator / Measure	Result	Material Variations
None		



New Goulburn Valley Freeway

Governance, management and other information



Violet Town Post Office

Governance

The Strathbogje Shire Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1989* to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. Council has a number of roles including:

taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision-making

providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring achievements

ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner

advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments

fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making processes including community consultation, public forums such as ward meetings and the ability to make submissions to Special Committees of Council.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings and Special Committees of Council. Council delegates the majority of its decision-making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with adopted Council policies.

Meetings of Council

Council conducts open public meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery. Council meetings also provide the opportunity for community members to submit a question to the Council, make a submission or speak to an item. For the 2014-15 year Council held the following meetings:

11 Ordinary Council Meetings

14 Special Council Meetings

14 Planning Committee Meetings.

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council Meetings and Special Council Meetings for the 2014-15 financial year.

Councillors	Council Meeting	Special Council Meeting	Planning Committee Meeting	Total
Cr Debra Swan (Mayor)	11	13	10	34
Cr Mick Williams	11	12	13	36
Cr Colleen Furlanetto	9	13	14	36
Cr Pat Storer	9	14	13	36
Cr Malcolm Little	11	13	14	38
Cr Alister Purbrick	10	12	11	33
Cr Robin Weatherald	8	12	13	33

Special Committees

The *Local Government Act 1989* allows Councils to establish one or more special committees consisting of:

Councillors

Council staff

Other persons

Any combination of the above

Councillors and CEO meeting with police to receive local crime update.



Governance *continued*

The following table contains a list of all special committees established by Council that is in operation and the purpose for which each committee was established.

Special Committee	No of meetings	Purpose
Audit Committee	5	The primary objective of the Audit Committee is to assist Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities for financial reporting, management of risk, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls and facilitating the organisation's ethical development
Planning Committee	12	To delegate planning powers to a committee of Councillors who will have voting rights and meet fortnightly to consider planning applications normally referred to General Council. Urgent permit applications may be considered by General Council if a meeting is held before the fortnightly Planning Committee meeting
Nagambie Waterways Recreational & Commercial Stakeholders Advisory Committee	4	Appointed to set policy and direction for the Nagambie waterways recreational and commercial users, to ensure that the activities on the Nagambie waterways meet the objectives and the vision of Council as set out in the Council Plan
Sustainable Development Reference Group	3	Appointed to provide feedback and advice to Council on the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of public land • Protecting natural resources and maintaining the ecological processes and genetic diversity • Securing safe and liveable urban and rural environments • Conserving and enhancing culturally or socially significant buildings or areas • Facilitating sustainable development • Balancing the present and future interests of all Shire residents and visitors

Code of Conduct

Strathbogie Shire Council has developed a Code of Conduct for all employees, Councillors, contractors and volunteers working on behalf of the Council to reflect the underlying principle that all of its business be conducted legally, ethically and with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct on 18 June 2013.

Conflict of Interest

Councillors are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community. This is a position of trust that requires Councillors to act in the public interest. When a Council delegates its powers to a Council officer or a committee, the committee or officer also needs to act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it. Council has a comprehensive procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest. Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all Council and Committee Meetings.

While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflict of interests. During 2014-15, 19 conflicts of interest were declared at Council and Special Committee Meetings (this includes interest only declarations).

Councillor Allowances

In accordance with Section 74 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as a Councillor. The Mayor is also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The State Government sets the upper and lower limits for all allowances paid to Councillors and Mayors. Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each Council. In this instance Strathbogie Shire Council is recognised as a category one Council.

Governance *continued*

Councillor Expenses

In accordance with Section 75 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing his or her duties as a Councillor. Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors. The policy provides guidance for the payment of reimbursements of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties. Council also publishes in its Annual Report the details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor.

The following table contains a summary of the allowances paid to each Councillor and expenses during the year.

Councillors	Allowance \$	Total Expenses \$	Total Payments \$
Cr Debra Swan (Mayor)	45,550	-2,400*	43,150
Cr Mick Williams	20,462	1,266	21,729
Cr Colleen Furlanetto	20,462	7,094	27,556
Cr Pat Storer	20,462	-	20,462
Cr Malcolm Little	20,462	6,587	27,049
Cr Alister Purbrick	20,462	60	20,522
Cr Robin Weatherald	20,462	1,398	21,860

*A monthly contribution is made by the Mayor for use of a Council owned vehicle.

Violet Town Community House (left) | Cowslip Street Violet Town, landscape (right)



Management

Council has implemented a number of statutory and better practice items to strengthen its management framework. Having strong governance and management frameworks leads to better decision making by Council. The Act requires Council to undertake an assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist and include this in its report of operations. Council's Governance and Management Checklist results are set out in the section below. The following items have been highlighted as important components of the management framework.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee's role is to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of Council in carrying out its responsibilities for accountable financial management, good corporate governance, maintaining an effective system of internal control and risk management and fostering an ethical environment. The Audit Committee consists of three independent members, John McInnes, Claire Taranto and John McCracken (retired March 2015), and one Councillor Graeme Williams. Independent members are appointed for a three-year term. The chair is elected from amongst the independent members.

The Audit Committee meets four times a year. The Internal Auditor, Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate and Community, Director of Asset Services and Manager of Finance attend all Audit Committee Meetings. Other management representatives attend as required to present reports. The external auditors attend in May and September each year to present the audit plan and independent audit report.

Recommendations from each Audit Committee Meeting are subsequently reported to, and considered by Council.

Internal Audit

This Internal Audit committee provides an independent internal audit function for Council and operates according to a Ministerial Code of Practice. Three independent representatives and one Councillor meet quarterly, according to need.

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council. The function is resourced by contract to an External Auditor who has extensive Local Government experience and is an external provider. A risk based three-year Strategic Internal Audit Plan (SIAP) is revised annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers Council's risk framework, the Council Plan, the impact of any change on operations, systems or the business environment; prior audit coverage and outcomes and management input. The SIAP is reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee annually.

Management *continued*

Internal Audit *continued*

The Internal Auditor attends each Audit Committee meeting to report on the status of the SIAP to provide an update on the implementation of audit recommendations and to present findings of completed reviews. The responsible Director for each area reviewed are required to attend the Audit Committee meetings to answer any questions in relation to the review. All audit issues identified are risk rated. Recommendations are assigned to the responsible Director and tracked in Council's infowise management system. Directors provide status updates that are reviewed by the Internal Auditor and reported to the Executive Management Group and the Audit Committee.

The SIAP for 2014–15 was completed with the following reviews conducted:

Tree Management

Human Resources Management

Strategic Planning

Credit Card Management

Infrastructure Asset Management

Statutory Planning

Past Issues Review

External Audit

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General. For the 2014–15 year the annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's representative. The external auditors attend the May and September Audit Committee meetings to present the annual audit plan and Independent Audit Report. The external audit management letter and responses are also provided to the Audit Committee

Planning Committee

The duties and responsibilities of the Planning Committee include:

to determine planning applications that have public objections, proposed dwellings in the farming zone, rural subdivisions under the minimum size use and applications that are recommended for refusal.

review planning applications received and determine if they need to come before the committee. To determine strategic planning scheme amendments

to authorise officers to attend the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Governance and Management Checklist

The following are the results in the prescribed form of Council's assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist.

	Column 1 Governance and Management Items	Column 2 Assessment
1	Community engagement policy (policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	No Policy Reason for no policy: Community Engagement Strategy was developed which covers Council's commitment
2	Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Reason for no guidelines: Community Engagement Strategy was developed which includes guidelines
3	Strategic Resource Plan (plan under section 126 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next four [4] financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 126 of the Act Date of adoption: 9 June 2015
4	Annual budget (plan under section 130 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 130 of the Act Date of adoption: 9 June 2015
5	Asset management plans (plans that set out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Plans Date of operation of current plans: Roads 1 December 2015 Buildings 1 January 2015 Bridges 1 March 2015 Footpaths and cycleways 1 December 2012 Drainage 1 January 2015 Parks and Open Space 1 January 2013
6	Rating strategy (strategy setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Strategy Date of adoption: 9 June 2015
7	Risk policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	Policy Date of adoption: 22 October 2013 Currently under review
8	Fraud and corruption policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud and corruption)	Policy Date of adoption: 16 May 2015

Governance and Management Checklist *continued*

	Column 1 Governance and Management Items	Column 2 Assessment
9	Municipal emergency management plan (plan under section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i> for emergency prevention, response and recovery)	Prepared and maintained in accordance with section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i> Date of Issue: 19th December 1995 Date of last revision: 28 February 2015
10	Procurement policy (policy under section 186A of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> outlining the matters, practices and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods, services and works)	Prepared and approved in accordance with section 186A of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> Date of approval: 18 November 2014
11	Business continuity plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Date of approval: 18 February 2014 <i>Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan are incorporated into one document</i>
12	Disaster recovery plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Date of approval: 18 February 2014 <i>Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan are incorporated into one document</i>
13	Risk management framework (framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Framework Date of operation of current framework: 1 August 2009 Currently under review to be completed September 2015
14	Audit Committee (advisory committee of Council under section 139 of the Act whose role is to oversee the integrity of a Council's financial reporting, processes to manage risks to the Council's operations and for compliance with applicable legal, ethical, and regulatory requirements)	Established in accordance with section 139 of the Act Date of establishment: November 2001
15	Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	Engaged Date of engagement of current provider: 1 July 2012
16	Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Act)	No Framework The indicator is not required to be reported until the financial year beginning 1 July 2015

	Column 1 Governance and Management Items	Column 2 Assessment
17	Council Plan reporting (report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	Produced quarterly for Council Date presented to Council: April-June report presented to Council 21 July 2015
18	Financial reporting (quarterly statements to Council under section 138 of the Act comparing budgeted revenue and expenditure with actual revenue and expenditure)	Statements presented to Council in accordance with section 138(1) of the Act Date statements presented: 18 November 2014, 16 December 2014, 17 February 2015, 17 March 2015, 21 April 2015, 19 May 2015, 16 June 2015
19	Risk reporting (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Reports This indicator is not required to be reported until the financial year beginning 1 July 2015
20	Performance reporting (six-monthly reports of indicators measuring the results against financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Act)	Reports This indicator is not required to be reported until the financial year beginning 1 July 2015
21	Annual report (Annual Report under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	Considered at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 134 of the Act Date statements presented: 2013/14 report presented to Council 28 October 2014
22	Councillor Code of Conduct (Code under section 76C of the Act setting out the conduct principles and the dispute resolution processes to be followed by Councillors)	Reviewed in accordance with section 76C of the Act Date adopted: 18 June 2013
23	Delegations (a document setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff)	Reviewed in accordance with section 98(6) of the Act Date of review: 16 February 2015
24	Meeting procedures (a local law governing the conduct of meetings of Council and special committees)	Meeting procedures local law made in accordance with section 91(1) of the Act Adopted by Council: 16 February 2015

Governance and Management Checklist *continued*

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.



Steve Crawcour
Chief Executive Officer
Dated:



Cr Debra Swan
Mayor
Dated:

Statutory Information

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applying to Council.

Documents Available for Public Inspection

In accordance with Part 5 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2004 the following is a list of the prescribed documents that are available for inspection or copies of the documents can be obtained for the purposes of section 222 of the *Local Government Act 1989* at 109a Binney Street, Euroa:

details of current allowances fixed for the Mayor and Councillors

details of senior officers' total salary packages for the current financial year and the previous year

details of overseas or interstate travel (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by Councillors or any member of Council staff in the previous 12 months

names of Council officers who were required to submit a return of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted

names of Councillors who submitted returns of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted

agendas for and minutes of ordinary and Special Meetings held in the previous 12 months except if the minutes relate to parts of meetings which have been closed to members of the public

a list of all special committees established by Council and the purpose for which each committee was established

a list of all special committees established by the Council which were abolished or ceased to function during the financial year

minutes of meetings of special committees held in the previous 12 months except if the minutes relate to parts of meetings which have been closed to members of the public

a register of delegations

submissions received in accordance with Section 223 of the Act during the previous 12 months

Statutory Information *continued*

Documents Available for Public Inspection *continued*

agreements to establish regional libraries

details of all property, finance and operating leases involving land, buildings, plant, computer equipment or vehicles entered into by the Council as lessor or lessee, including the name of the other party to the lease and the terms and the value of the lease

a register of authorised officers

a list of donations and grants made by the Council during the financial year

a list of the names of the organisations of which the Council was a member during the financial year and details of all membership fees and other amounts and services provided during that year to each organisation by the Council

a list of contracts valued at \$150,000 or more which the Council entered into during the financial year without first engaging in a competitive process

Best Value

In accordance with section 208B(f) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, at least once every year a Council must report to its community on what it has done to ensure that it has given effect to the Best Value Principles. Council incorporates Best Value Principles through regular business planning and performance monitoring processes and through a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation which is supported by our Sustainable Excellence Program. To further reflect Council's commitment to best value, Council has commenced the design and planning of a Service Planning Program which is being rolled out to the whole organisation. This program provides additional review and improvement mechanisms to ensure that Council's services achieve best practice standards in regards to service performance.

The following Best Value initiatives were undertaken during 2014-15:

budget process – development of guidelines and processes for fees and charges

service planning – development and implementation of integrated approach to business planning

shared services project – implementation of Graders Without Borders initiative

Main Street Nagambie

Carers Recognition

In accordance with the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*, Council is required to report annually on its care measurement obligations under Section 11 of that Act. Council has taken all practicable measures to comply with its responsibilities outlined in the Carers Recognition Act 2012. In recognising the valuable service carers provide to the community, Council has promoted the principles of the Act to people in care relationships who receive Council services, to people in care relationships, and to the wider community by:

providing information and direct linkages to the Department of Human Services and other support agencies through Council's website

providing information and support through the Home and Community Care (HACC) program

providing information and support to organisations represented in Council and community networks through Council's involvement in the Goulburn Rural Access program

Council has taken all practicable measures to ensure staff, Council agents and volunteers working for Council are informed about the principles and obligations of the Act by including information on the care relationship in:

Council induction and training programs for staff working within the HACC program

Council induction and training programs for staff working in front-line positions with the general community

induction and training programs for volunteers working directly with the community as part of the Home and Community Care (HACC) program

Statutory Information *continued*

Carers Recognition *continued*

Council has taken all practicable measures to review and modify policies, procedures and supports to include recognition of the carer relationship and has provided the following additional activities and resources to recognise the care relationship:

review of Council's four year Inclusive Communities' Plan (review and adoption undertaken 2014/15). This plan identifies measures to safeguard the rights of people with a disability, their families and carers

support Senior Week celebrations

support the Access Disability Advisory Committee to provide the community with a voice in relation to access and inclusion

provided critical support in the following forms through the HACC program:

- domestic assistance – 8678 hours
- personal care – 1638 hours
- property maintenance – 706 hours
- respite care – 307 hours
- delivered meals – 3186

Contracts

During the year Council did not enter into any contracts valued at \$150,000 or more without first engaging in a competitive process.

Disability Action Plan

During 2014-15 financial year Council undertook significant preparation work for our Disability Action Plan. This will be delivered in the following financial year.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan at four yearly intervals and evaluate its implementation in the Annual Report.

Council adopted the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012–16 in October 2013. The new plan was developed through consultation with Council's Animal Management Team and consideration of input from other Council departments.

Food Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 7E of the *Food Act 1984*, Council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year in its Annual Report.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the financial year.

Freedom of Information

In accordance with section 7(4AA)(a) and 7(4AA)(b) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, Council is required to publish certain statements in its Annual Report or separately such as on its website, concerning its functions and information available. Council has chosen to publish the statements separately however provides the following summary of the application and operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Access to documents may be obtained through written request to the Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in section 17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and in summary as follows:

it should be in writing

it should identify as clearly as possible which document is being requested

it should be accompanied by the appropriate application fee (the fee may be waived in certain circumstances).

Requests for documents in the possession of Council should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer. Requests can also be lodged online or by email.

Access charges may also apply once documents have been processed and a decision on access is made (e.g. photocopying and search and retrieval charges).

Further information regarding FOI can be found at www.foi.vic.gov.au and on the Strathbogie Shire Council website at www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Statutory Information *continued*

Protected Disclosure Procedures

In accordance with section 69 of the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* a Council must include in their Annual Report information about how to access the procedures established by the Council under Part 9 of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosures complaints investigated during the financial year.

The *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and provide protection for people who make disclosures. Procedures on how to make a disclosure are publicly available on Council's website here <http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/council/plans-policies-strategies-a-reports/corporate>

During the 2014-15 year no disclosures were notified to Council officers appointed to receive disclosures, or to IBAC.

Road Management Act Ministerial direction

In accordance with section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, Council must publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial direction in its Annual Report. No such Ministerial directions were received by Council during the financial year.

Mitchell Street Avenel



Victorian Local Government Indicators

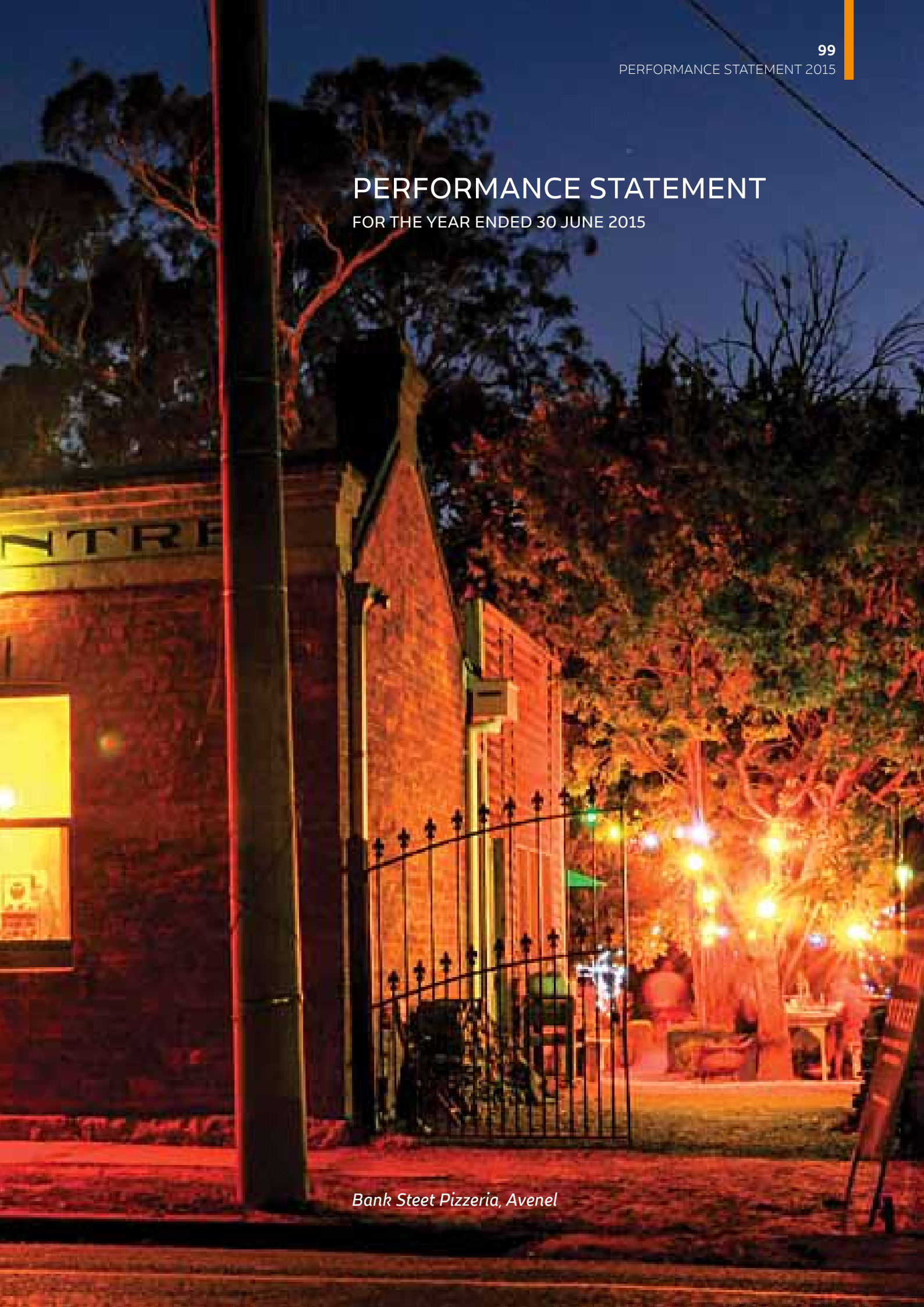
The Victorian Government requires all Victorian Councils to measure and annually report against 11 Victorian Local Government Indicators (VLGIs). These indicators provide information regarding expenditure, cost of services and infrastructure provision, customer satisfaction and governance. The following table presents the results of the VLGIs for the 2014-15 year.

Indicator	Calculation	Calculation
1. Average rates and charges per assessment	Total rates and charges receivable at beginning of year/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	\$2,252
2. Average residential rates and charges per assessment	Rates and charges declared for residential assessments receivable at beginning of year/ Number of residential assessments in the adopted budget	\$1,932
3. Average liabilities per assessment	Total liabilities/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	\$1,352
4. Operating result per assessment	Net surplus/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	\$709
5. Average operating expenditure per assessment	Operating expenditure/Number of assessments in adopted budget	\$3,768
6. Community satisfaction rating for overall performance generally of Council	Result from the Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	51
7. Average capital expenditure per assessment	Capital expenditure/ Number of assessments in the adopted budget	\$1,056
8. Renewal gap	Capital renewal/Average annual asset consumption	132%
9. Renewal and maintenance gap	Capital renewal and maintenance/Average annual asset consumption plus planned maintenance	118%
10. Community satisfaction rating for Council's advocacy and community representation on key local issues	Result from the Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	49
11. Community satisfaction rating for Council's engagement in decision making on key local issues	Result from the Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	48



PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015



Bank Steet Pizzeria, Avenel

Description of Municipality

The Strathbogie Shire is a rural municipality located approximately two hours from the Melbourne CBD and covers 330,326 hectares. We have diverse and picturesque communities served by townships such as Euroa, Nagambie, Violet Town, Avenel, Longwood, Ruffy and Strathbogie with a population of approximately 10,000 and growing. The Shire has an aging population with 34% of residents aged 60 years and over. Of this aging portion of the community 19% are elderly singles and 15.4% are elderly couples. Nearly nine out of ten residents were born in Australia and only 4% of people came from countries where English was not their first language.

The Strathbogie Shire has a rural economic base of wool, grain, sheep and cattle production, extensive vineyards, world class wineries and a wide range of intensive cool climate horticultural enterprises. The region is also known as the Horse Capital of Victoria due to its ever expanding horse industry. Thoroughbred breeding studs are the cornerstone of this important industry, with many prestigious Melbourne Cup winners bred and trained in the Shire. Nagambie is also the birthplace of Black Caviar, the world champion horse, and now has a life-size bronze statue sitting pride of place at Jacobson's Outlook

During the financial year (December 2014) Council experienced significant bush fires in the Creighton's Creek area requiring extensive works to rectify fire damaged infrastructure.

'Lest We Forget,' Memorial, Strathbogie



Rural diversity and landscape



Sustainable Capacity Indicators

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Indicator / Measure	Results 2015	Material Variations
Own-Source Revenue		
<i>Own source revenue per head of municipal population</i> [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,845.97	No material variations
Recurrent Grants		
<i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i> [Recurrent grants/Municipal population]	\$1,157.20	No material variations
Population		
<i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i> [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$2,758.30	No material variations
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of Infrastructure/ Municipal population]	\$23,842.80	No material variations
<i>Population Density per length of road</i> [Municipal population / kilometres of local roads]	4.37	No material variations
Disadvantage		
<i>Relative socio-economic disadvantage</i> [Index of relative socio-economic Disadvantage by decile]	3.00	No material variations

Definitions

“adjusted underlying revenue” means total income other than—

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

“infrastructure” means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land

“local road” means a sealed or unsealed road for which the Council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

“population” means the resident population estimated by Council

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Sustainable Capacity Indicators *continued*

Definitions *continued*

“own-source revenue” means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of Council (including government grants)

“relative socio-economic disadvantage”, in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA

“SEIFA” means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website

“unrestricted cash” means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

Historic and unique Kirwans Bridge, Lake Nagambie



Service Performance Indicators

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Service / Indicator / Measure	Results 2015	Material Variations
Governance Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with Council decisions</i> [Community Satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	48	No material variation
Statutory Planning Decision Making <i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x 100	0%	No material variation
Economic Development Economic activity <i>Change in number of businesses</i> [Number of businesses with an ABN in the municipality at the end of the financial year less the number of businesses at the start of the financial year / Number of businesses with an ABN in the municipality at the start of the financial year] x 100	0.00%	No material variation
Roads Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	43	No material variation
Libraries Participation <i>Active Library Members</i> [Number of active library members / municipal population] x 100	25.62%	No material variations

Service Performance Indicators *continued*

Service / Indicator / Measure	Results 2015	Material Variations
Waste Collection Waste diversion <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x 100	31.51%	No material variations
Aquatic facilities Utilisation <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	3.30	No material variations
Animal Management Health & Safety <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	0.00	No material variations
Food and Safety Health & Safety <i>Critical and major non-compliance notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up/Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x 100	100%	No material variations

Service / Indicator / Measure	Results 2015	Material Variations
<p>Home and Community Care</p> <p><i>Participation</i></p> <p><i>Participation in HACC service</i> [Number of people who receive a HACC service / Municipal target population for HACC services] x 100</p> <p><i>Participation</i></p> <p><i>Participation in HACC service by CALD people</i> [Number of CALD people who receive a HACC service / Municipal target population in relation to CALD people for HACC services] x 100</p>	<p>31.33%</p> <p>9.76%</p>	<p>No material variations</p> <p>No material variations</p>
<p>Maternal and Child Health</p> <p><i>Participation</i></p> <p><i>Participation in the MCH Service</i> [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x 100</p> <p><i>Participation</i></p> <p><i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i> [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x 100</p>	<p>84.66%</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>No material variations</p> <p>No material variations</p>

Definitions

“Aboriginal child” means a child who is an Aboriginal person

“Aboriginal person” has the same meaning as in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

“active library member” means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library

“Annual Report” means an Annual Report prepared by a Council under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act

continued page 106

Service Performance Indicators *continued*

Definitions *continued*

“class 1 food premises” means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act

“class 2 food premises” means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act

“Community Care Common Standards” means the Community Care Common Standards for the delivery of HACC services, published from time to time by the Commonwealth

“critical non-compliance outcome notification” means a notification received by Council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to Council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health

“food premises” has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*

“HACC program” means the Home and Community Care program established under the Agreement entered into for the purpose of the *Home and Community Care Act 1985* of the Commonwealth

“HACC service” means home help, personal care or community respite provided under the HACC program

“local road” means a sealed or unsealed road for which the Council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

“major non-compliance outcome notification” means a notification received by a Council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to Council by an authorised officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

“MCH” means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a Council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age

“population” means the resident population estimated by Council

“target population” has the same meaning as in the Agreement entered into for the purposes of the *Home and Community Care Act 1985* of the Commonwealth

“WorkSafe reportable aquatic facility safety incident” means an incident relating to a Council aquatic facility that is required to be notified to the Victorian WorkCover Authority under Part 5 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.

Financial Performance Indicators

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Dimension / indicator / measure	Results		Forecasts			Material Variations
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Operating position						
Adjusted underlying result						
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / adjusted underlying revenue] x 100	10.24%	3.44%	0.93%	2.89%	4.48%	Results in 2015 were impacted by the early payment of half 2015/16 Victorian Grants Commission
Liquidity						
Working capital						
Current assets compared to current liabilities [Current assets / current liabilities] x 100	197.91%	146.76%	129.31%	115.21%	94.30%	Results in 2015 were impacted by the early payment of half 2015/16 Victorian Grants Commission
Unrestricted cash						
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities [Unrestricted cash/ Current liabilities] x 100	153.11%	114.54%	90.80%	75.45%	53.26%	No material variations
Obligations						
Loans and borrowings						
Loans and borrowings compared to rates [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate Revenue] x 100	13.08%	9.91%	5.46%	3.71%	2.60%	No material variations
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x 100	4.86%	3.25%	4.46%	1.78%	1.13%	No material variations

Financial Performance Indicators *continued*

Dimension / indicator / measure	Results		Forecasts			Material Variations
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Obligations continued						
Indebtedness						
Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x 100	15.06%	9.44%	7.01%	5.75%	4.87%	No material variations
Asset renewal						
Asset renewal compared to depreciation [Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation] x 100	131.52%	145.09%	133.70%	125.22%	139.18%	No material variations
Stability						
Rates concentration						
Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x 100	53.65%	63.51%	69.05%	68.80%	68.97%	Results in 2015 were impacted by the early payment of half 2015/16 Victorian Grants Commission
Rates effort						
Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x 100	.63%	.66%	.69%	.72%	.76%	No material variations

Dimension / indicator / measure	Results					Forecasts			Material Variations
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
Efficiency									
Expenditure level Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$3,745.70	\$3,334.58	\$3,064.69	\$2,936.69	\$2,806.30				No material variations
Revenue Level Average residential rate per residential property assessment [Residential rate revenue / Number of residential property assessments]	\$1,866.36	\$1,860.62	\$1,811.91	\$1,764.70	\$1,718.51				No material variations
Workforce turnover Resignations and terminations compared to average staff [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x 100	11.72%	5.13%	5.10%	5.08%	5.05%				Discontinuing providing HACC Services in 2015 impacts 2015 staff terminations

Financial Performance Indicators *continued*

Definitions

“adjusted underlying revenue” means total income other than—

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

“adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)” means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure

“asset renewal expenditure” means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability

“current assets” has the same meaning as in the AAS

“current liabilities” has the same meaning as in the AAS

“non-current assets” means all assets other than current assets

“non-current liabilities” means all liabilities other than current liabilities

“non-recurrent grant” means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a Council’s Strategic Resource Plan

“own-source revenue” means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of Council (including government grants)

“population” means the resident population estimated by Council

“rate revenue” means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges

“recurrent grant” means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant

“residential rates” means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties

“restricted cash” means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year

“unrestricted cash” means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

Other Information

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its Annual Report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from Council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the Council's Strategic Resource Plan. The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

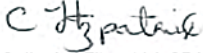
The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by Council in its Strategic Resource Plan on 28 June 2015 and which forms part of the Council plan. The Strategic Resource Plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements. The Strategic Resource Plan can be obtained by contacting Council.

Historic former NAB building, Binney Street, Euroa



Certification of the performance statement

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Catherine Fitzpatrick CPA
Principal Accounting Officer

Date: 22/9/2015
Euroa, Victoria

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of <Name> for the year ended 30 June 2015 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Debra Swan
Councillor

Date: 22/9/2015
Euroa, Victoria



Colleen Furlanetto
Councillor

Date: 22/9/2015
Euroa, Victoria



Steve Crawcour
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 22/9/15
Euroa, Victoria

VAGO

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors, Strathbogie Shire Council

The Performance Statement

The accompanying performance statement for the year ended 30 June 2015 of the Strathbogie Shire Council which comprises the statement, the related notes and the certification of performance statement has been audited.

The Councillors' Responsibility for the Performance Statement

The Councillors of the Strathbogie Shire Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Local Government Act 1989*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the performance statement. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the overall presentation of the performance statement.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

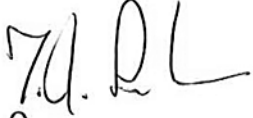
Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the performance statement of the Strathbogie Shire Council in respect of the 30 June 2015 financial year presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

MELBOURNE
24 September 2015



Dr Peter Frost
Acting Auditor-General



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