

Strathbogie Shire Council

# Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions

July 18, 2023

# Minutes/Decisions

## Council Meeting

**Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 6pm**

**Meeting held at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre and livestreamed on Council's website:**

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

### **Council:**

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

### **Municipal Monitor:**

Peter Stephenson

### **Officers:**

Julie Salomon – Chief Executive Officer  
Amanda Tingay – Acting Director People and Governance  
Vlad Adamek – Director Sustainable Infrastructure  
Rachael Frampton – Acting Director Community and Planning  
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 was streamed live via our website ([Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#)) and is 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 these Minutes/Decisions 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

Nil

**6. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

**7. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings****MOVED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY****SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN**

1. ***That the minutes/decisions of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, be confirmed (Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire)***
2. ***That the minutes/decisions of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, be confirmed (Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire)***
3. ***That the minutes/decisions of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, be confirmed (Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire)***

126-22/23 **CARRIED****8. Petitions**

Nil

**9. Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates**Cr Hayes-Burke

- *Attended Rural Councils Victoria Conference in Echuca on Friday 14 July 2023.*
- *Attended Euroa Rotary Club Changeover Dinner on Saturday 1 July 2023.*
- *Attended ARTBOX Launch on Friday 23 June 2023.*
- *Congratulated Euroa Primary School on planting trees along school boundary in Scobie Street, Euroa. Acknowledged Council has identified 180 sites in Nagambie and Avenel for tree planting over the next couple of months.*

Cr Dickinson

- *Attended Rural Councils Victoria Conference in Echuca on Friday 14 July 2023*
- *Welcomed Councillor-elect Robin Weatherald.*
- *Congratulated three Nagambie netballers who reached milestones of 50, 100 and 150 games in recent weeks.*

Cr Murray

- *Attended GV Libraries Board meeting on Thursday 22 June 2023.*
- *Attended Rural Australians for Refugees luncheon and film at Swanpool on Saturday 1 July 2023.*
- *Attended NAIDOC Week film at Avenel on Friday 7 July 2023.*
- *Attended Avenel Active meeting on Wednesday 12 July 2023.*

Cr Raeburn

- *Attended Euroa Community Action Group meeting on Monday 26 June 2023.*
  - *Attended ARTBOX Launch on Friday 23 June 2023.*
  - *Attended Rural Councils Victoria Conference in Echuca on Friday 14 July 2023.*
- Across our Shire we have 2210km of roads – 1465km unsealed and 748km sealed. On top of this there are 521 bridges and culverts to maintain.*

9. Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates (cont.)

Mayor

*On Monday I was pleased to speak to the Australian Government's inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network.*

*Maintenance of this extensive road network is a significant ask, even when conditions are good.*

*However we are now at the point where some sections of our roads are difficult to navigate without reductions in speed limits.*

*Following the October 2022 floods our Council, worked hard to determine, and record the damage.*

*We spent weeks driving our roads, with our engineers documenting the damage.*

*We took on this huge effort because we knew we needed to be ahead of the game, in terms of understanding the damage, but also first in line when it came to contractors.*

*We have been lucky in that we have secured contractors to complete the works we can afford thanks to the \$4.5 million in emergency flood funding.*

*But there is a long way to go.*

*We have worked around the clock, yet we're still not on top of what needs to be done.*

*I took the opportunity to urge the committee to investigate funding for road maintenance, but also funding that helps make our roads better, so when these weather events and flooding occurs again, we have a resilient road network.*

**Waterways**

*While on the topic of advocacy I would also urge the community to visit our website and help our campaign for funding to deliver the waterway manager role which keeps the waterways safe and the region thriving.*

*At our May Meeting, Council made the decision to consider exiting the role of waterway manager if funding to fully cover the cost of delivering the service is not provided.*

*The waterway manager role was now costing up to \$200,000 to deliver, which essentially means ratepayers are paying for a service that is not our responsibility. It is a Victorian Government role.*

*If you go to our website we have a proforma letter with details on who and how to send, and also some social media tiles and suggested wording to join the campaign.*

*We've seen so much cost shifting to Local Government and as a small rural shire with a limited number of ratepayers, we're saying enough.*

10. **Public Question Time**

Council Ref: KG/DH: 24/2023

Can council please advise the dollar (\$) amount of "cost shifting from State Government" they estimate they incurred in 2022/23 Financial Year?

Response

*I would advise that it is not possible to quantify the dollar amount of 'cost-shifting' in the 2022-2023 year. 'Cost-shifting' is a nebulous concept as most if not all local government expenditure is as a cumulative result of the allocation or transfer of functions from state governments at various stages since establishment of the first Local Government Act in 1874 in the then relatively new Colony of Victoria.*

*To provide some more specific recent data to Council Watch I refer them to the agenda and minutes of the Strathbogie Shire Council Meeting of October 2022 where the Council previously considered the impact of 'cost-shifting' on the Shire.*

## 10. Public Question Time (cont.)

Council Ref: DM: 25/2023

1. Will the council confirm which of the three engineering firms has been advising the Shires insurance company on structural integrity of the Bridge for public liability cover/indemnity and over how many years?
2. Is it correct that a Shire officer told some residents that Kirwans bridge will never be re-opened; Shire cant afford it; road job is far cheaper. How does that sit with CEO comment "Shire is committed to Kirwans Bridge"?

Response

*In response to your first question, Council now has two reports on the bridge's structural integrity that say it is unsafe for traffic.*

*A further report, commissioned by Council, was a visual inspection, to determine if the waterway was safe to reopen.*

*We want to be clear on who, what, and why these reports were commissioned.*

- *The report completed by GMR Engineering was commissioned by Council for the purpose of reopening the waterway.*
- *The report completed by FMG Engineering was commissioned by our insurers for the purpose of reopening the bridge to traffic.*
- *The report completed by JJ Ryan Engineering was commissioned by Council for the purpose of understanding the works needed to cost and design two options that will ensure the bridge's long-term future.*

*Council's insurance provider is JLT insurance, and they commissioned the report by FMG engineering as I have explained.*

*If you are interested in reading either of the reports commissioned on the bridge's structural integrity for the purpose of traffic head to our website where they are publicly available.*

*On our website you will also find further information on the insurance of the bridge (which has been available since March this year – and was also letterbox dropped to all homes in Kirwans Bridge).*

*The bridge is insured against physical loss, destruction or damage, which includes by flood for \$4.5 million.*

*As is the case with insurance – this figure was reached through a valuation. It's the same as any member of the community insuring their house – they do this through a valuation rather than a structural assessment.*

*With regard to your second question, this is absolutely incorrect.*

*Council is committed to a long-term sustainable future for Kirwans Bridge.*

*Through our work with the Kirwans Bridge Community Panel, two options had been identified for the future of the bridge, and work to design and cost these options is almost complete.*

*The two options have been identified for the future of the bridge, are:*

- *A new replica bridge (with pedestrian and cycling access), or*
- *Extensive structural repairs and strengthening works to the current bridge.*

*Our goal is to ensure the bridge remains open and is safe for the next 50 plus years. So, despite the two structural reports which have found the bridge is unsafe to reopen to traffic in its current condition, Council remains committed to finding a solution to reopen the bridge.*

*As a small rural shire with financial challenges, we will need to advocate strongly for Victorian and Australian governments funding to complete the works.*

*We have already started this advocacy work – and encourage the community to read our Advocacy Ask of government on our website. We are also applying for a Federal Flood Recovery funding which closes on August 1.*



## 10. Public Question Time (cont.)

*We have constantly asked for the community support, to help us advocate for funding to upgrade Kirwans Bridge.*

*We know we will have greater chance of success working together.*

*I implore the community, to work with us, not against us. We are all seeking the best outcomes for our community – and together we will have far greater success*

Council Ref: JA: 26/2023

1. Prior to closure, Kirwans Bridge traffic count was over 3,500 cars per week not including heavy vehicle traffic. Can you provide a copy of the most recent Average Daily Traffic study undertaken on Reedy Lake Rd and Weir Rd prior to the road design being finalised and the contract awarded?
2. What load-carrying capacities and speed limits have been included in the specifications for the Nagambie-Rushworth Rd, Weir Road, Nagambie-Reedy Lake Road upgrade project? Are these figures reflected in the planned road width?

Response

*Council conducted a traffic count on Kirwans Bridge from January 19 to January 27 in 2021.*

*During this time an average of 501 vehicles used the bridge each day.*

*The design of the Weir Rd upgrade in 2021 factored in 600 vehicles per day plus 15 per cent allowance for heavy vehicles.*

*The redesign has used the same vehicle count.*

*As you know we are committed to a long-term sustainable future for Kirwan's Bridge.*

*Again, I implore you to work with us, not against us. We are all seeking the best outcomes for our community – and together we will have far greater success.*

*In relation to your second question, the design for the upgrade of Weir Rd, was completed with a general load limit of 25 tonne.*

*Pavement recommendations are not made on a maximum truck size/mass, however the estimates have been based on the likelihood that some of those trucks would be fully loaded semi-trailers.*

*I can also confirm appropriate speed signs will be installed as per the design.*

*I would also like to say Council is trying to create better outcomes for the community.*

*We recognised the upgrade to Weir Rd wasn't good enough. We worked hard to create a better design for the residents of Kirwans Bridge.*

*We put a five-tonne load capacity on the road after hearing the community's concerns about damage to the road.*

*We hired a grader for Weir Rd after listening to your concerns about the quality of the road.*

*We then removed the five-tonne load capacity in response to new concerns raised by the community.*

*I know I'm sounding like a broken record tonight, but we all have the same goal here and that's positive outcomes for our community.*

*We are committed to a long-term sustainable future for Kirwans Bridge, but we need the community's help to get there.*

*Once again, I implore you to please work with us, not against us.*

## 10. Public Question Time (cont.)

Council Ref: JB: 27/2023

Can the Shire advise which of the three Engineering Companies that have deemed Kirwans Bridge unsafe are able to demonstrate previous engineering experience and expertise in assessing and repairing timber bridges in Victoria

Response

*I would like to reiterate my comments from earlier to again explain the three separate reports.*

*We want to be clear on who, what, and why these reports were commissioned.*

- The report completed by GMR Engineering was commissioned by Council for the purpose of reopening the waterway.*
- The report completed by FMG Engineering was commissioned by our insurers for the purpose of reopening the bridge to traffic.*
- The report completed by JJ Ryan Engineering was commissioned by Council for the purpose of understanding the works needed to cost and design two options that will ensure the bridge's long-term future.*

*The decision to reopen the bridge had to be made on the FMG report, commissioned by our insurance company. We cannot reopen the bridge without insurance.*

*More importantly we cannot reopen the bridge when we have a report has found it is structurally compromised and is not safe for use by vehicular traffic.*

*FMG Engineering is a national company with offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. It has a 50-year history and is now recognised as one of the leading private engineering firms in Australia.*

Council Ref: KB: 28/2023

- 1. The Shire is saying the bridge is closed until insurer's engineers allow it to be reopened. What insurance applies? What policy, covering what risks and when did the policy commence?*
- 2. McLarens are the brokers mentioned by the shire. When did they first assess the bridge to submit to companies to accept the insurance risk and how would McLarens know whether there was flood damage or not?*

Response

*We updated the information you are seeking through the FAQs on our website, which were also letterbox dropped to all houses in Kirwans Bridge in March this year.*

*The bridge is insured against physical loss, destruction or damage, which includes by flood for \$4.5 million.*

*In response to your second question, Council's insurance provider is JLT insurance.*

*As is the case with insurance – this figure was reached through a valuation. It's the same as any member of the community insuring their house – they do this through a valuation rather than a structural assessment.*

*And just for the record – I'm going to say it one more time.*

*Council and the community share the same goals here – and that is positive outcomes for our community.*

*We are committed to a long-term sustainable future for Kirwans Bridge, and we are committed to working together.*

*We have provided information, explanations and a community engagement program that has allowed the community to drive and decide the options for the bridge's future.*



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10. Public Question Time (cont.)

*We now need your help. We will need to secure funding from the Victorian and Australian governments to complete the upgrade works.  
I cannot say strongly enough – please work with us to achieve our shared goals.*

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**

Nil

13. **Notices of Rescission**

Nil

14. **Urgent Business**

Nil

15. **Confidential Business**

Nil

**Next meetings**

Please note: The Extraordinary meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council that was scheduled to be held next Tuesday 25 July 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, will now be deferred to a date in August. Councillors are still diligently working with Andrew Douglas to finalise our work on the Statement of Intent.

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm.

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN**  
**SECONDED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE**

***That Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Oath of Office to be undertaken by Councillor-elect, Robin Weatherald, to enable him to perform his role as a Councillor for the Lake Nagambie Ward, and commence his duties.***

127-222/23 **CARRIED**

The Oath of Office was undertaken in accordance with section 30(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, regulation 5 of the Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Regulations 2020 and Part 2 of the Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018.

*I swear by Almighty God that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.*

*I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.*

*I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 2020 and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement.*

The Oath of Office was signed and dated before the Chief Executive Officer, and Councillor Weatherald officially became a Councillor with Strathbogie Shire Council, representing the Lake Nagambie Ward.

Councillor Weatherald made a brief statement.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Weatherald.

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY**  
**SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN**

***That Standing Orders be resumed.***

128-222/23 **CARRIED**

Councillor Weatherald declared he had no conflicts of interest to declare under Rule 94 of Council's Governance Rules and Division 2 of the Local Government Act 202 with respect to items on the meeting Agenda

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## 11. OFFICER REPORTS

### 11.1 STRATEGIC AND STATUTORY PLANNING

#### 11.1.1 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined - 1 to 30 June 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 1 to 30 June 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 June 2023. The July PPARS Figures were not available at the time of writing this report as the monthly figures are not updated until 15 of each month. The contents of this report are provided for information purposes only.

It is noted that there were eight (8) new planning applications received and nineteen (19) planning applications decided upon during the reporting period.

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY**  
**SECONDED: COUNCILLOR DICKINSON**

***That Council:***

1. ***Note that there were eight (8) new planning applications received, and nineteen (19) planning applications decided on during the period of 1 to 30 June 2023.***
2. ***Note the report.***

129-22/23      **CARRIED**

## **11.2 COMMUNITY**

### **11.2.1 Nagambie Library Building Condition and Relocation Options**

Responsible Director: Acting Director Community and Planning

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation (GVRLC) has a long-standing agreement with Strathbogie Shire Council to deliver library services across the Strathbogie municipality. A component of this agreement is that Council will provide a suitable location and asset for the library to operate its service. In addition, Council also pays for operating costs including utilities and waste.

The Nagambie Library has been located at 352 High Street, Nagambie, in a Council owned facility for many years.

In May 2023, library staff reported significant damage to the structure with large cracks appearing in the plaster, external brick work and concern regarding the structural integrity. This damage was reported to Council and Council's Building Assets team completed an inspection.

An initial inspection by Council Officers identified significant structural damage, the existing concrete floor has a substantial structural crack running the full length of the dwelling. The floor is heaving in an upwards direction, the significant movement caused by the failing slab posing an extremely high risk to the public and staff. A structural assessment has been completed by Guthrie & McGoldrick Engineers and a recommendation that the Eastern wing of the library is not used, and further testing undertaken. This section of the dwelling is currently used as the Childrens section of the library.

The structural crack also impacts access to the toilet and amenity of the library.

There are three (3) options that Council can take into consideration.

- Option 1: Stay at the current location with a restricted site and service model,
- Option 2: Relocate the Nagambie Library to another Council property located at 11 Prentice Street Nagambie, or
- Option 3: Relocate the Nagambie Library to a property available for lease at Shop 5 Nagambie Central, High Street, Nagambie

Each of the above options has limitations, opportunities and varying financial implications for Council which are detailed in this report.

In considering the three (3) options and following discussion with the CEO GVRLC, officers recommend Option 3, the relocation of the Nagambie Library to the property for lease at Shop 5 in Nagambie Central, High Street, Nagambie, at a cost of \$31,200 excl GST per annum, and the allocation of \$5,000 for one off establishment costs associated with the removal of an internal wall and the installation of appropriate Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

*The Chief Executive Officer from GV Libraries addressed the meeting in relation to this matter, and spoke on the suitability of options 1, 2 and 3, with option 3 being the preferred option from GV Libraries perspective.*

11.2.1 Nagambie Library Building Condition and Relocation Options (cont.)

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR DICKINSON**  
**SECONDED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE**

***That Council:***

1. ***Approve the relocation of the Nagambie Library, under the operation of Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation, to a property for lease at Shop 5 Nagambie Central, High Street, Nagambie (Option 3); and***
2. ***Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute a retail lease for one year with the option to extend for two additional one-year terms, as per the conditions in the lease at a cost of \$31,200 per annum and an allocation of \$5,000 for one off establishment costs associated with the removal of an internal wall and the installation of appropriate Information and Communications Technology.***

130-22/23     **CARRIED**



### 11.3 **INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### 11.3.1 **Tender for Collaborative Digital Innovation (CODI) IT Systems Alignment Project**

Author: Greg Underhill, Manager Digital Innovation and Technology

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

##### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Project CODI is the digital transformation project across four Councils, being the Shire Councils of Mansfield (lead Council), Murrindindi and Strathbogie and the Benalla Rural City Council to replace a number of out-of-date systems. A tender was undertaken inviting both best of breed and providers of complete enterprise systems (Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution covering all required systems) to respond.

Project CODI has been funded with a \$1,000,000 grant from the Rural Council's Transformation Program (RCTP), \$888,000 from the Business Acceleration Fund (BAF) and \$2,276,480 from the four partner councils (equating to a contribution of \$569,120 per Council), across three financial years. Both grants have very tight timeframes, with the BAF originally required to be expended by December 2023 and the RCTP required to be expended by June 2024.

Council officers have maintained regular contact with both funding agencies to ensure that any delays do not affect the funding. Both agencies have given in principle support for extensions to the timeframes for delivery.

At close of tender, limited responses had been received for a complete enterprise solution. As such, officers recommend that Councils award part of the program, being Planning, Building and Regulatory Services as well as Information Management.

It is proposed that a further tender process is undertaken on the Finance, Property and Rates and Customer Management elements of the transformation program. The tender will also include HR, Payroll, and Asset Management as optional modules in response to identified gaps within some councils.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE***

***SECONDED: COUNCILLOR HOURIGAN***

***That Council:***

1. ***Formally endorse the awarding of contracts by Mansfield Shire Council in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the four (4) partner Councils being Mansfield Shire, Murrindindi Shire, Strathbogie Shire and Benalla Rural City (as endorsed at the September 20 2022 Council Meeting), including payment of all agreed contributions as set out below:***
  - a. ***Award of the lump sum contract for the implementation of the Planning, Building and Regulatory Services module to E-Vis Pty Ltd for implementation of that module into the four (4) partner Councils.***

11.3.1 Tender for Collaborative Digital Innovation (CODI) IT Systems Alignment Project (cont.)

*MOTION (cont.)*

- b. Award the lump sum contract for the implementation of the Information Management module to Logicalis Pty Ltd for implementation of that module into the four (4) partner Councils.*
- 2. Award the contracts for ongoing servicing agreements between Strathbogie Shire Council and the selected vendors:
  - a. The Planning, Building and Regulatory Services module to E-Vis Pty Ltd for a term of 5 years, with the option of two x 2-year extensions, and*
  - b. The Information Management module to Logicalis Pty Ltd for a term of 5 years, with the option of two x 2-year extensions.**
- 3. Note the budget allocation for the Financial Year 2023-24 of \$361,000 (excluding GST) as Strathbogie Shire Council's contribution to Project CODI.*
- 4. Note the initial contract period for Strathbogie Shire is 5 years from commencement, with options of two x 2 year extensions; and*
- 5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contracts.*

131-22/23      **CARRIED**

**11.3.2 Contracts and Works Awarded Under Delegation - 1 to 30 June 2023**

Author: Procurement and Tenders Officer

Responsible Director: Director People and Governance

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of the status of request for the publicly advertised tenders, invitations for written quotations and quotations provided using collaborative and/or third party contracts which have been awarded under delegation for the period 1 June 2023 to 30 June 2023. This report specifically relates to works and/or services that formed part of Council's approved 2022/23 budget.

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE**

**SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY**

***That Council:***

- 1. *Note the Contracts awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer; and***
- 2. *Note the Contracts awarded under delegated authority by a Director.***

132-22/23      **CARRIED**

## **11.5 GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE**

### **11.5.1 Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal - Annual Adjustment to allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors**

Author: Acting Director People & Governance

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

#### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal has released its annual adjustment to allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors.

Local Government Victoria has recently written to councils advising that the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal has made a Determination (on the 30 June 2023) providing for an annual adjustment to the values of the allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and Councillors. The Tribunal is required to make annual adjustments to the values of the Councillors (Victoria) Determination No. 01/2022.

The Tribunal has reviewed a number of factors to inform its determination; current and projected economic conditions/trends, financial position and fiscal strategy for the State, recent remuneration adjustments for comparable roles and the limited amount of time that has passed since the last annual adjustment to allowances of 1.5 per cent, which took effect on 18 December 2022.

The Tribunal received three written submissions during the consultation period which closed on the 28 April, all which are in de-identified form on the Victorian government website.

On 30 June 2023, the Tribunal made the Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Annual Adjustment Determination 2023.

The Tribunal determined a 2% increase to the values of the base allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors, effective from 1 July 2023. A 2% increase has also been applied to the base allowance values which take effect on:

- 18 December 2023
- 18 December 2024 (Mayors and Deputy Mayors only)
- 18 December 2025 (Mayors and Deputy Mayors only).

The Tribunal has decided to increase the base allowance payable to each Council member by 2 per cent from 1 July 2023. This is in addition to the 1.5 per cent adjustment made on 18 December 2022, resulting in an approximate 3.5 per cent increase to allowances compared to 1 July 2022.

The Determination also adjusted the value of the remote area travel allowance by 2%.

Strathbogie remains a Category 1 municipality, which means the allowances are at the lowest end of those set for all councils.

11.5.1 Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal - Annual Adjustment to allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (cont.)

Council must award councillors the allowance set by the Tribunal under the Local Government Act 2020. As the advice from Local Government Victoria was received on 30 June 2023, following the adoption of the 2023-24 Council budget, an adjustment to allow for this increase will be made in the mid-year budget review.

The purpose of this report is to note the findings of the Tribunal and to align the allowances set by the Tribunal to those paid to our Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors that commenced on 1 July 2023.

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR HOURIGAN**  
**SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY**

**That Council:**

1. **Note the findings of the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal in relation to allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Annual Adjustment Determination 2023.**
2. **Set the base allowances for the period between 1 July 2023 and 17 December 2023 as follows:**
  - (a) **Mayor - \$79,492**
  - (b) **Deputy Mayor - \$39,746**
  - (c) **Councillors - \$25,650.**
3. **Note that the Tribunal has determined a 2% increase to the values of the base allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors, effective from 1 July 2023. A 2% increase has also been applied to the base allowance values which take effect on: 18 December 2023, 18 December 2024 (Mayors and Deputy Mayors only), 18 December 2025 (Mayors and Deputy Mayors only).**
4. **Note that a Council member that normally resides more than 50 kilometres from the location of Council meetings and other meetings they are required to attend by Council resolution is entitled to be paid a Remote Area Travel Allowance of \$45.90 for each day on which such meetings are held, up to a maximum allowance of \$5,738 per annum.**
5. **Note that councillors can elect to receive:**
  - (a) **all of the allowance to which they are entitled,**
  - (b) **a nominated portion of the allowance, or**
  - (c) **receive no allowance.**

133-22/23 **CARRIED**

### **11.5.2 Monthly Performance Report**

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

- Building Department – June 2023 Statistics
- Planning Department – Planning Application Approvals – Development Cost (Capital Improved Value) – June 2023
- Customer Enquiry Analysis Report – Report for June 2023
- Waste Management Reporting ~ Year to Date – June 2023
- Transfer Station Date - June 2023
- Actioning of Council Reports Resolutions – Extraordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 6 June 2023 and Council Meeting Tuesday 20 June 2023
- Outstanding Actions of Council Resolutions to 30 June 2023
- Review of Council Policies and Adoption of new Policies – June 2023
- Records of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings – 1 to 30 June 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.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR WEATHERALD  
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE***

***That the report be accepted.***

***134-22/23 CARRIED***



**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**13. NOTICES OF RESCISSION**

Nil

**14. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**15. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**NEXT MEETINGS**

Please note: The Extraordinary meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council that was scheduled to be held next Tuesday 25 July 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, will now be deferred to a date in August. Councillors are still diligently working with Andrew Douglas to finalise our work on the Statement of Intent.

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm.

***THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.14 P.M.***

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

.....  
Chair

.....  
Date