

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Agenda

May 16, 2023

Agenda

Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 6pm

**Meeting to be held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre and
livestreamed on Council's website:**

<https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/council/our-council/council-meetings-and-minutes/>

Council:

Cr Laura Binks (Mt Wombat Ward) – Mayor
Cr Paul Murray (Hughes Creek Ward) – Deputy Mayor
Cr David Andrews (Lake Nagambie Ward)
Cr Reg Dickinson (Lake Nagambie Ward)
Cr Sally Hayes-Burke (Seven Creeks Ward)
Cr Kristy Hourigan (Seven Creeks Ward)
Cr Chris Raeburn (Honeysuckle Creek Ward)

Officers:

Julie Salomon – Chief Executive Officer
Amanda Tingay – Director Community and Planning
Dawn Bray – Director People and Governance
Vlad Adamek – Director Sustainable Infrastructure
Kristin Favaloro – Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Meeting Procedure

1. Welcome

2. Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations.

We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.

We acknowledge the elders of the present, who seek to regain their culture, and to teach the elders of the future their law, their history and their language.

We pay our respects to them and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

We honour their spirit – and the memory, culture, art and science of the world's oldest living culture through 60,000 years.

3. Privacy Notice

This public meeting is being streamed live via our website ([Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#)) and made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes of this meeting. All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however, as a visitor in the public gallery, it is assumed that your consent is given in the event that your image is broadcast to the public. It is also assumed that your consent is given to the use and disclosure of any information that you share at the meeting (including personal or sensitive information) to any person who accesses those recordings or Minutes.

4. Governance Principles

Council considers that the recommendations contained in this Agenda gives effect to the overarching governance principles stated in Section 9(2) of the Local Government Act 2020. These principles are as follows:

- 1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;*
- 2. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;*
- 3. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;*
- 4. the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;*
- 5. innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;*
- 6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;*
- 7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;*
- 8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;*
- 9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.*

5. Apologies / Leave of Absence

6. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

7. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. *That the minutes/decisions of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday April 11, 2023, be confirmed.***
- 2. *That the minutes/decisions of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday April 18, 2023, be confirmed.***
- 3. *That the minutes/decisions of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday May 2, 2023, be confirmed.***

8. Petitions

9. Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates

10. Public Question Time

11. Officer Reports

- 11.1 Strategic and Statutory
- 11.2 Community
- 11.3 Infrastructure
- 11.4 Corporate
- 11.5 Governance and Customer Service
- 11.6 Executive

12. Notices of Motion

13. Notices of Rescission

14. Urgent Business

15. Confidential Business

Julie Salomon
Chief Executive Officer
May 12, 2023

Next meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm.

Public question time

Questions for the Ordinary Council Meeting can be submitted to be read, and responded to, by the Mayor during the Public Question Time. Questions must be submitted before 12 noon on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, by emailing info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au.

Public Question Time will be conducted as per Rule 31 of Strathbogie Shire Council's Governance Rules. The required form for completion and lodgement, and associated Procedural Guidelines, can be found on Council's website at www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au.

As the questions are a permanent public record and to meet the requirements of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014, only the initials of the person asking the question will be used in the Minutes of the meeting, together with a Council reference number.

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11. OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 STRATEGIC AND STATUTORY PLANNING

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie

Author: Manger Planning and Investment

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Amended planning permit applications have been made for the following planning permits:

- Amended Planning Permit P2005/124; and
- Planning Permit P2016-109.

These two planning permits regulate the use and development of the land at 317 High Street, Nagambie and need to be read together in order to gain an understanding of the car parking requirements for this land.

Amend Planning Permit P2005/124 gave permission for:

'Use & Development of land on the Northern Site for Ten (10) Fully Serviced Apartments, Three (3) Shop Fronts/Premises, Day Spa, Lakes Edge Boardwalk and On-site Parking. On the Southern Site – Four (4) Fully Serviced Apartments, Three (3) Shop Fronts and On-Site Parking, Subdivision and a Reduced On-Site Parking requirement'.

Planning Permit P2016-109 gave permission for:

'Use and Development of existing building for accommodation'.

Planning Permit P2016-109 effectively gave permission for a change of use for the buildings designated as a day spa under Amended Planning Permit P2005/124 to be used for motel units.

The amended planning permit applications seek approval for the following:

- An amended car parking layout plan to show one less car parking space along the northern boundary of the land.
- An amended site plan for the motel units to include a notation that people staying in the motel units have access to the car parking along the northern boundary of the land when available.

The applications were advertised together, and three objections were received.

Officers have undertaken an assessment of both applications and are recommending approval of the amended planning permit applications and the associated amended plans. Officers are satisfied the implementation of the amended plans will lead to an acceptable planning outcome.

A detailed assessment for each amended planning permit application is provided in the Planning Reports attached to this Council Report.

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. ***Having caused notice of Planning Application No. P2005-124 -1 to be given under Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and or the planning scheme and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 officers recommend that a Notice of Decision to Grant and Amended Planning Permit under the provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme in respect of the land known as, 317 High Street, Nagambie Victoria 3608, for the Use & Development of land on the Northern Site for Ten (10) Fully Serviced Apartments, Three (3) Shop Fronts/Premises, Day Spa, Lakes Edge Boardwalk and On-site Parking. On the Southern Site – Four (4) Fully Serviced Apartments, Three (3) Shop Fronts and On-Site Parking, Subdivision and a Reduced On-Site Parking requirement, is issued, including the endorsement of the submitted amended plans, subject to the existing conditions forming part of the permit.***
2. ***Having caused notice of Planning Application No. P2016-109 -2 to be given under Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and or the planning scheme and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 officers recommend that a Notice of Decision to Grant and Amended Planning Permit under the provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme in respect of the land known as, 317 High Street, Nagambie Victoria 3608 – Lots 15 & 16 on PS546882Q, for the Use & Development of an existing building for accommodation, is issued, including the endorsement of the submitted amended plans, subject to the existing conditions forming part of the permit.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

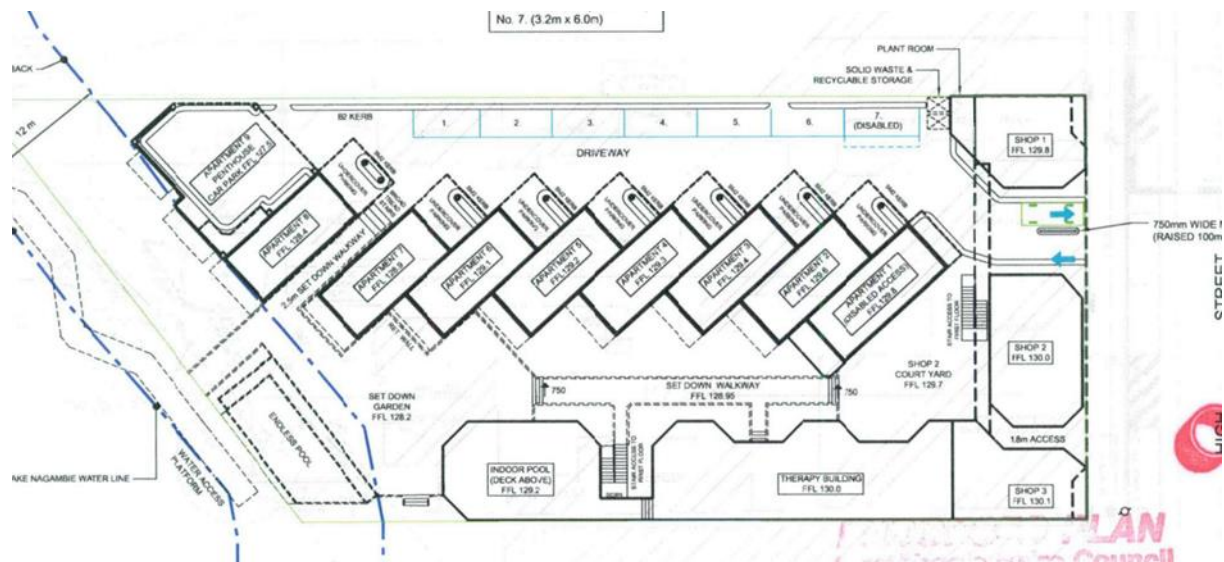
The purpose of this report is to seek approval of amended planning permit applications P2005/124-1 and P2016-109-2.

The development has been constructed on site and the use is ongoing. Combined, amended planning permit P2005/124 and planning permit P2016-109 allow for the following:

- 3 shop front/premises (all fronting High Street)
- 4 Motel Units
- 10 serviced apartments in 9 buildings.
- Driveway for car parking and access between the apartments and the carparking on the northern boundary, accessed from a driveway between Shop 1 and Shop 2.
- 1.8m pedestrian access between Shop 2 and Shop 3.
- Pedestrian access either side of the driveway between Shops 1 and 2.

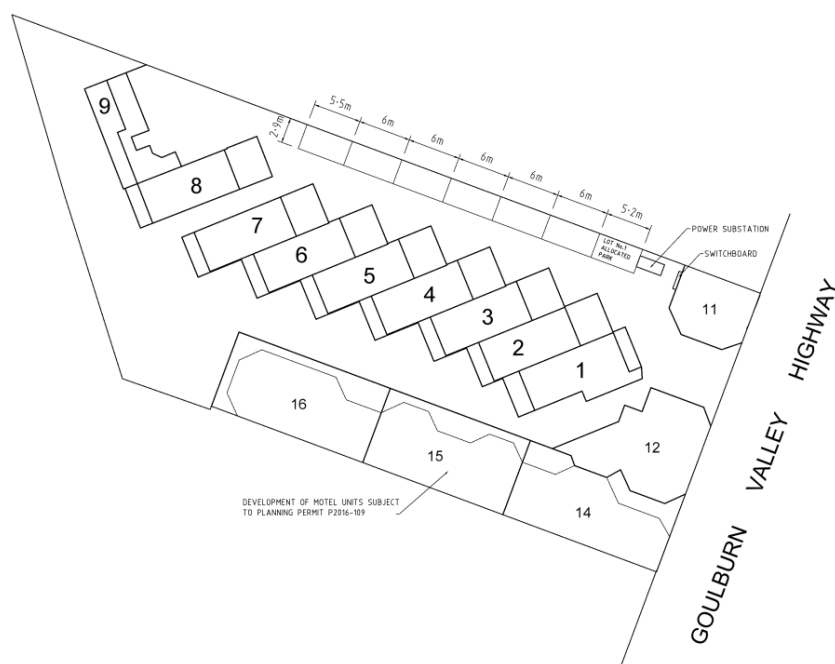
11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

The current approved car parking layout under planning permit P2005/124 is shown below and includes to provision of 7 car parking spaces along the northern boundary:



Planning permit P2005/124 must be read in conjunction with Planning permit P2016-109 which allowed a change of use on the land from a day spa to accommodation (motel units).

The amended planning permit application for P2005/124 initially sought approval of an amended car parking layout plan along the northern boundary as shown below:



11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

The amendment to the plan was sought by the Owners Corporation of the Common Property on the land to:

- reflect the encroachment of a power substation onto an existing car parking space to Unit 1.
- Address ongoing disputes between owners of the apartments in relation to the provision of car parking along the northern boundary.

Both the current endorsed plan and the proposed amended plan showed 7 car parking spaces along the northern boundary of the land.

The amended plan was notified to effected property owners and objections were received. In an attempt to address the concerns of the objectors an amended plan was submitted for assessment which shows 6 car parking spaces along the northern boundary of the land as shown below:



This is the most current plan to be assessed as part of this application. This plan was re-notified to the objectors. No objections have been withdrawn.

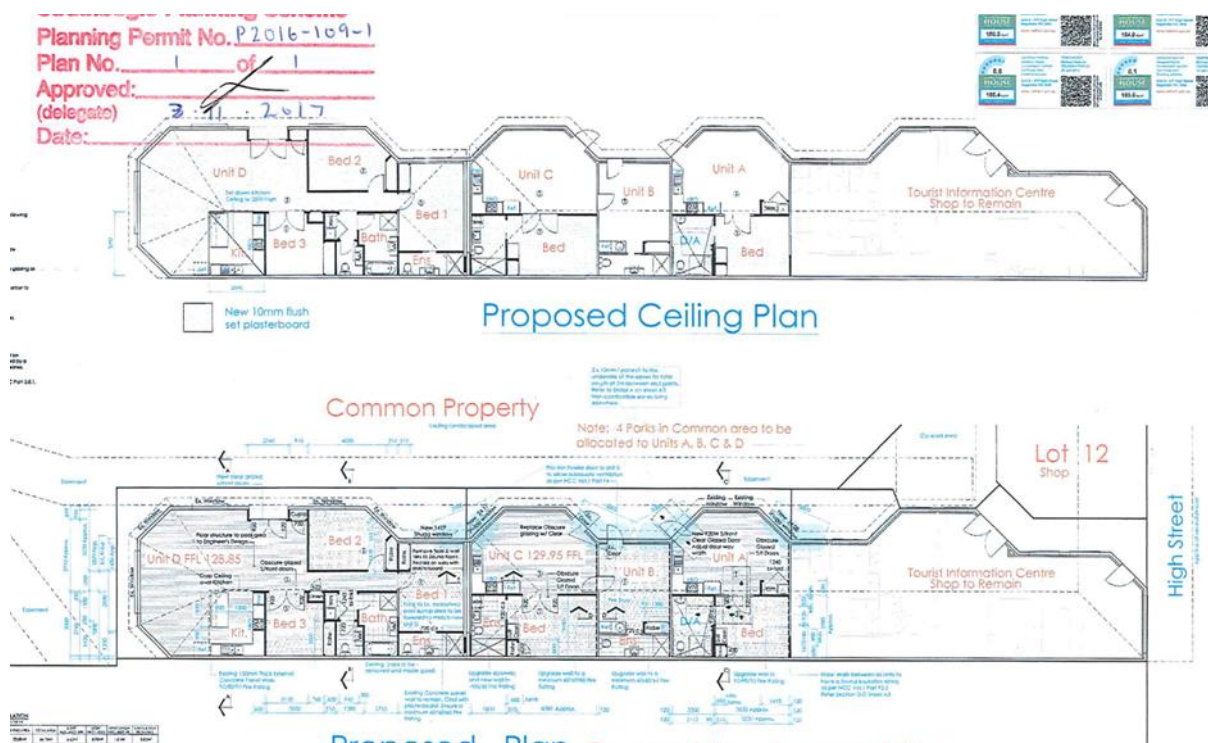
The scope of the assessment of the application is limited to the amended plans and is not a re-assessment of the merits of the original application. In practical terms the assessment becomes about ensuring the revised parking layout provides a satisfactory parking outcome for the land.

Should the proposed plan be approved, the applicant will formally line mark the car parking spaces in accordance with the approved plan and adjust the common property as required to accurately reflect the dedicated car space to be provided for lot 1.

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

Amended planning permit application P2016-109-2 seeks approval for an amended plan to include an updated notation in relation to car parking. If approved the planning permit pre-ambule will also need to be amended to refer to the correct lot numbers (Lots 15 & 16 on PS546882Q).

Planning Permit P2016-109 allows the use and development of an existing building for accommodation. This permit approved a partial change in the land use approved under P2005/124 to remove the day spa component and replace it with motel units as show on the approved plan shown below:



The endorsed plan also included the notation below:

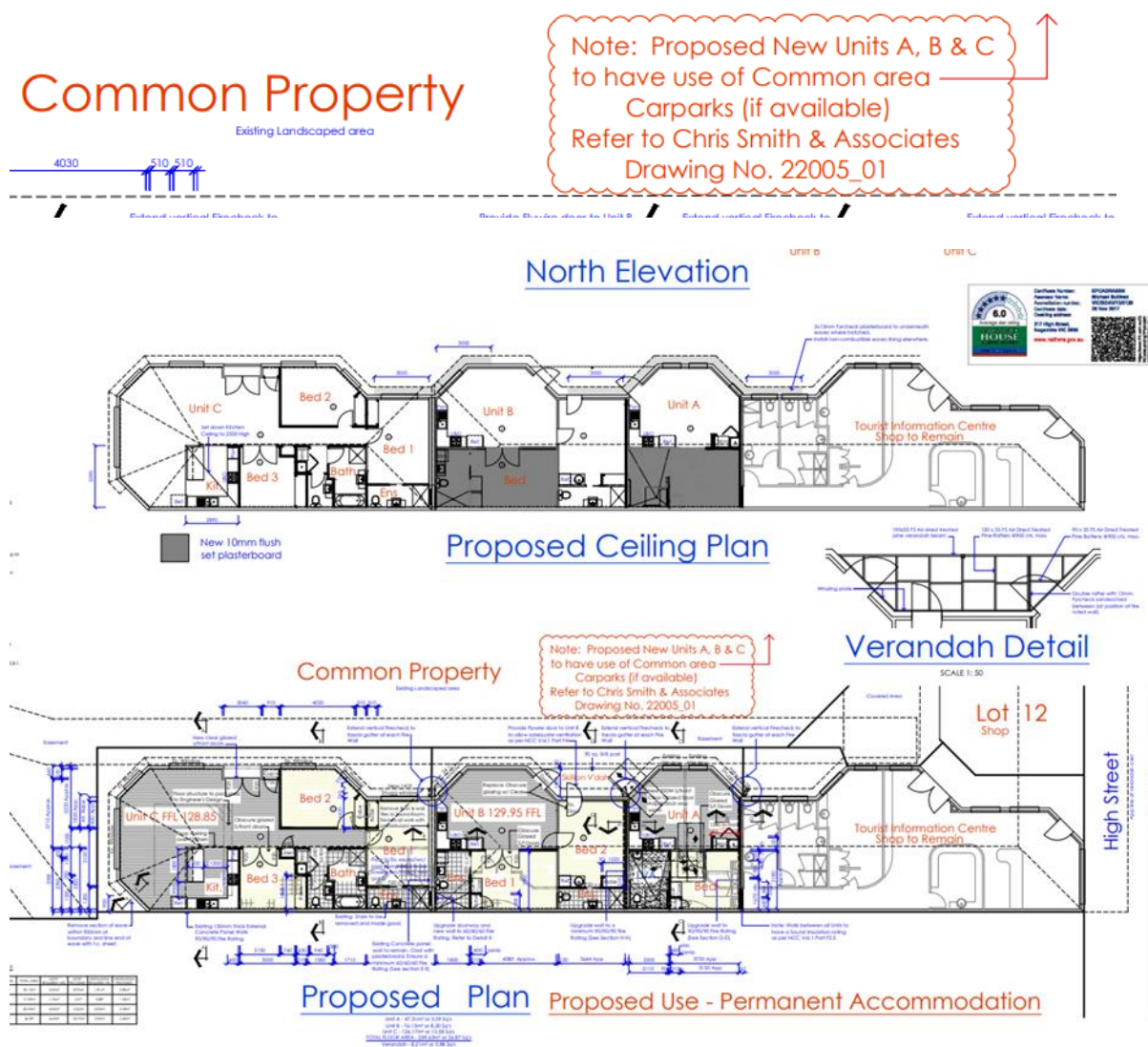


The common area referred to is the common area shown on the plan approved as part of P2005/124:

The applicant has informed officers that the way car parking currently operates is that the car parking in the common area is shared between the apartments and the motel units. Generally, these spaces are utilised for overflow parking for the apartments and if spaces are available then someone staying in one of the motel units can park there.

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

The amended plan seeks to reflect the above with a revised notation as shown below:



The scope of the assessment of the application is limited to the amended plans and is not a re-assessment of the merits of the original application. In practical terms the assessment becomes about ensuring the revised parking notation provides a satisfactory parking outcome for the land.

Officers have undertaken a car parking assessment, as detailed in the Planning Reports included as attachments to this Council Report. Based on an analysis of how the land currently operates and consideration of the relevant parking provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme, officers are satisfied that the proposed amended plans will allow for an acceptable parking outcome on site.

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Council is a Responsible Authority under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act). In this role, Council administers the Strathbogie Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) and, among other things, determines planning permit applications made for the use and development of land within the municipality.

Under delegated authority of Council, Council Officers determine some matters.

This application is to be determined by Council in accordance with Council's Planning Permit Applications Referral to Council Policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

The application has been advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 by sending letters to any potentially affected landowners.

Three objections have been received. A summary of the grounds of objection and a response by officers is listed below:

Grounds of Objection	Response by Assessing Officer
The applicant has no legal authority to make the application.	Officers are satisfied that the application has been made by a legal entity being Owners Corporation 1 Plan No. 546882Q. The legalities of any dispute about the operations of the Owners Corporation are outside the scope of the assessment for this application.
Potential traffic safety issues as a result of the revised parking layout/no planning or traffic report provided.	The planning scheme does not require the submission of a traffic report as part of the amended planning permit application. No evidence has been submitted to show that the revised parking layout will cause any safety issues. Council's Engineers have reviewed the revised car parking layout and are satisfied that it will achieve a safe outcome. Parking along the northern boundary of the land has operated in a similar fashion for a number of years without major incident. No physical buildings and works are proposed. Only some re-line marking for the proposed parking layout.

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

The applicant has not provided an existing conditions plan	The existing conditions are visible upon visiting the site as detailed in the photographs forming part of this report. Details of the current lot boundaries and common property arrangements have been provided as part of the application.
The proposal is contrary to the purpose of the development in its current built form.	No evidence has been provided by objectors to substantiate this claim. The proposal will result in the provision of parking along the northern boundary of the land to service the existing developments.
The proposal would adversely affect the amenity and reasonable expectations of the residents of the development.	No evidence has been provided by objectors to substantiate this claim. Each apartment building will still retain a dedicated car parking space and the apartments will have use of the car parking spaces in the common property along the northern boundary of the land.
The proposal will prejudice the orderly and proper planning of the area.	No evidence has been provided by objectors to substantiate this claim. Each apartment building will still retain a dedicated car parking space and the apartments will have use of the car parking spaces in the common property along the northern boundary of the land. The amended car parking layout has been designed to improve the safety and operation of the car parking spaces along the northern boundary of the land.
The proposal will provide no community benefit	The proposed revised car parking layout is on private land and is unlikely to have any measurable impact on the community.
The use of common property, or the grant of a permit in respect of the common property in the terms of the application, will mean that that part of the common property will be used in such a manner as to unreasonably interfere with or prevent its use by other members or occupants of lots, or their families or visitors.	No evidence has been provided by objectors to substantiate this claim. The proposal will not alter the use of the land for car parking purposes. Officers have undertaken a car parking assessment and are satisfied that there is an adequate provision of on-site car parking.
This sole use and occupation of only one of the tenants in common of the common property would be in violation of the rules and regulations provided for in the Owners Corporation Act in that it "would unreasonably exclude the remaining co-owners of the relevant common property from enjoyment of it.	The requirements of the Owners Corporation Act are outside of the scope of the assessment of this application.

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

Concerns about the size and location of the eastern most car park along the northern boundary given its proximity to a power substation.	The plan has been amended to provide a larger car parking space for the eastern most car parking space that provides for adequate clearance from the power substation located on the land.
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The objections raise a number of relevant considerations in regard to the provision of car parking on site, as identified in the table above a number of these can be addressed by implementation of the amended car parking layout. While the history of planning permits P2005/124 and P2016-109 are complex, the scope of the assessment of the amended planning permit applications is limited and relatively straightforward, being will the revised parking layout provide for an adequate parking outcome.

A parking assessment undertaken by offices has determined that the provision of 6 parking spaces along the northern boundary will provide for an acceptable planning outcome and approval of the applications and amended parking layout is recommended.

Matters of dispute between members of the owner's corporation are beyond the scope of the relevant assessment considerations of the amended planning permit application. Officers need only be satisfied that the application have been made by a legal entity.

Further information is contained within the attached Planning Officer Reports.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Council Plan 2021-2025 – Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable, Transparent, Responsible

Council will be responsible for the decisions we make and maximise public transparency and accountability around our performance.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

Given the nature of the approval sought there are no relevant policy considerations. The scope of the assessment is limited to the approval of amended plans and no formal buildings and works are proposed.

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

This proposal has been assessed under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

The assessing officers have no conflict of interest regarding these amended planning permit applications.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This application is being heard by Council in accordance with Council's Planning Permit Applications, Referral to Council Policy. Hearing, the application in the public meeting will allow all parties the opportunity to be heard by the Councillors prior to a decision being made.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Potential future costs to Council could be incurred through a VCAT appeal lodged by –

- The applicant for a failure to determine.
- Objectors against a Notice of Decision to Grant amended Planning Permits.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

There are no broader economic implications from the proposal or as a result of this application. No formal building and works are proposed. The scope of the assessment of the application is limited to consideration of amended plans.

Social

There are no broader social implications from the proposal or as a result of this application. No formal buildings and works are proposed. The scope of the assessment of the application is limited to consideration of amended plans.

11.1.1 Amended Planning Permit Applications and Amended Plans P2005/124 and P2016-109 at 317 High Street, Nagambie (cont.)

Environmental

There are no broader economic implications from the proposal or as a result of this application. The scope of the assessment of the application is limited to consideration of amended plans.

Climate change

There are no broader economic implications from the proposal or as a result of this application. The scope of the assessment of the application is limited to consideration of amended plans.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights implications. The amended planning permits were placed on public notice in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation.

CONCLUSION

Following an assessment of the amended planning permit applications against the relevant requirements of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme it is recommended that Notice of Decisions to Grant Amended Planning Permits are issued.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Planning Report – P2005/124-1

Attachment 2: Planning Report – P2016-109-2

11.1.2 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined - 1 to 30 April 2023

Author: Manager Planning and Investment

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides listings of all Planning Applications Received (Attachment 1) and Planning Applications Determined (Attachment 2) for the period of 1st to 30th April 2023. The latest available Planning Permit Activity Performance (PPARS) Figures are also attached (Attachment 3). It should be noted that the latest PPARS Figures are for the month of March 2023. The April PPARS Figures were not available at the time of writing this report as the monthly figures are not updated until 15th of each month. The contents of this report are provided for information purposes only.

It is noted that there were six (6) new planning applications received and eleven (11) planning applications decided upon during the reporting period.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note that there were six (6) new planning applications received, and eleven (11) planning applications decided on during the period of 1st to 30th April 2023.***
- 2. Note the report.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

To report to Council on the current planning application activity and matters considered under delegation.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Council is a Responsible Authority under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act). In this role, Council administers the Strathbogie Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) and, among other things, determines planning permit applications made for the use and development of the land in the municipality. Under delegated authority of Council, Council officers determine some matters.

Many types of use and development do not require a planning permit and may take place without being recorded as part of the planning approvals data. The statistics presented do not represent all development activity in the municipality. In addition, some planning permits are not acted on, or there may be a delay between when the approval is granted and when works take place.

11.1.2 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined
- 1 to 30 April 2023 (cont.)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Individual applications consider these requirements through assessment phase of each application as per the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report continues to demonstrate that Council is being transparent in its position in relation to all applications received and determined by the Council.

CONCLUSION

This report is provided for Council to note the current planning permit application activity.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Planning Applications Received

Attachment 2: Planning Applications Determined

Attachment 3: Planning Permit Activity Performance Figures

11.2 COMMUNITY

11.2.1 Grant Variation Request 2022/23: Community Grants Program Funding

Author: Manager Community and Culture

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council delivers several community funding programs throughout the course of the year to support the community to deliver important community projects and initiatives.

Council has received a request from the Shadforth Nature Reserve Committee of Management (SNRCoM) for a variation to a project previously funded under the Community Grant Funding Program, Round 1, 2022/23. At the 16 August 2022 Council Meeting, Council approved the Round 1 Community Grant Funding 2022/23 allocations. The SNRCoM, under auspice of Violet Town Action Group, were allocated \$4,487 for a component of the 'Enhance Entrance Driveway and Park Area at Shadforth Reserve' project. Items funded included gravelling of the driveway, repairing potholes, creating parking bays and a safe loop where cars could turnaround. These works have been completed, and the project has an underspend of \$460.

The SNRCoM are requesting a variation to utilise the underspend of \$460 towards a weed management program as part of their 'Enhance Entrance Driveway and Parking Area at Shadforth Reserve' project.

This report seeks Council consideration and approval to support a variation to the above-mentioned community organisation for the delivery of the project, as detailed in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Approve the variation submitted by the Shadforth Nature Reserve Committee of Management, under the auspice of Violet Town Action Group Inc, to reallocate the unspent funds of \$460 from their 'Enhance Entrance Driveway and Parking Area at Shadforth Reserve' project to weed control works around the Reserve.***
- 2. Authorise Officers to prepare an amended funding agreement incorporating the details of this variation and any specific terms and conditions relevant to the project including an extension to June 30, 2023, for the acquittal of the project.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Community funding is an important mechanism enabling Council to financially contribute and support important community projects. Council delivers several community funding programs throughout the course of the year including the Community Grant Funding Program.

11.2.1 Grant Variation Request 2022/23: Community Grants Program Funding (cont.)

The Community Grant Funding Program is a competitive grant funding program that supports community groups to identify and deliver important community projects. There are five categories in the program that aim to improve a variety of outcomes for people and groups within Strathbogie Shire. Council can hold two rounds of grant funding per financial year dependent on demand and the funds available and the funding program is delivered and assessed in line with the Community Grant Guidelines, as adopted at the 19 April 2022 Council Meeting.

At the 16 August 2022 Council Meeting, Council approved the Round 1 Community Grant Funding 2022/23 allocations. The SNRCoM, under auspice of Violet Town Action Group, were allocated \$4,487 for a component of the 'Enhance Entrance Driveway and Park Area at Shadforth Reserve' project. Items funded included gravelling of the driveway, repairing potholes, creating parking bays and a safe loop where cars could turnaround. These works have been completed, and the project has an underspend of \$460.

Council has received a funding variation from the SNRCoM requesting Council consider reallocation of the unspent funds to support a weed control program.

For the long-term success of the project, a maintenance program including appropriate weed control will be implemented aligning with one of the environmental outcomes of the project application to reduce the spread of invasive noxious plants.

Based on research and anecdotal evidence SNRCoM have chosen *Bioweed* as the most appropriate biodegradable product suited to the Shadforth Nature Reserve ecosystem. The total purchase price of the *Bioweed* products will be \$494.95 of which SNRCoM will contribute \$34.95.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

From time-to-time, projects do not go as planned and sometimes for the better as is the case for this project.

In line with the funding guidelines, applicants are required to request any variations to existing projects or new projects in writing via the Manager Community of Culture. These variations need to be considered and assessed to ensure they are consistent with the objectives of the community funding program.

Council officers have reviewed the proposed variation and believe that it will still result in a community benefit. The variation and item/s that will be purchased through the variation is consistent with the objectives of the Community Grants Program.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

11.2.1 Grant Variation Request 2022/23: Community Grants Program Funding (cont.)

There has been no broad community engagement on this matter. The request has been proposed by the funding applicant being the SNRCoM.

Council officers do not believe further engagement is required and this report is consistent with the Community Grant Guidelines.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The report is consistent with Council Policies, key strategic documents and the Council Plan, in particular aligning with the adopted Community Planning Program Guidelines

2021-2025 Council Plan

Strategic focus area 1: Engage. Create. Unite

Strategic focus area 4: Inclusive. Productive. Balanced

Strategic focus area 5: Strong. Healthy. Safe

Strategic focus area 6: Accountable. Transparent.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

The Community Grant Program Guidelines set the criteria for this funding stream.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

There are no significant legal implications associated with this report.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

In the interests of transparency and open and honest communication with our community, this report is presented to a public Council meeting.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

11.2.1 Grant Variation Request 2022/23: Community Grants Program Funding (cont.)

This report is in relation to funds already approved and committed within Council's annual operating budget for 2022/23 with no additional financial contribution required by Council.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

Projects have the opportunity to utilise local contractors and services or involve the procurement of goods from local business.

Social

The project recommended for funding will result in a significant social and community benefit. This project, once delivered, supports essential programs, events and groups that support community to meet, gather and remain physically and mentally active and engaged.

Environmental

Noxious weeds can have a damaging effect on the natural landscape and biodiversity. This variation request seeks to implement proactive steps to manage noxious weeds to help maintain soil stability and quality.

Climate change

There is no significant climate change impact associated with this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report does not limit any human rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and encourages participation in civic life by our community.

CONCLUSION

Council delivers several community funding programs throughout the course of the year to support the community to deliver important community projects and initiatives. From time-to-time projects do not go as planned and variations may be requested.

Council has received a request from the Shadforth Nature Reserve Committee of Management (SNRCOM) for a variation to a project previously funded under the Community Grant Funding Program, Round 1, 2022/23. For various reasons as detailed in this report, the SNRCOM are seeking a variation to utilise an underspend of \$460 towards a weed management program as part of their 'Enhance Entrance Driveway and Parking Area at Shadforth Reserve' project.

This report presents the variation to Council for consideration and approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.2.2 Grants Program 2022/23 Small Projects – Application from Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed

Author: Manager Community and Culture

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a 2022/23 Small Projects application under the Community Grants Program from the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed Incorporated to assist with the establishment of an Honour Board to recognise and celebrate the contribution of the inaugural President, Secretary and Treasurer, and all subsequent Office Bearers.

The request is for a cash funding of \$566.54 to contribute to the costs of purchasing and populating an Honour Board.

The grant application was of an acceptable standard in the 2022/23 Community Grant Program Small Projects assessment.

The proposed works will result in social benefits to Nagambie by recognising and celebrating volunteers and their contribution to community. The proposed Honour Board will contribute to a positive culture for members and prospective members by paying respect to the volunteers who have dedicated their time to make the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed a continuing success.

In Council's approved operating budget 2022/2023, Council allocated \$115,000 to the Community Grants Program of which \$62,428 was distributed in round 1 and \$37,583 in round 2 totalling \$100,000. A further \$8,000 was allocated to the Small Projects program for individual grants up to \$1,000, and \$7,000 for community training workshops. To date, one project has been successfully funded this financial year under the Small Projects Stream, with a remaining balance of \$7000 allocated to this stream.

This report recommends the approval of the Community Grants Program Small Project grant application from the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed for cash funding of \$566.54.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve grant funding of \$566.54 to the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed Inc to assist with the costs of establishing an Honour Board, under Council's Community Grant Program Small Projects Stream 2022/23.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council has received a Community Grants Program Small Project application from the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed to assist with the costs of establishing an Honour Board to recognise and celebrate the significant contribution of volunteers in the roles of President, Secretary and Treasurer.

11.2.2 Grants Program 2022/23 Small Projects – Application from Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed (cont.)

The Small Projects funding program is part of the Community Grants program. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for projects under the same categories as Community Grants from 1st September 2022 through to the end of the financial year or until the total allocation is expended.

The Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed have applied for a grant to the value of \$566.54 to contribute to the costs of establishing an Honour Board.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

A men's shed is a community-based, non-commercial organisation that provides a place where men can feel included and safe. The aim of men's sheds is to improve the health and wellbeing of their members.

The Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed was established in 2013 and currently has 15 members. They meet three times a week, members can participate in the current project or just come and have a chat and a cuppa if that is all they're looking for. Members of the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed come from all walks of life and are welcome regardless of their beliefs and disabilities. Most members are senior and experience some level of disability – the bond that unites them is that they are men with time on their hands and would like something meaningful to do with that time.

The Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed Inc has a Management Committee that has developed a safe and happy environment. The proposed Honour Board will acknowledge and celebrate the dedication of members who have contributed to the vibrant, welcoming Men's Shed that the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed has become. This application aligns with the principles of the Community Grants program by promoting community engagement and participation; supporting social inclusion; and contributing to building healthy and vibrant communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

This is an internal, group-based project supported by the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed committee representing their members who have been actively involved in the proposal and grant application for an Honour Board.

Council officers believe no further engagement is required on this report.

11.2.2 Grants Program 2022/23 Small Projects – Application from Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The report is consistent with Council Policies, key strategic documents and the Council Plan, in particular, aligning with:

2021-2025 Council Plan, in the below strategic focus areas:

Strategic focus area 1: Engage. Create. Unite

Strategic focus area 4: Inclusive. Productive. Balanced

Strategic focus area 5: Strong. Healthy. Safe

Strategic focus area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

There are no significant legal implications associated with this report.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

In the interests of transparency and open and honest communication with community, this report is presented to a public Council meeting providing full disclosure of the allocation of Community Grants funding within the community.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

In Council's approved operating budget 2022/2023, Council allocated \$115,000 to the Community Grants Program of which \$62,428 was distributed in round 1 and \$37,583 in round 2 totalling \$100,000. A further \$8,000 was allocated to the Small Projects program for individual grants up to \$1,000, and \$7,000 for community training workshops.

This is the second Small Projects application for the 2022-23 period, and there is currently \$7000 remaining in this allocation.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

11.2.2 Grants Program 2022/23 Small Projects – Application from Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed (cont.)

Social

The proposed Honour Board will create an environment that recognises and celebrates the volunteer contribution to the success of the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed creating a welcoming environment for members and prospective members alike.

The application was made under the Active and Healthy Communities category. Good health is based on many factors including feeling good about yourself, being productive, contributing to your community, connecting with friends, and maintaining an active body and mind. The Men's Shed movement has become one of the most powerful tools in addressing health and wellbeing and helping men to be valued and productive members of their community.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that this Community Grant Program Small Project application from the Nagambie Lakes Men's Shed Inc be approved for funding of \$566.54 to assist with the establishment of an Honour Board to display the names of the inaugural President, Secretary and Treasurer, and all subsequent Office Bearers celebrating volunteering and creating a welcoming environment for members and prospective members alike.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.2.3 Insurance and Liability: Community Action Groups and Council Owned or Managed Facilities

Author: Manger Community and Culture

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has historically provided a range of groups and committees with insurance, where groups were operating under the guidance or direction of Council. Council's insurance provision is currently being reviewed due to the number of insurance-based queries Council receives from these groups and to reflect the requirements in the new Local Government Act 2020. The change has resulted in a number of Committees becoming Incorporated under the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act 1981 rather than authorised under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989 (now superseded). Council's community development model also encouraged the establishment of several Community Action Groups that have also moved to Incorporated Association status to enable them to be independent from Council.

As these committees/groups have their own legal status, they are no longer authorised by Council or Council controlled in any way. In effect, they simply hold a lease or license with Council to operate a facility, or they may have a funding agreement in place with Council for a specific purpose. They have their own model roles, membership process and are not accountable to Council as a legal entity, beyond the terms of their lease or agreement. They are also able to attract funding from a range of sources and manage those funds however they see fit, provided they meet their requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

Advice from Council's insurer JLT indicates that holding insurance for the above groups/ committees is not advisable and that they do not believe the groups/committees are adequately covered through Council's existing policies. They recommend that the groups/committees themselves should take out the necessary cover and be the policy holder not Council. This ensures they have appropriate cover for the relevant group/committee, their volunteers and the activities they undertake. In addition, they will have a direct connection with their insurer and can seek insurance advice directly rather than through Council as a third party.

This advice specifically relates to Community Action Groups, Committees managing council assets including halls and recreation reserves. Council will continue to hold appropriate building insurance cover for all Council owned facilities and hold a certain level of public liability associated with the asset/ public land.

This report recommends officers inform the groups and committees of Council's insurers advice and request that they take out their own appropriate insurance. Further it is recommended that Council provide the funds of up to \$1,200 (annual payment, subject to annual market value) per group/committees detailed in this report to cover this specific insurance costs.

11.2.3 Insurance and Liability: Community Action Groups and Council Owned or Managed Facilities (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. ***Notify the following Incorporated Associations that Council can no longer provide Product and Public Liability Insurance, Association Liability Insurance and Volunteer Insurance on their behalf, effective 30 June 2023:***
 - ***AVENEL MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INC.***
 - ***BOHO SOUTH HALL INC.***
 - ***CREIGHTONS CREEK RECREATION RESERVE INC.***
 - ***EUROA FRIENDLIES RESERVE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.***
 - ***GOORAM COMMITTEE INC.***
 - ***GRAYTOWN COMMUNITY INC. (This includes the Action Group)***
 - ***LONGWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE COM INC.***
 - ***MOGLONEMBY HALL INC.***
 - ***NAGAMBIE RECREATION RESERVE COM INC.***
 - ***RUFFY RECREATION RESERVE INC.***
 - ***TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.***
 - ***STRATHBOGIE MEMORIAL HALL INC.***
 - ***AVENEL ACTIVE INC.***
 - ***EUROA COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP INC.***
 - ***LONGWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP INC.***
 - ***RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP INC.***
 - ***STRATHBOGIE TABLELANDS ACTION GROUP INC.***
 - ***VIOLET TOWN ACTION GROUP INC.***
 - ***NAGAMBIE ACTION GROUP (At such a point that it is re-established)***
2. ***Provide an annual payment of up to \$1,200 (subject to annual market value) to the following Incorporated Associations to cover the cost of these insurance policies, following the receipt of an estimate or quote from a recognised insurer:***
 - ***AVENEL MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INC.***
 - ***BOHO SOUTH HALL INC.***
 - ***CREIGHTONS CREEK RECREATION RESERVE INC.***
 - ***EUROA FRIENDLIES RESERVE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INC.***
 - ***GOORAM COMMITTEE INC.***
 - ***GRAYTOWN COMMUNITY INC. (This includes the Action Group)***
 - ***LONGWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE COM INC.***
 - ***MOGLONEMBY HALL INC.***
 - ***NAGAMBIE RECREATION RESERVE COM INC.***
 - ***RUFFY RECREATION RESERVE INC.***
 - ***TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.***
 - ***STRATHBOGIE MEMORIAL HALL INC.***
 - ***AVENEL ACTIVE INC.***
 - ***EUROA COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP INC.***
 - ***LONGWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP INC.***

11.2.3 Insurance and Liability: Community Action Groups and Council Owned or Managed Facilities (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION (cont.)

- **RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP INC.**
 - **STRATHBOGIE TABLELANDS ACTION GROUP INC.**
 - **VIOLET TOWN ACTION GROUP INC.**
 - **NAGAMBIE ACTION GROUP (At such a point that it is re-established)**
3. **Authorise Officers to prepare and execute temporary hire agreements with a fee waiver in place for the 23/24 financial year for users of Miepoll Hall, Violet Town Recreation Reserve and Strathbogrie Recreation Reserve, until such time that the Lease and Licence Policy is in place.**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the current provision of appropriate insurance to Community Action Group and committees/ groups managing Council owned or managed Facilities.

Halls/ facilities and committees

Under the previous Local Government Act 1989 Council had the power to authorise Section 86 Committees of Management to support the management of community assets. This power no longer exists under the new Local Government Act 2020. Following this change, Council supported a number of these groups to transition to Incorporated Associations, this shift increases independence and significantly changes the amount of autonomy and flexibility these groups have. The accountability to Council is in the form of a lease or a license to manage or oversee the facility. Council has been working through the process of developing leases/ licenses for each facility and has provided advice to the Committees (Incorporated Associations) that Council does provide the required insurance for them to function.

List of current Halls and Committees

1	Avenel Memorial Hall	AVENEL MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INC.
2	Boho South Hall	BOHO SOUTH HALL INC.
3	Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve: Hall	CREIGHTONS CREEK RECREATION RESERVE INC.
4	Euroa Friendlies Reserve	EUROA FRIENDLIES RESERVE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INCORPORATED
5	Gooram Hall & Fire Station	GOORAM COMMITTEE INC
6	Graytown Community Centre	GRAYTOWN COMMUNITY INCORPORATED
7	Longwood Recreation Reserve	LONGWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE COM INC.
8	Moglonemby Hall	MOGLONEMBY HALL INC

11.2.3 Insurance and Liability: Community Action Groups and Council Owned or Managed Facilities (cont.)

9	Nagambie Recreational Reserve	NAGAMBIE RECREATION RESERVE COM INCORPORATED
10	Ruffy Recreation Reserve	RUFFY RECREATION RESERVE INC.
11	Ruffy Tableland Community Centre	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.
12	Strathbogie Memorial Hall	STRATHBOGIE MEMORIAL HALL INC.
13	Miepoll Hall	Currently no COM/ Incorporated Association
14	Strathbogie Recreation Reserve	Currently no COM/ Incorporated Association
17	Violet Town Recreation Reserve	Currently no COM/ Incorporated Association

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS

Council introduced the concept of action groups, many years ago to facilitate community development. Action Groups help the community to identify a vision for the community and raise and address issues within the community. These groups directly support the community to create solutions to local gaps, issues or priorities, as determined by a collective decision-making process. Council provides a small amount of support for Action Groups through community funding and a Community Development Officer as a resource. Historically, Council is more involved in supporting the establishment of Action Groups, and then steps back to enable the Action Group to thrive. In their current form Action Groups are incorporated associations and have their own structure, function and remit, due to their independence. Currently Council holds the insurance policy for these groups at an approximate total cost of \$7,000 annually.

Strathbogie Shire Council Action Groups (8 Groups in total):

- Avenel Active Inc
- Euroa Community Action Group Inc
- Graytown Community Inc- same group that is responsible for the Community Centre (no need for additional insurance)
- Longwood Action Group Inc
- Ruffy Community Action Group Inc
- Strathbogie Tablelands Action Group Inc
- Violet Town Action Group Inc
- Nagambie Action Group Inc (Recess- no need for insurance until a group is reformed)

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Council has historically provided the relevant insurance cover for the above mentioned groups.

11.2.3 Insurance and Liability: Community Action Groups and Council Owned or Managed Facilities (cont.)

Council regularly receives requests for information regarding insurance for both the Action Groups and facility committees. This information is often very difficult to provide, as there are three parties involved, and Council is in the middle between the two parties who have the information. Officers spend a lot of time going back and forth between parties finding out more information and providing certificates of currency, and responses to insurance information requests.

In doing the above and reading detailed information of the policies and the Product Description Statements (PDS) Officers became concerned that the groups were not adequately covered for their activities for a range of reasons, and that it may not be in the best interests or appropriate for Council to hold the groups insurance policies.

Officers met with Council's insurer JLT to discuss the current issues as outlined below:

- The PDS and information from the insurer indicated that the groups did not qualify for insurance under Council, in their current form;
- Council has no control or influence over the groups/ Committees activity;
- Detailed information is required, specific to each group, its operations and volunteers, to ensure the groups/ committee has adequate insurance cover which Council does not have access to; and
- Council spends a lot of time being asked and investigating insurance advise/ information on behalf of the groups.

This report specifically relates to insurance related to the groups/committees activities and best practice insurance cover recommended for Incorporated Associations which includes;

- Product and public Liability,
- Association Liability Insurance (Fraud and mismanagement/ poor governance decisions); and
- Volunteer Insurance

It is important to note that Council is required to hold appropriate building insurance cover for all Council owned facilities and hold a certain level of public liability associated with the asset/ public land. This cover is in place and is appropriate and this report does not relate to this cover.

In addition, specific consideration is required in the case of Strathbogie Recreation Reserve, Miepoll Hall and Violet Town Recreation Reserve where there is currently no formal Incorporated Association managing the facility on behalf of Council, therefore no current legal entity. In these instances, the specific coverage won't be required as there is no Incorporated Association to be covered. Further communication will be required in these cases. Temporary User/ Hire Agreements will be established with all parties at these facilities for the 2023/24 financial year, with no associated charge until the Leasing and Licensing Policy is adopted and implemented.

11.2.3 Insurance and Liability: Community Action Groups and Council Owned or Managed Facilities (cont.)

This report recommends Council Officers notify the groups and committees that we have received advice from our insurer as per the above and request that they identify an appropriate insurance provider and take out the required policies, and that Council provide funds of up to \$1,200 per group per annum subject to ANNUAL market value to groups and committees detailed in this report to do so.

If the cost of the three policies :

- Produce and Public Liability
- Association Liability
- Volunteer insurance

is greater than \$1,200 and the groups/committees require additional funds, group/committee representatives must meet with the authorised Council officer to discuss the requirements. The decision to provide additional funds will be authorised by a Council officer with appropriate financial delegation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Due to the nature of this matter and the potential significant risk, engagement with all impacted groups will be required. In addition, this will form a key discussion point within the License and Lease Policy, and the long term sustainability for these community groups.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Strategic Focus Area 1: Engage. Create. Unite

Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

There are no regional, state and national plans/policies that are relevant to the report/issue.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

This report considers Council's responsibilities in the Local Government Act 2020, and the responsibilities for Incorporated Associations under Victorian Associations Incorporations Act 1981.

11.2.3 Insurance and Liability: Community Action Groups and Council Owned or Managed Facilities (cont.)

There is a significant risk to Council associated with this matter. If an accident was to occur these groups will not be adequately covered. Previous communication from Council to the groups/ committees indicated that they are covered. This is a significant reputational risk to Council and could result in harm, misconduct and fraud, along with posing a significant physical health and safety risk to individuals.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report and decision is to be considered in a public forum open to the community to ensure transparency and accountability in terms of Council decision making.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

The costs associated with the implementation of this report have been included in the Draft 2023/24 Council Budget. A total allocation of \$24,000, will be included in the draft 2023/24 budget to pay an annual payment of up to \$1,200 (subject to annual market value) to each Incorporated Association identified within this report for the purposes of the insurance detailed in this report upon receipt of quotation.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Social

Community Facilities and Groups play an integral role in the development of engaged, connected and health communities. These facilities and groups often provide mechanisms for community to be involved, with purpose, for the good of others and yield significant social capital within communities. Council recognises the importance of these groups and committees, and this is demonstrated through the provision of council funds for the purpose of the relevant insurance to support them to undertake their important role.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct and indirect human rights implications associated with this report.

11.2.3 Insurance and Liability: Community Action Groups and Council Owned or Managed Facilities (cont.)

CONCLUSION

Council has historically provided a range of groups and committees with insurance, where groups were operating under the guidance or direction of Council. Council's insurance provision is currently being reviewed due to the number of insurance-based queries Council receives from these groups and in light of changes now required in the Local Government Act 2020.

The required change has resulted in a number of Committees becoming Incorporated under the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act 1981 rather than authorised under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989 (which is no longer in existence). Council's community development model also encouraged the establishment of a number of Community Action Groups that have also moved to Incorporated Association Status to enable them to be independent from Council.

Following further investigation and insurance advice, Council is unable hold the required insurance policies for Community Action Groups and committees/groups managing Council owned facilities. This report considers the above matter and recommends Council change the current arrangements in the best interests of these committees and Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond

Author: Manager Community and Culture

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the 19 October 2021 Council meeting, Cr Sally Hayes-Burke sought a report from officers regarding Council's role in January 26 activities in recognition of First Nations people. This report was considered at the 17 May 2022 Council meeting, authorising broader consultation on two options with the community and relevant stakeholders including local Australia Day Committees and First Nations representatives.

Broad consultation was then undertaken in line with the above recommendations from the 17 May 2022 meeting. The feedback from this engagement provided no clear mandate for change, nor a strong determination to retain existing arrangements. At the extraordinary Council meeting held on 28 June 2022, Council resolved the following.

That Council:

- 1. Note the community feedback as outlined in the Community Engagement Report; and*
- 2. Continue to celebrate January 26 in 2023 as per existing arrangements.*

As the direction only considered arrangements for 2023, further direction is required from Council regarding arrangements for 2024 onwards.

It should also be noted that Council has since received a formal Statement from Taungurung Land and Waters Council regarding January 26. This Statement received in January 2023 was authorised through the direction of the Taungurung people.

This Statement articulates an agreed position from Taungurung Land & Waters Council (TLaWC) '*not to participate in any activities associated with January 26 and request that our partners and stakeholders respect this position.*' The full formal position of TLaWC into January 26 forms Attachment 1 to this report.

It should be noted that in October 2021, Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the TLaWC. The MOU reflects the need to commit to ensure the consideration of local Taungurung issues as part of any review process for Council programs and services.

In line with Council's MOU with the TLaWC and its January 26 Statement, it is recommended that Council no longer formally supports celebrations on January 26, from 2024. Officers also propose that Council move the "Australia Day Awards" to National Volunteer Week, by introducing a shire wide Strathbogie Rocks Annual Community Awards Program/event (an inclusive awards program) recognising the outstanding community contribution of people within the Strathbogie Shire. National Volunteers Week is held in May.

This option does not exclude Australia Day Committees from continuing to host and deliver township celebrations including award celebrations including award celebrations on January 26 or applying for funding directly to the National Australia Day Council.

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the Taungurung Land and Waters Council Statement on January 26.***
- 2. No longer formally supports celebrations on January 26, from 2024 and beyond.***
- 3. Amend Council's Event Sponsorship Guidelines and Community Grant Guidelines deeming activities celebrating Australia Day on 26 January (in kind or cash) as ineligible.***
- 4. Continue to fulfill Council's statutory obligations – event permit under Local Law 2.***
- 5. Empower the Share Strathbogie Community Panel to determine how we best recognise volunteers in our community who make outstanding contributions within existing resources.***
- 6. Note that Australia Day Committees may continue arrangements that they determine and seek funding directly from the National Australia Day Council.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

There is national debate on the relevance and significance of Australia Day celebrations, specifically concerning the date; January 26.

At the 19 October 2021 Council meeting, Cr Sally Hayes-Burke sought a report from officers regarding Council's role in January 26 activities in recognition of First Nations people. This report was considered at the 17 May 2022 Council meeting, authorising broad consultation on two options with the community and relevant stakeholders including local Australia Day Committees and First Nations representatives.

Broad consultation was undertaken in line with the above recommendations from the 17 May 2022 meeting. The feedback from this engagement did not provide a clear mandate for change, nor was there a strong determination to retain existing arrangements. At the extraordinary meeting held on 28 June 2022, Council resolved to:

- 1. Note the community feedback as outlined in the Community Engagement Report; and*
- 2. Continue to celebrate January 26 in 2023 as per existing arrangements.*

As the direction only considered arrangements for 2023, further direction is required from Council regarding arrangements for 2024 onwards.

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

In January 2023 Council received a formal Statement from Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) regarding January 26. This Statement was authorised through the direction of the Taungurung people. This Statement articulates an agreed position from TLaWC: *'not to participate in any activities associated with January 26 and request that our partners and stakeholders respect this position.'* The full formal position of TLaWC into January 26 forms Attachment 1 to this report.

It is important to note that in October 2021, Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the TLaWC. The principles of the MOU include:

- The Taungurung people are acknowledged as the first peoples, and Traditional Owners of Taungurung Country;
- The arrival of non-aboriginal people to Taungurung Country brought massive change to the landscape and way of life of the Taungurung people
- The Council desires to address the past and embrace the process of reconciliation and truth telling
- TLaWC and the Council are committed to working together to support the Taungurung people's self-determination;
- The Council respect, and hold in strong regard the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, traditions, customs and beliefs of the Taungurung people;
- The parties agree that improvements in Aboriginal participation, health and wellbeing outcomes will realise long term benefits for the community as a whole;
- Council supports the recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty in the Australian constitution; and
- Council supports the notion of treaty as proposed by the Victorian State Government and Traditional Owners.

More specifically, the MOU reflects the need to commit to ensure the consideration of local Taungurung issues as part of any review process for Council programs and services.

At the 19 February 2019 Council Meeting, Council through request from the Violet Town and District Recognise Group endorsed a range of activities designed to support Aboriginal recognition and reform. This included that Council would support the sentiments of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, including the process for Aboriginal Recognition and reform of the constitution, a referendum campaign, and to assist in broader awareness of the need for constitutional reform by using Council communication, marketing, and promotional avenues and display of posters and postcards etc in Council owned buildings.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Australia Day celebrations across Strathbogie Shire have typically been held in most towns across the municipality led and delivered by community-based Australia Day Committees.

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

The celebrations typically include Council's Australia Day Awards Program and funding from the National Australia Day Council.

Some townships have moved away from holding a community celebration on January 26. Furthermore, a number of Victorian Councils have already made small to large scale changes relating to January 26 ranging from changing the language used around Australia Day by simply removing the word celebrate, renaming Australia Day awards to 'Community Awards' through to abolishing celebrating Australia Day. Conversely, some Councils have elected not to change the way they celebrate January 26 and continue to hold Australia Day activities on January 26.

As the direction only considered arrangements for 2023, further direction is required from Council regarding arrangements for 2024 onwards.

A number of options are detailed for Council consideration as detailed in the table below:

Option 1	Summary of Considerations
That Council continue existing arrangements from 2024 and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseeing all Australia Day activities (excluding programming and event delivery) • Allocation of \$700.00 from Council to each Committee to support the delivery of the event • Committees can also directly apply to the National Australia Day Council for funding • Promotion and marketing associated with the events • Back of House management of the Australia Day Awards nomination and approval process • Coordination of Councillor attendance and speeches • Providing hydration stations where possible to ensure public safety at events • Managing the Australia Day ambassadors process with the National Australia Day Council • Officers do not have a role on the day of the events
<p>Option 1: Officer recommendation:</p> <p>This option is not recommended by officers as it is not consistent with Councils Memorandum of Understanding with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC), the formal Statement from the TLaWC regarding January 26, nor Councils commitment to the Uluru Statement of the Heart.</p>	

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

Option 2	Summary of Considerations
<p>That Council further engage with the Share Strathbogie Community Panel on the matter, setting the engagement level at 'Involve' and providing the Panel's recommendation to Council for consideration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an independently facilitated workshop process, with the level of engagement set at 'Involve' to determine a recommendation/s for Council's role in Australia Day for 2024 and beyond. • The independently facilitated workshop process/conversation is based on three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do you feel about Jan 26? - How can we be more inclusive of First Nations heritage and other communities in Strathbogie Shire? - What would you think Council could deliver or put in place? • 'Involve' means that Council will work with the Panel to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision and that the outcomes of the engagement process be presented to a Council meeting for consideration in June 2023 Council meeting cycle • Community Panel would be via random selection from participants that have expressed their interest in joining the Panel • The engagement would be undertaken by an expert facilitator, over an approximate four hour session (Total cost around \$4,000 - \$5,000: including \$50 payment for panel members, consultant, catering) • The panel would hear from a range of stakeholders including any current Australia Day Committee Members and Taungurung Land and Waters Council.
<p>Option 2 - Officer Recommendation:</p> <p>This option is not recommended by officers as Council has consulted extensively on this option in 2022. The outcome from the previous engagement identified that there was no clear mandate for change nor a strong determination to retain existing arrangements. Whilst differing questions, Officers suggest that the community sentiment is likely to remain unchanged. Now with the clear statement from the TLaWC which was not developed when this matter was last considered in May 2022, officers propose that Council has the ultimate decision on the matter.</p>	

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

Option 3	Summary
<p>That Council no longer formally supports celebrations on January 26, from 2024 and beyond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option does not exclude Australia Day Committees from continuing to host township celebrations including award celebrations on January 26 • Planning, promotion and delivery of Australia Day celebrations on January 26 to be the responsibility of local township Australia Day Committees or community groups. • Individual Australia Day Committees or community groups are responsible for sourcing, applying and acquitting any funding associated with the celebration of Australia Day (committees can apply directly to the National Australia Day Council) • Amend Council's event sponsorship guidelines and community grant guidelines deeming activities celebrating Australia Day on 26 January (in kind or cash) as ineligible • Continue to fulfill Council's statutory obligations – issuing event permits under Local Law 2 • Empower the Share Strathbogie Community Panel to determine how we best recognise volunteers in our community who make outstanding contributions within existing resources.
<p>Option 3: Officer Recommendation:</p> <p>Officers propose this recommendation and the preferred option as it is consistent with Council's MOU with the TL&WC, the January 26 Statement developed by the TL&WC, and Council's commitment to supporting the Uluru Statement of the Heart.</p> <p>Township based Australia Day Committees can apply for up to \$20,000 from the National Australia Day Council to host and deliver events tailored to their community.</p> <p>This option also includes an option to empower the Community Panel to determine how we best recognise the amazing volunteers who contribute and enrich our community.</p>	

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Significant consultation has been undertaken, as per the resolution following the Council meeting on 17 May 2022 regarding Council's role in acknowledging January 26. Strathbogie Shire Council. From 23 May to 20 June 2022, Council delivered an engagement program and extensive communications campaign to ensure Shire residents knew Council was seeking their feedback on two options. Council sought the advice of TLWC and the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Cooperative. Face-to-face meeting requests were made to all Australia Day Committees across the Shire. The engagement activities ensured quantitative and qualitative engagement techniques were used to gather community views.

Through the Share Strathbogie website, community was provided an opportunity to vote for their preferred option, while further feedback could be provided by making a submission to Council. Voting could be done online, or the community was also encouraged to phone our Customer Service Centres to register their vote.

The feedback from this engagement was varied and there was no clear mandate for change, nor a strong determination to retain existing arrangements.

It is not proposed to undertake any further community engagement on the topic. It is proposed that a comprehensive communications plan will be developed to assist in the implementation of the Council decision.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

This report is consistent with the direction of the endorsed Strathbogie Community Vision within the adopted Council Plan 2021-25 '*We care deeply for Country and First Nations people*' and '*We are bold*' and the inclusivity objectives within.

Strategic focus area 4: Inclusive. Productive. Balanced

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

This matter considers a range of state plans, including the Aboriginal Local Government Strategy 2021- provides a platform for facilitating, supporting, and implementing Victoria's self-determination policy reforms. In addition, the Strategy values and emphasises shared roles and responsibilities, and the need for partnerships between local government and First nations Victorians based on sharing, listening, care, trust, truth-telling, and understanding.

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The Local Government Act 2020 has, as its core, the aim of ensuring all Victorians have the opportunity to engage with their council on local priorities and the future of their community.

There is no statutory or legal requirement for Councils to hold ancillary Australia Day celebrations on January 26.

- Local Government Act 2020 – outlines Council's responsibility to deliver a range of essential programs and services that are accessible, equitable and meet the needs of the Strathbogie community.
- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 - as a Council, we have a legislative responsibility to ensure everyone's health and wellbeing
- Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 - including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural rights.
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 - aims to recognise, protect and conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria, in ways that are based on respect for Aboriginal knowledge and cultural and traditional practices.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report supports public transparency as it shares the process by which the topic has been considered and the decision is being made.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

An amount of \$700 per Australia Day Committee is allowed for in the draft 2023/24 budget, total of \$4,200. In addition, there is an allocation of \$3,000 for National Volunteer Week.

Should this recommendation be supported, it is proposed that the Share Strathbogie Community Panel determine how Council should best recognise (annually) those in our community making outstanding contributions, utilising a combination of existing budget allocations for Australia Day Committees (\$4,200) and \$3,000 for National Volunteer Week, totalling \$7,200.

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

All costs associated with enacting the Community Panel will be covered utilising existing resources, as the discussion will be undertaken by Council Officers and is not a deliberative engagement process. There would be no stipend payable to community panel members for this engagement.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Social

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Taungurung people and Strathbogie Shire Council was officially signed and adopted in 2021.

The MoU with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) will ensure compliance with the following legislation, reducing Council's risk exposure and most importantly strengthening the relationship with first nation peoples, and the Traditional Owners of Taungurung Country:

- Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)
- Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (State)
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (State)

In addition, the MoU recognises Australia's (and therefore Council's) obligations arising out of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the spirit of reconciliation and partnership, the MoU will build practical and mutually respectful and beneficial connections between Council and the TLaWC.

COLLABORATION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

The officer recommendation is consistent with the Council's commitment to the Taungurung Land and Waters Council Memorandum of Understanding.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed recommendations in this report are consistent with Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 most notably in the areas of recognition, equality and cultural rights, as per sections 18 and 19.

Section 18 Taking part in public life

- (1) Every person in Victoria has the right, and is to have the opportunity, without discrimination, to participate in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- (2) Every eligible person has the right, and is to have the opportunity, without discrimination—
 - a. to vote and be elected at periodic State and municipal elections that guarantee the free expression of the will of the electors; and
 - b. to have access, on general terms of equality, to the Victorian public service and public office.

11.2.4 Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26 – 2024 and Beyond (cont.)

Section 19 Cultural rights

- (1) All persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background must not be denied the right, in community with other persons of that background, to enjoy his or her culture, to declare and practise his or her religion and to use his or her language.
- (2) Aboriginal persons hold distinct cultural rights and must not be denied the right, with other members of their community—
 - a. to enjoy their identity and culture; and
 - b. to maintain and use their language; and
 - c. to maintain their kinship ties; and
 - d. to maintain their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land and waters and other resources with which they have a connection under traditional laws and customs.

CONCLUSION

A direction for 2024 onwards now needs to be determined to provide clear direction to our community and the local Australia Day Committees. Officers propose that Council no longer formally supports celebrations on January 26, from 2024.

This option does not exclude Australia Day Committees from continuing to host (which includes but not limited to: planning, promotion and delivery) of township celebrations including award celebrations including award celebrations on January 26.

In addition, this option looks to empower the Share Strathbogie Community Panel to determine how council can be recognise volunteers in our community who make outstanding contributions within the existing resource allocation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Taungurung Statement on January 26

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role

Author: Manager Community Safety

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For many years, Strathbogie Shire Council has been appointed as waterway manager under the *Marine Act 1988* for the following waterway:

- Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie.

Safe Transport Victoria (now incorporating Maritime Safety Victoria) is the organisation responsible for appointing Waterway Managers and safety on waterways in Victoria. It is understood that Strathbogie Shire Council was first gazetted in the late 1980's, with Council being re-gazetted in June 2012. The appointment continues until such time as the gazetted waterways manager advises Safe Transport Victoria (STV) that it no longer wishes to perform this role.

Council employs a third-party contractor to undertake patrols of the waterways. The patrolling is undertaken in addition to any patrols conducted by STV directly, Fisheries or Victoria Police. Whilst Council can also elect to exercise enforcement powers through the deployment of Transport Safety Officers authorised by the Safety Director, changes to the legislation have meant that Council (as the Waterway Manager) does not receive any financial income from any infringement notice that is given. Any revenue generated goes directly to the relevant State Government department.

STV also has some oversight for waterways in Victoria that do not have a waterway manager and where special rules have not been introduced to regulate vessel activity.

Over the years, the costs to deliver the waterways management function has continued to grow. Waterway Managers do not receive any income from the State Government for performing the role. The financial burden on ratepayers is becoming increasingly expensive to deliver this service (patrol contract and on water related remedial works is approx. \$100k, plus administration, event application management liaison, navigation aids, etc). It is estimated that the total cost of providing the function is approximately \$150 - \$200k annually taking into consideration officer time, on water activities (signage/navigation aids), administration of the Advisory Committee, advertising/communications with no ability to generate income.

This means approximately \$150 - \$200k of ratepayers' money is used each year to deliver a service that is not a Council responsibility.

While we understand water safety is essential to our community, we believe the cost of this service should be paid for by the responsible authority.

Should Council exit from delivering the waterway management function, the waterway would continue to be regulated by the relevant authorities (STV, Victoria Police, Fisheries) and managed by directly by STV.

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. ***Authorise officers to notify 4site, current provider of the Provision of Boating Safety Operations (contract number 20/21-22), that the contract will cease as proposed on the 30 September 2023, with no option for extension to be applied.***
2. ***Authorise officers to write to Safe Transport Victoria (and relevant State Government Ministers and local members of Parliament) seeking annual and ongoing financial support to fully fund the cost of undertaking the Waterways Management role and notify relevant stakeholders and community of this advocacy ask.***
3. ***If full funding is not achieved by 31 August 2023, receive a report in the September 2023 Council meeting cycle to either withdraw the service effective 1 October 2023 or consider options to remain as a Waterways Manager which would require the allocation of funding to investigate and identify a sustainable model, including but not limited to, recouping/offsetting service costs.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to demonstrate the challenges faced with undertaking the role as waterways manager and also seek Council endorsement to seek full funding from Safe Transport Victoria for this service and, if unsuccessful, to consider withdrawing from providing the service effective 1 October 2023.

Strathbogie Shire Council have been appointed as waterway manager under the Marine Act 1988 for the following waterway:

- The Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie.

Safe Transport Victoria (now incorporating Maritime Safety Victoria) are the organisation responsible for appointing Waterway Managers and safety on waterways in Victoria. It is understood that Strathbogie Shire Council was first gazetted in the late 1980's, with Council being re-gazetted in June 2012. The appointment continues until such time as the gazetted waterways manager advises Safe Transport Victoria (STV) that it no longer wishes to perform this role.

Essentially, the role of waterway managers is to:

- Manage vessel activities on waters under their control,
- Allocate and manage moorings and berths,
- Provide and maintain navigation aids, appropriate signage of water levels, hazards, and rules applying to the waters,
- Control navigation and vessel movement,
- Designate areas in which anchorage of vessels is, or is not, permitted,
- Alter or dredge channels for navigation, and
- Remove or mark obstructions.

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

Waterway managers also support community groups and clubs to complete the relevant event approval forms for activities that occur on the waterway such as: Rowing, Ski Club events, Festivals, sailing etc.

Should Council determine to withdraw from providing the waterways management role, Council would still remain responsible for relevant infrastructure such as boat ramps that are in their ownership or responsibility. These include Loddings Lane boat ramp and the two boat ramps at the Regatta Centre.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

As a Waterway Manager, Strathbogie Council undertakes this role in a voluntary capacity. With no financial support for the management function provided by the State Government to perform this role, Strathbogie ratepayers fund this function through rates. There is currently no opportunity to generate any income from this activity.

From time-to-time Strathbogie Shire Council has received grant funding from Better Boating Victoria for a number of infrastructure upgrades (including but not limited to):

- Boating ramps
- Navigation aids
- Signage.

Over the years, the financial contribution towards the management of the waterways has continued to increase. Council approximately contributes between \$150,000-\$200,000 (increasing annually) to undertake the management of the waterway. This includes the functions of:

- Enforcement Contract,
- Staff time assisting with event permit applications,
- Governance,
- Advisory Committee Management,
- Relevant administration and publishing public notices in the paper (where it is Council's responsibility), and
- Updating of communication channels.

The ongoing challenging fiscal environment that the State Government is imposing on Local Governments with the introduction of the Rate Cap, it is making Council's role extremely challenging to deliver core services to our community. The delivery of the Waterways Management function is not considered a core service typically delivered by local government rather, it is a discretionary service, one that could equally be delivered by State Government.

In light of the current fiscal constraints, it is timely that Council considers options for the delivery of this service. There are four options for consideration that are summarised below.

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

Regardless of which option is to be implemented, Officers recommend that we notify 4Site who provide the current boating patrol service that the contract will cease as proposed on the 30 September 2023, with no option for extension to be applied. The purpose of this contract (Provision of Boating Safety Operations) is to patrol the lake and river during the boating season which generally runs between October and April. The contractor is responsible for providing all personnel, equipment, such as vehicle, boat, technology, uniform etc as part of the service.

Option 1	Summary of considerations
Council to maintain its role as Waterways Manager	<p>If Council were to continue this role, it would likely require additional council allocation as the expectation for service is much higher than what is currently delivered. This option would require Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake a competitive tender process to engage a provider to deliver the enforcement of the waterways (Goulburn River, Hughes Creek to the Goulburn Weir), for a period of 1 year, effective 1 October 2023 (with the option of a performance based 1 x 1 year extension) • Undertake a review of Council's role as the Waterways Manager (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie), approving additional resources in the 2023/24 budget to undertake this review. The review would include the following (but not limited to): • Alternate sources of income to offset Council expenditure • Service levels and required resource allocations • Review the role of the Waterways Advisory Committee going forward in accordance with the current Local Government Act 2020 • Other models for management • Request Maritime Safety Victoria and other relevant enforcement bodies, to patrol this waterway more frequently (particularly on peak weekends) • Write to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation to request ongoing financial assistance to enable Waterways Managers to undertake the function. • Retain local management.
<p>Officer recommendation: Officers do not recommend this option given that it is not a core service for local government and the ongoing (and escalating) financial implications for managing this service.</p>	

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

Option 2	Summary of considerations
Council to exit the service effective 30 September 2023	<p>This option considers the challenges faced by Council as the Waterways Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial burden on ratepayers - over the years, it is becoming increasingly expensive to deliver this service (patrol contract and on water related remedial works is approx. \$100k, plus administration, event application management liaison, navigation aids etc). It is estimated that the total cost of providing the function is approximately \$150 - \$200k taking into consideration officer time, on water activities (signage/navigation aids), administration of the Advisory Committee, advertising/communications. • There is no appetite from the State Government to provide a financial payment to Waterway Managers to cover the cost of performing the role (despite twenty years of advocacy from STV personnel) • An inability to generate any revenue (including through infringements, any revenue goes directly to the State Government) • The large body of water makes it difficult to monitor and deter undesirable behaviour. • The increasing expectation from water uses and key stakeholders to “do more” in relation to compliance and managing conflicting uses on the water body (with no additional resources) • There is no legislative requirement for Council or STV to deliver a compliance program on the waterways, nor is there any legislative requirement to employ a waterways manager on the lake and/or river.
<p>Officer Recommendation: Officers do not recommend as the preferred option and propose the two step process as detailed in Option 4. This recommendation recognises the continuing financial burden on ratepayers, due to the inability to gain financial support from the state government to undertake the role (and the inability to generate any income). In addition, the expectation to continue to “do more” within the limited existing resources impacts other key core services that council is required to deliver.</p>	

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

Option 3	Summary of considerations
<p>Council to continue to perform the role of Waterways Manager for Lake Nagambie only</p>	<p>This option considers that Council continues the role as Waterways Manager for Lake Nagambie only, relinquishing the role to manage the River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir.</p> <p>Considerations for this option include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge that this area of water has the highest conflicting usage (number of water uses/sports and events) • Financial burden to Council and rate payers continues, however expected to be at a similar level that is currently experienced as resources are concentrated to a smaller/condensed area. • Council could test the preparedness of GMW to contribute funding to the on-water management. • A tender process would need to occur to engage a third-party contractor to undertake enforcement (or direct employment of officers), incorporating a schedule of dates that the enforcement is to take place. • Request STV and other relevant enforcement bodies, to patrol this waterway more frequently (particularly on peak weekends) • Write to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation to request ongoing financial assistance to enable Waterways Managers to undertake the function. • Review the role of the Waterways Advisory Committee going forward in accordance with the current Local Government Act 2020 • Should this option be supported, advise STV of Council's decision and the relevant minister approval and government gazettal process would need to occur (relinquishing waterways management of the Goulburn River) • Supports comments from the Advisory Committee regarding the need for Council and/or local management.
<p>Officer Recommendation:</p> <p>Whilst this option would manage the area of water with the highest conflicting uses and on water events, officers do not recommend this as the financial implications remain and waterways management is not a core function for council. This would provide a hybrid model for the waterways management function.</p>	

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

Option 4	Summary of considerations
<p>Two-step process: Council to request full funding from Safe Transport Victoria to undertake the role as waterways manager. If funding is not secured, Council to consider exiting the service effective 1 October 2023.</p>	<p>This option seeks financial support from Safe Transport Victoria to perform the waterway manager role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option raises the financial effects on managing the waterways (both cash and staff resources) • Advocate to government to take on their responsibility to fully fund the service and not ask Strathbogie Shire Council ratepayers to fund a function outside of local government responsibilities. • A commitment to annual and ongoing funding (fully indexed) by the state government is required. • If a full funding commitment is not secured by 30 July 2023, then Council to consider exiting the service effective 1 October 2023.
<p>Officer Recommendation:</p> <p>Officers recommend this option as it highlights the need for financial support to perform the waterways management function. It provides transparency to our community and stakeholders regarding council's serious concern that ratepayers are covering all of the costs associated with the waterways management function, when council delivers this role on behalf of the state government. This option also enables Council to engage with our community to join our advocacy to seek full funding.</p> <p>It allows the state government to respond, before Council considers a further report in September 2023.</p>	

Should council exit from delivering the waterway management function, it is important to highlight that the waterway would continue to be regulated by the relevant authorities (STV, Victoria Police, Fisheries) and managed by STV. STV have advised that they have no obligation to source another organisation to be the waterway manager and would manage the waterway as they see fit.

STV would possibly consider a Committee of Management (incorporated body), to manage the waterway. However, have advised that there would be no financial support for this function.

Water closures / water exclusion zones for on water events still require approval by STV with event applicants applying directly to STV instead of Council.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Individual discussions have now been undertaken with key stakeholders including Safe Transport Victoria, Goulburn-Murray Water and the Waterways Advisory Committee.

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

The Waterways Advisory Committee recommended that Council remain in the role as Waterways Manager, with concerns expressed regarding impacts to service and safety, and the health or commercial viability of the waterways which would result in a negative impact on tourism and the local economy if not managed by Council.

The Committee also recommended that if Council were to continue as waterways manager, that Council should seek assistance from other parties, such as commercial or tourism operators, to gain access to funds to assist in the ongoing costs of the management of the waterways so that the costs of the service were neutral to Council. Furthermore, the Committee recommended Council to consider opportunities for commercial operators to contribute to the cost of the service by better utilising the Nagambie foreshore and peninsula for commercial purposes.

In addition to the above, the Committee suggested ideas to recoup the management cost, which included:

- GMWs appetite to allocate funding to management function (linked to the lake bowl which they regulate)
- Investigate other funding opportunities, e.g. fisheries
- Council to purchase boat and use combination of officers and volunteers to drive patrol boat with Vic Pol for enforcement purposes
- Work with State authorities to patrol on key weekends and holiday periods - November to April being key periods.

It was also recommended by the Committee that Council consult with all other stakeholders who use the waterways, including Goulburn-Murray Water, Goulburn Valley Water and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority before any decision with regard to the ongoing management of the waterways is made.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The Council Plan 2021-2025 outlines in objective 5.1.3 *Implement the outcomes of the Lake Nagambie and Goulburn River waterway zoning review to maximise opportunities for safe water-based activities*. This action is identified in year 2021/22. The Waterway Zoning Review is pending consideration and approval from Maritime Safety Victoria. It is likely the outcome of this review will be known in September/October 2023.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

There is no legislative requirement for Council or Maritime Safety to deliver a compliance program on the waterways, nor is there any legislative requirement to employ a waterways manager on the lake and/or river.

Waterway managers fulfil their responsibilities under the Act primarily by:

- managing key infrastructure such as moorings, berths, channels, navigation aids and safety signage in accordance with standards set by the Safety Director, and
- making and assuring compliance with safety rules such as vessel exclusion zones and speed limits in waters under their control.
- Waterway managers can also elect to exercise enforcement powers through the deployment of TSOs authorised by the Safety Director.

Safe Transport Victoria have advised that the process to resign Council's role as waterways manager is to:

- Formally notify Maritime Safety in writing,
- STV will provide a brief for the Minister, and that
- Once approved, a Gazettal will occur to relinquish the role (the actual gazettal process roughly takes two weeks).

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

The matter is to be presented at a Council meeting which is open to the public to attend and to view.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Council receives no income or annual contribution from Maritime Safety Victoria to perform the function of Waterways Manager.

Council employs a third-party contractor to patrol the waterways with 4Site Australia Pty Ltd for 3 years plus an option for a further 1 x 1 year extension. The first 3-year contract period expires on 30 September 2023. Changes to the legislation have meant that Council (as the Waterway Manager) does not receive any financial income from any infringement notice that is given. Any revenue goes directly to the relevant State Government department and paid as consolidated revenue.

11.2.5 Waterways Management (Goulburn River from Hughes Creek to Goulburn Weir including Lake Nagambie) - Funding Advocacy to inform Council's Role (cont.)

The financial burden on ratepayers - over the years, it is becoming increasingly expensive to deliver this service. It is estimated that the total cost of providing the function is approximately \$150 - \$200k taking into consideration contractor costs, officer time, on water activities (signage/navigation aids), administration of the Advisory Committee, advertising/communications with no ability to generate income. It is important to note that Council performs this function to a minimal level and should it continue, expectation from community and the waterways advisory committee is for an increase in service level particularly in relation to patrolling and enforcement.

Council delivers the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre Maintenance On land and On water Contract (CN22/23-18). A small portion of this contract is allocated to the waterway management function and any additional works undertaken outside of the scope of the contract are subject to a schedule of rates and approval. The cost is estimated at \$20,000 per annum.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The waterways within our municipality enhance the visitor economy to our region. Particularly the waterways in Nagambie, Mitchelstown, Tabilk and Kirwans Bridge offer a variety of on water activities including water-skiing, fishing and rowing that make Nagambie lakes a popular tourist destination.

Social

On water activities provide an opportunity for people to come together to participate in a shared interest.

Environmental

There are no negative environmental impacts associated with this report.

Climate change

There are no negative environmental impacts associated with this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

Given the ongoing challenging fiscal environment that the State Government is imposing on Local Governments with the introduction of the Rate Cap, and it is timely that Council considers its role in the delivery of this non-core service.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.2.6 Community Art Project – Pitch My Project

Author: Manager Community and Culture

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strathbogie Shire Council adopted a Public Art Policy in September 2022. The policy provides a clear and transparent process for assessing and making decisions about the design, placement, and preservation of art in public spaces in Strathbogie Shire.

The new policy followed significant calls from the community for more public art.

After the adoption of the policy, we sought community comment to understand preferences for the type and location of public art in our townships.

Overall, the feedback was positive. Make public art happen!

Specifically, there was significant support for bird sculptures but, we were also told to mix it up, surprise us – embrace our region, embrace Taungurung storytelling through art and pay tribute to our history and identity.

A \$20,000 commitment from Council was made in the 2022/23 Budget through a successful Pitch My Project initiative for a piece of public art in the form of a sculpture to be located in Euroa.

An Expression of Interest process was undertaken in March calling for artists to submit a concept for this project. Council Officers shortlisted the concepts that were in line with Council's Public Art Policy. Council asked the community to make the final decision from the five shortlisted concepts. Voting was open for a two-week period and closed on the 4 May 2023. Following the public voting process the sculpture of an Australian Magpie received the most votes. The Engagement Report attached to this report (Attachment 1) details the outcome of the voting process.

In line with the policy and procedure, Officers will now work with the successful artists to see this project through to fruition by 30 June 2023. The Magpie will be located in Seven Creeks Parkland area in Euroa.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the progress of the Public Art Project and acknowledge that following a community vote an Australian Magpie will be installed in Seven Creeks Parkland, Euroa; and***
- 2. Authorise officers to commission 'Tank and Tobin' to create and install the bird sculpture in the Seven Creeks Parkland using the \$20,000 funding allocated in the 2022/23 Council budget for this purpose.***

11.2.6 Community Art Project – Pitch My Project (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council adopted a Public Art Policy at its September 2022 Council Meeting. The policy provides a clear and transparent process for assessing and making decisions about the design, placement, and preservation of art in public spaces in Strathbogie Shire.

The new policy followed significant calls came from the community for more public art.

The need for a policy followed a 2022/23 Budget allocation of \$20,000 through the Pitch My Project initiative for public art in Euroa. After the adoption of the policy, community engagement was conducted to understand preferences for the type and location of public art across the municipality broadly.

There was significant support for bird sculptures but, we were also told to mix it up, surprise us – embrace our region, embrace Taungurung storytelling through art and pay tribute to our history and identity.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

In line with our policy and procedure, an Expression of Interest process was undertaken in March calling for artists to submit a concept for this project based on the above broad remit, and specific to the location of Euroa, at the Seven Creeks Parkland area. Eight concepts (applications) were received, and a consultative panel of 5 Council Officers reviewed them against the below criteria outlined in the Policy:

- 1) Evidence of high quality, contemporary arts practice. The artist or artists have experience and skills to deliver strong public art outcomes.
- 2) Suitability of the work to the site. The public art piece or proposal considers existing/planned urban design, public safety and risk implications, public use, environmental and physical impact.
- 3) Relevance of the work to local stories, themes or issues. The public art piece is relevant to residents and/or includes plans for community engagement.
- 4) Expected durability and required maintenance of the work (i.e. whole of life costings).
- 5) Adequate budget and resources to deliver proposed work.
- 6) Consistency with Council's current planning, heritage, environmental and social policies.

Council Officers shortlisted the applications and in line with Council's Policy. Council then asked the community to make the final decision from the five shortlisted concepts.

11.2.6 Community Art Project – Pitch My Project (cont.)

The five shortlisted concepts were:

- An Australian Magpie
- A mosaic and cement Kookaburra
- 3 small metal birds
- Two metal panels laser cut with two Australian native bird silhouettes
- A large metal Squirrel Glider.

Voting was open for a two-week period and closed on the 4 May 2023. Following the public voting process the sculpture of the Australian Magpie received the most votes. The Engagement Report (attachment 1) details the results from the voting process.

The community voting results in order of preference are:

- Australian Magpie
- Metal Panels
- Three birds
- Kookaburra
- Squirrel Glider.

The sculpture of the Australian magpie will be made from 1.6mm steel. The sculpture will be 2.7m in height. The sculpture will be painted in two pack paint and finished with an anti-graffiti coating.

The sculpture will be placed in the Seven Creeks Parkland, in a prominent position. This will be determined in consultation with Council's Operations area and the Friends of the Seven Creeks Group.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

When it was time for the community to vote on their preferred artwork for Euroa, we used the fund it tool on Council's online engagement platform:
www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au.

This process was not without its issues. Officers had to restart the process to require people to register to cast their vote to ensure transparency in the voting process. Even with this requirement we continued to see multiple votes from a single IP address and have therefore also presented the results as they can in, and as a single IP address.

Council's goal through this process is to ensure community input into the decision making. This helps Council and officers to implement public art that is supported and welcomed by our community.

Our community was informed through clear, consistent, and honest communication using all our communication channels to encourage key stakeholders, community groups and individuals to have their say.

11.2.6 Community Art Project – Pitch My Project (cont.)

We used media releases, social media posts, website content, and information in our weekly newspaper advert to share the information as broadly as possible.

Depth: Collaborate

Public participation goal: To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Promise to the public: We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

Council officers believe appropriate engagement has been undertaken and that this matter is ready to be presented to Council for noting. This project in particular enables the community to determine which public art concept will be placed at the Seven Creeks Parkland, Euroa.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Section 4.1.1 of the 2021-2025 Council Plan, Strategic Focus Area 1. Engage. Create. Unite, our community's goals, we are inspired by our creatives and celebrate art and culture, our strategies to achieve these goals: we support a vibrant arts and culture scene through a clear framework enabling the community to lead its ongoing diversity and growth.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

This report is consistent with Council's Public Art Policy, that was developed following benchmarking of other local government public art policies and in line with other relevant council policies.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

There are no legal issues to be considered in this matter.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

The subject of this report is to be considered in an open Council meeting which the public may attend.

11.2.6 Community Art Project – Pitch My Project (cont.)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

An allocation of \$20,000 has been allocated in the adopted 2022/23 Council Budget in response to a community Pitch My Project submission.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

This public art project presents an opportunity for an artist to showcase their artwork within a budget of \$20,000.

Social

The installation of public art within Seven Creeks in Euroa provides an opportunity for people to come together to view the sculpture and engage in conversations regarding township identity. Public art can form an integral part of the public domain enhancing people's experiences of, and encouraging greater interaction with, public spaces. Public art is the unique association of how it is made, where it is, and what it means. Public art can express community values, enhance our environment, transform a landscape, heighten our awareness, or question our assumptions. Placed in public sites, this art is there for everyone, a form of collective community expression.

Environmental

The design will utilise some recyclable materials. The design of the magpie removes all sharp edges, catch points and finger entrapment issues. Open gaps between feathers allows airflow helping to disperse any heat.

Climate change

All care will be taken during installation to ensure minimal disturbance on the natural environment.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report does not limit any human rights under the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and encourages participation in civic life by our community.

CONCLUSION

There is strong community support for public art across Strathbogie Shire.

A \$20,000 commitment from Council was made in the 2022/23 Budget through a successful Pitch My Project initiative for a piece of public art in the form of a sculpture to be located in Euroa.

11.2.6 Community Art Project – Pitch My Project (cont.)

An Expression of Interest process was undertaken in March calling for artists to submit an concept for this project. Council Officers shortlisted the concepts and in line with Council's Policy. Council asked the community to make the final decision from the five shortlisted concepts. Voting was open for a two-week period and closed on the 4 May 2023. Following the public voting process the sculpture of the Australian Magpie received the most votes.

In line with the policy and procedure, Officers will now work with the successful artists to see this project through to fruition by 30 June 2023. The Magpie will be located in Seven Creeks Parkland area in Euroa.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Public Art Engagement Report

11.2.7 Rural Australians For Refugees - Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Afghan Community Sponsorship Proposal

Author and Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR)-Strathbogie Shire is currently represented on a regional RAR body – Indi Supports Refugees. Currently, local RAR groups and Indi Supports Refugees are collaboratively supporting an Indi-wide project to sponsor skilled Afghan refugees with humanitarian visas to settle in northeast Victoria. This project is titled the Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Afghan Community Sponsorship Proposal.

Strathbogie Shire Council has received a request from our local RAR-Strathbogie Shire to support the proposal for a Community Sponsorship Program for Afghan Refugees.

RAR-Strathbogie Shire are requesting a letter of support from Strathbogie Shire Council so that RAR can progress a request to the Federal Government, via the Federal Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines and Bruce MP Julian Hill, to establish a Community Sponsorship program which supports refugees coming to Shepparton and North East Victoria. Letters of support are being requested from other local government authorities within this catchment area.

In principle commitment to welcome refugees into the Strathbogie shire community is sought, and should the proposal be successful council may be asked to link RAR to services and employers in the shire so they in turn can facilitate appropriate support. By its endorsement, the Strathbogie Shire Council will strengthen the proposal in its presentation to government. RAR is not seeking any financial assistance from council.

In line with Council declaration to be a Refugee Welcome Zone in 2017, it is recommended that council provide a letter of support to RAR for the Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Community Sponsorship Program.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorise officers to provide a letter of support signed by the Mayor to Rural Australians for Refugees for the Community Sponsorship Program for Afghan Refugees proposal.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

In 2017, Strathbogie Shire became a Refugee Welcome Zone. A Refugee Welcome Zone is a Local Government Area which has made a commitment in spirit to:

- Welcoming refugees into the community
- Upholding the human rights of refugees
- Demonstrating compassion for refugees, and
- Enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the community.

11.2.7 Rural Australians For Refugees - Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Afghan Community Sponsorship Proposal (cont.)

Rural Australians for Refugees 'Indi Supports Refugees' comprises ten RAR groups across the region who have come together to advocate for the community sponsorship of Afghans; recognising the strong relationships with Afghans already living in the region and the extreme danger the Afghan people face since the Australian Defence Force exited from Afghanistan in August 2021.

A proposal is intended to be submitted to the Federal Government to establish a sponsorship program for Afghan refugees in the northeast region of Victoria including Strathbogie Shire.

The Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Afghan Community Sponsorship proposal consists of the following:

The Federal Government would provide:

1. Visas and the cost of medical and biometric checks.
2. The cost of airfares to Australia.
3. Centrelink (if required) and Medicare benefits.
4. Access to education and English language courses on arrival.

RAR-Strathbogie Shire, sponsors and community groups will:

1. Meet and assist sponsees at the airport.
2. Find accommodation and employment.
3. Ensure training is provided for work/employment.
4. Familiarise and settle sponsees.
5. Provide pro bono legal support (if required).
6. Provide support for at least 12 months to enable sponsees to become active community members.

The rationale behind the Afghan focus of the proposal is the strong belief that the Australian government has a moral responsibility to assist Afghans who are being targeted by the Taliban due their past association with Australian armed forces. These individuals and their families currently face extreme danger.

With the help of RAR prospective refugees would be provided the opportunity for safe refuge in northeast Victoria where they would be supported to live, develop connections, and positively contribute to community life.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Strathbogie Shire as a Welcome Refugee Zone, has made a commitment in spirit to:

- Welcoming refugees into the community
- Upholding the human rights of refugees
- Demonstrating compassion for refugees, and
- Enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the community.

11.2.7 Rural Australians For Refugees - Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Afghan Community Sponsorship Proposal (cont.)

Demonstrating Council's support to the Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Afghan Community Sponsorship Proposal is an opportunity to stand by this commitment. In addition, Council has a long-standing relationship with Rural Australian Refugees (RAR), who are an informal network of regional and rural groups supporting and advocating for refugees and people seeking asylum.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Council Officers have not engaged widely on the matter. This request has come directly from Strathbogie Shire's Rural Australian for Refugees Committee and this request supports Council's declaration to be a Refugee Welcome Zone.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Section 4.1.1 of the 2021-2025 Council Plan, Strategic Focus Area 1. Engage. Create. Unite. Strategy – we create welcoming social and creative spaces where people can connect.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

RAR are seeking support from Council so that RAR can progress a request to the Federal Government, via the Federal Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines and Bruce MP Julian Hill, to establish a Community Sponsorship Program which supports refugees coming to Shepparton and North East Victoria.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

Relevant law includes:

- Migration Act 1958
- International Covenant on Civic and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Convention against Torture
- Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

11.2.7 Rural Australians For Refugees - Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Afghan Community Sponsorship Proposal (cont.)

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

The subject of this report is to be considered in an open Council meeting which the public may attend.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

There is no financial commitment to Council associated with this report.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The Community Sponsorship Program offers the opportunity to bring Afghan refugees into our community with structured support and employment.

Social

The rationale behind the Afghan focus of the proposal is the strong belief that the Australian government has a moral responsibility to assist Afghans who are being targeted by the Taliban due their past association with Australian armed forces. These individuals and their families currently face extreme danger.

Environmental

There are no negative environmental impacts in relation to this report.

Climate change

There are no negative climate change impacts in relation to this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report does not limit any human rights under the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and encourages participation in civic life by our community.

CONCLUSION

RAR-Strathbogie Shire are requesting a letter of support from Strathbogie Shire Council so that RAR can progress a request to the Federal Government, via the Federal Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines MP and Bruce Julian Hill MP, to establish a Community Sponsorship program which supports refugees coming to Shepparton and Northeast Victoria. Letters of support are being requested from other local government authorities within this catchment area.

11.2.7 Rural Australians For Refugees - Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Afghan Community Sponsorship Proposal (cont.)

In line with Council declaration to be a Refugee Welcome Zone in 2017, it is recommended that council provide a letter of support to RAR for the Shepparton and Northeast Victoria Community Sponsorship Program, to strengthen the proposal in its presentation to government.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Letter of Support - Rural Australian for Refugees Community Sponsorship Program for Afghan Refugees

11.3 INFRASTRUCTURE

11.3.1 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation

Author: Procurement and Tenders Officer

Responsible Directors: Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of the status of request for the publicly advertised tenders, invitations for written quotations and quotations provided using collaborative and/or third party contracts which have been awarded under delegation for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023. This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's approved 2022/23 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the:

- 1. Contracts awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer;***
- 2. Contracts and works awarded under delegated authority by a Director; and***
- 3. Works awarded under delegated authority by a Manager.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

In line with Council's approach to transparency and good governance, the Contracts and Works Awarded under Delegation report will be tabled for information purposes at each Council Meeting.

The report details any contracts and works that have been awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer, a Director, or a Manager within their approved financial threshold. This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's approved 2022/23 budget.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Any contract awarded under delegation is undertaken in line with Council's Procurement Policy. Through the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer* the Council has delegated authority to the following:

- Chief Executive Officer – award a contract up to the value of \$150,000 for Goods and Services and \$200,000 for Works
- A Director – award a contract up to the value of \$50,000 for Goods and Services and \$50,00 for Works
- A Manager – award a contract up to the value of \$15,000 for Goods and Services and \$15,000 for Works.

11.3.1 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation (cont.)**Contracts Awarded Under Delegated Authority by Chief Executive Officer**
Nil**Contracts Awarded Under Delegated Authority by Director/s**

Contract No.	CN 22/23-24
Contract Name	<i>Active & Connected: Cycling and Walking Strategy</i>
Contract Details	Tender Release 27 January 2023, closed 1 March 2023.
Value Including GST	\$49,588.00
Awarded to	The Trustee for Fishman Family Trust T/A Institute for Sensible Transport. Funded by Council for the development of a cycling and walking strategy that will help council direct new infrastructure and maintenance of existing routes throughout the LGA.
Scheduled Commencement	19 April 2023
Scheduled Completion Date	19 January 2024

Contract No.	CN 22/23-38
Contract Name	<i>Flood Damage Rectification Bridge Repairs – Package 2</i>
Contract Details	Tender Release 27 January 2023, closed 22 February 2023.
Value Including GST	\$132,099.00
Awarded to	Waratah Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd. Funding approved (under NDFA \$2.17M) for the flood damage rectification bridge repairs (package 2)
Scheduled Commencement	26 th April 2023
Scheduled Completion Date	7 th June 2023

Contracts Awarded Under Delegated Authority by Manager/s
Nil**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

11.3.1 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation (cont.)

Consultation

Where required, external stakeholders have been engaged, providing input on relevant projects.

Community Implications

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

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All offices, and/or contracts involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report demonstrates that Council is being transparent by providing information to the community regarding the awarding of any works projects.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

The contracts awarded under delegation are projects that have formed part of Council's adopted 2022/23 budget.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

Works awarded under delegation provide an opportunity to generate great economic benefit using local contractors and the purchasing of materials and supplies. In addition, the enhancement of infrastructure continues to make our municipality a place of destination, one where people choose to live, work and play.

Social

Each project includes several social benefits to our community. Some of these benefits include infrastructure that encourages health and wellbeing activities and amenity improvements.

Environmental

The works will be undertaken in line with an approved scope of works and ensure that the site is made good upon completion of the works.

11.3.1 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation (cont.)

Climate Change

The recommendation has no significant implications on Climate Change and on the general environment.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report considers that the recommendations do not limit any Human Rights under the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

CONCLUSION

It is important that decisions and actions taken under delegation be properly documented and transparent in nature.

The report details the publicly advertised tenders, invitations for written quotations and quotations provided using collaborative and/or third party contracts which have been awarded by the Chief Executive Officer, Directors and Managers under delegated authority of the Council during the period 1 April to 30 April 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.4 CORPORATE

11.4.1 Finance Report to 31 March 2023

Author: Chief Financial Officer

Responsible Director: Director People & Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The March Financial Report compares the year-to-date mid-year adopted budget to the actual financial position of March 2023.

The report contains the Operational Performance, Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and capital performance and other financial data in graphical format.

The current year operating surplus for the nine months period ending 31 March was \$6,673,287.

As at 31 March 2023, the total expenditure on capital works was \$8,136,338, which excludes committed expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Financial Report and Financial Statements for the nine months ending 31 March 2023.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The 2022/23 Budget was prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and was formally adopted at ordinary Council meeting held on 21st June 2022. A Mid-year budget was adopted at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 28 February 2023.

Council considers and notes monthly Financial Reports in accordance with the Act. Under Section 97, Council must establish and maintain a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound financial management. This report satisfies those requirements.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Explanations for significant budget variances are below and also provided in financial performance overview section.

11.4.1 Finance Report to 31 March 2023 (cont.)

Income Variations

- 1. Rates and charges variance of \$56,598 (favourable)** - Increase in rates and charges income is due to supplementary rate notices issued.
- 2. Statutory fees and fines variance of \$49,453 (favourable)** - Increase in Statutory fees and fines is due to increased income from subdivision fees and part receipts of animal registration fee income which was budgeted to receive in April 2023.
- 3. User fees variance \$38,818 (unfavourable)** - Decrease in user fees is mainly due to decreased saleyard fees income and Regatta centre event income.
- 4. Grants operating variance \$1,146,885 (unfavourable)** - Decrease in operating grant income is mainly due to timing of receipt of Victorian Grants Commission Financial Assistant grant \$1,380k. This offset by receipt of Nagambie growth plan grant \$100k and wellness centre business case grant \$50k and cool canopies grant \$42k.
- 5. Grants capital variance \$1,242,448 (unfavourable)** - Decrease in capital grant is mainly due roads to recovery grant not yet received \$1,439k. This partly offset by receipt of Nagambie Recreation Reserve lighting projects grant (\$225k).
- 6. Contributions monetary variance \$117,075 (unfavourable)** - Decrease in monetary contribution is due to less than budgeted public open space developer contributions received.
- 7. Net gain (or loss) on disposal of PPE & infrastructure variance \$185,583 (favourable)** - A disposal gains are recorded due to a smaller number of assets disposed of during first 6 months of the year and better price received on sales.
- 8. Other income variance \$111,032 (favourable)** - Increase in other income is mainly due to increased interest income on investments and other interest collected (\$63k) and more than budgeted income projection recovery.

Expense variances

- 9. Employee costs variance \$474,572 (unfavourable)** - Increase in employee cost is due to the payment of employee income protection insurance annual invoice (\$122k) and annual work cover payment (\$92k). Project cost, long service leave and annual leave provision is schedule to adjust in June 2023.
- 10. Material and services variance \$1,214,528 (favourable)** - Decrease in materials and services is mainly due to less than budgeted contractors and professional service expense (\$466k), assets maintenance expense (\$339k), community expenses (\$240k), service delivery expense (\$195k) and waste management (\$164k) expenses.
- 11. Depreciation variance \$202,336 (unfavourable)** - Current depreciation is a provisional amount and this be reviewed and finalised when infrastructure capital works are finalised at the year end.
- 12. Borrowing cost variance \$56,230 (favourable)** - Decrease in borrowing cost is due to timing of borrowing for Violet town landfill project.
- 13. Other expenses variance \$41,786 (favourable)** - Decrease in other expenses is due to timing of internal and external audit fee expense.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

11.4.1 Finance Report to 31 March 2023 (cont.)

Council officers believe that appropriate community engagement has occurred during the annual budgeting process and the quarterly financial statements are now ready for Council consideration.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

This report is consistent with Council Policies, the Long Term Financial Plan and the Council Plan. The report also addresses Council's desire to review all aspects of Council's operations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

The consideration of the year to date financial position is in accordance with State policies and reflects income and grants received under State and Federal government funding initiatives and priorities.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The consideration of the March financial statements is in accordance with the financial management principles outlined in section 101 of the Act. The review and noting of quarterly financial reports also ensures Council complies with its Legal and Statutory obligations.

The Act allows for budget forecasts to change and funds to be reallocated provided that they do not represent a fundamental change to the adopted budget.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

The consideration and noting of the March year to date financial statements is one way in which Council's financial position may be monitored by the community.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

11.4.1 Finance Report to 31 March 2023 (cont.)

The March year to date financial statements considers all known economic and financial implications for the financial year ending 30 June 2023. Current financial position shows a surplus of \$6.6 million. However, it is \$1.5 million shorter than the predicted surplus in the budget. There is timing gap of receipting both operating and capital grants totalling \$2.5 million. Therefore, this short fall will be recovered prior to 30th June. Current cash position is \$2.8 million healthier than Q3 budget. This is due to delay in delivery of capital works due to wet weather. Capital works progressing well now, and it is predicted to get to the budgeted cash position by the end of the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

The 2022-23 budget includes the allocation of funding for the implementation of Council's Climate Change Action plan and other waste and environmental initiatives.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The 2022-23 budget supports the ongoing delivery of community services, facilities and new initiatives to support our community. The March statements highlight the income received from State and Federal governments to support the community's ongoing recovery from the October 2022 flood event.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

The 2022-23 budget funds the implementation of the innovative, four council Regional Council Transformation Project, which sees a partnership of Strathbogie, Benalla, Mansfield and Murrindindi Councils to improve service delivery and efficiency through the procurement of integrated software systems. The State government is supporting this project through two grants totalling \$1.9 million.

COLLABORATION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

The March financial statements highlight the support provided by State and Federal governments in initiatives around flood recovery, digital transformation, infrastructure and community services.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation contained in this report does not limit any human rights under the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

11.4.1 Finance Report to 31 March 2023 (cont.)

CONCLUSION

The report presents Council's actual financial performance compared to the adopted budget for the nine months ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements show Council's continued financial sustainability but reflect that a number of capital works initiatives have been delayed due to ongoing impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic and recovery from the October 2022 flood event.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Includes:

- Operational Performance
- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Financial Performance Overview
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Capital Performance
- Other Financial Data

11.5 GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

11.5.1 Monthly Performance Report

The May 2023 Monthly Performance Report includes reports as follows:-

- Building Department – April 2023 Statistics
- Planning Department – Planning Application Approvals – Development Cost (Capital Improved Value) – April 2023
- Customer Enquiry Analysis Report – Report for April 2023
- Waste Management Reporting ~ Year to Date – April 2023
- Transfer Station Date - April 2023
- Actioning of Council Reports Resolutions – Extraordinary Council Meeting Tuesday April 11, 2023 and Council Meeting Tuesday April 18, 2023
- Outstanding Actions of Council Resolutions to April 30, 2023
- Review of Council Policies and Adoption of new Policies – April/May 2023
- Records of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings – 1 to 30 April 2023

By reporting on a monthly basis, Council can effectively manage any risks that may arise. The Business Management System will also incorporate Council's corporate goals and objectives.

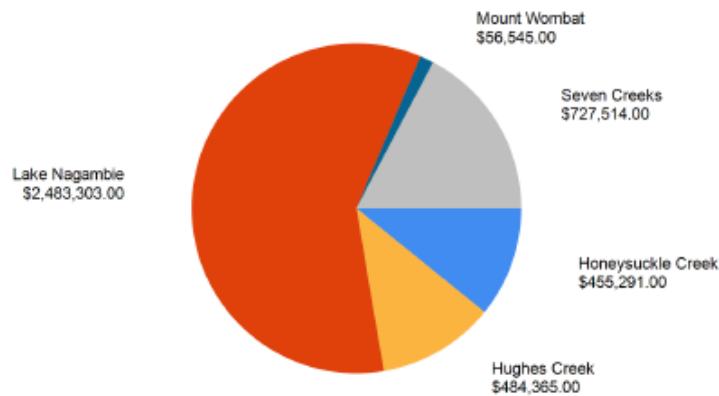
RECOMMENDATION

That the report be accepted.

BUILDING ACTIVITY**APRIL 2023****Building Activity**

A report on new building permits recorded in Council's building permit register in
April 2023

Ward	Number of Lodgements	Cost Of Works
Honeysuckle Creek	2	\$455,291.00
Hughes Creek	1	\$484,365.00
Lake Nagambie	7	\$2,483,303.00
Mount Wombat	2	\$56,545.00
Seven Creeks	5	\$727,514.00
	17	\$4,207,018.00

**Honeysuckle Creek**

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
3913607402932	02/04/2023	Construction of	Carport & Shed	Violet Town	\$15,745.00
6416770836382	24/04/2023	Installation of	Workshop, Fence	Baddaginnie	\$439,546.00
					\$455,291.00

Hughes Creek

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
7937508663134	04/04/2023	Construction of	Dwelling	Avenel	\$484,365.00
					\$484,365.00

Lake Nagambie

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
3387584144498	03/04/2023	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$353,823.00
3670795071728	05/04/2023	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$273,325.00
2839526151049	04/04/2023	Construction of	Sail Shades	Nagambie	\$29,449.00
4387813722732	17/04/2023	Construction of	Warehouse	Nagambie	\$1,400,000.00
4130724598829	18/04/2023	Installation of	Swimming Pool and Fence	Nagambie	\$65,690.00
5952124234236	20/04/2023	Installation of	Swimming Pool and Fence	Nagambie	\$69,160.00
2922994540885	28/04/2023	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Whroo	\$291,856.00
					\$2,483,303.00

Mount Wombat

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
4441884099718	19/04/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Creightons Creek	\$13,000.00
5933261159248	20/04/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Ruffy	\$43,545.00
					\$56,545.00

Seven Creeks

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
6445323099352	12/04/2023	Construction of	Shed	Euroa	\$15,950.00
6815301277826	17/04/2023	Construction of	Shed	Euroa	\$23,747.00
9483282123364	05/04/2023	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Euroa	\$463,317.00
3683152399956	19/04/2023	Restump of	Dwelling	Euroa	\$15,500.00
2437094981194	12/04/2023	Alterations & Additions to	Dwelling	Euroa	\$209,000.00
					\$727,514.00

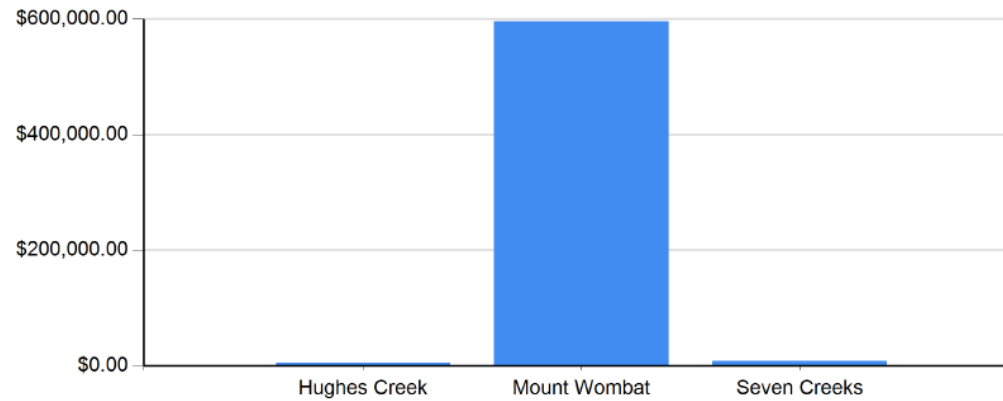
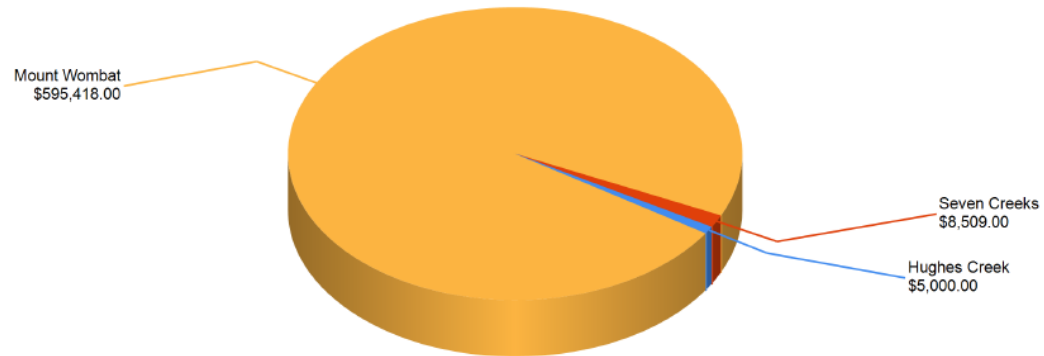
PLANNING APPLICATION APPROVALS – DEVELOPMENT COST (CAPITAL IMPROVED VALUE)
APRIL 2023



Planning Applications Determined

April 2023

Hughes Creek	\$5,000.00
Avenel	\$5,000.00
Mount Wombat	\$595,418.00
Creightons Creek	\$500,000.00
Longwood East	\$95,418.00
Seven Creeks	\$8,509.00
Euroa	\$8,509.00
Total Value	\$608,927.00



CUSTOMER ENQUIRY ANALYSIS REPORT - REPORT FOR APRIL 2023



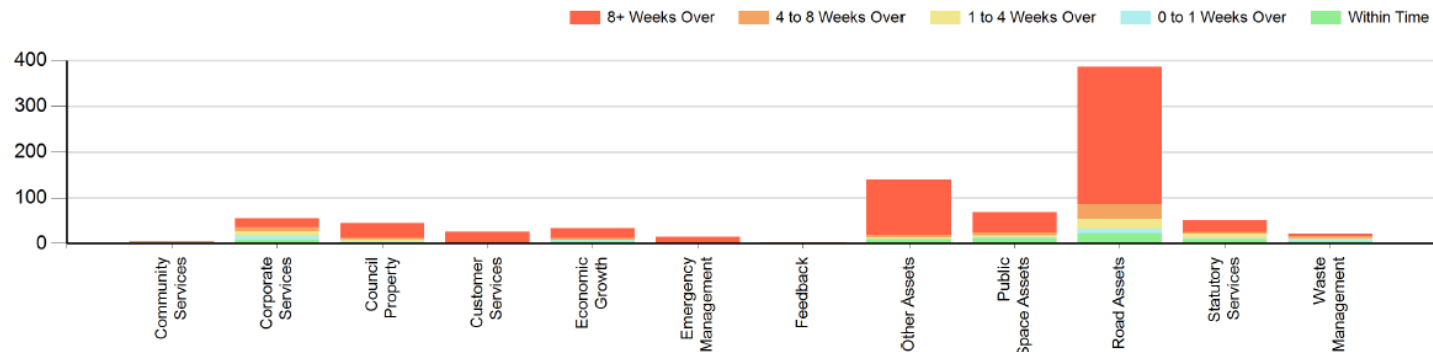
Request Throughput Analysis

01/04/2023 to 30/04/2023

UN D R P E R F O R M A N C E	Complete / New	✔ > 80%	⚠ 50-80%	✘ < 50%
	Overdue / Remaining	✔ < 33%	⚠ 34-70%	✘ > 70%

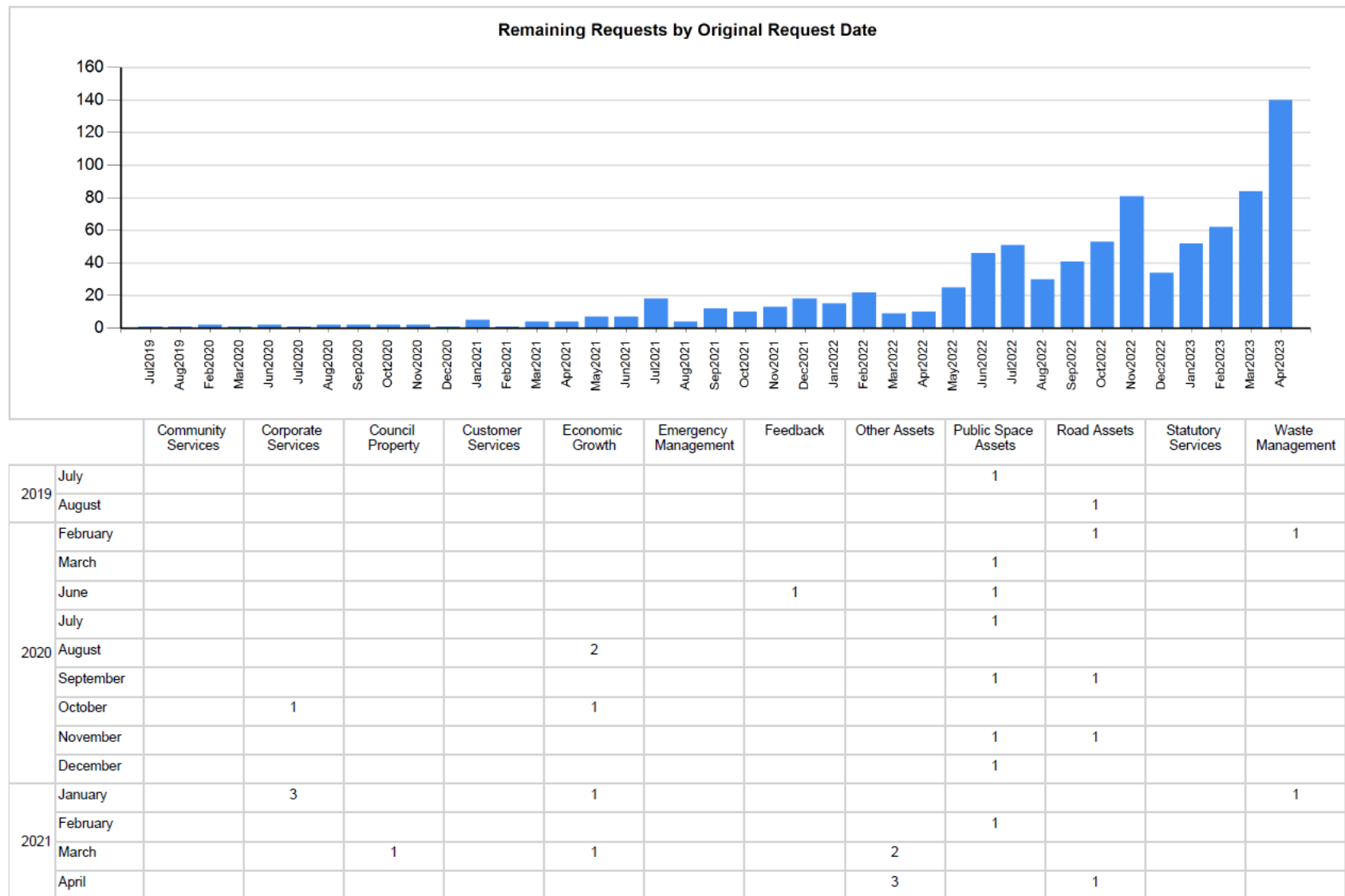
Service Area	Existing Requests	New Requests	Completed Requests	Remaining Requests	C N	Within Time	Over Time	O R	Pending Resources	Service Area Usage
Community Services	6	25	25	6	✔	3	3	⚠	0	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Corporate Services	54	107	106	55	✔	8	47	✘	0	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>
Council Property	59	42	56	45	✔	3	42	✘	0	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>
Customer Services	28	5	7	26	✔	0	26	✘	0	<div style="width: 2%;"></div>
Economic Growth	33	125	124	34	✔	5	29	✘	0	<div style="width: 45%;"></div>
Emergency Management	19	14	18	15	✔	1	14	✘	0	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
Feedback	3	4	4	3	✔	0	3	✘	0	<div style="width: 1%;"></div>
Other Assets	165	34	59	140	✔	9	131	✘	0	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Public Space Assets	87	47	43	69	✔	12	57	✘	22	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>
Road Assets	405	81	99	387	✔	22	365	✘	0	<div style="width: 30%;"></div>
Statutory Services	67	99	114	52	✔	9	42	✘	0	<div style="width: 35%;"></div>
Waste Management	18	47	44	21	✔	5	16	✘	0	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>
Total	944	630	699	853		77	775		22	

Request Ageing



Service Usage








2021	May								2		5		
	June			1					3	2	1		
	July								10		8		
	August		1								3		
	September			1	1	1			1	4	4		
	October			2						4	4		
	November			1					1	2	9		
	December			1			1		4	1	11		
2022	January		5	1					1	5	3		
	February			1					4	4	13		
	March			1			1		1	2	4		
	April			1					2		7		
	May		1						5	2	14	2	1
	June		1	1					7	1	35	1	
	July	1		5	1	1	1		3	1	36	1	1
	August			3	2	2	2		9	2	7	3	
	September		1	1	3	1		1	13	2	16	3	
	October				2	3	3		21	1	19	4	
	November		1	3	6	5			19	4	38	5	
	December		1	3	1	2	1		4	1	16	5	
2023	January	1	2	2	9	1	4		3	4	24	1	1
	February		2	6		5	1		3	8	34	3	
	March		13	4	1			1	9	13	32	6	5
	April	4	23	6		8	1		10	20	39	18	11
Total		6	55	45	26	34	15	3	140	91	387	52	21

Definitions



Service Area	Grouping of services by area of responsibility
Existing	Requests open prior to reporting period
New	Requests made during reporting period
Within Time	Remaining Requests where defined deadline is after reporting period
Pending Resources	Requests where additional resources are required to continue. This includes labour, materials, and financial resources.

Complete New An indicator showing the ratio of Completed requests and New requests. Designed to represent how well we are keeping up with the demand for a service.

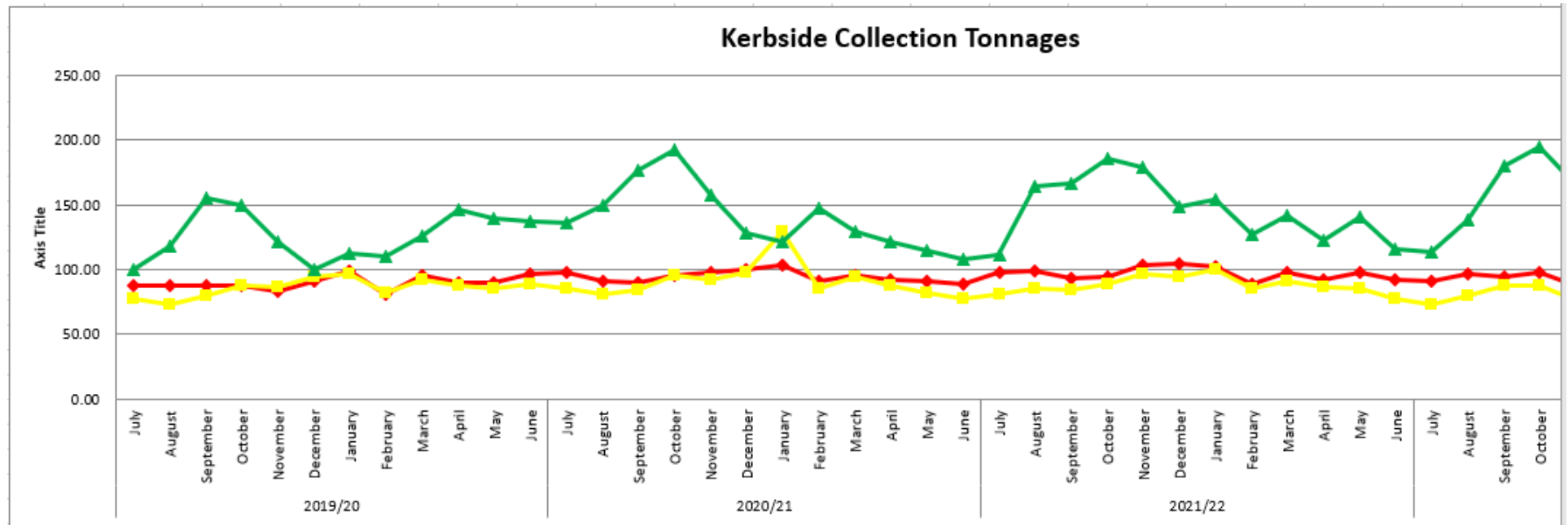
			
$\frac{C}{N}$ Complete / New	> 80%	50-80%	< 50%

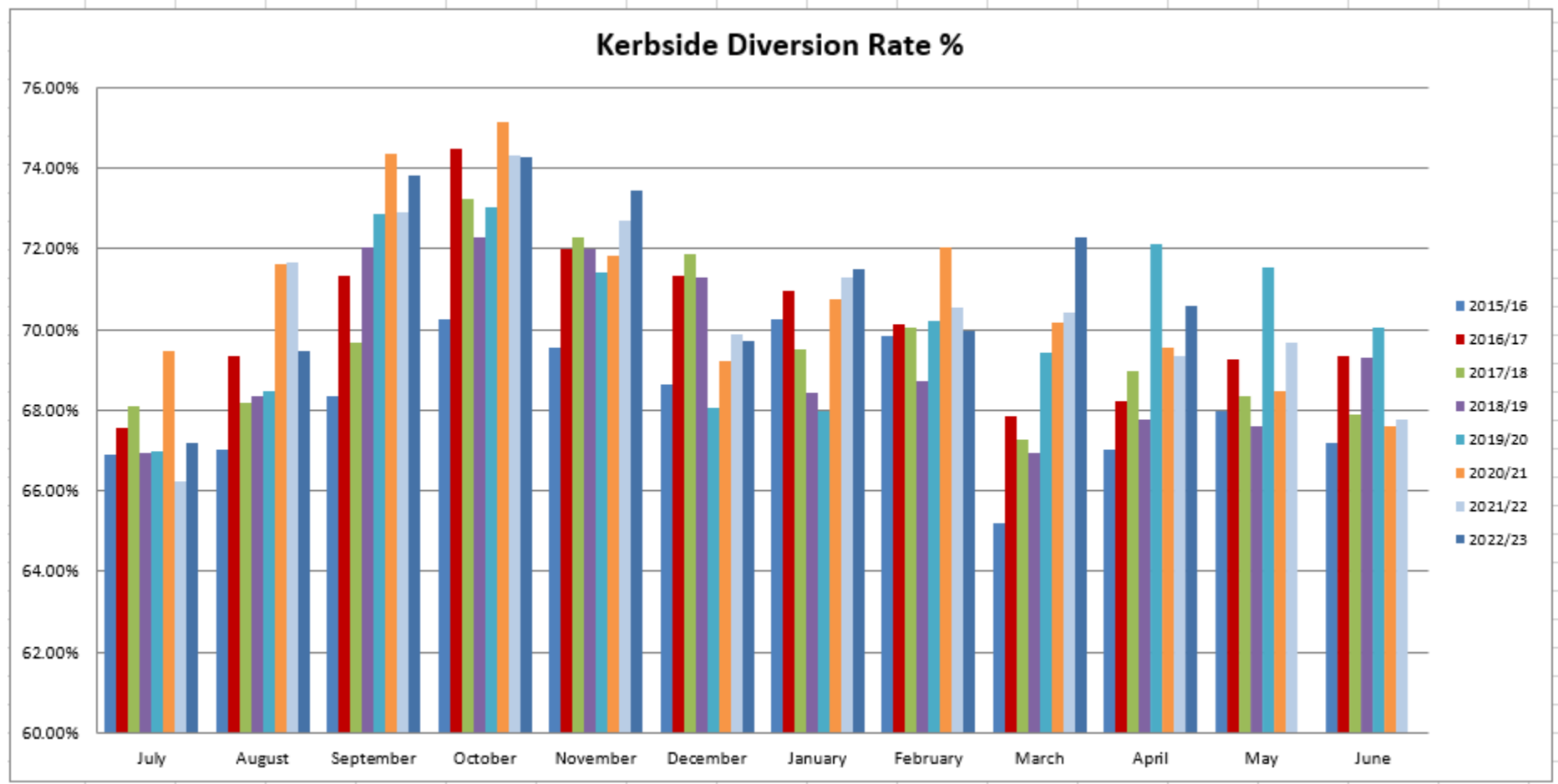
Service	Activities that provide value to the customer
Remaining	Requests incomplete at end of reporting period
Completed	Requests completed during reporting period
Over Time	Remaining Requests where defined deadline is before the end of the reporting period

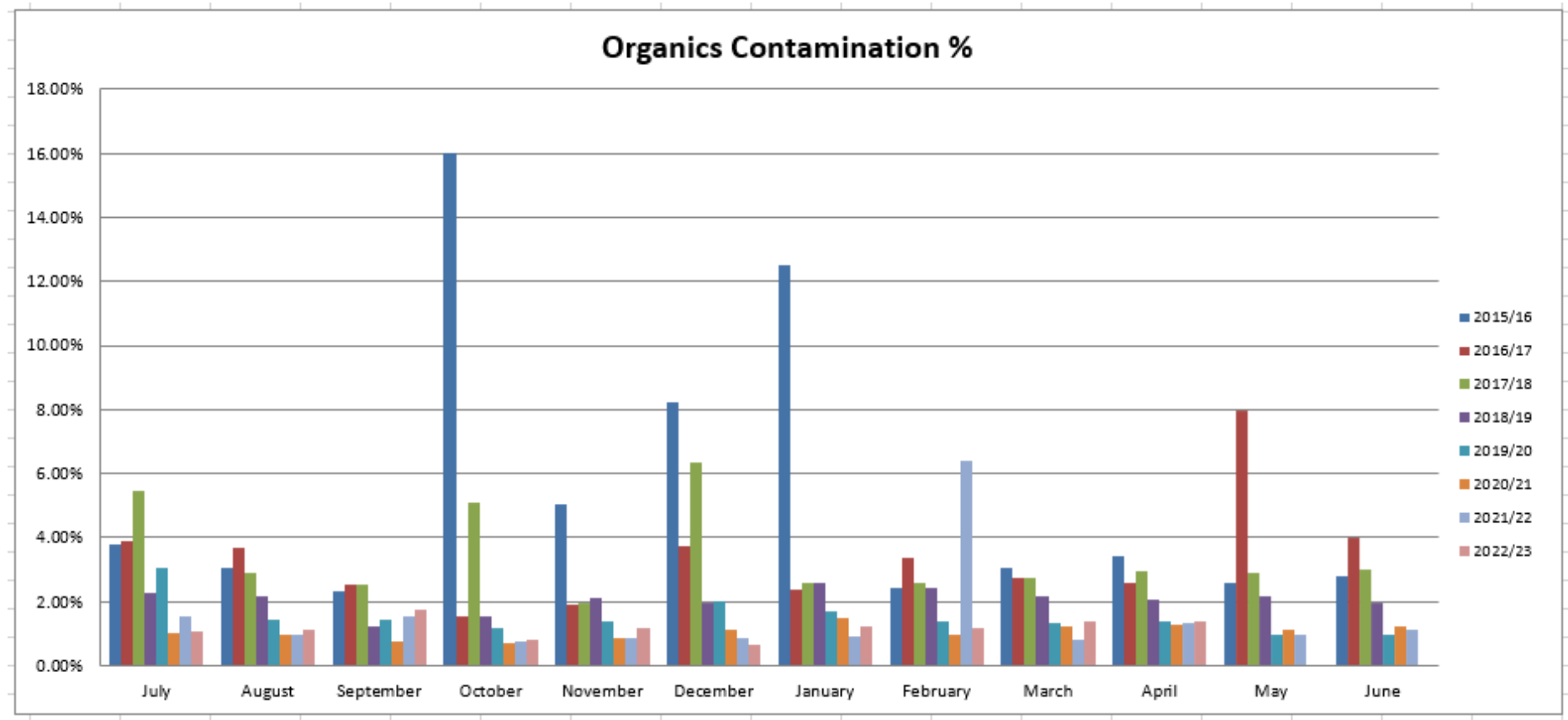
Overdue Remaining An indicator showing the ratio of Overdue requests and Remaining requests. Designed to represent how well we are keeping to the defined deadlines.

			
$\frac{O}{R}$ Overdue / Remaining	< 33%	34-70%	> 70%

WASTE MANAGEMENT REPORTING
YEAR TO DATE - APRIL 2023



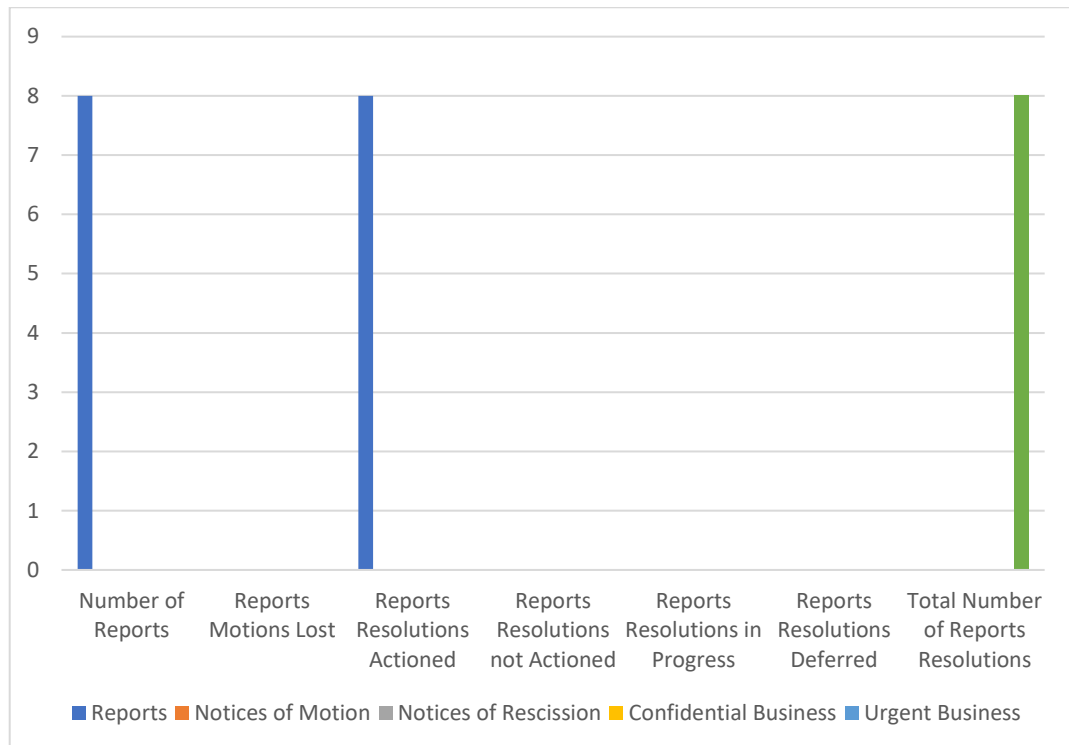




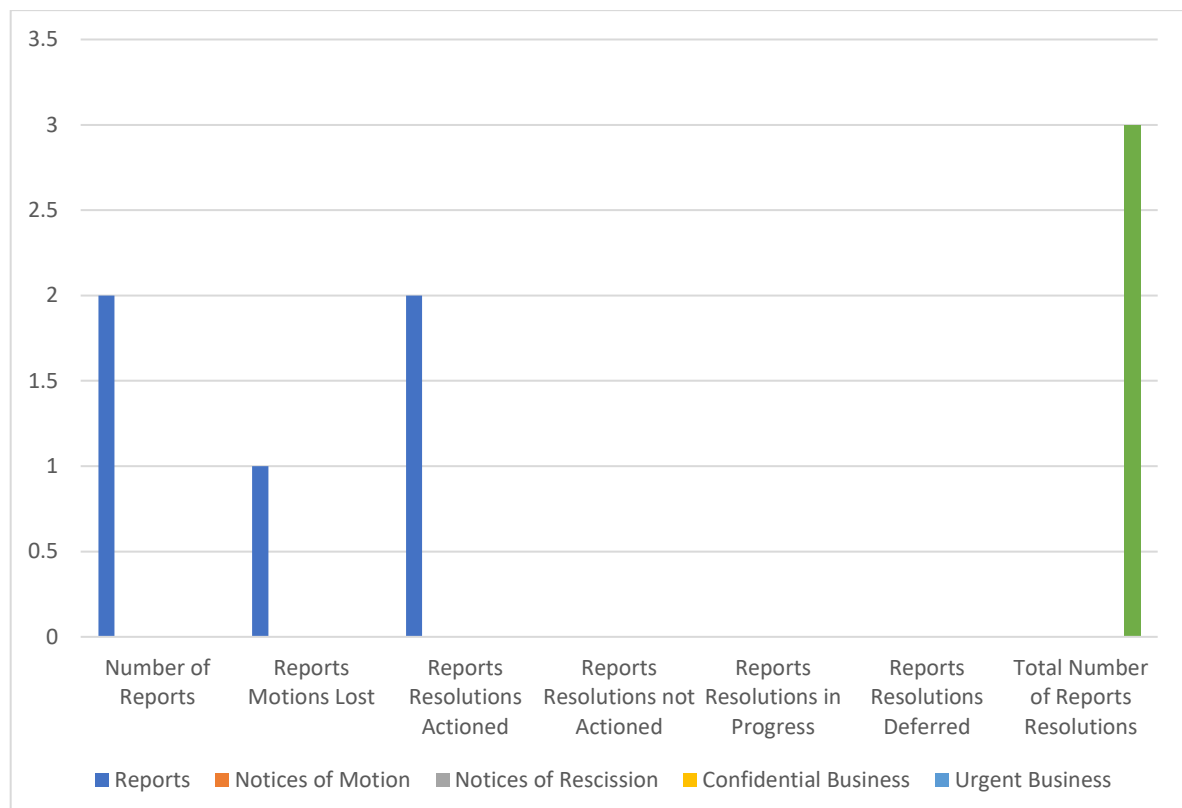
TRANSFER STATION DATA – APRIL 2023



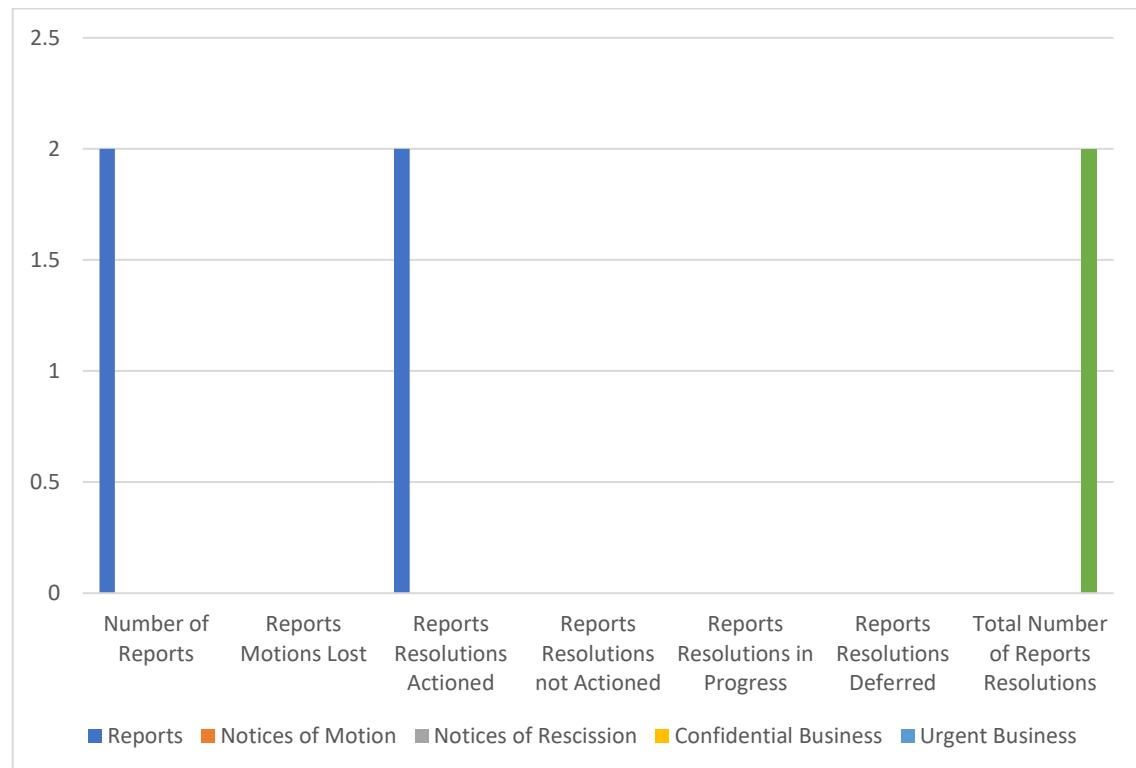
ACTIONING OF COUNCIL REPORTS RESOLUTIONS
COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY APRIL 18, 2023



ACTIONING OF COUNCIL REPORTS RESOLUTIONS
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY APRIL 11, 2023



ACTIONING OF COUNCIL REPORTS RESOLUTIONS
EXTRAODINARY COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY MAY 2, 2023



OUTSTANDING ACTIONS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS TO
30 APRIL 2023

This Report is to advise the Councillors, Executive Leadership Team and the community of the status of previous Council resolutions which are in progress but are yet to be finalised.

Council Meeting Date	Item No.	Description
Nil		

REVIEW OF EXISTING COUNCIL POLICIES
AND ADOPTION OF NEW POLICIES

Review of Policy / New Policy	Policy Name	Details
Nil		

RECORDS OF INFORMAL COUNCIL BRIEFINGS / MEETINGS**FOR PERIOD 1 TO 30 APRIL 2023**

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under Rule 103 of the Governance Rules and sections 3 and 125 of the LG Act 2020 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting

Name of Meeting: Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 4 April 2023

Location: Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 9.00 am – 4.45 pm

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Laura Binks (Mayor) (*attended meetings from 12.30 pm*)

Paul Murray (Deputy Mayor)

Cr David Andrews

Cr Sally Hayes-Burke

Cr Kristy Hourigan

Cr Reg Dickinson

Cr Chris Raeburn

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)

Dawn Bray (Director, People and Governance)

Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)

Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Jason McConkey (Manager Community Safety [*Item 1*])

Upul Sathurusinghe (Chief Financial Officer) and Sagara Gunasekara (Finance Co-Ordinator), Dan Haysom (Manager Asset Planning), Bruce Rowley (Manager Project Design) and Rachael Frampton (Manager Community and Culture) [*Item 3*]

Apologies:

Nil

1. Waterways Management
2. Staff Culture Survey Outcomes
3. Budget Workshop No. 3
4. CEO Employment and Remuneration Meeting (Councillors, Independent Member and CEO)
5. CEO Employment and Remuneration Initial Council Meeting (Councillors and Independent Member)
6. Councillor only discussions

Declaration of Interest/s under Local Government Act 2020 (General Conflict of Interest - Section 127 / Material Conflict of Interest – Section 128)

Councillor/s – NIL

Officer/s - NIL

Record of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under Rule 103 of the Governance Rules and sections 3 and 125 of the LG Act 2020 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting

Name of Meeting: Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 11 April 2023

Location: Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 10.45 am – 12.15 pm (Item 1)
12.45 pm – 2.00 pm (Item 2)
6.00 pm – 7.45 pm (Item 3)

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Laura Binks (Mayor)
Paul Murray (Deputy Mayor)
Cr David Andrews
Cr Sally Hayes-Burke
Cr Kristy Hourigan
Cr Reg Dickinson
Cr Chris Raeburn

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Dawn Bray (Director, People and Governance)
Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)
Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)
Tara Whitsed (Acting Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Apologies:

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager Communications and Engagement)

1. Review of draft April 2023 Council Meeting Agenda/ Confidential Appendices
2. CEO Employment and Remuneration Council Meeting (Councillors and Independent Member)
3. Extraordinary Council Meeting

Declaration of Interest/s under Local Government Act 2020 (General Conflict of Interest - Section 127 / Material Conflict of Interest – Section 128)

Councillor/s –

Matter No.	LGA 2020 Interest Section	Names of Councillor/s who disclosed interest	Did the Councillor/s leave the meeting?
1 / 9.6.1	128	Cr Binks	Yes (left meeting at 11.13 am / returned at 11.20 am)

3 / 5.5.1	127	Cr Raeburn	No
3 / 5.5.1	127	Cr Hayes-Burke	No
3 / 5.5.1	127	Cr Hourigan	No
3 / 5.5.1	127	Cr Dickinson	No

Officer/s - NIL

Record of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

Note: Details of matters discussed at the meeting that have been designated confidential under Rule 103 of the Governance Rules and sections 3 and 125 of the LG Act 2020 are described in a separate "confidential addendum" that will be reported to the next closed Council meeting

Name of Meeting: Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 18 April 2023

Location: Items 1-3: Euroa Community Conference Centre
Item 4: Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre

Time: 10.00 am – 2.00 pm (Item 1 to 3)
6.00 pm - 6.48 pm (Item 4)

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Laura Binks (Mayor)
Paul Murray (Deputy Mayor)
Cr David Andrews (*Apologies: Item 1*)
Cr Sally Hayes-Burke (*Apologies: Item 4*)
Cr Kristy Hourigan (*Apologies: Item 1*)
Cr Reg Dickinson (*Apologies: Item 1*)
Cr Chris Raeburn

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)
Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)
Tara Whitsed (Acting Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Apologies:

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager Communications and Engagement)
Dawn Bray (Director, People and Governance)

1. CEO Employment & Remuneration Council Meeting (Councillors and Independent Member)
2. CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting (Crs Binks, Hourigan & Murray, and Independent Member)
3. CEO Employment and Remuneration Performance Meeting (Crs Binks, Hourigan & Murray, Independent Member and CEO)
4. April 2023 Council Meeting

Declaration of Interest/s under Local Government Act 2020 (General Conflict of Interest - Section 127 / Material Conflict of Interest – Section 128)

Councillor/s –

Matter No.	LGA 2020 Interest Section	Names of Councillor/s who disclosed interest	Did the Councillor/s leave the meeting?
3 / 9.6.1	128	Cr Binks	Yes (left meeting at 6.43 / returned at 6.47 pm)

Officer/s - NIL

11.6 EXECUTIVE

11.6.1 Councillor expense request to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville, Victoria from 1-2 June, 2023 – Cr Chris Raeburn

Author: Policy Research and Councillor Support Officer

Responsible Director: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is hosting the 2023 Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville, Victoria from 1 to 2 June, 2023. The event provides a Councillor and Officer development and training opportunity that attracts planning practitioners and state and local government leaders from across Victoria. This conference is a highly valued knowledge-sharing and networking opportunity for those most invested in the future of rural and regional Victoria and is sponsored by the Department of Transport and Planning.

Councillor Chris Raeburn has expressed an interest to attend this state conference and represent interests of Strathbogie Shire (Attachment 1).

As per the Council Expenses Policy (Adopted October, 2022), each Strathbogie Shire Councillor has a training and conference allowance of up to \$1,500.00 per financial year, without approval from the Chief Executive Officer, while declaring and registering all expenses with Council Officers for public record and transparency.

To date, Councillor Chris Raeburn has utilised \$1,024.00 of the training and conference expense allowance, leaving only \$476.00 available, which is not enough to cover the cost of the MAV Rural and Regional Planning Conference registration, accommodation and travel, which has been researched and costed at \$869.82, an additional \$393.82 above Councillor Raeburn's allowance. As per the Council Expenses Section 17.2 Policy, a formal report is required for Council resolution in this instance.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. *Endorse the request from Councillor Chris Raeburn to travel and attend the MAV 2023 Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville for the benefit of development and training and Councillor decision-making in planning matters;***
- 2. *Fund the cost of conference registration, transport and accommodation incurred through attendance to the MAV 2023 Rural and Regional Planning Conference, estimated at \$869.82 for Councillor Chris Raeburn; and***
- 3. *Receive a conference evaluation report outlining the learnings and municipal benefits received upon Councillor Chris Raeburn's return from the MAV 2023 Rural and Regional Planning Conference in accordance with the Council Expenses Policy.***

11.6.1 Councillor expense request to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville, Victoria from 1-2 June, 2023 – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

As per the Victorian Local Government Act 2020, Part 2, Division 1, Section 8 -9 the role of a Council and overarching governance principles and supporting principles is to advocate on behalf of the community they represent and give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations; and taking regional, state and national plans into account in strategic planning and decision making.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is a membership association and the legislated peak body for Victoria's 79 local councils. The MAV was formed in 1879, with the Municipal Association Act 1907 officially recognising this organisation as the voice of local government in Victoria. MAV is a driving and influential force behind a strong and strategically positioned local government sector. Their role is to:

- Represent and advocate local government interests;
- Promote the role of local government;
- Build the capacity of councils;
- Facilitate effective networks;
- Provide policy and strategic advice;
- Support councillors;
- Provide insurance and procurement services.

The MAV 2023 Rural and Regional Planning Conference is designed to benefit planning practitioners and state and local government leaders from across Victoria. For the 2023 conference, MAV have engaged expert speakers to inform and advise on a broad range of issues and opportunities facing rural and regional Victorians, including:

- Responding to disaster and planning for resilience in the face of climate change;
- Working with Traditional Owners to preserve and enhance Country;
- Housing rural and regional Victorians to support economic and social vitality in our towns and regions;
- Supporting communities in the rollout of large-scale renewable energy projects and infrastructure; and
- The impact of ongoing planning reform, policy change and key planning decisions from across the state.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

It is important that councillors keep abreast of trends, issues and possible solutions to matters that impact on Strathbogie Shire and its community. Cr Raeburn noted his interest to attend this conference to gain *"a better understanding of the planning legislation and opportunities for council to assist residents on better outcome for planning decisions."*

11.6.1 Councillor expense request to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville, Victoria from 1-2 June, 2023 – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

The field of Town Planning is governed by the Victorian Government and Local Government based on the area's planning scheme framework. This includes township strategies, environmental values and biodiversity, risk, amenity, natural resource management, water, design, heritage, housing, economic development, tourism, transport, infrastructure, renewable energy and more considerations. This is a complex and detailed area of expertise and one in which Councillors are often required to make formal resolutions with long-term affects and outcomes. Therefore, further training and development in the area of Town Planning is a necessary and beneficial exercise for willing participants.

In September, 2022 the Victorian Government appointed Municipal Monitor, Janet Dore to help guide good governance. Upon the completion of her appointment, Ms Dore provided a report (https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/20230221_Item-9.6.1_Attachment-1_Final-Municipal-Monitor-Report-Strathbogie-Shire-Council_September-2022.pdf) for the Minister for Local Government with findings outlined throughout the document, and two final recommendations, one of which specifically related to Councillor training, as follows:

That the Minister considers improvements to ongoing learning and educational opportunities for Councillors across the sector.

Another extract from the Municipal Monitor's report of relevance to Councillor training and conference attendance is as follows:

Training and development opportunities have been offered to Councillors with poor take-up except for one or two of them. It would certainly be useful for more reinforcement of the strategic emphasis of their role under the Local Government Act 2020 and help the CEO and leadership team to operate effectively.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Community engagement is not required for the purpose of this report and its subject matter. It is the role of the Mayor and Councillors to attend industry related conferences.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The Strathbogie Shire Council 2021-2025 Council Plan highlights and identifies strategic focus areas, projects and requirements that the region needs for future generations.

Additionally, the Victorian Government approved Strathbogie Planning Scheme is a policy with provisions that controls land use development. This is pertinent to the contents of this report because it is the framework in which the Mayor and Councillors reference its strategic decision making for town planning reports and applications.

11.6.1 Councillor expense request to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville, Victoria from 1-2 June, 2023 – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

The Strathbogie Shire Council Expenses Policy is referred to throughout this report as a document that recognises allowances and expenses for Mayors, Councillors and Officers under specific circumstances and outlines sector best practices for training and conference expenses.

The Councillor Code of Conduct was created in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020. This document was created in collaboration with the elected members group, and each Councillor signed the declaration to pledge they will abide by this Code as per the Affirmation of Office Councillors took on 17 November, 2020.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The Council Expenses Policy outlines the parameters for reasonable expenditure to support advocacy, learning and development. Provision for Conferences and Training is outlined in section 17 of the Policy and states:

Conferences or seminars:

- *held interstate or overseas; and/or*
- *exceeding \$1501 in total cost (defined as including registration, travel and accommodation)*

must be approved by way of Council resolution prior to any bookings being made. As a general guideline each councillor, other than the mayor, will be limited to one (1) interstate conference per year (pg 17).

Reporting of public benefit gained through conference/training attendance to Council

Following attendance at a conference or training that:

- *was subject to a Council resolution to approve the travel; and/or*
- *must be recorded on the Travel Register (see section 14.1).*

The Councillor must submit a written report to Council at the next Ordinary Meeting under the item 'Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates'.

This report must identify the key issues discussed, issues of relevance to the Strathbogie Shire and the community benefit gained through the councillor's attendance. (pg 18)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

11.6.1 Councillor expense request to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville, Victoria from 1-2 June, 2023 – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report outlining Mayoral and Councillor expense requests relating to public funds achieves public transparency.

Itemised details of individual councillor and mayoral expenses are presented quarterly to Council's Audit and Risk (A&R) Committee and are available in the minutes from these meeting which are tabled at a Council meeting in the month following the A&R meeting. Furthermore, individual Councillor expenses are published in the Strathbogie Shire Council Annual Report, which is uploaded to the Council website annually, and made available to members of the public on request.

Expenses incurred as part of interstate, international travel and travel within Victoria for more than 3 days undertaken on behalf of Council will also be recorded in the travel register required under the Act, as per the template attached to this policy.

The travel register and councillor allowance and expense reports will be published concurrently.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

The anticipated expenses for Councillor Chris Raeburn to attend the MAV Rural and Regional Planning Conference, are as follows:

Conference registration.....	\$555.50
Accommodation for 2 x nights.....	\$280.00
Hybrid fuel expenses.....	\$ 34.32
Total estimate:.....	<u>\$869.82 - \$476 balance of allowance for Cr Raeburn (\$392.82 the difference)</u>

* Cr Raeburn has advised he will privately fund his meal expenses.

It is important to note that unforeseen expenses may arise when travelling to conferences that may vary this expense forecast.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

The MAV 2023 Rural and Regional Planning Conference encapsulates the current sector priorities and needs state-wide. The conference is designed to maximise knowledge sharing, networking and learning opportunities for all who attend.

11.6.1 Councillor expense request to attend the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Marysville, Victoria from 1-2 June, 2023 – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

COLLABORATION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

Learning and development opportunities are designed to build the skills and knowledge required to enable Councillors to effectively perform their role as prescribed in the Local Government Act 2020. The *MAV Councillor Development Program* provides training and development opportunities through workshops, courses and conferences year-round, which are legislated industry accredited, relevant and tailored to the needs of Mayors and Councillors who participate.

CONCLUSION

The Municipal Association of Victoria: 2023 Rural and Regional Planning Conference is a reputable and industry recognised conference that most Victorian Councils send representatives to attend on an annual basis for training and development opportunities to benefit Mayors, Councillors and Officers alike.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Councillor Chris Raeburn's Conference and Training Request Form

11.6.2 Councillor expense request to attend the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023, 18-20 May 2023 ~ King Island – Cr Chris Raeburn

Author: Policy Research and Councillor Support Officer

Responsible Director: Communications and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Association is hosting the National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023 on the 19 May, 2023 in Currie, King Island.

Euroa was the state-winner of the Victorian 2022 Tidy Town of the Year Award through a Council submission of community-led sustainable initiatives aligning to nine award categories. This submission was collated and presented by Mayor Laura Binks in person on 1st March, 2023 with KAB Judge Gail Langley and online to a panel of KAB judges on 19th April, 2023.

As the 2022 Victorian State Winner, Euroa is a finalist for the National Tidy Town Sustainability Awards 2023 which will be presented in the location of 2022 National Tidy Towns winner, on King Island.

The Tidy Towns name is synonymous with community pride, cohesion and above all community action. The awards are designed to promote ecotourism to encourage, motivate and celebrate the sustainability achievements of grassroots rural and regional communities across Australia.

Due to conflicting commitments, Mayor Laura Binks is unavailable to attend this awards ceremony and therefore, Councillor Chris Raeburn has expressed an interest to attend King Island as a Council and community representative in this instance.

As per the Council Expenses Policy (adopted October 2022), each Strathbogie Shire Councillor has a training and conference allowance of up to \$1,500.00 per financial year, without approval from the Chief Executive Officer, while declaring and registering all expenses with Council Officers for public record and transparency.

Should the Council report, item 11.6.1 for MAV training be adopted in addition to the KAB report, the total expense amount will be \$3,677.08 or \$ 2,177.08 above Councillor Raeburn's 2023 financial year allocated threshold.

Due to the interstate requirements of this event, and the expenses costed for Councillor participation, a formal report is presented for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the appointment of Councillor Chris Raeburn to travel to King Island for the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023 as a representative for National Finalist for Victoria: Euroa- Tidy Town of the Year 2022;***

11.6.2 Councillor expense request to attend the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023, 18-20 May 2023 ~ King Island – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION (cont.)

2. ***Fund the travel expenses for award ceremony registration, flights, transport, accommodation and meals incurred through attendance, which have been costed at \$1,784.26 as of 11th May, 2023 for one person; and***
3. ***Receive an evaluation report highlighting the outcomes, learnings and municipal benefits received from attending the National Keeping Australia Beautiful Awards 2023 upon Councillor Chris Raeburn's return from King Island in accordance with the Council Expenses Policy.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Keep Australia Beautiful has been running the Australian Tidy Towns Awards for almost sixty years as a means of encouraging, motivating and celebrating the sustainability achievements of rural and regional communities across Australia.

In addition to recognising these achievements, the awards event offers representatives from across the country an opportunity to network and exchange ideas with others from community, industry and government sectors.

Each year the awards dinner and associated activities are hosted by the previous year's winner. King Island in Tasmania was named the 2022 Australian Tidy Towns winner and as such, will be our hosts for the 2023 Awards Event.

The *Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023 Ceremony* is scheduled to take place on Friday 19th May, 2023 commencing at 9.30am for the Finalist Case Studies involving presentations by each State Finalist, Australia-wide outlining the community programs and initiatives that contributed to them being named *Overall Winner* for their state.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Council and the community are passionate about sustaining our environment and protecting the special place we call home for future generations. As a National Finalist in the KAB 2023 Tidy Town Sustainability Awards, a personal presence at the King Island presentations and awards ceremony is advisable in this instance.

The Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards cover nine categories for communities to showcase and celebrate how they are protecting and enhancing the environment to build a sustainable community. The awards highlight and recognise regional and remote communities that demonstrate effective litter prevention activities, positive environmental outcomes and projects that reflect the heritage, culture, youth leadership and engagement of their community.

11.6.2 Councillor expense request to attend the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023, 18-20 May 2023 ~ King Island – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

While there is a cost to travel to the conference, Council Officers have received advice that other National Finalists are sending delegations of four people, while Strathbogie Shire Council is only looking at sending one individual. Further to this, the benefit of attending, meeting with, learning and showcasing the wonderful initiatives featured in the Euroa submission will generate state and national media, awareness, tourism and economic benefits in the region. Additionally, benchmarking Euroa community efforts with other National Finalists would greatly benefit the community, through the attending Councillor report.

Additionally, the Governor-General His Excellency David Hurley and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley will be in attendance and shall present the award on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Community engagement is not required for the purpose of this report and its subject matter. It is the role of the Mayor and Councillors to attend industry related events, conferences and forums as community representatives.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The Strathbogie Shire Council *2021-2025 Council Plan* highlights and identifies strategic focus areas, projects and requirements that the region needs for future generations.

The Strathbogie Shire Council Expenses Policy is referred to throughout this report as a document that recognises allowances and expenses for Mayors, Councillors and Officers under specific circumstances and outlines sector best practices for training and conference expenses.

The Councillor Code of Conduct was created in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020. This document was created in collaboration with the elected members group, and each Councillor signed the declaration to pledge they will abide by this Code as per the Affirmation of Office Councillors took on 17 November, 2020.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

11.6.2 Councillor expense request to attend the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023, 18-20 May 2023 ~ King Island – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

Council works with reference and in collaboration with a number of state and federal authorities to practice, promote and deliver projects, services and initiatives aligned to state and national sustainable, energy and environmental frameworks, including:

- Climate Change Act 2022
- National Environment Protection Council Act, 1994
- National Energy Performance Strategy
- Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (formerly known as DELWP)
- Victoria's Climate Change Strategy and more.

The Keeping Australia Beautiful National Association is an organisation is a not-for-profit organisation that has been operating an anti-litter campaign for over 57 years. The benefits of this independent organisation conducting judging and presenting awards aligns to

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The Council Expenses Policy outlines the parameters for reasonable expenditure to support advocacy, learning and development. Provision for Conferences and Training is outlined in section 17 of the Policy and states:

Conferences or seminars:

- held interstate or overseas; and/or
- exceeding \$1501 in total cost (defined as including registration, travel and accommodation)

must be approved by way of Council resolution prior to any bookings being made. As a general guideline each councillor, other than the mayor, will be limited to one (1) interstate conference per year (pg 17).

Reporting of public benefit gained through conference/training attendance to Council

Following attendance at a conference or training that:

- was subject to a Council resolution to approve the travel; and/or
- must be recorded on the Travel Register (see section 14.1).

The Councillor must submit a written report to Council at the next Ordinary Meeting under the item 'Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates'.

This report must identify the key issues discussed, issues of relevance to the Strathbogie Shire and the community benefit gained through the councillor's attendance. (pg 18)

11.6.2 Councillor expense request to attend the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023, 18-20 May 2023 ~ King Island – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report outlining a Councillor expense request relating to public funds achieves public transparency.

Itemised details of individual councillor and mayoral expenses are presented quarterly to Councils Audit and Risk (A&R) Committee and are available in the minutes from these meeting which are tabled at a Council meeting in the month following the A&R meeting. Furthermore, individual Councillor expenses are published in the Strathbogie Shire Council Annual Report, which is uploaded to the Council website annually, and made available to members of the public on request.

Expenses incurred as part of interstate, international travel and travel within Victoria for more than 3 days undertaken on behalf of Council will also be recorded in the travel register required under the Act, as per the template attached to this policy.

The travel register and councillor allowance and expense reports will be published concurrently.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

The anticipated expenses for Councillor Chris Raeburn (1 person) to attend the KAB National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023 in King Island, are as follows:

Presentation and awards registration.....	\$165.00
Return commute to Melbourne Airport.....	\$28.28
(*using, approximate Co2 output of 0.060tonnes)	
Parking at Melbourne Airport.....	\$36.00 (\$12/ day)
Flights.....	\$609.98
(*using approximate Co2 output of 0.232t)	
King Island Car Hire.....	\$285.00 (\$95/day)
Accommodation for 2 x nights.....	\$440.00
Hybrid fuel expenses.....	\$34.32
Meals: 2 x Breakfasts, 2 x Lunches, 2 x Dinners.....	\$220.00
(*to a maximum of \$220 as per the Council Expenses Policy)	
Total estimate:.....	<u>\$1,784.26</u>

It is important to note that unforeseen expenses may arise when travelling to conferences that may vary this expense forecast.

11.6.2 Councillor expense request to attend the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023, 18-20 May 2023 ~ King Island – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

Should the Council report on MAV be adopted in addition to the KAB report, the total expense amount will be \$3,677.08 or \$ 2,177.08 above Councillor Raeburn's 2023 financial year conference and training threshold.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The KAB philosophy: “*We aspire to grow a community of Australians committed to keeping our country beautiful for years to come.*” Is an award designed to promote Australian towns who prioritise waste management and sustainable living practices for personal, tourist and business users. The economic short and long-term benefits of community-led programs have the ability to lead, influence and achieve community practices on a state and national level, that attracts travel and investment within the community and for long-term economic benefits.

Social

The Tidy Towns name has always been synonymous with community pride, cohesion and above all community action. The awards reach beyond tourism to encourage, motivate and celebrate the sustainability achievements of grassroots rural and regional communities across Australia.

The finalists in the Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns competition, who are largely volunteers, are some of the most dedicated, passionate and colourful people in all the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities awards programs across the country. Year upon year we see a calibre of community action that allows all Australians to aspire to be tidy Aussies.

Environmental

The Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards began in 1968 in Western Australia and have been running nationally since 1990. These awards have evolved to encompass projects and initiatives with a focus on environmental sustainability and resource management to reflect a growing awareness of the importance of community-led environmental action.

Each year, state and territory winners from the Keep Australia Beautiful network are announced between August and November. They then receive a visit from the Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns judge, with the Awards presented between March and May.

The awards event, often hosted over two days, consists of networking with sustainability leaders around Australia, finalist presentations showcasing their entries, as well as highlights and suggestions from the Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns judge. If the event is hosted by the town of the previous winner, attendees are invited to tour their projects, sustainable solutions and initiatives to learn firsthand what earned them the iconic Australian title.

11.6.2 Councillor expense request to attend the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023, 18-20 May 2023 ~ King Island – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

Climate change

In 2021 Strathbogie Shire Council became the 100th Council in Australia to declare a Climate Emergency and just the third to pass this Notice of Motion unanimously. The Strathbogie Shire is a significant environmental region, with many species of native flora specific to the area being listed as endangered (14 per cent), vulnerable (6 per cent) or depleted (24 per cent) based on the findings of the Ecological Vegetation Class report (2005).

Council and our community are passionate about sustaining our environment and protecting the special place we call home for future generations; this is shown by the adoption of the 'Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027' in August 2022 and the 'Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 Plan.'

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is the pursuit of innovation and continuous improvement.

A benefit of the Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards is that this event brings together community leaders, environmental champions, young legends and waste warriors from every Australian state and territory to share experiences, learn from and inspire each other. This aligns and celebrates innovation and continuous improvement by communities and in everyday lifestyles and sustainability practices.

COLLABORATION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that collaboration with other councils, levels of government and statutory bodies is to be sought.

To compile the 2022 Tidy Town submission, Mayor Laura Binks worked with the following community groups and initiatives to highlight the work and achievements produced through these community initiatives of a sustainable and collaborative nature for the benefit of the community and the environment in which they live.

- The Euroa Arboretum- Restoring a grassy woodland initiative (KAB Environmental Sustainability Award)
- The Bowerbird Op Shop/ Recycling program (KAB Resource Recovery and Waste Management)
- My Future Academy (KAB Community Health, Wellbeing and Interest Award)
- Strathbogie Shire Council Waste Wise Workshops (KAB Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention)
- Euroa Lawn Tennis Club Labour Day Tournament (KAB Heritage and Culture Award)
- Iceranaughts: Strathbogie Shire Council FReeZA Youth Program (KAB Young Legends Award)
- Euroa Energy (KAB Environmental Sustainability- Energy Award)

11.6.2 Councillor expense request to attend the Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023, 18-20 May 2023 ~ King Island – Cr Chris Raeburn (cont.)

- The Greening Euroa Project: A collaboration of Goulburn Valley Water, Strathbogie Shire Council and community representatives (KAB Environmental Sustainability Award)
- Strathbogie Ranges Conservation- Funghi Festival (KAB Environmental Communication and Engagement Award)

CONCLUSION

Keeping Australia Beautiful is hosting the National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 2023 on the 19th May, 2023 in Currie, King Island. Given that the township of Euroa a finalist for the National Tidy Town Sustainability Awards 2023, it is proposed that a Council representative is present at these awards.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Shire Council: Euroa National Tidy Towns 2023 submission

Attachment 2: Certificate for Euroa as National Finalist for KAB Awards 2023

Attachment 3: KAB Presentations and Awards Ceremony Program 2023 – King Island

11.6.3 Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting – Friday 19 May 2023

Author: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is a membership association and the legislated peak body for local government in Victoria. MAV offer diverse business services to its council members including specialist policy and advocacy, governance and legislative advice, sector development, insurance and procurement services.

State Council is MAV's governing body. It is made up of representatives from each member council and governed by the MAV's Rules of Association (Rules). State Council meetings twice per year (or more as required) where member consider and vote of matters before State Council.

Council's current MAV representative is the Mayor, Councillor Laura Binks, with the substitute representative being Councillor Chris Raeburn. On Friday 19 May 2023, Councillor Laura Binks is attending the Australian Local Government Women's Association National Conference and if Item 11.6.2 is supported, Councillor Chris Raeburn is representing Council at the 2023 National Tidy Towns Awards, to be held on King Island, at which the township of Euroa has been nominated for the 2023 awards, Given that all events are scheduled on the same day, Council needs to formally appoint a substitute representative to attend and vote at the special meeting of MAV State Council.

This report seeks Council's endorsement for Councillor Sally Hayes-Burke to attend and vote at the special meeting of the State Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse Councillor Sally Hayes-Burke to attend and vote at the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting on Friday 19 May 2023 as Strathbogie Shire Council's formal substitute representative.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is a membership association and the legislated peak body for local government in Victoria. MAV offer diverse business services to its council members including specialist policy and advocacy, governance and legislative advice, sector development, insurance and procurement services.

State Council is MAV's governing body and meets twice a year, or more as required. It is made up of representatives from each member council and governed by the MAV's Rules of Association (Rules). State Council's powers include:

- determining the Rules of Association,
- electing the president and other members of the Board,
- determining MAVs strategic direction, and
- appointing the auditor.

11.6.3 Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting – Friday 19 May 2023 (cont.)

Council's current MAV representative is the Mayor, Councillor Laura Binks, with the substitute representative being Councillor Chris Raeburn. On Friday 19 May 2023, Councillor Laura Binks is attending the Australian Local Government Women's Association National Conference and if Item 11.6.2 is supported, Councillor Chris Raeburn is representing Council at the 2023 National Tidy Towns Awards, to be held on King Island, at which the township of Euroa has been nominated for the 2023 awards. Given that all events are scheduled on the same day, Council needs to formally appoint a substitute representative to attend and vote at the special meeting of MAV State Council.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Consultation

Consultation on this matter is not considered necessary as, if Council's current MAV representatives are unable to attend the MAV Special State Council meeting, a Councillor endorsed by Council resolution at a formal Strathbogie Shire Council meeting is able to attend and vote.

Community Implications

The recommendation has no significant community or social implications for Council or the broader community.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All offices, and/or contracts involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report demonstrates that Council is being transparent by providing information to the community regarding Strathbogie Shire Council representation to MAV.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report considers that the recommendations do not limit any Human Rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

11.6.3 Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting – Friday 19 May 2023 (cont.)

CONCLUSION

As a member Council of the Municipal Association of Victoria, it is important that Strathbogie Shire Council attends and votes on the adoption of the proposed changes to the MAV Rules of Association. This report seeks Council's endorsement for Councillor Sally Hayes-Burke to attend and vote at the May 2023 meeting of the MAV State Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 **Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 16 May 2023** **Request for Tailored Training and Development Program for Councillors** **- Lodged by Councillor Kristy Hourigan and Councillor Paul Murray (Notice of Motion Ref. No. 04/2023)**

We, Councillor Kristy Hourigan
Councillor Paul Murray

Wish to lodge the following Notice of Motion under Governance Rule 35.

The motion I/we wish to put to Council is:

That Council:

1. Note that this Motion supports the recommendations from the Municipal Monitor final report tabled at the 21 February 2023 Council meeting,
2. Endorse this Motion to strengthen good governance practice through a tailored training and development program delivered by Andrew Douglas FCW Lawyers,
3. Authorise officers to arrange the training program for delivery within 3 to 6 months in consultation with Councillors, and
4. Note that the additional budget allocation can be accommodated within the Councillor Training and Budget line item as detailed in the draft 2023/24 budget.

Discussion

In response to the Municipal Monitors report by Strathbogie Shire it has become apparent that the council would benefit from further training in the area of Good Governance. Recently, Deputy Mayor Paul Murray and I had the pleasure of attending a MAV-organised Councillor Conference, during which we were fortunate enough to be presented to by Andrew Douglas - a leading senior legal practitioner from FCW lawyers with an impressive 30+ years of experience across various industries, including local government and good governance.

With this newly acquired knowledge and understanding of balancing political accountability with good governance, I am proposing via this Notice of Motion for the council to explore the feasibility of organising a comprehensive Good Governance training session/s for both Councillors and Council officers in the next 3-6 months. The proposed training session will be conducted by none other than Andrew Douglas himself, ensuring the highest quality of education and training for all participants. I propose that the session could cover topics such as (but not limited to):

- Legislative compliance
- Workplace culture and relationships
- Delivering the political remit in partnership with the Council executive team
- Ethical standards
- Financial literacy

12.1 Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 16 May 2023
Request for Tailored Training and Development Program for Councillors
- Lodged by Councillor Kristy Hourigan and Councillor Paul Murray (Notice of
Motion Ref. No. 04/2023) (cont.)

To make this initiative a success, I ask that council officers, with the agreement of Councillors, determine the learning program for the day(s) and then examine the associated costs for this training within the suggested indicative costs of approximately \$13,000 - \$15,000.

I have been further advised by officers that this training can be accommodated in the 2022/23 budget if it commences prior to 30 June 2023.

From my experience, Andrew delivers a powerful and important message and one that is outside of the tradition local government paradigm. By using his specific experiences and expertise as a lawyer, Councillors and officers can further enhance understanding of good governance frameworks (within the Local Government Act 2020) so that together, we can further improve the council's governance practices and continue to serve the community to the best of our abilities.

To ensure accountability back to our community, I propose that councillor's will report back to the community at a future Council meeting detailing our learnings to demonstrate value for public funds.

Signed:


Councillor Kristy Hourigan

Councillor Paul Murray

09/05/2023

12.2 Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 16 May 2023
Request for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses and Equipment Purchase
Costs incurred for the period from 8 June 2022 to 4 May 2023
- Lodged by Councillor Reg Dickinson and Councillor David Andrews (Notice
of Motion Ref. No. 05/2023)

We, Councillor Reg Dickinson
Councillor David Andrews

Wish to lodge the following Notice of Motion under Governance Rule 35.

The motion I/we wish to put to Council is:

That Council:

1. Reimburse travel costs from 8/6/22 to 4/5/23, amounting to \$2389.26, as detailed on “Private Car Mileage” Council application document.
2. Reimburse the purchase cost of a printer cartridge on 27/2/23, amounting to \$58.00, as detailed on the “Councillor Expenses Reimbursement” application document.
3. The total amount requested is \$2447.26.

Discussion

The Strathbogie Shire Council Expenses Policy adopted in October 2022 Part 2 Section 11 states the following:

Time limit for all reimbursement requests

Reimbursement claims must be lodged no later than six (6) weeks from the expense was incurred. Expenses claimed out of this time will not be reimbursed unless authorised by the Chief Executive Officer and the Director People and Governance. Late claims occurring on a regular basis will not be approved.

Whilst this claim is outside of the policy and spans across two financial years, I ask that Councillors give consideration to my Notice of Motion because I was unaware of claims of this nature had a time limit.

Please note that all travel costs have been kept to a minimum and travel is mostly regular, eg Nagambie to Euroa and return. One exception was when Councillors went on a tour of the shire, as suggested by the Municipal Monitor. A total of 248 kilometres was covered on that day (29/11/22).

Where possible Councillor David Andrews and I share the travel arrangements.

- 12.2 Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 16 May 2023
Request for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses and Equipment Purchase Costs
incurred for the period from 8 June 2022 to 4 May 2023
- Lodged by Councillor Reg Dickinson and Councillor David Andrews (Notice of
Motion Ref. No. 05/2023) (cont.)

Signed:



Councillor Reg Dickinson



Councillor David Andrews

Date: 10/05/2023

Attachment 1: Detailed Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Form

13. NOTICES OF RESCISSION

14. URGENT BUSINESS

15. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm.

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