

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Agenda

June 20, 2023

Agenda

Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6pm

Meeting to be held at the Euroa Community Conference 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 Reg Dickinson (Lake Nagambie Ward)
Cr Sally Hayes-Burke (Seven Creeks Ward)
Cr Kristy Hourigan (Seven Creeks Ward)
Cr Chris Raeburn (Honeysuckle Creek Ward)

Municipal Monitor:

Peter Stephenson

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
Phillip Carruthers – Specialist Governance Advisor

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 Council Meeting held on Tuesday, May 16 2023, be confirmed.*
2. *That the minutes/decisions of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, May 23, 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
June 16, 2023

Next meetings

An Extraordinary meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 18, 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, June 20, 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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	<p><i>APPENDICES DEEMED CONFIDENTIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 66(2)(A) AND PART 1, CLAUSE 3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020</i></p> <p><i>(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage</i></p>	
	Appendix 1:	Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 22/23-81: Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction

11. OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 **STRATEGIC AND STATUTORY PLANNING**

11.1.1 **Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined - 1 to 31 May 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 31st May 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 April 2023. The May 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 nineteen (19) new planning applications received and twelve (12) planning applications decided upon during the reporting period.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. ***Note that there were nineteen (19) new planning applications received, and twelve (12) planning applications decided on during the period of 1 to 31 May 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.

11.1.1 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined
- 1 to 31 May 2023 (cont.)

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.

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 / Planning Applications Determined / Planning Permit Activity Performance Figures

11.2 **COMMUNITY**

11.2.1 **Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24**

Author: Coordinator Community Services and Inclusion

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Community Funding Model provides an opportunity for groups to undertake projects that complement the Community Vision and strategic focus areas identified in the Strathbogie Shire Council Plan 2021-25. Council has a long history of providing community funding to groups in the Municipality to support the delivery of many important community projects.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the proposed changes following a review of Council's community funding model, incorporating existing community grants, community action group funding and sponsorship guidelines.

The review was undertaken following a resolution (in part) from the 2022 September Council meeting as highlighted below:

4. *Authorise Council Officers to undertake a review of Council's existing Community Grants and Community Action Group Funding guidelines and present a report to Council at a future Council Meeting.*

The review takes the below into consideration:

- officer feedback,
- community feedback,
- the Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants report from the Victorian Auditor General's Office, and
- benchmarking against other Councils.

The proposed model intends to promote ease of access to funding for Community, increase efficiency, improve governance, increase monetary value to deliver a wider variety of strategic projects and hence result in greater community benefit for the Strathbogie municipality. The recommended changes are detailed in this report, with an associated rationale.

Features of the new model include:

- Fewer categories and sub streams,
- Increase in maximum funds available for Community Strengthening Grants (Previously Community grants), with grants available for up to \$10,000,
- Fairer and equitable distribution measures; eligibility changes, auspice arrangements, success based on quality and outcomes of applications rather than the applicant or grant stream,
- Christmas decorations can be purchased through Community Strengthening Grant,
- Neighbourhood Houses can apply for a grant/ project in each stream,
- Increase in total allocation for Events funding (previously \$30,000, proposed to increase to \$50,000, subject to the adoption of the 203/24 budget), and
- Once off Community Conversations Grant to support community discussions regarding January 26 in each township.

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (cont.)

This report seeks Council consideration to adopt the 2023/24 community funding model and associated guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the findings of the grants review;***
- 2. Adopt the new Community Funding Model and associated guidelines (Community Grant Guidelines and Event Grant Guidelines) for 2023/24; and***
- 3. Authorise Officers to implement the model through the promotion and release of grant guidelines and information immediately on Strathbogie Shire Council's Website, local media, publications and broadly through a range of engagement networks with the Community Conversations grant opening on 26 June 2023 and closing on 24 July 2023 and the Community Strengthening grant opening on 26 June 2023 and closing on 7 August 2023.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council's Community funding model enables Council to support a range of important community projects. Council operates multiple community funding programs. In 2022-23, they were as follows:

- Community Grants Program, including Small Projects,
- Sponsorship Program,
- Community Planning Reference Group (Action Groups), and
- Christmas Decoration Grants.

Community Grants

The Community Grants Program provides an opportunity for not-for-profit community groups to undertake projects that complement the focus areas of the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

Historically funding has been available for up to \$5,000 and applications were sought for projects under four (4) key categories:

- Active and Healthy Communities,
- Arts and Culture,
- Environment and Sustainability, and
- Facilities and Infrastructure.

In addition, the program offered small project grants up to the value of \$1,000 available throughout the year. All small project applications are authorised through a Council report and any subsequent variations.

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (cont.)

Sponsorship Program

Sponsorship Grants provide financial and/or in kind support for events that:

- Promote community engagement and participation,
- Support gender equality and social inclusion and improved accessibility,
- Contribute to building healthy and vibrant communities, and
- Increase economic development, tourism and the visitor economy.

Funding is available for up to \$5,000 for eligible organisations, grants were open all year round and all applications are authorised through a Council report.

Community Planning Reference Group (Action Groups) funding

Previously Council has had a dedicated funding stream for Community Planning / Action Groups to support the delivery of projects within their Community Action Plans. Funding of up to \$5,000 per project could be applied for and groups could apply for multiple projects.

Other annual funds are allocated to Community Planning Groups to support a range of functions, (eg: Administration, a community celebration) but they were ineligible to receive Community Grants or Sponsorship Grants.

Christmas Decoration Grants

The Christmas Decorations Grant was introduced in 2022/23, enabling eligible organisations and groups access to up to \$5,000 per township for the purchase, installation and decommission of Christmas Decorations.

Pitch My Project is a separate funding stream with an agreed direction for 2023/24 which is already determined; therefore it has not been included within this review. There are plans to consider its inclusion into this model for the 2024/25 financial year to ensure a comprehensive and aligned community funding model for future years.

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 review has been undertaken and completed following a recommendation from the 2022 September Council meeting as per the below:

4. *Authorise Council Officers to undertake a review of Council's existing Community Grants and Community Action Group Funding guidelines and present a report to Council at a future Council Meeting.*

The review has taken the below into consideration.

- officer and Councillor feedback,
- community feedback,
- the Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants report from the Victorian Auditor General's Office, and
- benchmarking against other Councils.

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (cont.)

The review identified that the existing community funding model can be:

- Resource heavy: Council reports are required for all applications and variations, including monthly reports for Event sponsorships, small projects and requested grant variations.
- Complicated and confusing for the community: too many individual streams, small grant amounts and lots of work in an application for a small amount of funding.
- Lengthy: time for assessment and approval is frustrating for community groups.
- Poor strategic investment/ alignment: Nearly half of all Community Grants projects are maintenance related or demonstrate poor alignment with Council Plan.

The review has identified several improvements to the funding model and highlighted the need to simplify and streamline the model for both the Community and Council.

In addition, the model needs to encourage more strategic projects/events that are suitably aligned to 2021/2025 Council Plan and extend funding access to more of the community.

The review was also informed by the recommendations put forward in the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) 2022 audit report on *Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants* which made nine recommendations. The controls recommended in the audit are important to help councils reduce the risk of fraud and ensure grant programs are transparent, fair and of benefit to the community. Where not already in place, the proposed changes to the model, as proposed, ensure the application and assessment process reflects the nine recommendations.

The proposed model intends to promote ease of access to funding for Community, increase efficiency, improve governance, increase monetary value to deliver a wider variety of strategic projects and hence result in greater community benefit for the Strathbogie municipality.

Applications are required to demonstrate alignment with the 2021-2025 Council Plan and are encouraged to address social connection, inclusion, health, wellbeing, safety, community arts, positive cultural or environmental outcomes, upskilling of local volunteers, economic development, and increased visitor economy for the municipality.

Table 1. Recommended changes to community funding and associated rationale

	Recommended Change	Rationale/Benefit
1.	Consolidation of all funding streams into one overarching Community Funding Model. <i>Please refer to Table 2: Proposed Funding Model</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align key objectives and outcomes • Align guidelines • Align assessment process • Less confusing/ complex • Clear alignment with Council Plan

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (cont.)

2.	Removal of the 4 categories in community funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less confusing • Clear alignment with Council Plan
3.	Community Grants to be rebranded to Community Strengthening Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to reduce confusion in the community and is better aligned to the intent of the grant.
4.	Community Strengthening Grants increased from maximum of \$5,000 to \$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of applications and the potential community outcomes/ benefit. • More reflective of true costs to deliver projects in current market.
5.	3:1 matching component included, this can be in-kind support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific ratio stipulated, that officers believe is achievable. • Introducing a 3:1 ratio is expected to ensure buy in from the applicant and produce higher quality projects.
6.	<p>Infrastructure maintenance and upgrade projects to be excluded from community strengthening grants.</p> <p>Small appliances are acceptable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of projects in 2022 funding rounds were minor maintenance and upgrade projects. • Projects are to be referred to Council's Building Maintenance Budget and assessed accordingly in line with Council's renewal program. • Assets not owned by Council need to be referred to the appropriate asset owner/ Manager.
7.	<p>Small projects grants (up to \$1,000) rebranded to Quick Response Grants.</p> <p>Approved under CEO delegation with an update to Councillors for noting at the next available Council Meeting of any grants awarded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlined assessment process. • Outcome within a set timeframe, not dependent on Council Meeting dates/ and report timeframes.
8.	<p>Community Planning/ Action Group Project Funding will no longer be a dedicated funding program.</p> <p>Community Planning/ Action Groups will be eligible to apply for the \$10,000 Community Strengthening Grants, along with all other grant categories (previously they were ineligible). Some annual payments will still be available to specifically support key functions of Action Groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes into consideration that not all townships have a Community Action Group and were therefore unable to access the Community Action Group Funding. • Fair and equitable access based on the quality of the projects and outcomes. • Improved quality of projects.

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (cont.)

9.	Community Houses eligible to apply for all funding streams in the one financial year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers benchmarked and reviewed the variety of approaches Victorian Councils used to support and work with Community Houses. Fair and equitable access based on the quality of the projects and outcomes.
10.	Organisations are only able to auspice one project per funding stream in any given financial year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk mitigating for Council and encourages fair and equitable distribution of funds.
11.	<p>Once off funding for <i>Community Conversations Jan 26</i> funding up to the value of \$5,000. One grant per township.</p> <p>Approved under CEO delegation with an update to Councillors for noting at the next available Council Meeting of any grants awarded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For facilitation, engagement and venue hire to support conversations in townships regarding the future plans for the celebration January 26. Approved under CEO delegation to enable groups to access funds quickly to enable the conversations to inform planning for January 26 2024.
12.	<p>Any variation considered and approved by the CEO under \$1,000, if over \$1,000 presented to Council for a decision.</p> <p>Variations approved by the CEO will be included in the exceptions report (under delegation) presented to Council for noting at the next available Council meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlining of the process and reduced timeframes for applicant approvals.
13.	Simplified assessment criteria consistent with other Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly relates to the need, applicants' ability to deliver and quality of the project and community benefit.
14.	Christmas decorations now eligible under Community Strengthening Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined, reduction in total number of categories, provided they can demonstrate Council Plan alignment.
15.	Education Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified eligibility in relation to education institutions. All education institutions including not for profit are ineligible.

Table 2: PROPOSED COMMUNITY FUNDING MODEL

Engage. Create. Unite. Live. Access. Connect. Protect. Enhance. Adapt. Inclusive. Productive. Balanced. Strong. Healthy. Safe. Accountable. Transparent. Responsible

COMPETITIVE

Open to not-for-profit community groups, organisations or clubs; Community Action Groups & Community Houses

COMMUNITY GRANTS & EVENT GRANTS**Objectives**

Council values the role community plays in building a resilient, inclusive, vibrant Strathbogie Shire.

Community Grants and Event Grants contribute funds to community-led projects and events that align with the 2021-2025 Council Plan bringing people together to connect, collaborate, celebrate, upskill, share resources, and put ideas into action.

Outcomes

Outcomes of funded projects and events may include, for example, social connection, inclusion, health, wellbeing, safety, community arts, positive cultural or environmental outcomes, upskilling of local volunteers, economic development, and increased visitor economy.

This may include Christmas events and decorations if it can be demonstrated they contribute to the above outcomes

NON-COMPETITIVE**COMM. PLANNING / ACTION GROUPS**

- \$1,000 admin
- \$500 Community Engagement
- \$500 *Community Engagement when Community Plan due*

COMMUNITY GRANTS

2023/24 Budget allocation \$182,000

EVENT GRANTS 2023/24

allocation \$50,000

Community Strengthening

- Up to **\$10,000**
- Open for month of July
- One round only
- 3 Council:1 community matching component (can be in-kind)
- Acquit by next EOFY
- Exclusions: infrastructure maintenance & upgrades. Small appliances are acceptable.
- Approved by Council resolution

Quick Response

- \$10,000 pool
- Up to **\$1,000**
- Open all year
- Approved under CEO delegation.
- Exceptions report to Council for noting
- Notified within 4 weeks
- Acquit w/in 6 months

2023-24 ONLY Community Conversations: Jan 26

- Up to **\$5,000**
- One grant per township
- Must be used to pay for engagement activities, facilitation and/or venue hire, NOT catering
- Approved under CEO delegation.
- Exceptions report to Council for noting

- Up to **\$5,000** cash/in-kind
- 3 Council:1 community matching component (can be in-kind)
- Open all year
- Acquit by next EOFY
- Applications must be received 8 weeks PRIOR to the event
- Approved by Council resolution

VARIATIONS

Variations under \$1000 reviewed and approved by the CEO. Variations over \$1000 to go to Council for decision - Exceptions Report

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (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.

The recommended changes have been developed through feedback received from the Community during the 2022/23 Community Grants Program and in consultation with the Community Planning/ Action Groups, local organisations and Council Officers involved in the administration of the grants. The changes aim to strengthen and improve the program for the municipality.

Council will deliver a series of information sessions to the community to introduce the new model and support the Community in applying for funding in the upcoming 2023/2024 program.

Furthermore, opportunities will be provided for individual meetings to be booked to meet with Council staff for additional support.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

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

- Community Funding and Investment Policy, adopted May 2021
- 2021-2025 Council Plan, specifically:
 - 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

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 or national plans or policies relevant to this report.

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 is no specific legislation governing the establishment of community funding models, however under the Local Government Act 2020 Council must be accountable for how public funds are spent and governance arrangements around decision making.

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (cont.)

The proposed community funding model considers and reflects the recommendations made by the VAGO following the *Fraud Control Over Local Government* Grants audit that was published on 11 May 2022.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Officers involved in the matter which is the subject of this report:

- Do not have a general conflict of interest (section 127 of the Local Government Act 2020)
- Do not have a material conflict of interest (section 128 of the Local Government Act 2020)

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 interest of transparency and open and honest communication with our community it is recommended that these changes to Council's Community Funding Model be acknowledged in a public forum providing full disclosure of the changes to 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.

There is \$246,000 available in the proposed 2023/24 draft budget. The following table details the breakdown of this proposed allocation across the Community Funding Model for the 2023/24 financial year.

Grant Type	Proposed 2023/24 allocation
Community Strengthening Grants (incorporates community action group grant funding)	\$182,000
Community Conversations January 26 (one off)	
Quick Response Grants	
Community Action Group Funding	Deleted – no allocation
Community Action Group support- Non Competitive	\$14,000
Christmas Decorations (can apply through Community Strengthening Grants)	Deleted – no allocation
Event Grants	\$50,000
TOTAL FUNDING	\$246,000

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.

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (cont.)

The Community Funding Model provides an opportunity for groups to undertake projects and events that complement the focus areas identified as priorities in the 2021/2025 Council Plan in turn addressing sustainability considerations.

Economic

Community Funding supports economic growth across the Shire. Local businesses benefit from increased visitor economy with projects and events assisting in an increase of visitors as well as an increase in the average length of stay of those visitors. Applicants are also encouraged to buy from local suppliers where possible.

Social

Community Funding model encourages social impact projects and events that will support in building a vibrant, inclusive and connected community.

Environmental

Applicants will need to demonstrate they have considered the environmental impacts of their project/event and ensure that their project or event is minimising harmful impacts on our natural environment, consistent with Council's position on Climate Change Action and Sustainability.

Climate change

Projects and Event applications will need to consider climate change and ensure that their project or event is minimising harmful impacts on our natural environment and the ban on Single Use Plastics.

This may include identifying and assessing opportunities to improve the potential sustainability outcomes and impacts and for the goods and materials used for their project/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 changes in the proposed community funding model demonstrate continuous improvement based on community feedback, benchmarking against other Council programmes and key learnings from the delivery of the 2022 community funding process.

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.

Benchmarking against other Council's has occurred to ensure Council's community funding model is fit for purpose and reflects best practice grant/ community funding principles.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

11.2.1 Revised Community Funding Model and Funding Guidelines for 2023/24 (cont.)

CONCLUSION

Community funding provides an opportunity for groups to undertake projects that complement the focus areas identified as priorities for the Strathbogie Shire Council. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the review of Council's community funding model, undertaken by Council, providing opportunities for improvement for a new model. The review took into consideration, community and officer feedback, VAGO recommendations and benchmarking against other Council's.

The report presents a proposed community funding model and associated guidelines and for the 2023/24 financial year for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Community Grant Guidelines

Attachment 2: Event Grant Guidelines

11.2.2 Final Draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027

Author: Economic Development and Project Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The final draft Strathbogie Shire Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 outlines the key directions and priorities for Strathbogie Shire Council to support economic development and sustained growth for the local economy.

The key actions and recommendations outlined in the strategy are designed to achieve economic development outcomes and drive economic uplift to benefit the community, workers and businesses within the Shire.

At the February 2023 Council meeting, Council endorsed the release of the draft Strategy for broad community consultation and feedback for the period 22 February 2023 to 5 April 2023. Throughout this period, a number of communication and engagement methods were utilised to further inform the final draft Strategy. These methods included (but not limited to), published on the Share Strathbogie Platform, Councils newspaper column (Euroa Gazette and Nagambie Voice), attendance at chamber of commerce meetings and communication through the business e-newsletter.

There were four formal submissions received as part of the engagement process. These submissions varied in nature covering areas of; inclusion of exploration and mining, industry (Zanelli Road Precinct), inclusion of food and destination hospitality (markets and events) as stimulus for the visitor economy, car parking in Nagambie, land use planning considerations and relocation of the information centre to the Travellers Rest, in Euroa. The full engagement report is attached to this report. A response to each of the submissions received is detailed in the community engagement section of this report.

Following the final engagement process, the Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027 is now presented to Council for consideration and adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the community engagement report as attached to this report;***
- 2. Adopt the final draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023–2027; and***
- 3. Publish the Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027 on and through relevant Council communication platforms.***

11.2.2 Final Draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Strathbogie Council's proposed five-year Economic Development Strategy (EDS) guides Council's future role and identifies relevant actions to support the economy for the benefit the community, workers and businesses within the Shire.

The information in this Strategy is informed by independent research and analysis, as well as consultation with industry representatives, residents, local businesses, Council officers and Government stakeholders.

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.

The adoption of a comprehensive economic development strategy will assist in guiding the council to facilitate economic uplift and prosperity for the municipality. The draft EDS was developed following engagement through several methods. This included the engagement with the two business chambers; Go Nagambie and Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce, two business and industry events, a survey and via the Share Strathbogie engagement platform.

The draft EDS has been developed based on four (4) key themes with strategic directions underpinning each theme as follows:

- Theme 1: An activated and 'Investment-Ready' Shire – Stimulate investment across the Shire and promote efficient uses of land to foster local economic growth.
 - Deliver a strategic and supportive planning environment
 - Facilitate strategic infrastructure investments
- Theme 2: An Innovative and Sustainable Business Base – develop a vibrant business community from a diverse range of industry sectors that capitalises on Strathbogie Shire's competitive advantages.
 - Support an engaged, well-informed and resilient business community
 - Support business investment and diversification
 - Support a thriving and productive agricultural sector
- Theme 3: A Supported Community and Labour Force – Ensure residents and workers are engaged, productive and contribute to business and economic activity.
 - Support population attraction and workforce growth
- Theme 4: A Thriving Visitor Economy – Establish Strathbogie Shire as a desirable and high-value visitor destination that drives year-round visitation and generates economic benefits for the region.
 - Strengthen the destination brand and tourism governance
 - Support industry in delivering a high-quality visitor experience
 - Deliver a successful and diverse events calendar

11.2.2 Final Draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 (cont.)

The draft EDS is supported by an Action Plan that provides a guide for the delivery of the projects identified in the framework above. It includes relevant actions, responsible stakeholders, priority status (high/medium/low) and indicative timeframes categorised from short-term (1 year) through to long term (4-5 years).

The next five-year actions will be driven by Council's Economic Development Unit, with responsibility, support and advocacy by relevant government departments, industry and community stakeholders. Implementation of the Strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis using the key performance measures and monitoring tools outlined throughout the Action Plan.

The draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 - 2027 and associated Action Plan is now considered ready for final consideration by 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.

Depth of engagement: 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.

The Strategy was prepared in close consultation with Council, community and industry, to reflect local values and identify the unique challenges and opportunities for Strathbogie Shire. In summary the engagement included:

- Industry and community survey – 49 Participants
- Industry workshops – 51 Participants
- Council – internal workshop with Council Officers
- Public Consultation period.

Furthermore, the draft EDS was published for broad community consultation from 22 February 2023 to 5 April 2023. As highlighted in the Engagement Report (attached to this report), the ShareStrathbogie platform received 222 views; with five contributions being received from five contributors.

11.2.2 Final Draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 (cont.)

A summary of the submissions are as follows:

Overview of submission	Response
Submission 1:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of the existing quality food and destination hospitality and boutique shopping that is emerging in the towns. Regular markets and arts events as a stimulus for Visitor Economy. 	<p>As highlighted in theme four, the draft ESD includes a “Thriving Visitor Economy to establish Strathbogie Shire as a desirable and high-value visitor destination that drives year-round visitation and generates economic benefits for the region. This theme includes the development of a successful and diverse events calendar”.</p>
Submission 2:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledging exploration and mining, particularly given the importance of Central Victoria for hosting occurrences of the critical mineral antimony, as a driver for diversifying the local economy and ensuring economic resilience against shocks; and Considering the Zanelli Road Precinct, east of McDonald Road as a future area for the supply of employment land to encourage investment and attract businesses. 	<p>Theme two of the Draft EDS calls for the “Development of a vibrant business community from a diverse range of industry sectors that capitalises on Strathbogie Shire’s competitive advantages” It is recognised that emerging industries will play an important part in future development of the Shire with mining and renewable energy generation and storage being prime examples.</p> <p>In light of this submission, Theme 2 has been modified to include the support of “Emerging Industries” including mining and renewable energy generation and storage.</p>
Submission 3:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for increased parking in Nagambie Land use planning matters in relation to affordable housing and housing on small rural areas. 	<p>During the development of the Nagambie Streetscape Plan, we heard the need to address parking concerns in the main business district of Nagambie. There were concerns regarding ensuring adequate parking for long vehicles, specifically cars towing caravans in High Street. The Nagambie Streetscape Plan looks to make amendments to the existing parking layout, to provide additional on street car parking spaces wherever possible. This is a long term project and one that requires support from the State Government through the Department of Transport and Planning as they own High Street.</p> <p>In relation to land use planning, this submission is to be considered as part of the Rural Residential and Rural Land Use Strategy Review that is in the process of being reviewed.</p>

11.2.2 Final Draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 (cont.)

Submission 4:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocation of the Euroa Visitor Information Centre to the Travellers Rest, Euroa (using either existing or new infrastructure). 	This item would require the consideration of several factors and has been included in final draft EDS for further exploration and consideration.
Submission 5:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strathbogie's planning scheme should be more flexible in allowing subdivisions where houses could be built on 10Ha - 20Ha - maybe with some safeguards- but not the rigid requirement that it's 40Ha or nothing 	Whilst the draft EDS speaks to land use planning, any change to the planning scheme is driven by a statutory amendment process. This submission is to be considered as part of the Rural Residential and Rural Land Use Strategy Review that is in the process of being reviewed.

Additional amendments to the draft document include:

- Improved formatting of the document to enhance readability
- Inclusion of a vision
- Accommodation considerations; and
- Grammatical changes.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Section 4.1.1 of the 2021-2025 Council Plan calls for the adoption of an Economic Development Strategy.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The state of Victoria has a regional economic development strategy which is based around nine regional partnerships. Strathbogie Shire is a member of the Goulburn Regional Partnership along with Greater Shepparton City Council, Mitchell Shire, Moira Shire and Murrindindi Shire.

To effectively engage in this partnership, it is necessary to define Strathbogie Shire's economic profile and goals through an Economic Development Strategy which will assist in providing guidance to the State government on issues such as infrastructure, the visitor economy and business support.

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.

11.2.2 Final Draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 (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.

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

Local Government plays an important role in supporting and facilitating economic growth within their municipalities. Typically, local Governments role in economic development includes the following core functions:

- Supporting the development of the business base
- Attracting new businesses and jobs
- Growing the visitor economy
- Promoting liveable communities; and
- Undertaking advocacy efforts to attract infrastructure funding.

Economic development requires an integrated, whole of government approach that can be achieved through an Economic Development Strategy with clear objectives and measurable actions aligned with Council's other strategies and activities.

Social

Tourism events are a vital part of the Strathbogie Shire's visitor economy and provide a range of economic and social benefits, including:

- Showcasing the region's assets
- Attracting visitors to the area
- Generating local consumption; and
- Promoting community engagement for locals.

Environmental

There are a number of proposed actions identify in the Strategy and action plan. The action plan suggests the preparation of a Circular Economy Plan will help promote environmental sustainability and encourage a more efficient – and resilient – business base. This includes measures and actions to help businesses reduce and re-use waste, use resources more efficiently, as well as other measures to save inputs and reduce costs.

11.2.2 Final Draft Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 (cont.)

Climate change

The strategy considers the Macroeconomic context that will have implications for economic development in Strathbogie Shire. This includes the recent government commitments to reducing emissions, environmental sustainability is playing an increasing role within local government and influencing business and consumer decisions. As a result, there is increased demand for investment in new, clean energy technologies to increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions, as well as transition to more sustainable circular economy practices.

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 has been working to develop an Economic Development Strategy, with a draft strategy published for public commentary from 22 February 2023 to 5 April 2023. Five formal responses have been received.

The final draft Economic Development Strategy and associated Action Plan is a broad strategic plan outlining achievable goals and actions for Council and its future economic direction. As such it outlines the key directions and priorities for Strathbogie Shire Council to support economic development and sustained growth for the local economy.

This report seeks Council endorsement of Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy & Action Plan 2023-2027

Attachment 2: Appendices (Strathbogie Economic Development Strategy)

Attachment 3: Share Strathbogie Engagement Report

11.3 INFRASTRUCTURE

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-81: Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction

Author: Manager Project Delivery/ Senior Project Officer Project Delivery

Responsible Director: Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strathbogie Shire Streetscape Program Commenced in 21/22 Financial Year with Stage 1 works completed for Euroa, Longwood, and Avenel. As the grants were received through Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP), to progress further on Streetscape works Council has planned for stage 2 works to be commenced at Euroa with a detailed design completed for Stage 2 through Contract 22/23-27.

This project focus on Euroa Streetscape Stage 2 Construction which is replication of stage 1 works at the crossing further north on Binney street - Euroa. Shire officers conducted community consultation meetings while developing the detail designs for stage 2. The final plans were acknowledged and accepted by related community groups.

Council invited tenders for the work under Contract 22/23-81, advertised between 05 May 2023 and 31 May 2023. At close of tender on 31 May 2023, two (2) tenders were received. These tenders have been assessed and evaluated by Council Officers and a summary of results is detailed in this report.

This report seeks acceptance of following recommendations from the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No 22/23-81 Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction;***
- 2. Awards the tender for contract No 22/23-81 Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction - Lump Sum to Kialla Lawn and Garden Pty Ltd of Shepparton, for a total amount of \$253,257.40 inclusive of GST;***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenderer;***
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council; and***
- 5. Notes that the works will be completed in 12 weeks after full Contract execution.***

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-81: Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

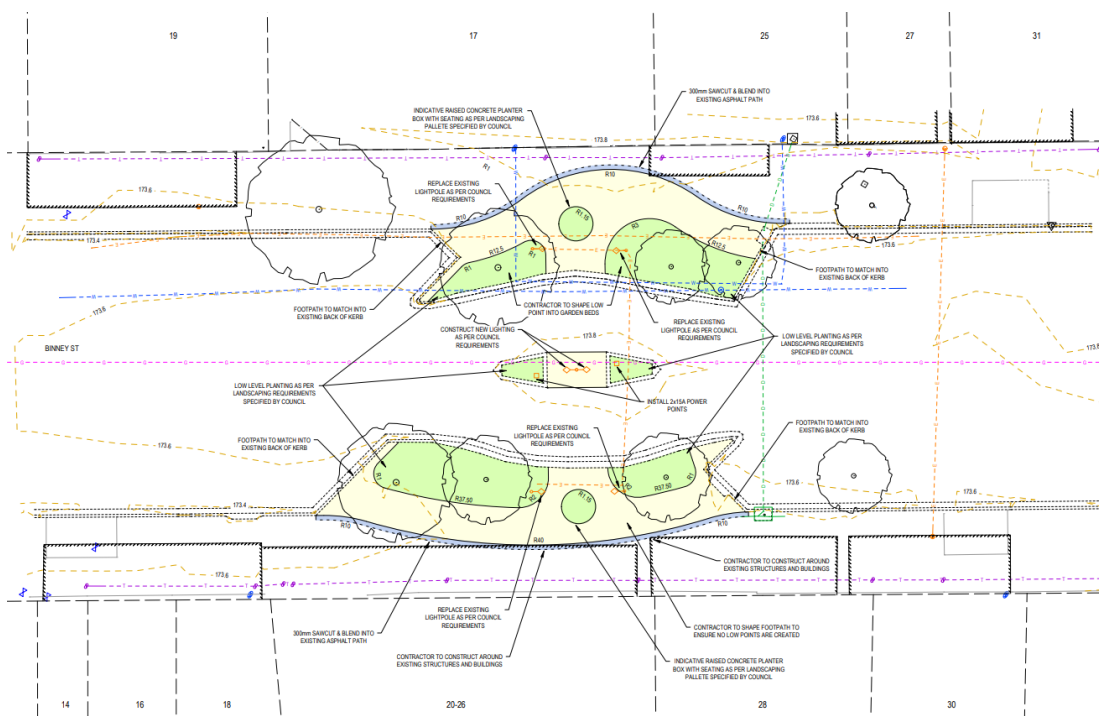
Strathbogie Shire Streetscape Program Commenced in 21/22 Financial Year and Stage 1 works completed for Euroa, Longwood, and Avenel. As the grants were received through LRCIP, to progress further on Streetscape works Council has planned for stage 2 works at Euroa with a detailed design completed for Euroa Stage 2 through Contract 22/23-27.

This project focusses on Euroa Streetscape Stage 2 Construction. Shire officers conducted community consultation meetings while developing the detail designs for stage 2. The final plans were acknowledged by the related community groups.

The work under this project is summarised as below;

- Setting out the works as per the plans
- Earthworks & Demolition
- Concrete Works
- Landscaping Works – Garden beds and Advance Trees
- Electrical Installations
- Signage
- Line marking for pedestrian crossing
- Furniture – Bike Racks and Bin Surrounds

Figure below shows the general layout of works to be completed under this project;



11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-81: Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction (cont.)

TENDER PROCESS

The public tender was released on <https://www.eprocure.com.au/strathbogie/> website on the 05 May 2023. The tender was advertised in Saturday's The Age newspaper (state-wide reach), and Shepparton News in the week following release. By the close of tenders at 4.00pm on 31 May 2023, two (2) tender submissions had been received.

Panel Assessment Process

In accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, the evaluation panel and evaluation criteria weightings were determined prior to release of the Tender documentation. The evaluation panel members were nominated prior to release of the tender submissions for evaluation. The panel signed 'Conflict of Interest' statements prior to the evaluation panel viewing the submitted tenders.

The Tender Evaluation Panel members were made up of the following Strathbogie Shire Council staff members:

1. Procurement and Revenue Officer, People and Governance
2. Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Infrastructure
3. Manager Project Delivery, Sustainable Infrastructure, and
4. Procurement & Tender Officer, People and Governance (moderating).

The principle that underlies the awarding of all Council contracts is that a contract is awarded based on providing the overall Best Value, offering the most benefit to the community and the greatest advantage to Council.

The tenders were assessed and evaluated against the following criteria and weightings:

TABLE 1: Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Price	40
Business and Management Requirements	Evaluator Review
Capability, Experience, Methodology, Timeline	40
Local Content/Regional Benefit	10
Sustainability	10
Compliance/exclusion from Contract	Evaluator Review
Total	100

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Evaluation Moderation Process

The purpose of the moderation meeting is to discuss and moderate scoring discrepancies larger than three points and to raise any concerns and/or queries that may need to be put to the tenderers prior to recommending the preferred Tenderer.

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-81: Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction (cont.)

The Tender Evaluation Panel individually reviewed all tender submissions in detail and assessed tenderers submitted schedules and attachments against the evaluation criteria.

The Moderator (Procurement & Tender Officer) averaged the scores and highlighted scoring discrepancies larger than three (3) points. On Wednesday 05th June 2023 the Panel members and the Moderator met to finalise the evaluation through moderation meeting.

Panel Assessment Summary

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.

At the completion of the tender evaluation process, Kialla Lawn and Garden Pty Ltd attained the highest ranking with a total score of 87.50% composed of 47.50% on Qualitative and 40.0% on Quantitative. Other tenderer scored below 80% on their total scoring with 39.4% on Qualitative and 38.9% on Quantitative.

The Tender Evaluation Panel was therefore satisfied that Kialla Lawn and Garden Pty Ltd represents the best value outcome for 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.

Council valued and considered community inputs related to the streetscape program thoroughly through a structured community consultation process led by Council Communications team.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

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

This report is consistent with the Strathbogie Shire Council Procurement Policy.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is relevant with the following:

- Strategic Focus Area 1: Engage. Create. Unite
One of the community's goals is to create welcoming social spaces where people can connect

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 matters raised by this project and it is noted that community engagement is consistent with the principles outlined in the Local Government Act 2020.

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-81: Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction (cont.)

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.

It is considered by the author of this report that all steps have been taken in line with Council's Procurement Policy which ensures transparency in the process.

Decisions made by Council will be: -

- undertaken in accordance with the Act and the Governance Rules.
- will be conducted in an open and transparent forum with information available via Council reports.

Council meetings will be open to the community or can be viewed on the livestream (and available as a recording) unless closed for reasons permitted by s.66(2) of the Act.

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 streetscape program is fully funded through LRCIP grants where Council input is to manage the design and construction process and maintain the infrastructure created through the program.

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

- Create a distinctive sense of place for residents, visitors and businesses.
- Provide a high quality, attractive public space where people want to visit and shop, and
- Improve the attractiveness, comfort, accessibility, connectivity, and safety each of our main streets or main commercial areas.

Social

Effective streetscape design is an integral part of shaping a community's identity, increasing civic pride and improving a sense of wellbeing and belonging. In particular these designs aim to improve connection to place, by:

- Creating a local sense of place by reinforcing identity and telling local stories through the choice of materials and placemaking, and
- Reinforce visual and physical connections to the surrounding landscape and heritage.

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-81: Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction (cont.)

Climate change

The streetscape plan aims to improve the environmental function of our townships by:

- Increasing areas of landscaping to improve passive cooling
- Embracing opportunities to utilise solar energy for lighting when feasible
- Increasing irrigation potential and stormwater drainage
- Replacing landscape treatments that are at the end of their lifecycle
- Increasing the capacity of existing green networks to enhance biodiversity and habitat corridors
- Ensuring the retention and renewal of the significant mature street trees where possible and the character of leafy streetscapes
- Increase the amount of permeable surfaces, soft landscape areas and shade trees

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

Council invited tenders for Contract No 22/23-81 Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction. The submitted tenders were sought and evaluated strictly in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and against the provided brief and specifications. It is proposed that Council endorses the recommended contract award for Streetscape Detailed Design – Euroa, Strathbogie and Violet Town as discussed herein.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tender Evaluation 22/23-81: Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction (CONFIDENTIAL)

11.3.2 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation

Author: Procurement and Tenders Officer

Responsible Directors: Director Community & Planning / Director Sustainable Infrastructure

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 officer delegation for the period 1 May 2023 to 31 May 2023.

This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's 2022/23 adopted budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the contracts awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer for May 2023.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

In line with Council's approach to transparency and good governance, the Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation report is 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 delegated 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
- Director – award a contract up to the value of \$50,000 for Goods and Services and \$50,00 for Works
- Manager – award a contract up to the value of \$15,000 for Goods and Services and \$15,000 for Works.

11.3.2 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation (cont.)**Contracts Awarded Under Delegated Authority by Chief Executive Officer**

Contract No.	PN 22/23-11
Contract Name	<i>Annual renewal of IPFX maintenance agreement</i>
Contract Details	Awarded under IT licence agreement provisions of Strathbogie Shire Procurement Policy. Annual service fee.
Value Including GST	\$8,422.70
Awarded to	IPFX Systems Limited
Scheduled Commencement	30 May 2023
Scheduled Completion Date	29 May 2024

Contract No.	PN 22/23-12
Contract Name	Subscription renewal of Councils Antivirus software.
Contract Details	Awarded under IT licence agreement provisions of Strathbogie Shire Procurement Policy.
Value Including GST	\$19,758.20
Awarded to	CyberSecOn Pty Ltd
Scheduled Commencement	16 May 2023
Scheduled Completion Date	15 May 2023

Contract No.	PN 22/23-13
Contract Name	<i>Consultancy for EOI for Grant for Community Battery</i>
Contract Details	CEO Approved exemption to Procurement Policy for no Request Public Quotation process. Approved due to the EOI deadline is 30 June 2023; leaving Council with no time to run a formal procurement process.
Value Including GST	\$40,000
Awarded to	Mach 2 Consultancy
Scheduled Commencement	23 May 2023
Scheduled Completion Date	30 June 2023

11.3.2 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation (cont.)

Contracts Awarded Under Delegated Authority by Directors and 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.

Consultation

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

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 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.

11.3.2 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation (cont.)

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.

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 under delegated authority of the Council during the period 1 May to 31 May 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.4 CORPORATE

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Community Engagement Policy Annual Review

Author: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Responsible Director: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Engagement Policy provides the scope and commitments of Strathbogie Shire Council's community engagement practices and responsibilities.

We want to encourage participation. To support open, honest and meaningful conversations with our community. This will ensure community members' priorities and expectations are reflected in Council activities and decision making.

Community engagement provides opportunities for the community to be involved in planning and decision-making. Hearing from a range of perspectives leads to better decisions and encourages ownership and belonging from all sections of our community. Importantly, it ensures transparency, integrity and trust in Council processes.

This policy has been revised to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 having been developed in consultation with the community and giving effect to the community engagement principles listed in the Act.

Additions to the policy include:

- Updated information on the application of the policy,
- Further information on the roles and responsibilities of Council Business Units, Councillors, Executive Leadership Team, Executive Manager of Communications and Engagement and Council staff and contractors,
- A guide to the engagement approach for Council's statutory requirements, such as the Community Vision, Council Plan and Budget, and
- Reasons for limited engagement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the updated Community Engagement Policy; and***
- 2. Authorise Council Officers to place the policy on Council's website, along with the publication of a notice in Council's weekly or fortnightly newspaper columns and social media pages informing the community about the policy.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Victorian Local Government Act 2020 outlines a set of five overarching principles that are central to our engagement practice. They broadly outline the need for community engagement to be transparent, accountable, meaningfully informed and representative.

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Community Engagement Policy Annual Review (cont.)

The main provisions under section 55 of the Act are that Council must apply 'deliberative' processes for certain strategic plans; must set out its engagement commitment for these and other matters in its Community Engagement Policy and must give effect to the prescribed principles.

The policy must specify 'deliberative engagement practices' for the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan.

Council has based this policy on best-practice community engagement frameworks including the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation, the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Public Participation Principles and the principles outlined in the Victorian Local Government Act 2020.

This policy is our commitment to the community on the principles and values that guide our community engagement. It applies to our Councillors, staff, contractors and volunteers.

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.

The policy ensures that engagement happens early in the planning stage for any changes to, or introduction of, new services, facilities, policies, or local laws that impact our community, including Council's budget. It may need to occur at several stages in the lead up to final plans or decisions.

The greater the impact on the community, the more interactive the engagement will be. Our approach is guided by the IAP2 Spectrum of Engagement which describes five levels of engagement, from 'inform' through to 'empower'.

It matches the role of the community with the level of influence they should expect. Many projects will involve more than one level of engagement. This is because the community can have different levels of influence at different stages of the project and different groups within the community may be more directly impacted than others.

The table below provides the five levels of engagement that our outlined by the IAP2 framework.

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public Participation Goal				
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Community Engagement Policy Annual Review (cont.)

Promise to the Public				
We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	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.	We will implement what you decide.

Updates made to this policy include the addition of three sections, these are shown below:

Application of this policy

This policy applies to all councillors, employees of the council, volunteers, external consultants and contractors employed as representatives of Council who organise, convene and facilitate council community engagement and consultation activities.

This policy does not replace processes relating to permit applications and planning scheme amendments governed by the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and associated regulations.

It does not apply to other Council processes such as service requests or complaints.

In making a decision, the Council takes all opinions into consideration, often from differing viewpoints, while weighing up a range of factors.

Community engagement is not the sole determinant in a decision-making process. There are many other stakeholders and factors that need to be taken into consideration. These include existing policies and strategies, other levels of government, legislation and budget.

Types of engagement

Community engagement can include multiple levels of participation, at different stages of the process and as different stakeholders choose to engage at different levels.

The depth of community engagement will set relating to the significance, complexity and anticipated level of impact of what is being proposed, and the stakeholders that will need to be targeted. It will also give regard to any legislative requirements.

This policy broadly outlines three approaches to community engagement and where they may be applied in the legislative, strategic and operational context. The Council can use one or a combination of approaches in its community engagement.

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Community Engagement Policy Annual Review (cont.)

Deliberative: This practice has the highest level of influence. This type of engagement is measured and considered. A deliberative process involves a diverse representation of participants; allows time and space for people to weigh up important, useful information from a range of sources; and, where decision-makers respond transparently to that input. The key feature of a deliberative process is to come to a decision after considering all information and prioritising and weighing solutions. It can be scaled and targeted to fit the size and impact of the project.

Participatory: This has a lower level of influence, while recognising public involvement brings more information to the decision. It is the invitation to provide feedback on ideas, alternatives or draft documents. The level of community participation and representation can be very broad.

Formal submissions: Where previously governed by the section 223 process of the Local Government Act 1989, the council will take a formal submissions approach. This approach will be complementary to the participatory and deliberative approaches. The formal submissions process will include the following.

- Advertisement of the item in appropriate channels for a minimum 21-day period to allow the community or stakeholders to make a written submission. The period will begin from publication on council channels,
- Make available a template for submissions which includes permission to publish,
- Ensure all written submission under this process are provided to all councillors before any decision is made, and
- Make available the submissions to the public unless otherwise notified by the submitter.

As a guide, the approach for community engagement for the council's statutory requirements is set out below.

Matter	Engagement Approach
Community Vision	Deliberative Engagement
Council Plan	Deliberative Engagement
Financial Plan	Deliberative engagement
Asset Plan	Deliberative engagement
Budget	Participatory engagement
Making of a Local Law	Formal submissions
Acquiring or selling land	Formal submissions
Other statutory and non-statutory plans, strategies or policies, service planning, capital works projects	Level to be selected depending on the complexity of the matter

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Community Engagement Policy Annual Review (cont.)

Reasons For Limited Engagement

There might be times when community engagement activities do not occur or the opportunity for engagement might be limited.

It can be expected there will be instances that the level of engagement could be at the base inform level where the council must make a decision in the best interests of the community without undertaking consultation.

This could include situations related to health and safety, where work relates to operational matters or where there is an unacceptable risk to the community that requires immediate action.

Examples where there might be limited engagement include but are not limited to:

- Where the council isn't the leading agency,
- Where specialist knowledge or expertise is required,
- An initiative which involves confidential or commercial information,
- Where there are clear and defined legislative responsibilities that must be met,
- The development or review of internal policies and procedures,
- Where the council is responding to an emergency; or,
- Where there is a risk to public safety.

If a project or decision will impact members of the community but there is no opportunity for community input then, wherever possible, the council will work to ensure that information is provided in a timely manner.

For the duration of the election period as governed by Local Government Act 2020 and in line with the council's Election Period Policy, consultation should be avoided.

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 has not occurred during the annual review of this policy.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Council's Community Engagement Policy is a key document in helping achieve strategic focus area 1: Engage.Create.Unite in the 2021/25 Council Plan.

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.

It is a key requirement under the Local Government Act 2020 that council must develop and maintain a Community Engagement Policy.

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Community Engagement Policy Annual Review (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 reformed community engagement on plans, policies and decision-making. The new legislation required all Councils to adopt and implement a Community Engagement Policy by 1 March 2021.

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 policy outlines our Engagement Principles. These are a set of minimal requirements and objectives that our community engagement must adhere too. These are:

Genuine and transparent: We will be open and honest in our engagement approach. Our scope will be outlined, the purpose clear and we won't shy away from telling the truth – even when it is hard.

Inclusive and accessible: We will be approachable. We will create an environment where diversity of opinion is welcomed and everyone is heard.

Responsive and flexible: Our engagement approach will be adaptable to ensure it meets its purpose and generates participation. There is no one-size-fits-all approach so we will be watchful and ready to change.

Listen and learn: We will evaluate and monitor our engagement and consultation to ensure we continually improve.

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 requirement of section 55 of the Local Government Act 2020 that Council must apply 'deliberative' processes for certain strategic plans will have a financial implication.

Deliberative engagement processes are independently facilitated and recruited – meaning Council will be required to engage a contractor to do this work

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Community Engagement Policy Annual Review (cont.)

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

While deliberative engagement processes are independently facilitated and recruited – meaning Council is required to engage a contractor to do this work, good engagement leads to better decisions that are supported by the community.

Social

Best practice community engagement is one of the most effective ways of ensuring meaningful input into our decision making and building trust in Council.

Climate change

One of Council's significant engagement improvements in the past year is our online engagement platform www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au. The platform helps Council achieve the aims of this policy and also contributes to Council's Climate Change Action Plan. In particular: Action 19. Monitor paper use and implement paper saving measures across the organisation.

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.

This policy ensures continuous improvement. This includes annual reviews and the implementation of evaluation processes at each engagement activity.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Community Engagement Policy is consistent with the Human Rights Charter, in particular, by promoting the rights of members of the community to take part in public life.

CONCLUSION

The Community Engagement Policy has been developed in accordance with section 55 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Through the review of this policy, Council's Communications and Engagement team will continue to ensure that all:

- Communications and engagement activities are effective and of high quality,
- Activities are a derivative of an approved communications and or engagement plan,
- All aspects of Council are considered when preparing communication and engagement activities,
- Activities planned are considered, and where possible cost efficiencies are identified through streamlining or consolidation to avoid duplication or to maximise impact or the opportunity,
- Directors, Executive Managers, or their delegated nominee, approves any communication activities prior to implementation,
- We conduct all community engagement within legislative requirements,

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Community Engagement Policy Annual Review (cont.)

- Our community engagement practices are in line with Council's values, and
- We undertake evaluation processes to continually improve our approach to community engagement.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Shire Council Community Engagement Policy

Attachment 2: Strathbogie Shire Council Community Engagement Policy - Policy Impact Assessment Tool

11.4.2 Council Policy Review - Events Policy

Author: Manager Community and Culture

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strathbogie Shire Council plans, manages, supports and delivers a range of events, functions and festivals held in Council facilities and on Council owned/managed land. The purpose of this policy is to provide the community and Council staff with clarity and an understanding of Council's objectives and approach with regards to the delivery and support of events.

The first Event Policy was adopted by Council in August 2021, following an audit review conducted by AFS & Associates. Council officers have reviewed this policy and this report presents an updated version to Council for consideration and adoption. Changes include:

- process improvements,
- new flow charts,
- regulatory updates, including single use plastics ban and First Aid requirements.
- changes to names/ titles, and
- Addition of the requirement to notify Taungurung Land and Waters Council under the Land Use Activity Agreement.

The policy applies to all Council and Community run events conducted on land owned/managed by Strathbogie Shire Council. This policy is supported by the Event Management Framework for the delivery of internal and external events within the Shire.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the updated Strathbogie Shire Council Events Policy 2023;**
- 2. Place the updated policy on Council's website, along with the publication of a notice in Council's weekly and fortnightly newspaper columns and social media pages about the adoption of the policy; and**
- 3. Note the policy will be reviewed biennially and may change at any time, subject to a Council resolution.**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Strathbogie Shire Council recognises the important role events play in the development of vibrant sustainable communities. Evidence shows that events can generate significant social, cultural and economic benefits to the community. Well managed local events offer a range of benefits including:

- Improve social cohesion, community spirit and pride,
- Build community involvement, interest and participation,
- Increased health and well being,

11.4.2 Council Policy Review - Events Policy (cont.)

- Support local economic development,
- Foster and strengthen civic pride and encouraging community connections, and
- Encourage and support a diverse community by promoting access and inclusion for all.

Council plans, manages, supports and delivers a range of events, functions and festivals held in Council facilities and on Council owned land.

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 review of the Strathbogie Shire Council Events Policy has been undertaken in consultation with relevant internal stakeholders and benchmarking activity has been undertaken. Council Officers are proposing the below changes to improve the rigour of the policy. The changes include:

- The policy now also applies to Council Run/Managed events- known as civic events,
- Council no longer ‘approves’ risk assessments for community events, we ‘review’ them, following legal advice in regard to liability,
- COVID Safe plans have been removed as a requirement for event applications as they are no longer required,
- Process updates to reflect Event Management software utilised by Council,
- Flow chart has been added for visual aid of event process and organisers,
- Reflects new State Government single-use plastics ban, further advice is provided through Council’s existing Waste Wise Events Policy, and
- Addition of the requirement to notify Taungurung Land and Waters Council under the Land Use Activity Agreement.

The revised Policy applies to all Council and Community run events conducted on land owned/managed by Strathbogie Shire Council. Council will become involved in third party events and functions which are held on private land, if there is an impact to permit obligations such as fireworks, temporary structures or other legislative requirements. This policy is supported by the Event Management Framework for the delivery of internal and external events within the Shire. In addition, Council has developed an Events Toolkit which supports event organisers to practically run and oversee events, offering guidance and resources.

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 Events Policy was developed and informed by the Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events setting out best practice in the event management sector. Benchmarking against other event policies and practices across Local Government was conducted.

11.4.2 Council Policy Review - Events Policy (cont.)

The review of this policy was undertaken with consultation of internal stakeholders who regularly plan events, as well as those who have a regulatory role in any capacity. In addition, feedback from different event organisers has also been considered where appropriate.

Due to the specific legislative requirements of the event process to ensure that all events held within Strathbogie Shire are conducted safely, the appropriate authorities have been consulted in the development of the Events Policy for the purpose of actioning safe and compliant event. As such, no broader community engagement was required in the review of this Policy.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

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

Council Plan 2021 – 2025

Strategic Focus Area 1- Engage. Create. Unite

1.5 Review and implement the Arts & Culture Strategy to support the community in driving diversity in activities and events.

Strategic Focus Area 4- Inclusive. Productive. Balanced

4.2 Develop and adopt a Tourism and Events Strategy to broaden and diversify the calendar of events, with a focus on eco-tourism.

The addition of a new requirement to notify Taungurung Land and Waters Council of the event organisers intent to hold an event on public land, under Council's responsibilities under the Land Use Activity Agreement supports the implementation of Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Taungurung Land and Waters Council.

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 Victorian Guidelines for Planning Safe Public Events were referenced in the development of the Events Policy in line with the Internal Audit Recommendations from April 2021.

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.

11.4.2 Council Policy Review - Events Policy (cont.)

In addition, the following legislation is required to be adhered to when reviewing the safe implementation of events and has been taken into consideration in the development of the Events Policy:

- Community Local Law No. 2 (2020)
- Food Act 1998
- Transport Act (1983)
- Maritime Safety Act (2010)
- Planning & Environment Act (1987)
- Liquor Control Reform Act (1998)
- Building Act (1993), Building Regulations (2006)
- Native Title Act (1993)

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 updated Events Policy will be available to the community online in the relevant area on Council's website. In addition, this report and the consideration of the policy has been tabled at a Council meeting, open to the public, providing a clear and transparent decision-making platform.

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 implementation of this policy is within existing budget allocation. No additional funds will be required or allocated.

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

A key driver of the visitor economy within Strathbogie Shire is events, in particular the high impact/major events and events held across the Shire. Spectators, participants, and event personnel all contribute to the visitor economy of the area and provides a strong economic driver for the broader Strathbogie region. The event policy ensures that events are enjoyable, safe, well organised and executed in line with regulatory requirements.

11.4.2 Council Policy Review - Events Policy (cont.)

Social

Events bring communities together, enhance health and wellbeing and build a sense of identity within our towns and townships and helping to create memorable moments through shared experiences.

The Events Policy clearly defines Council's requirements and the event management process and informs the broader Event Management Framework. The policy and associated documents also help to build the capacity for event organisers who are often volunteers and volunteer committees adding social capital to the local communities fostering a culture of volunteering and community connection.

Environmental

The Events Policy builds on Councils commitment to our environment. It highlights the expectation of all organisers deliver Waste Wise events, implement the State Governments' single use plastics ban and respond to the relevant priorities set out in Council Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027. Event organisers are required to work with Council's Waste Team to plan and deliver waste wise events. The new requirement to notify Taungurung Land and Waters Council of the event organisers intent to hold an event on public land, under Council's responsibilities under the Land Use Activity Agreement, also supports environmental protection and connection to Country.

Climate change

As highlighted above, the Events Policy builds on Councils commitment to our environment and our position on Climate Change following Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency. It highlights the expectation of all organisers to deliver Waste Wise events, implement the State Governments' single use plastics ban and respond to the relevant priorities set out in Council Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027. Event organisers are required to work with Council's Waste Team to plan and deliver waste wise events.

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 Events Policy has been reviewed to ensure continuous improvement and ensure the policy supports the event planning and management needs of the Strathbogie Community.

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 review of this policy was undertaken with consultation of internal stakeholders who regularly plan events, as well as those who have a regulatory role in any capacity. In addition, feedback from different event organisers has also been considered where appropriate. Benchmarking of similar Policies and the processes used by other Local Governments was also completed to inform this policy and review.

11.4.2 Council Policy Review - Events Policy (cont.)

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

Council's Policy Impact Assessment Tool has been completed and applied to this policy as a part of the review process.

CONCLUSION

The first Event Policy was adopted by Council in August 2021, following an audit review conducted by AFS & Associates. Council officers have since reviewed this policy and this report presents an updated version to Council for consideration and adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Events Policy

Attachment 2: Event Management Framework

Attachment 3: Events Tool Kit

Attachment 4: Policy Impact Assessment Tool

11.4.3 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Confirmed Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3 March 2023 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 21 April 2023

Author and Responsible Director: Director, People & Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the confirmed minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 3 March 2023 and the confirmed minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 21 April 2023 for Council's noting.

The items considered by the Committee at the meeting were as follows:

3 March 2023 -

- Overall Staff satisfaction survey results
- Dates for 2023-24 budget review meetings
- Municipal Monitors Final Report
- Appointment of Internal Auditor tender update
- Cumulative Spend – Procurement Policy Thresholds Arborist
- Electoral Structure Review Update
- Goulburn Valley Library Update – New CEO Recruitment update
- Disaster Recovery Plan and Emergency Recovery Update
- Strategic Risk Register Update
- Outstanding Internal Audit Items Update
- External Audit Strategy Memorandum year end 30 June 2023
- Internal Audit Program Reports
- Human Resources – Key Strategic Indicators
- Item raised by Committee members
- Confidential briefing with the CEO

21 April 2023 -

- 2023-24 Draft Budget and 2023–24 Draft Capital Work Program
- Confidential Briefing with CEO, Director People & Governance, and Independent Members

The confirmed minutes from the above meetings are presented for Council's noting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Confirmed Minutes of the Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee meetings of 3 March 2023 and 21 April 2023.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee is a Committee appointed by Council and pursuant to section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

11.4.3 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Confirmed Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3 March 2023 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 21 April 2023 (cont.)

The primary objective of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities for compliance with Council policies and legislation, sound financial reporting and financial management, oversight of risk management including the Strategic Risk Register, good corporate governance, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls and facilitating the organization's ethical development.

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.

The independence of the Audit and Risk Committee ensures there is a 'watchdog' over Council operations at all times, which helps ensure the best interests of the municipal community are achieved through Council operations and decisions.

The advice received from the Committee influences strategic financial management, policy, risk management and good governance and decision making frameworks.

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 on this matter is not required under Council's Community Engagement Policy given the operational nature of the committee and its operation under the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

The Committee is comprised of for four independent Community representatives and two Councillors (with one Councillor substitute representatives).

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The work of the Committee is consistent with Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible, which outlines several strategies:

As a Council we will:

- *Achieve the highest level of good governance across the organization and as an elected Council*
- *Be accountable for the decisions we make and the quality of services we deliver*
- *Maximize public transparency and accountability around our performance and decision making processes*
- *Be financially responsible achieving the greatest possible community benefit from the programs, initiatives, and services we fund.*

11.4.3 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Confirmed Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3 March 2023 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 21 April 2023 (cont.)

The Audit and Risk Committee plays a key role in monitoring implementation of these strategies.

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 Audit and Risk Committee has been established under State government legislation, while its Workplan and Charter have been developed in accordance with State government guidelines.

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 Audit and Risk Committee has been constituted and established under sections 53 and 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which requires all councils to appoint a Committee under a Charter.

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 appointment of an Audit and Risk Committee, along with noting the confirmed and unconfirmed minutes through this Council agenda at a public meeting, ensures transparency around the operation of the Committee and the issues that it is considering/monitoring.

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 independent overview of Council's financial management processes and performance is a key task undertaken by the Committee to ensure Council's ongoing financial sustainability.

An overview of the mid-year review budget preparation process was provided to the Committee, along with a summary of the financial constraints and opportunities shaping the development of the review and the forthcoming 2023-24 budget.

11.4.3 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Confirmed Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3 March 2023 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 21 April 2023 (cont.)

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 Strategic Risk Register outlines mitigation measures employed by Council to address climate change and also reflect the increasing risk of extreme weather events such as the October 2022 flood.

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 input of the Audit and Risk Committee into key governance and financial management tools such as the strategic risk register and policy reviews ensures continuous improvement is achieved across the organisation.

Service and value for money improvements are achieved through the internal and external audit process, the former of which is overseen by the Committee.

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 Committee endures collaboration with independent community members, internal auditors and external auditors appointed by the VAGO.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Audit and Risk Committee's activities are consistent with the implementation of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 in terms of its role in ensuring Council adheres to legislative requirements.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends the noting of the confirmed minutes of recent Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee meetings.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Confirmed Audit and Risk Committee minutes 3 March 2023

Attachment 2: Confirmed Audit and Risk Committee minutes 21 April 2023

11.4.4 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Annual Committee Performance Report January to December 2022 and Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report January to June 2023

Author and Responsible Director: Director, People & Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the Annual Committee Performance Report for January to December 2022 and Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report, January to June 2023.

The Committee prepares an annual and bi-annual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee and includes the Committee's findings and recommendations in accordance with section 54(5a) of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)*, and clause 6 of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (the Charter).

The Annual Committee Performance Report covers the Audit and Risk Committee activities from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. In the period the Committee met eight times as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Purpose of Meeting
11 March 2022	Special Meeting – to consider draft Strategic Risk Register
25 March 2022	Ordinary Meeting
4 April 2022	Special Meeting – to consider 2022-23 draft Budget & 2022-23 Financial Plan
1 July 2022	Ordinary Meeting
16 September 2022	Ordinary Meeting
19 September 2022	Extraordinary Meeting (due to lack of quorum at 16 September 2022 meeting)
7 October 2022	Extraordinary Meeting – to review policies
2 December 2022	Ordinary Meeting

The report details:

- Membership Attendance
- Key Activities for the Reporting Period
- External Audit report summary
- Internal Audit report summary
- Risk Management summary
- Assessment of the Committee's Performance summary
- Audit Committee Work Plan – Summary of Actions/Updates in Quarter to Dec2022

The Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report covers the Audit and Risk Committee activities from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023. In the period the Committee met three times as detailed in Table 2.

11.4.5 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Annual Committee Performance Report January to December 2022 and Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report January to June 2023 (cont.)

Table 2: 2023 Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Purpose of Meeting
3 March 2023	Ordinary Meeting
21 April 2023	Extraordinary Meeting – to consider 2023-24 draft Budget & 2023-24 Financial Plan
2 June 2023	Ordinary Meeting

The report details:

- Membership and Attendance
- Key Activities for the Reporting Period
- External Audit Summary
- Internal Audit Summary
- Risk Management Summary
- Audit Committee Work Plan – Summary of Actions/Updates in Quarter to June 2023

The Annual Committee Performance Report and Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report are presented for Council's noting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Annual Committee Performance Report January – December 2022 and the Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report January-June 2023 of the Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee is a Committee appointed by Council and pursuant to section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The primary objective of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities for compliance with Council policies and legislation, sound financial reporting and financial management, oversight of risk management including the Strategic Risk Register, good corporate governance, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls and facilitating the organisation's ethical development.

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.

The independence of the Audit and Risk Committee ensures there is a 'watchdog' over Council operations at all times, which helps ensure the best interests of the municipal community are achieved through Council operations and decisions.

11.4.5 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Annual Committee Performance Report January to December 2022 and Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report January to June 2023 (cont.)

The advice received from the Committee influences strategic financial management, policy, risk management and good governance and decision-making frameworks.

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 on this matter is not required under Council's Community Engagement Policy given the operational nature of the committee and its operation under the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

The Committee is comprised of four independent Community representatives and two Councillors (with one Councillor substitute representatives).

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The work of the Committee is consistent with Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible, which outlines several strategies:

As a Council we will:

- *Achieve the highest level of good governance across the organization and as an elected Council*
- *Be accountable for the decisions we make and the quality of services we deliver*
- *Maximize public transparency and accountability around our performance and decision making processes*
- *Be financially responsible achieving the greatest possible community benefit from the programs, initiatives, and services we fund.*

The Audit and Risk Committee plays a key role in monitoring implementation of these strategies.

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 Audit and Risk Committee has been established under State government legislation, while its Workplan and Charter have been developed in accordance with State government guidelines.

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.

11.4.5 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Annual Committee Performance Report January to December 2022 and Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report January to June 2023 (cont.)

The Audit and Risk Committee has been constituted and established under sections 53 and 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which requires all councils to appoint a Committee and adopt a Charter to provide a governance structure for its operations.

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 appointment of an Audit and Risk Committee, along with noting the confirmed and unconfirmed minutes through this Council agenda at a public meeting, ensures transparency around the operation of the Committee and the issues that it is considering/monitoring.

The Audit and Risk Committee have a dedicated webpage on Council's website, accessible via the following link:

[Audit and Risk Committee - Strathbogie Shire](#)

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 independent overview of Council's financial management processes and performance is a key task undertaken by the Committee to ensure Council's ongoing financial sustainability.

An overview of the mid-year review budget preparation process was provided to the Committee, along with a summary of the financial constraints and opportunities shaping the development of the review and the forthcoming 2023-24 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.

The Strategic Risk Register outlines mitigation measures employed by Council to address climate change and also reflect the increasing risk of extreme weather events such as the October 2022 flood.

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.

11.4.5 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Annual Committee Performance Report January to December 2022 and Bi-Annual Committee Performance Report January to June 2023 (cont.)

The input of the Audit and Risk Committee into key governance and financial management tools such as the strategic risk register and policy reviews ensures continuous improvement is achieved across the organisation.

Service and value for money improvements are achieved through the internal and external audit process, the former of which is overseen by the Committee.

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 Committee endures collaboration with independent community members, internal auditors and external auditors appointed by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO).

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Audit and Risk Committee's activities are consistent with the implementation of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* in terms of its role in ensuring Council adheres to legislative requirements.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends the noting of the Annual Performance Report January to December 2022 and Bi-Annual Performance Report January to June 2023 of the Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Audit and Risk Committee Annual Performance Report January to December 2022

Attachment 2: Audit and Risk Committee Bi-Annual Performance Report January to June 2023

11.5 GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

11.5.1 Receipt of Resignation – Councillor David Andrews

Author: Director People & Governance

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chief Executive Officer received a written notice of resignation from Councillor Dave Andrews, Lake Nagambie Ward, on Monday 12 June 2023.

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), states that the resignation takes effect the day that it is delivered to the Chief Executive Officer.

An extraordinary vacancy in the Lake Nagambie Ward now exists.

The Act requires notification to the Minister for Local Government and the Victorian Electoral Commission within 72 hours of this extraordinary vacancy occurring.

The CEO informed the Hon. Melissa Horne Minister for Local Government and the Acting Electoral Commissioner for the Victorian Electoral Commission, Mairead Doyle of Cr Andrews' resignation on 13 June 2023.

Given the Lake Nagambie ward is a multi-member ward, the Victorian Electoral Commission will conduct a countback to identify if the vacancy can be held through this means over the forthcoming weeks.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note:

- 1. The Chief Executive Officer has received written notice from Councillor Dave Andrews of his resignation as Councillor for the Lake Nagambie Ward, received 12 June 2023.***
- 2. The Chief Executive Officer has informed the Minister for Local Government and the Acting Electoral Commissioner of the Victorian Electoral Commission, by way of letter on 13 June 2023, that there is an extraordinary vacancy in the Lake Nagambie Ward in accordance with section 258(8) of the Local Government Act 2020.***
- 3. The Victorian Electoral Commission will commence proceedings for a countback for the Lake Nagambie Ward to elect a new Councillor in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to inform the community of the resignation of Cr Dave Andrews from the Lake Nagambie ward and the steps taken by the Chief Executive Officer to meet the obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to an extraordinary vacancy.

11.5.1 Receipt of Resignation – Councillor David Andrews (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.

Section 35(1)(c) of the Act states that a Councillor ceases to hold office if they resign in writing to the Chief Executive Officer. This causes what is known as an extraordinary vacancy under the Act.

Under section 35 (7) of the Act, a resignation cannot be withdrawn once written notification is received by the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 258 of the Act relates to extraordinary vacancies. Under section 258(2) the resignation takes effect on the day it is delivered to the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 258(8) states:

*The Chief Executive Officer must within 3 working days of—
(a) receiving a written resignation from a Councillor;....*

— notify the Minister and the VEC that an extraordinary vacancy has occurred.

Under section 261 of the Act, because the Lake Nagambie Ward is represented by more than one Councillor, a countback of votes will be undertaken, assuming that more than one or more candidates from the last election are eligible to be candidates for the purpose of the countback.

The countback is conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) in accordance with Division 8 of the Act.

It is noted that within 14 days of the extraordinary vacancy occurring, the VEC must publish a notice on the VEC's Internet site and give written notice to each eligible candidate at their last known address that a countback will be held.

This VEC notice must specify the date, time and place for the conduct of the countback and that candidates can appoint scrutineers for the countback.

Once the new Councillor representative is announced by the VEC, an induction program and swearing in process will be implemented as soon as possible after the result is known. Any vacancies on Council appointed committees will also be filled upon the swearing in of the new councillor.

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 Victorian Electoral Commission will prepare and publish all of the public notices and information regarding the countback procedure on its website, which will be available as a link through Council's website and social media pages.

11.5.1 Receipt of Resignation – Councillor David Andrews (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The processes required to fill the extraordinary vacancy following the resignation of Cr Andrews ensures due process is undertaken in accordance with legislation, which is consistent with the strategic objectives of Strategic Focus Area 6 Accountable. Transparent. Responsible of the 2021-25 Council Plan and the following strategy:

As a Council we will:

- *Achieve the highest level of good governance across the organisation and as an elected Council.*

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 resignation process and filling of the extraordinary vacancy that has resulted is being undertaken in accordance with State legislation.

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.

All requirements of sections 35 and 258 of the Act have been met by Cr Andrews and Chief Executive Officer in terms of a resignation and the subsequent notification of an extraordinary vacancy having been created in the Lake Nagambie ward.

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 purpose of this report is to inform the public of Cr Andrews' resignation as Lake Nagambie Ward Councillor.

Further information will be provided to the community regarding Cr Andrews' resignation through Council's website, social media accounts and a media release.

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.

11.5.1 Receipt of Resignation – Councillor David Andrews (cont.)

There is no budget allocation for the holding of a countback procedure to fill the extraordinary vacancy in the 2022-23 budget, however provisions have been made of around \$15,000 in the final draft of the 2023-24 budget to cover the costs of the Victorian Electoral Commission. The draft budget is due for Council adoption at an extraordinary meeting on 27 June 2023.

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.

There are no implications relating to sustainability arising out of this matter, however the newly elected councillor will be fully briefed and informed about our sustainability framework and action on mitigating risks from climate change as required by the Act.

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 induction and training program for the councillor who will fill the extraordinary vacancy will be modelled on the program followed after the 2020 general election and the induction that Cr Andrews received on his election via an extraordinary countback procedure in September 2021.

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 filling of an extraordinary vacancy created by a councillor resignation requires a partnership between Council and the Victorian Electoral Commission.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no implications of note arising from this matter in relation to *the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

CONCLUSION

Following the receipt of written notice from Cr Andrews in relation to his resignation from his position as Councillor, Lake Nagambie Ward, all procedures and requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 have been undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer.

A countback process to fill the extraordinary vacancy will now be undertaken by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.5.2 Monthly Performance Report

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

- Building Department – May 2023 Statistics
- Planning Department – Planning Application Approvals – Development Cost (Capital Improved Value) – May 2023
- Customer Enquiry Analysis Report – Report for May 2023
- Waste Management Reporting ~ Year to Date – May 2023
- Transfer Station Date - May 2023
- Actioning of Council Reports Resolutions – Council Meeting Tuesday May 16, 2023, and Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday May 23, 2023
- Outstanding Actions of Council Resolutions to May 31, 2023
- Review of Council Policies and Adoption of new Policies – May 2023
- Records of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings – 1 to 31 May 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.

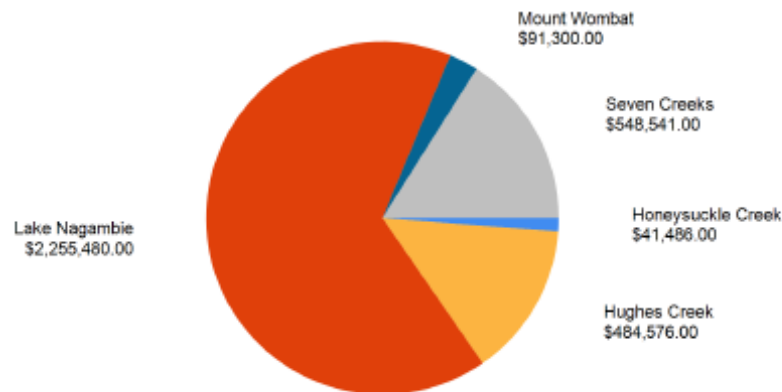
RECOMMENDATION

That the report be accepted.

BUILDING ACTIVITY**MAY 2023****Building Activity**

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

Ward	Number of Lodgements	Cost Of Works
Honeysuckle Creek	1	\$41,486.00
Hughes Creek	5	\$484,576.00
Lake Nagambie	16	\$2,255,480.00
Mount Wombat	1	\$91,300.00
Seven Creeks	6	\$548,541.00
	29	\$3,421,383.00

**Honeysuckle Creek**

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
2488141148294	29/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Balmattum	\$41,486.00
					\$41,486.00

Hughes Creek

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
7624182600571	02/05/2023	Construction of	Shed	Avenel	\$9,416.00
4926406484216	03/05/2023	Demolition of	Dwelling	Avenel	\$4,000.00
7408995967223	20/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Longwood	\$38,900.00
6560723695996	20/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Avenel	\$45,000.00
1147501029425	29/05/2023	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Avenel	\$387,260.00
					\$484,576.00

Lake Nagambie

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
779998663354	03/05/2023	Construction of	Outbuilding	Nagambie	\$45,882.00
1190435402788	02/05/2023	Construction of	Shed	Bailieston	\$15,200.00
1092925836693	03/05/2023	Construction of	Pool house	Nagambie	\$10,000.00
5506919769906	01/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Goulburn Weir	\$50,000.00
6697909927057	05/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Kirwans Bridge	\$48,000.00
9587885955536	11/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Bailieston	\$136,040.00
5765646990610	02/05/2023	Construction of	Detached Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$404,660.00
4291786392251	19/05/2023	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage, Retaining Wall	Nagambie	\$460,052.00
4173655969173	19/05/2023	Construction of	Dwelling & Garage	Nagambie	\$268,790.00
2537685844303	24/05/2023	Installation of	Swimming Pool, Pool safety barrier	Nagambie	\$62,541.00
3662701674638	16/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed	Tabilk	\$185,550.00
9274017127378	25/05/2023	Construction of	Shed	Nagambie	\$15,000.00
6980254127351	25/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed x2	Tabilk	\$285,550.00
6753872384897	29/05/2023	Installation of	Swimming Pool and Fence	Nagambie	\$46,715.00
2410473802694	24/05/2023	Construction of	Dwelling	Whroo	\$150,000.00
3141948045258	30/05/2023	Construction of	Swimming Pool and Fence	Nagambie	\$71,500.00
					\$2,255,480.00

Mount Wombat

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
9290908033721	17/05/2023	Alteration to	Dwelling	Euroa	\$91,300.00
					\$91,300.00

Seven Creeks

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
8923253021601	08/05/2023	Construction of	Verandah	Euroa	\$31,015.00
2802557987395	17/05/2023	Construction of	Farm Shed, Verandah	Miepoll	\$39,721.00
2702129052346	24/05/2023	Construction of	Patio	Euroa	\$14,080.00
6904661543067	25/05/2023	Construction of	Dwelling & Veranda	Miepoll	\$375,430.00
4306426451588	25/05/2023	Construction of	Storage Sheds	Euroa	\$68,263.00
8284900467261	30/05/2023	Construction of	Shed	Euroa	\$20,032.00
					\$548,541.00

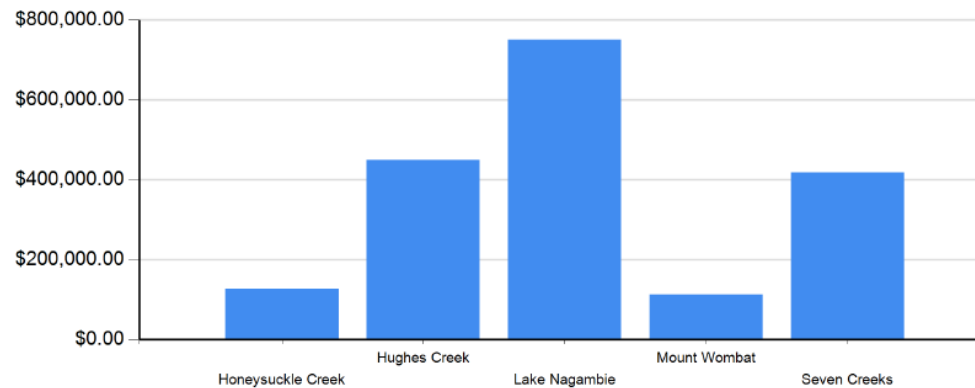
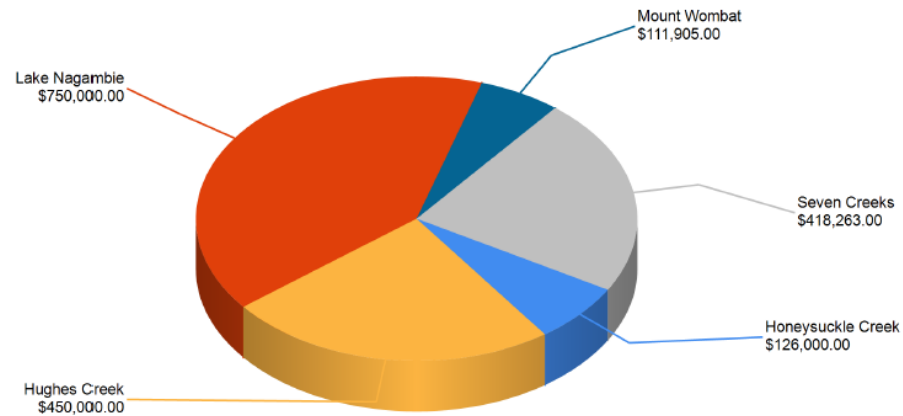
PLANNING APPLICATION APPROVALS – DEVELOPMENT COST (CAPITAL IMPROVED VALUE)
MAY 2023



Planning Applications Determined

May 2023

Honeysuckle Creek	\$126,000.00
Boho South	\$126,000.00
Hughes Creek	\$450,000.00
Mangalore	\$450,000.00
Lake Nagambie	\$750,000.00
Graytown	\$750,000.00
Mount Wombat	\$111,905.00
Kelvin View	\$111,905.00
Seven Creeks	\$418,263.00
Euroa	\$350,000.00
Euroa	\$68,263.00
Total Value	\$1,856,168.00



CUSTOMER ENQUIRY ANALYSIS REPORT - REPORT FOR MAY 2023



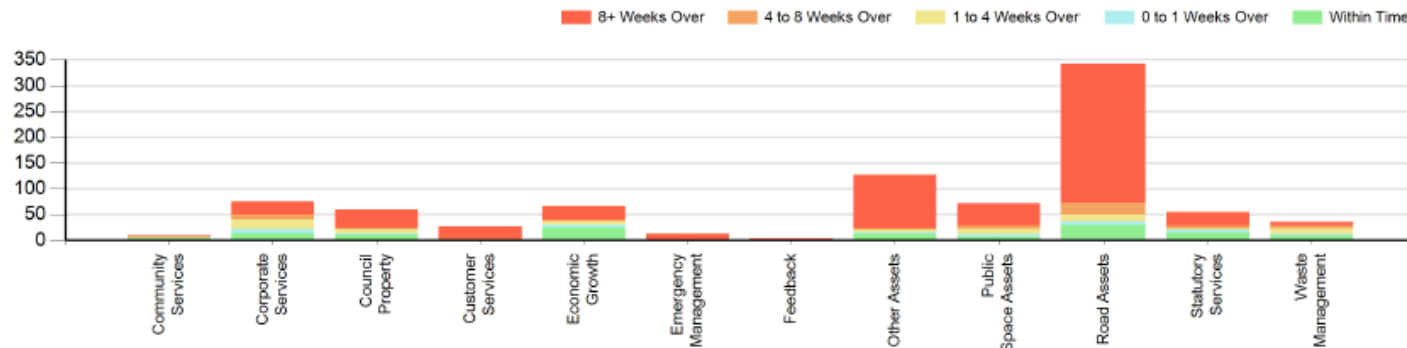
Request Throughput Analysis

01/05/2023 to 31/05/2023

C N O R	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	34	30	10	✓	5	5	⚠	0	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Corporate Services	56	157	136	77	✓	14	63	✗	0	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>
Council Property	46	56	40	62	⚠	11	50	✗	0	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>
Customer Services	26	15	14	27	✓	0	27	✗	0	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
Economic Growth	34	189	156	67	✓	25	42	⚠	0	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>
Emergency Management	15	9	11	13	✓	1	12	✗	0	<div style="width: 2%;"></div>
Feedback	3	8	7	4	✓	1	3	✗	0	<div style="width: 1%;"></div>
Other Assets	140	53	65	128	✓	13	115	✗	0	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>
Public Space Assets	91	50	47	72	✓	8	64	✗	22	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Road Assets	387	87	130	344	✓	29	315	✗	0	<div style="width: 30%;"></div>
Statutory Services	52	178	174	56	✓	15	40	✗	0	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>
Waste Management	21	41	26	36	⚠	9	27	✗	0	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Total	877	877	836	896		131	763		22	

Request Ageing



Service Usage






2021	May								2		5		
	June			1					3	2			
	July								10		8		
	August		1								3		
	September			1	1	1			1	3	4		
	October			2						4	3		
	November			1					1	2	8		
	December			1			1		4	1	10		
2022	January		5	1					1	4	3		
	February			1					4	4	10		
	March			1			1			2	4		
	April			1					2		5		
	May		1						4	1	11	2	1
	June		1	1					6	1	31	1	
	July	1		5	1	1			3	1	32	1	1
	August			3	2	2	2		9	2	5	3	
	September		1	1	3	1		1	9	2	16	2	
	October				2	3	3		15	1	15	3	
	November			3	6	5			15	4	31	4	
	December		1	2	1	2	1		3	1	9	5	
2023	January	1	2	2	9	1	4		2	1	16	1	1
	February		2	5		5			2	7	21	3	
	March		11	3				1	4	11	23	5	4
	April		7	3		3			2	15	20	3	5
	May	8	41	23	2	38	1	1	21	18	46	23	22
Total		10	77	62	27	67	13	4	128	94	344	56	36

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.

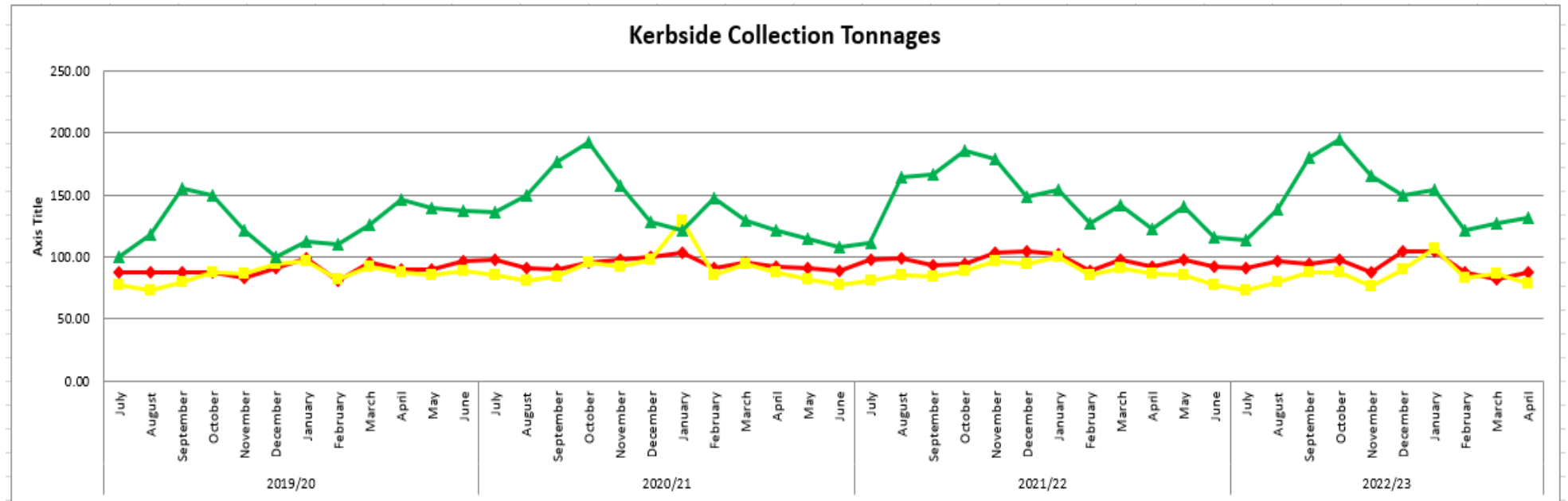
				
$\frac{C}{N}$	Complete / New	> 80%	50-80%	< 50%

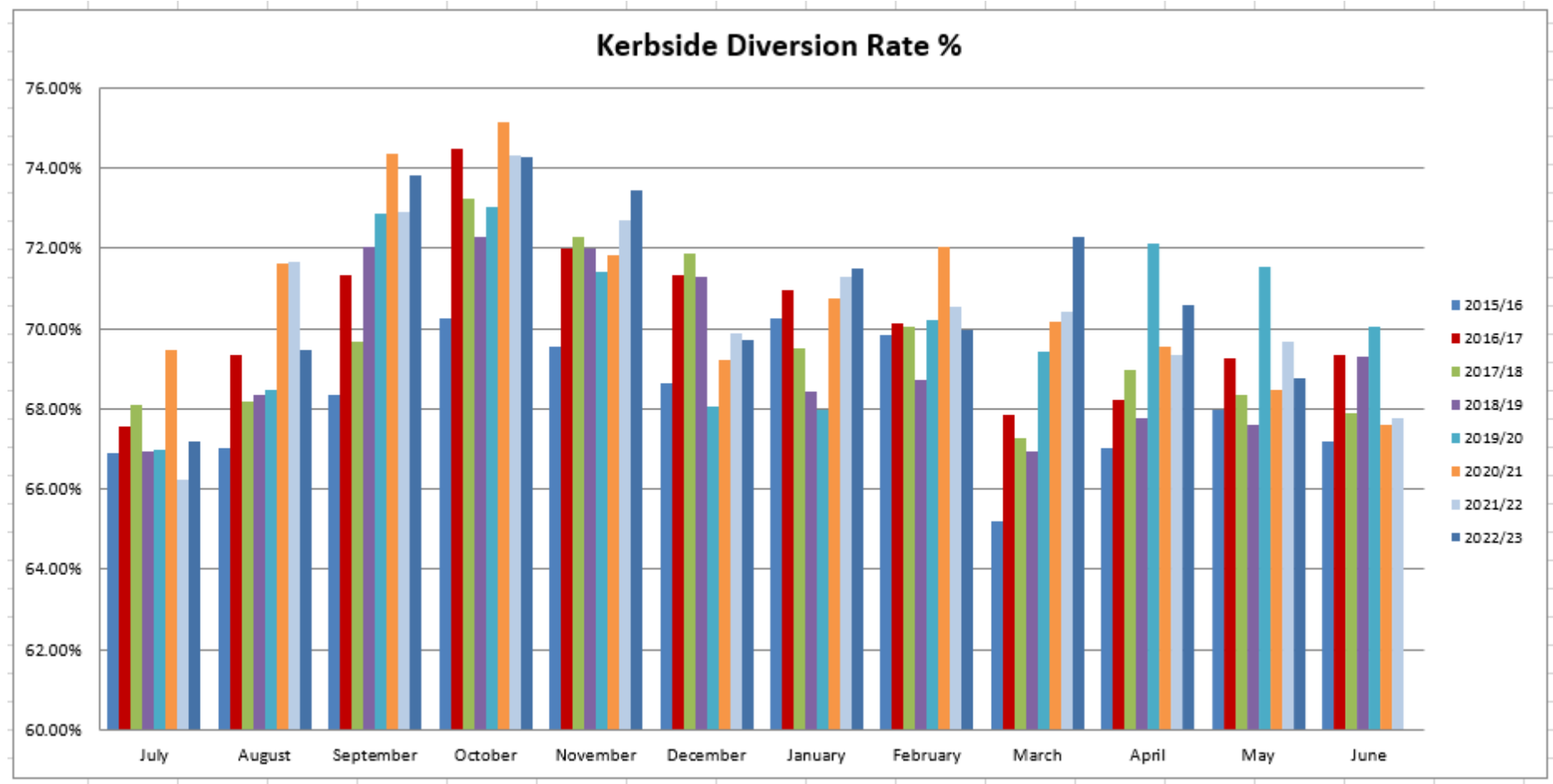
Service	Activities that provide value to the customer
Remaining	Requests incomplete at end of reporting period
Completed	Requests completed during reporting period
Over Time	Remaining Requests where defined deadline is before the end of the reporting period

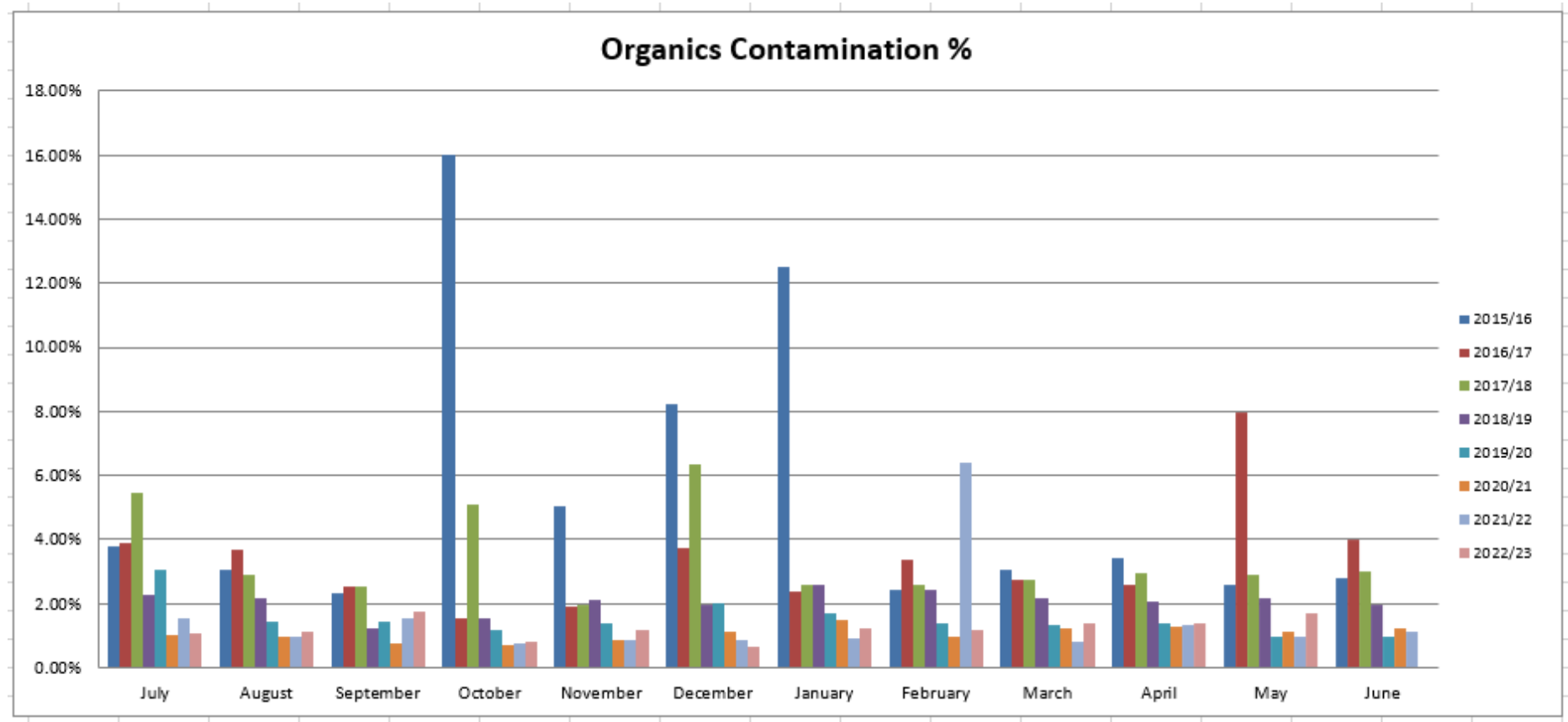
Overdue Remaining An indicator showing the ratio of Overdue requests and Remaining requests. Designed to represent how well we are keeping to the defined deadlines.

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

WASTE MANAGEMENT REPORTING
YEAR TO DATE - MAY 2023



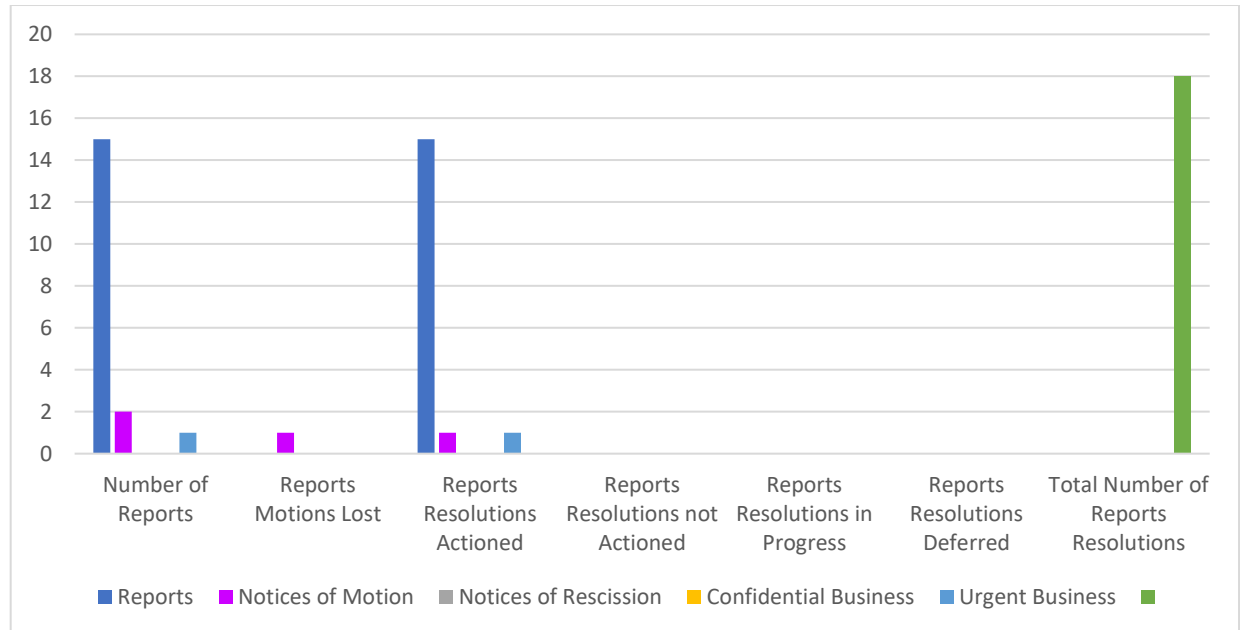




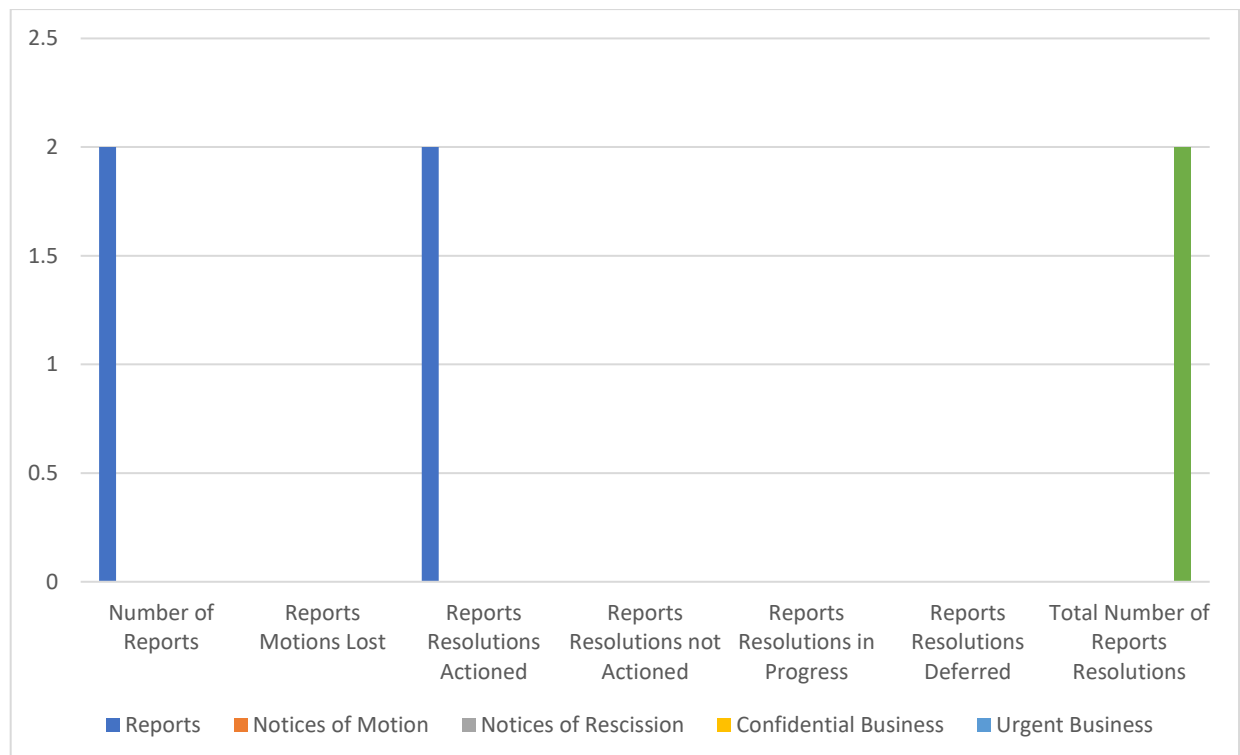
TRANSFER STATION DATA – MAY 2023



ACTIONING OF COUNCIL REPORTS RESOLUTIONS
COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY MAY 16, 2023



ACTIONING OF COUNCIL REPORTS RESOLUTIONS
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY MAY 23, 2023



**OUTSTANDING ACTIONS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS TO
MAY 31, 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
Policy Review	Community Engagement Policy	Refer to Item 11.4.1
Policy Review	Events Policy	Refer to Item 11.4.2

RECORDS OF INFORMAL COUNCIL BRIEFINGS / MEETINGS**FOR PERIOD 1 TO 31 MAY 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 2 May 2023

Location: Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 10.15 am – 6.23 pm

Attendees:Councillors

Cr Laura Binks (Mayor)

Paul Murray (Deputy Mayor)

Cr David Andrews

Cr Sally Hayes-Burke (*apology for Item 7: Extraordinary Council meeting*)

Cr Kristy Hourigan

Cr Reg Dickinson

Cr Chris Raeburn

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)

Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)

Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Upul Sathurusinghe (Chief Financial Officer) [*Item 7*]

Apologies:

Dawn Bray (Director, People and Governance)

1. Council's Role in Acknowledging January 26
2. Waterways Management
3. Briefing on Planning Application/s for May 2023 Council Meeting
4. CEO Employment and Remuneration Council Meeting (Councillors and Independent Member)
5. Councillors only – Pitch My Project
6. Councillors only discussions
7. 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?
7 / 5.4.1	128	Cr Hourigan	Yes

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 9 May 2023

Location: Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

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)
 Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)
 Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)
 Upul Sathurusinghe (Chief Financial Officer) *[Item 7]*

Apologies:

Dawn Bray (Director, People and Governance)
 Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)

1. Update of the Municipal Planning Statement (MPS) within the Strathbogie Planning Scheme
2. Review of draft May 2023 Council Meeting Agenda
3. Councillor discussion time

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?
2 / 11.2.1, 11.2.3 & 11.6.1	128	Cr Raeburn	Yes
2 / 12.3	128	Cr Dickinson	Yes

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 16 May 2023

Location: Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 2.30 pm – 9.04 pm

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

Municipal Monitor

Peter Stephenson (*attendance at Item 4*)

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
 Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)
 Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)
 Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)
 Greg Underhill (Acting Director, People and Governance) [*Item 4*]

Apologies:

Dawn Bray (Director, People and Governance)

1. Pitch My Project
2. CEO Employment and Remuneration Council Meeting No. 3
3. CEO Employment and Remuneration Performance Meeting No. 3
4. May 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?
4 / 11.2.1, 11.2.3, 11.6.1 & 11.6.2	128	Cr Raeburn	Yes
4 / 12.2	128	Cr Dickinson	Yes

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 23 May 2023

Location: Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 12.15 pm – 3.45 pm

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

Municipal Monitor

Peter Stephenson

Officers

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

Apologies:

Nil

1. Councillors / Municipal Monitor meeting
2. Grants Review
3. Extraordinary Council Meeting
4. Parklea Development Presentation

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

Matter No.	LGA 2020 Interest Section	Names of Councillor/s who disclosed interest	Did the Councillor/s leave the meeting?
3 / 7.6.1	128	Chief Executive Officer	Yes

11.6 EXECUTIVE

11.6.1 Updated Australian Government Advocacy Ask

Author: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Responsible Director: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For Strathbogie Shire Council, advocacy is an essential way of securing funding for the important projects and works that matter to our community, that Council alone cannot fund.

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) identifies that Councils have a legitimate role to play in advocating for the needs of the community and municipality. It states Council must give effect to several governance principles including:

- achieving the best outcomes for the community,
- promoting the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipality, and
- pursuing innovation and continuous improvement.

Our advocacy efforts are essential to achieving these requirements of the Act. Perhaps, more importantly, advocacy is essential to achieving great outcomes for our community.

To ensure State and Federal governments are clear on our advocacy priorities Council has developed an Advocacy Ask document.

The document can be found on our website, but we have also printed limited copies to provide to potential funders.

In May 2023 the Advocacy Ask document was updated in preparation for the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) 29th *National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government* in Canberra from June 13 to 15.

Updates have removed the Commonwealth Games Advocacy Bid and replaced with an Advocacy Ask for funding commitments to improve our shire's roads and a long-term solution for Kirwans Bridge.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes and endorses the updated Advocacy Ask.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Our region is fast becoming the destination for people to invest, live, visit and play.

We are seeing strong development in Nagambie and Euroa, and this is matched by demand as people look to relocate to our beautiful region.

11.6.1 Updated Australian Government Advocacy Ask (cont.)

To ensure we can support this growth – both business and residential – Strathbogie Shire Council advocates to State and Federal governments for funding support.

Strathbogie Shire embraces more than 1,550 businesses over 20 industry sectors who support over 10,000 residents who call the area their home.

Our people together with the natural attractions of the region sustain over \$56.1 million in tourism income each year.

For more than 150 years, the agricultural sector and the businesses that support and depend on those farms, form the backbone of our local economy.

In August 2022 Council adopted its Advocacy Strategy 2021/25. It sets out how Council identify and develop projects and undertake activities towards achieving identified priorities.

It also encourages and facilitates a stronger, more strategic, and collaborative approach to existing advocacy activities undertaken across Council's services and within departments as well as with our communities.

From this strategy we can develop Advocacy Asks that are specific to events and/or meetings with potential funders.

The updated Advocacy Ask contains opportunities for Federal Government collaboration, in preparation for the ALGA 29th *NGA of Local Government* in June 2023.

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 strong advocate for its community, directly lobbying decision makers, making effective representation to State or Federal government.

In the lead up to the ALGA 29th *NGA of Local Government* in June 2023 in Canberra, Council has prepared an Advocacy Ask document (refer Attachment 1) which set out our key projects and funding requests for consideration.

The five key advocacy priorities are:

- funding for roads and bridges,
- equitable digital and telecommunications infrastructure,
- reliable power supply infrastructure,
- the Greening Euroa Project, and
- nature based play space for Euroa.

The updated document has removed the Commonwealth Games Rowing Bid and replaced it with an ask for ongoing funding to maintain and improve our extensive road network and an update to Kirwans Bridge.

11.6.1 Updated Australian Government Advocacy Ask (cont.)

More information on each priority can be found in attachments one, with further detail on the updated priority (roads and bridges) found below.

The opportunity: Strathbogie Shire has 2210km of roads – 1465km unsealed and 748km sealed – and 521 bridges and culverts. Maintenance of this extensive road network is a significant ask, even when conditions are good.

With about 7500 ratepayers our ability to generate enough revenue to cover the actual costs to construct, maintain and upgrade roads and other assets is impossible without assistance from State and Federal governments.

The continued lack of State and Federal Government investment in roads, maintenance, and infrastructure renewal, will have long-term impacts on the quality and safety of local roads across Strathbogie Shire.

Before the floods, we had 227.68km of road that had been affected by ongoing wet weather requiring a re-sheet, equating to \$14,799,070 to restore it back to the condition it was three years ago.

Post flooding, we estimate the damage bill could be three times this amount - reaching as high as \$50 million.

The ask: The May 2023 Australia Government Advocacy Ask calls on the Federal Government for:

1. A review into ongoing funding for small rural shires to maintain and improve road networks.
2. A commitment to improving funding for small rural shires to maintain their roads and bridges.
3. Funding to implement solutions to enhance the resilience of the road network.
4. A commitment for funding to ensure a future solution for Kirwans Bridge that extends the bridge life by more than 50 years.

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 formation of the 2021-2025 Council Plan included extensive community consultation and an independently facilitated community panel to form the community vision and strategic focus areas for officers to action, achieve or complete.

The Council Plan outlines our advocacy priorities, which are all included in the 2021/25 Advocacy Strategy.

11.6.1 Updated Australian Government Advocacy Ask (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

In the 2021-2025 Council Plan, Council's role in advocating is defined as: Actions where we advocate on behalf of our community: relate to issues that impact our community and affect how we operate but over which we have no role in delivering services or facilities, so we can only advocate for others to take action; the performance indicators are measures of broad trends affecting the Shire.

As per, Strategic focus areas 2,3,4,5 and 6 Council's advocacy priorities are as follows:

2.4 Advocate to the State Government to deliver expanded public transport options to connect the community to local services and facilities.

2.1.4 Lobby State and Federal Governments to fund improved digital and telecommunications infrastructure.

2.1.6 Support the work being undertaken by the Euroa Mountain Bike Club for the development of a mountain bike track at Balmattum Hill through advocacy with Parks Victoria and relevant government departments.

3.1.8 Advocate to Federal and State Government for investment in reliable power supply infrastructure with a focus on renewable energy.

3.5 Investigate, in partnership with Goulburn Valley Water, opportunities to green open spaces in towns with recycled water from the towns' wastewater treatment plant.

4.1.4 Continue to seek funding to support local business in adapting and responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.1.5 Continue to advocate for the development of the Mangalore Airport as a freight intermodal and transport/ industrial hub.

4.1.6 Continue to seek funding options for the upgrade of the Euroa Railway Precinct as part of the Euroa Structure Plan's implementation.

4.1.7 Continue to advocate to the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) for a community led outcome for the redesign of railway infrastructure in Euroa.

5.6 Continue to advocate to Department of Transport around improving road safety and aligning speed limits with community expectations.

5.7 Explore options for the development of a local law around smoking in Council owned public places.

Additional advocacy priorities that are of a timely and issue-based nature include the Nature Based Play Space for Euroa and funding for roads and bridges. These projects have the support of the community and would provide significant benefit to Strathbogie Shire residents, businesses, visitors and surrounds.

11.6.1 Updated Australian Government Advocacy Ask (cont.)

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 Local Government Act 2020 identifies that Councils have a legitimate role to play in advocating for the needs of the community and municipality. It states Council must give effect to several governance principles including:

- achieving the best outcomes for the community,
- promoting the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipality, and
- pursuing innovation and continuous improvement.

Our advocacy efforts are essential to achieving these requirements of the act.

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.

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.

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.

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

For Strathbogie Shire Council, advocacy is an essential way of securing funding for the important projects and works that matter to our community, that Council alone cannot fund.

11.6.1 Updated Australian Government Advocacy Ask (cont.)

Social

There are multiple social considerations given to advocacy projects, particularly as they have the power to influence future outcomes, culture and direction for the community. Some considerations, include but are not limited to:

- sense of community – e.g. cultural activities, stakeholder participation, recognition of diversity, cultural heritage or social cohesion
- community services – e.g. range and quality of services for different groups (children and families, young people, elderly people and people with disabilities), accessibility of services or cost of services
- community health and well-being – e.g. recreation facilities, public safety, health services and facilities or public health implications
- education and skills development – e.g. number and quality of education options for the community, life-long learning opportunities or meeting local needs; and
- transport – e.g. safety for travellers, emissions and fuel consumption, public transport usage, walking and cycling or transportation needs of all people.

Environmental

Each Council advocacy project has been identified, researched, designed and planned in consultation with relevant industry experts and advisers in relation to environmentally sustainable practices, as per Strategic focus area 3 of the Council Plan 2021-2025: Protect. Enhance. Adapt.

Climate change

Each Council advocacy project has been identified, researched, designed and planned in consultation with relevant industry experts and advisers in relation to climate change action, low emissions and in relation to the environmentally sustainable practices, as per Strategic focus area 3 of the Council Plan 2021-2025: Protect. Enhance. Adapt.

Projects such as the Greening Euroa Project utilises drought resilient strategies by channelling recycled water to water tanks for sports facilities to utilise year-round, while other initiatives such as reliable power supply infrastructure has a focus on renewable energy programs for our community.

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 definition of advocacy is to obtain support for a particular cause, project, initiative or policy with the objective to influence decisions within political, economic, social, technological, legal or environmental outcomes and benefits.

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.

11.6.1 Updated Australian Government Advocacy Ask (cont.)

Councillors and officers are focussed on developing and strengthening mutually beneficial relationships with decision makers and key influencers – making them aware of joint opportunities for project delivery, community projects or initiatives and collaboration opportunities.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

Council advocacy work complements human rights considerations with a focus on enhancing liveability, access, inclusion, healthy, safe, transparent and balanced themes across Strathbogie Shire's facilities, services and projects; based on the community vision upon which the Council Plan 2021-2025 was created and endorsed.

CONCLUSION

Council's Australian Government Advocacy Ask outlines five key areas, in which improvements and funding commitments are essential for the future of our region.

The ask will provide Councillors with a clear, strong document that leave potential funders in no doubt about the issue and what we are asking for commitments on.

Small rural Councils like Strathbogie Shire Council must take every opportunity possible to advocate for better outcomes for our community.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Australian Government Advocacy Ask – May 2023

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 **Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 20 June 2023** **Report on participation in Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)** **Company Directors Course** **- Lodged by Councillor Laura Binks and Councillor Chris Raeburn (Notice of** **Motion Ref. No. 06/2023)**

We, Councillor Laura Binks, and Councillor Chris Raeburn,

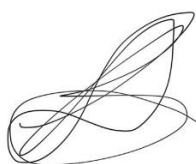
Wish to lodge the following Notice of Motion under Governance Rule 35.

The motion we wish to put to Council is:

That Council:

1. ***Note the attached written report from Cr Binks of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, as required by section 17.2 of the Council Expenses Policy, identifying the key issues of relevance to the Shire and the community benefit gained by the completion of the course.***
2. ***Write to Rural Councils Victoria, thanking them for the subsidised opportunity to participate in the course, noting the significant benefit to councillors from rural communities in being able to access this course at a reduced rate and encourage them to continue to offer for more councillors to complete this valuable training.***
3. ***Write to Minister for Local Government, Melissa Horne MP, to encourage the State Government consider how the councillor induction requirements could include a module that incorporates elements of the Company Directors Course, or similar, so that councillors are best equipped to perform their roles as required under the Local Government Act 2020.***

Signed: Councillor



Councillor



Date: 8th June 2023

- 12.1 Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 20 June 2023
Report on participation in Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)
Company Directors Course
- Lodged by Councillor Laura Binks and Councillor Chris Raeburn (Notice of Motion
Ref. No. 06/2023) (cont.)

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) recognises that Councillors must undertake professional development if they are to meet the requirements of providing leadership and good governance for the municipal community.

The Council Expenses Policy provides guidance for how requirements of the Act around providing appropriate support for Councillors in their duties and meeting expenses related to Council business are to be governed and reported to ensure accountability and public transparency.

Section 17 of the Policy relates to Conference and Training Expenses. It states that an allocation for training and conferences of \$1,500 will be provided to Councillors each financial year.

There is an ability for a Councillor to apply for funds over and above this amount subject to the completion of a request form and a Council resolution.

Cr Binks sought additional funds to be able to complete the AICD Company Directors Course at the September 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting and the request was approved. Point 3 in the motion that was carried was:

That Council:

Receive a written report from Cr Binks upon the completion of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, as required by section 17.2 of the Council Expenses Policy, identifying the key issues of relevance to the Shire and the community benefit gained by the completion of the course.

Attached is the written report from Cr Binks to meet this requirement.

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.

Councillors have a duty under the Act and the Councillor Code of Conduct to have the skills and knowledge to be effective leaders and decision makers on behalf of the municipal community of Strathbogie Shire.

The Company Directors Course is designed to ensure that participants not only understand their roles and responsibilities, but also improve their contributions to board performance. Updated bi-annually, the online course provides current and relevant information and case references. Graduates will gain comprehensive knowledge to meet contemporary governance challenges and opportunities.

12.1 Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 20 June 2023
Report on participation in Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)
Company Directors Course
- Lodged by Councillor Laura Binks and Councillor Chris Raeburn (Notice of Motion
Ref. No. 06/2023) (cont.)

Specifically, the online Company Directors Course provides participants with a comprehensive coverage of the major issues associated with the role as a director in today's business environment. Upon completion of this course, participants gain a deeper and practical understanding of:

- The duties and practices of directorship and the boards functions and responsibilities,
- The responsibilities and functions of directors and officers considering the key questions directors should ask about their legal environment and its impact on board decision-making,
- The board's roles in developing a culture that is appropriate for the risk appetite/tolerance of the organisation and the board's role in developing and executing strategy,
- Financial literacy and the board's role in driving organisational performance,
- Effective decision-making, board dynamics, the impact of individual and collective performance and how a constructive board culture can create value for an organisation, and
- Overall directors' role by applying the course learning through experiential learning activities.

The assessment is comprised of three tasks: quiz, an exam and an assignment. All three tasks must be successfully completed within three (3) months of completing the course work with a pass mark of 65 per cent to achieve the Company Directors Course award.

CONCLUSION

The attached written report, supporting documents and the letters mentioned in the motion reflects Cr Binks' professional development, as required the Act, to meet the requirements of providing leadership and good governance for the municipal community.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 20230607_NoM_AICD_WrittenReport_LB

Attachment 2: AICD CDC Statement of Attendance

Attachment 3: AICD CDC Certificate

Attachment 4: AICD CDC Award

13. NOTICES OF RESCISSION**14. URGENT BUSINESS****15. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS****Confidential Appendices**

These appendices have been classified as being confidential in accordance with section 66(2)(a) and Part 1, section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020 as they relate to:

- (g) *private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that –*
 - (ii) *if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage*

C.A. 1 (g) Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 22/23-81:
Euroa Streetscape – Stage 2 – Construction

NEXT MEETING

An Extraordinary meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6 pm

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm.

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