

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Agenda

August 15, 2023

Agenda

Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 15, 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/>

Councillors:

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 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 places we live, work and play. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. Today we are meeting on the lands of the Taungurung peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty here has never been ceded.

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**

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, be confirmed ([Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#))

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
August 11, 2023

Next meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 19, 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, August 15, 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. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor
	Appendix 2:	Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 22/23-15: Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale Shed

11. OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 STRATEGIC AND STATUTORY PLANNING

11.1.1 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined - 1 to 31 July 2023

Author: Manager Planning and Investment

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning Acting

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 July 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 15th of each month. The contents of this report are provided for information purposes only.

It is noted that there were thirteen (13) new planning applications received and ten (10) planning applications decided upon during the reporting period.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. ***Note that there were thirteen (13) new planning applications received, and ten (10) planning applications decided on during the period of 1st to 31st July 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 July 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 1-3: Planning Applications Received / Planning Applications Determined / Planning Permit Activity Performance Figures

11.2 COMMUNITY

11.2.1 Ruffy Action Group Funding 2022/23

Author: Community Development Officer

Responsible Director: A/Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Grant funding for Strathbogie Shire Council's eight (8) Community Action Groups opened on 1 July 2022 and closed on 1 August 2022. The total budget allocation for the 2022/2023 Community Action Group Funding was \$81,000. At the September 2022 Council meeting, Council approved the allocation of funds to four of the eight Community Action Groups to the value of \$38,550, spread across 10 eligible projects. In addition, Council resolved to:

2. *Authorise Council Officers to reopen the funding program on 1 October 2022 for Community Action Groups who did not apply, and remain open until funds are exhausted, enabling Council Officers to work with these Community Action Groups to identify and submit projects that meet the funding guidelines for consideration of Council*

Ruffy Action Group applied for Community Action funding in late May 2023 to install power, and weatherproof and secure a small shed. This would protect a community generator located at the Tablelands Community Centre that powers a bore pump providing a benefit to several important community facilities including the community centre, the Ruffy Hall and the Ruffy CFA.

Due to the timing of when Council Officers received the full application, and the significant review that was undertaken of Council's Community Funding Model, officers assessed the grant application using the previous Community Action Funding Assessment process.

Officers have found the application to be eligible and recommend funding the Ruffy Action Group Incorporated \$3478.66 for this project to protect an important community asset. Ruffy has been working diligently to reform as a Community Action Group following a hiatus due to changing membership.

As the application was received in 2022/23, Officers recommend the financial cost be recorded as an overspend in the 2023/24 community funding program due to the timing of approval falling outside of the 2022/23 financial year. Should the 2023/24 Community Grants Program be undersubscribed, then this amount can be offset via this funding allocation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve funding of \$3,478.66 to Ruffy Action Group Incorporated to complete works to protect an important community asset from damage; works include electrical upgrade, waterproofing and installation of ventilation.

11.2.1 Ruffy Action Group Funding 2022/23 (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council's Community Action Funding provides an opportunity for Action Groups to undertake projects that complement the focus areas of Council, progress priorities enunciated in their local community action plans and encourage community participation.

Action Groups can apply for multiple discrete projects up to the value of \$5,000 per project, however, funding cannot be received for the same project in the one year. Projects must be detailed in or consistent with the groups Community Plan. A number of these groups are implementing their recently endorsed Community Plans whilst others are in the final year of their current plans. To continue to support the Action Groups in their final year, submissions were also accepted for projects not listed in their Community Plan providing the Action Group could demonstrate community support and some alignment for the proposed project.

Ruffy Community Action Group Incorporated did not apply for the funding round as prescribed in July 2022. Due to the number of Action Groups that did not apply for Community Action Group funding in July 2022, Council approved a recommendation allowing officers to work with Action Groups that did not apply to identify and submit eligible projects from 11 October 2022 for the remainder of 2022/23.

Officers have been working with Ruffy Action Group Incorporated and Council has received an eligible application in late May 2023.

Ruffy Action Group applied for Community Action funding in late May 2023 to install power, and weatherproof and secure a small shed. This would protect a community generator located at the Tablelands Community Centre that powers a bore pump providing a benefit to several important community facilities including the community centre, the Ruffy Hall and the Ruffy CFA.

Due to the timing of when Council Officers received the full application, and the significant review that was undertaken of Council's Community Funding Model, officers assessed the grant application using the previous Community Action Funding Assessment process.

They have completed the eligibility screening and Officers have assessed the application in line with the Community Action Funding Assessment criteria 2022/23.

Officers have found the application to be eligible and recommend funding the Ruffy Action Group Incorporated, \$3478.66 for this project to protect an important community asset.

Ruffy has been working diligently to reform as a Community Action Group, following a hiatus due to changing membership.

11.2.1 Ruffy Action Group Funding 2022/23 (cont.)

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Officers have been working with Ruffy Action Group Incorporated and Council has received an eligible application in late May 2023.

Ruffy Action Group applied for Community Action funding in late May 2023 to install power, and weatherproof and secure a small shed. This would protect a community generator located at the Tablelands Community Centre that powers a bore pump providing a benefit to several important community facilities including the community centre, the Ruffy Hall and the Ruffy CFA.

Due to the timing of when Council Officers received the full application, and the significant review that was undertaken of Council's Community Funding Model, officers assessed the grant application using the previous Community Action Funding Assessment process.

They have completed the eligibility screening and Officers have assessed the application in line with the Community Action Funding Assessment criteria 2022/23.

Officers have found the application to be eligible and recommend funding the Ruffy Action Group Incorporated, \$3478.66 for this project to protect an important community asset.

Ruffy has been working diligently to reform as a Community Action Group, following a hiatus due to changing membership.

As the application was received in 2022/23, Officers recommend the financial cost be recorded as an overspend in the 2023/24 community funding program due to the timing of approval falling outside of the 2022/23 financial year.

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.

Community funding allows the community to identify projects that are important to them and enables them to lead projects and activities at a local level that will make a difference to them at a community level.

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.

Emails were sent to the secretary of each Community Action Group to notify them that the funding round was open. Council Officers also followed up by phone to offer support throughout the application process to those Community Action Groups that had not yet submitted applications.

As the funding is specific to Community Action Groups, no broad consultation or engagement was required. All Community Action Groups that did not receive funding in the first instance were notified that they could work with officers to identify and apply for projects for the remainder of 2022/23, as the status of their group changed, or plans were progressed.

11.2.1 Ruffy Action Group Funding 2022/23 (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Strategic focus area 1: Engage.Create.Unite

- Goal: We create welcoming social spaces where people can connect
 - Strategy: We have strategies, services and facilities in place to cater for the changing needs across all ages and abilities, delivered in partnership with action groups and committees of management.
 - Strategy: We create welcoming social and creative 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 implications associated with this report.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

Transparency

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

In the interest of transparency and open and honest communication with our community, it is recommended that the 2022-2023 Community Action Group Funding Program and associated projects are released to the public through this report providing an understanding of the assessment process and outcomes of the program.

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.

A budget allocation of \$81,000 was approved through Council's annual budgetary process. Total spend allocated in September 2022 Council meeting was \$38,550.

As the application was received in the 2022/23 financial year, Officers recommend the financial cost be recorded as an overspend in the 2023/24 community funding program due to the timing of approval falling outside of the 2022/23 financial year.

Should the 2023/24 Community Grants Program be undersubscribed, then this amount can be offset via this funding allocation.

11.2.1 Ruffy Action Group Funding 2022/23 (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

The distribution of funds through the 2022-23 Community Action Funding Program greatly assists community groups to progress with projects that would otherwise be unable to go ahead due to lack of funding. Ruffy Action Group Inc. have had the project approved for several years but have been unable to deliver due to lack of funds and changing committees.

Social

Community Action Groups play an important role in the community to facilitate social change and development and contribute to the social fabric of local communities. These benefits include improved social connection, improved, health and wellbeing, improved accessibility, improved community infrastructure, development of community spaces and contributions to the arts and culture.

Environmental

The centrally located generator and bore support water security for the Ruffy community and the shelter will extend the life span of the generator extending the projects impact.

Climate change

This project will maintain the life span and improve access to the community generator which provides water security to the Ruffy community during natural disasters such as drought and bush fires which are increasing due to climate change.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report considers human rights broadly and Community Action Group models and access to funding enables important community capacity to be built. It also enables everyone to have the right to express themselves and participate in community life.

CONCLUSION

Ruffy Action Group applied for Community Action funding in late May 2023 to install power, and weatherproof and secure a small shed. This would protect a community generator located at the Tablelands Community Centre that powers a bore pump providing a benefit to several important community facilities including the community centre, the Ruffy Hall and the Ruffy CFA.

Officers have found the application to be eligible and recommend funding the Ruffy Action Group Incorporated, \$3,478.66 for this project to protect an important community asset.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.2.2 Event Grant Applications Received

Author: Visitor Economy and Events Coordinator

Responsible Director: A/Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted a community funding model at the June 2023 Council Meeting. This model sets out the strategic direction and associated guidelines for the distribution of community funding for Strathbogie Shire Council. Event Grants provide grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible organisations and associations for events that align with the objectives of the Council Plan 2021-25, submitted in line with Council's Event Guidelines.

Council has received two (2) Event grant applications for Council's consideration.

The Strathbogie History Group, under the auspice of Strathbogie Tablelands Action Group Incorporated, have applied for funding for the Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival scheduled from the 3 – 6 November 2023. This is an inaugural event following the success of the Strathbogie History Weekend in 2022, organised by the same group. The event expects to attract a total of 600 visitors over the 4-days of event. The application is for a total of \$5,000, made up of \$4,739 in cash and \$261 in kind for Council equipment hire.

An application was also received from Cranksters Rod and Kustom Club Incorporated to support the delivery of the Cranksters Cruise Nagambie 2023 event to be held on 10 September 2023. The application is for a total of \$1,940 in kind to cover the fees associated with the Nagambie Regatta Centre hire. The car event is for pre-1978 'chrome bumper' vehicles and has been held annually at the Regatta Centre since 2012, apart from two years where it was cancelled due to COVID. The event is known nationally and is expected to attract 1,000 visitors to the event.

Both events will result in several significant social and economic benefits to the Strathbogie Shire community and will be delivered in line with Council's Events and Regulatory policies and procedures.

Council has a budget of \$50,000 allocated to Event Grants under the Community Funding Model in the 2023/2024 Budget. Applications have been submitted in line with the Event Grant Guidelines 2023-24 adopted on 20 June 2023 and have been assessed in line with the relevant assessment process. The current applications are of an acceptable standard and officers are recommending them for funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council –

- 1. Approve the Event Grant application from Strathbogie History Group, under the auspice of Strathbogie Tablelands Action Group Incorporated, to the value of \$5000, comprising of \$4731 in cash and \$261 in kind to support the delivery of the Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival to be held 3 – 6 November 2023;***

11.2.2 Event Grant Applications Received (cont.)*RECOMMENDATION (cont.)*

2. ***Approve the Event Grant application from Cranksters Rod and Kustom Club Incorporated, to the value of \$1,940, comprising of \$1,940 in kind only, to support the delivery of the Cranksters Cruise Nagambie on September 10 2023; and***
3. ***Work with both event organisers, as a condition of funding, to reduce overall waste produced at the event through the implementation of the objectives of both the Waste Wise Events Guidelines and Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 in being “A Zero Waste Shire”.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council adopted a community funding model at the June 20, 2023 Council Meeting. This model sets out the strategic direction and associated guidelines for the distribution of community funding for Strathbogie Shire Council.

Council recognises the importance of events and tourism to the social and economic growth of our region. Furthermore, Council has a strong history of supporting and delivering events across the Shire, this is demonstrated by an investment in event through Council's Event Grant. Event Grants provide grants of up to \$5000 to eligible organisations and associations for events that align with the objective of the Council Plan 2021-25.

Council has received two Event grant applications for Council's consideration, detailed below in Table 1.

Table 1: Event Grant Applications received

Applicant	Event	Total amount requested	Cash contribution requested from Council	In kind contribution requested from Council
Strathbogie Tablelands History Group (auspice: Strathbogie Tablelands Action Group Inc)	Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival	\$5,000	\$4,739	\$261
Cranksters Rod and Kustom Club Incorporated Inc	Cranksters Cruise in Nagambie	\$1,940	\$0	\$1,940

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.

11.2.2 Event Grant Applications Received (cont.)

Council adopted a community funding model at the June 2023 Council Meeting. This model sets out the strategic direction and associated guidelines for the distribution of community funding for Strathbogie Shire Council. Event Grants provide grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible organisations and associations for events that align with the objectives of the Council Plan 2021-25, submitted in line with Council's Event Guidelines.

Council has received two (2) Event grant applications for Council's consideration.

Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival

The Strathbogie History Group, under the auspice of Strathbogie Tablelands Action Group Incorporated have applied for funding for the Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival scheduled from the 3 – 6 November 2023. This is an inaugural event following the success of the Strathbogie History Weekend in 2022, organised by the same group. The event expects to attract a total of 600 visitors over the 4-days of event.

The Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival involves several small community groups working together to deliver different events across multiple venues over the long weekend. Events include croquet, bush dancing, an art show, golf and tennis tournaments. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Strathbogie and surrounds to the wider community and associated visitors.

The application is for a total of \$5,000, made up of \$4,739 in cash and \$261 in in kind for council equipment hire. The cash component will be used to help cover the cost of marketing, entertainment, equipment hire and event insurance. The event organisers have also committed a substantial co-contribution to the event.

A similar 'History' event was run in 2022, by the same group, also supported by Council, prompting the development of the proposed series of events for 2023.

Cranksters Cruise Nagambie

Cranksters Rod and Kustom Club Inc have applied for funds to support the delivery of the Cranksters Cruise Nagambie 2023 event to be held on 10 September 2023. The application is for a total of \$1,940 in kind only, to cover the cost of Nagambie Regatta Centre hire. The car event is for pre-1978 'chrome bumper' vehicles and has been held annually at the Regatta centre since 2012, besides two years where it was cancelled due to COVID. The event is known nationally and is expected to attract 1,000 visitors to the event.

The Cranksters Cruise Nagambie is a show and shine car event that involves the celebration and display of pre-1978 chrome bumper vehicles and motorbikes, stalls, entertainment, and food held at the Nagambie Regatta Centre. The event has historically been a two-day event and would include a cruise afternoon drive on the Saturday however due to the Discovery Park closure and lack of accommodation the organising committee have made the difficult decision to proceed with a 1-day event only this year. The event attracts people from across the region and the State to the Strathbogie Shire.

11.2.2 Event Grant Applications Received (cont.)

The two (2) applications submitted have been assessed as eligible in line with the relevant evaluation process and officers recommend them both for funding to the value requested in their respective applications.

Both events will result in several significant social and economic benefits to the Strathbogie Shire Community and will be delivered in line with Council's Events and Regulatory policies and procedures.

The event organisers must obtain Event Approval from Strathbogie Shire Council and deliver zero waste events. All required documentation including, risk plans, and public liability insurance have been provided.

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.

Key stakeholders in the community have been engaged with the organisers of these events from their initial planning stages. Both events are being delivered by dedicated community groups and organisations with sound reputations for the delivery of events of this nature.

The event organisers provide regular event updates through a range of media platforms.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

These events will contribute positively to the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 priorities as follows:

- Strategic focus area 1: Engage. Create. Unite.
We create welcoming social spaces where people can connect.
- Strategic focus area 4: Inclusive. Productive. Balanced.
We target economic development to enhance our region; we are capitalising on our region's strengths
- Strategic focus area 5: Strong. Healthy. Safe.
We are encouraging health and wellbeing activities in sport and recreation.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

There are no significant legal considerations associated with this report.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

The author of this report and officers/contractors providing advice in relation to this report do not have a direct or indirect interest, as provided in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

11.2.2 Event Grant Applications Received (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.

In the interest of transparency and open and honest communication with community, it is recommended that this request for event grant funding be acknowledged in a public forum providing full disclosure of how community funding is being distributed within the community. This action is also consistent with the requirements of the adopted Community Funding Model, where only Council through a Council resolution, can determine the outcome of an Event grant application.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

Council has a budget of \$50,000 allocated to Event Grants under the Community Funding Program in the adopted 2023/2024 Budget.

Approved 2023/24 Event Funding Budget Total	\$50,000
Number of Event Grants approved 2023/24	1
Total value of Event Grants approved 2023/24	\$5,000
2023/24 Event Funding Budget remaining	\$45,000

Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival – Proposed Budget

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Strathbogie Shire - cash	\$4,739.00	Hall Hire	\$ 450.00
Strathbogie Shire – in kind	\$ 261.00	Insurance	\$ 270.05
In kind Professional Labour	\$8,000.00	Equipment Hire (Incl in kind)	\$2,559.20
In Kind General Labour	\$1,600.00	Marketing	\$5,818.80
Cash Donations	\$ 500.00	Entertainment & PA	\$1,914.90
Strathbogie History Group	\$4,012.95	In Kind Labour	\$9,600.00
In kind equipment	\$1,500.00		
Total Income	\$ 20,612.95	Total Expenditure	\$ 20,612.95

11.2.2 Event Grant Applications Received (cont.)

Cranksters Cruise Nagambie – Proposed Budget

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Council in kind	\$1,940	Nagambie Regatta Centre Hire	\$1,940
Volunteer in kind	\$9,600	Parking, Ticketing Volunteers	\$9,600
Entry fees	\$6,840	Equipment Hire	\$1,840
Cash contribution from Club	\$4,000	Marketing & Promotion	\$6,000
		Event Management	\$3,000
Total Income	\$ 22,380	Total Expenditure	\$22,380

Both proposed budgets show a significant co-contribution demonstrating strong support and contribution to the events from the organisers and local community.

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

Both events will result in several economic benefits to the Strathbogie Shire Community. All the items relating to the event will be sourced locally, where possible and a number of vendors will be sourced from the local community.

Social

The events will offer significant social benefits to the local community and those attending the event. The event provides an opportunity for participants, community, and visitors alike to connect, re-engage and explore the local area, share interests, sports and hobbies and make lasting relationships. Both events will be delivered through volunteer groups and associations, groups like these add significant social capital to the local community and for a key aspect of community life. The benefits of volunteering have been well documented, and include improved health and wellbeing, social connection, improved skills, capacity and employability.

Environmental

Council officers will work with both event organisers to support the delivery of the events and reduce the overall waste produced at the events through the implementation of the objectives of both the Waste Wise Events Guidelines and Sustainable Strathbogie 2030 in being “A Zero Waste Shire”.

Climate change

Officers will work with event organisers to implement initiatives as a part of the Waste Wise Events Guidelines, showcasing how a waste wise event should be run and encouraging all to reduce their consumption of raw materials in a further effort to reduce the effects of climate change.

11.2.2 Event Grant Applications Received (cont.)

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

Council has received Event funding applications for two events;

- Strathbogie History Group, under the auspice of Strathbogie Tablelands Action Group Incorporated for funding for the Strathbogie Cup Weekend Festival scheduled from the 3 – 6 November 2023; and
- Cranksters Rod and Kustom Club Incorporated to support the delivery of the Cranksters Cruise Nagambie 2023 event to be held on 10 September 2023

Both applications have been assessed as per Council's Event Grant process and are recommended for funding, to recognising that the events will result in significant economic and social benefits to the community and the broader region.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.2.3 Annual Review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan - Year 1 Progress Update

Author: A/Manager Community Safety

Responsible Director: A/Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act) requires Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. At its meeting in December 2021, Council adopted the 2020 – 25 Domestic Animal Management Plan (the Plan) after significant community consultation on its development.

Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan outlines the key issues, objectives, and priorities for how cats and dogs will be managed in our Shire. The plan covers issues such as:

- The importance of pets to Shire residents
- Concerns about animal-related matters (nuisance animals, dog attacks, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds)
- Ideas and resources to help locals manage and care for their pets
- Dogs in parks and reserves
- How well information provided by Council about pets and animal management addresses the needs of residents

The Plan has 8 focus areas, each with their own priority actions which may have a specific year of delivery or may be ongoing.

Under section 68A(3) of the Domestic Animals Act Council must –

- a) Reviews its DAMP annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- b) Provide the secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan
- c) Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Council's review of the Plan was due in December 2022 but due to the impacts of the October 2022 flood event Council was given an extension. This report provides an overview of the key achievements from year 1 of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the annual progress report on the 2021 – 25 Domestic Animal Management Plan.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan outlines the key issues, objectives, and priorities for how cats and dogs will be managed in our Shire. The plan covers issues such as:

- The importance of pets to Shire residents
- Concerns about animal-related matters (nuisance animals, dog attacks, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds)
- Ideas and resources to help locals manage and care for their pets

11.2.3 Annual Review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan - Year 1 Progress Update (cont.)

- Dogs in parks and reserves
- How well information provided by Council about pets and animal management addresses the needs of residents

The Plan has 8 focus areas, each with their own priority actions which may have a specific year of delivery or may be ongoing.:

- Focus Area 1 - Authorised Officer training
- Focus Area 2 – Responsible pet ownership
- Focus Area 3 - Minimising risks of dog attacks
- Focus Area 4 – Animal registration and over population
- Focus Area 5 - Nuisance dogs and cats
- Focus Area 6 – Dangerous dogs
- Focus Area 7 – Off- leash areas
- Focus Area 8 – Pets and people

Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), every Council in Victoria is required to produce a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) which is renewed every four years. Council's current Plan was adopted by Council in December 2021 and is now being reviewed to ensure that the actions are addressed and continue to be relevant.

Highlights of Year 1 include:

- A business case was undertaken to investigate the whole of life costs associated with the reestablishment of a local pound located in the municipality, compared with the existing model, where animals are being taken to a neighbouring municipality, which is currently costing Council significantly. Following this review, works are being undertaken to bring the old pound up to current requirements and regulations, providing an opportunity for local re-homing, the service is anticipated to be cost neutral to Council.
- Local Laws Officers have been conducting proactive patrols reminding pet owners about responsible pet ownership.
- A significant media campaign was undertaken to promote pet registrations, dogs off leash and permitted number of animals on a residential property.
- Review and refresh of all information available on Council's website to help educate owners about responsible pet ownership.

A copy of the complete plan is available on Council's website. Staff will continue to progress relevant ongoing and year 2 actions. All the actions and details of progress against each relevant year 1 action can be found in Attachment 1.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Significant community consultation was undertaken in the development of the Plan in 2021. No further consultation was undertaken as part of this review.

11.2.3 Annual Review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan - Year 1 Progress Update (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Strategic Focus Area 5. *Strong. Healthy. Safe.*

Initiative 5.3 – Deliver community led actions through the implementation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan, which may include further off leash dog parks.

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 requirement of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* for Council to have a Domestic Animal Management Plan and to review it annually.

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.

Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* states that each Council **must**, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare a domestic animal management plan on 4 December 2021 and at the end of each period of four years after that day.

Every Council is required to

- (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan;
- (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
- (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

Transparency

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

This matter will be considered in a Council meeting open to the public as the primary target audience is the Strathbogie Shire community, pet related businesses and the many community groups within our region.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

11.2.3 Annual Review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan - Year 1 Progress Update (cont.)

The delivery of the Plan is budgeted within Council's annual budget processes, with an allocation from the operating budget 2022/23 for Community Safety being allocated to activities detailed as year 1 actions.

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.

An overview of economic, social, and environmental issues and initiatives has been considered after the public consultation took place, and during the drafting phase of this four-year plan.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan outlines the key issues, objectives, and priorities for how cats and dogs will be managed in our Shire. The plan covers issues such as:

- The importance of pets to Shire residents
- Concerns about animal-related matters (nuisance animals, dog attacks, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds)
- Ideas and resources to help locals manage and care for their pets
- Dogs in parks and reserves
- How well information provided by Council about pets and animal management addresses the needs of residents

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.

This is a plan that is relevant to the needs of the Strathbogie Shire community only, and collaboration with other councils or statutory bodies is not required to formulate this plan.

Council is required to report annually to Animal Welfare Victoria on the status of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

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.

Council officers do not believe any human rights have been impeded or limited by the contents of this Plan, relevant to this report.

11.2.3 Annual Review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan - Year 1 Progress Update (cont.)

CONCLUSION

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act) requires Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. At its meeting in December 2021 Council adopted the 2020 – 25 Domestic Animal Management Plan after significant community consultation into its development.

This report provides an overview of the outcomes of the Year 1 actions and a detailed report on all progress in Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Action list for Domestic Animal Management Plan

11.3 INFRASTRUCTURE

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor

Author: Senior Governance Advisor

Responsible Director: Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Internal Audit provides assurance to Council that Council's policies and systems provide adequate control across the breadth of Council operations, and that these policies and systems are effectively operated, safeguarding Council's assets and ensuring ratepayers get value for money from Council services.

The current contract for Internal Audit services has expired. Council invited tenders for an initial 3 year contract term (with up to 2 x one year extensions available) in the week following 23 June 2023 in the 'Age', local newspapers and through the Council tenders portal. The Request for Tender required tenderers to provide an audit plan for five audits per year, and a reporting and evaluation mechanism.

Three (3) tenders were received by the closing date of 19 July 2023. In the week 24-28 July a panel comprising the Governance Advisor, Chief Financial Officer, the Director People and Governance and an independent member of the Audit & Risk Committee, assessed the three tenders received from (alphabetically):

- AFS & Associates P/L
- Moore Aust (Vic) P/L
- RSD Audit.

A moderation meeting followed on 1 August 2023 and subsequently RSD Audit was selected as the recommended tenderer. Key aspects in which the RSD bid excelled were price and audit methodology, with both their planning and reporting capacity offering an improved service to Council. This report seeks Council's authorisation to constitute this Contract and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No. 22-23-73 Provision of Internal Auditor.***
- 2. Awards the tender for Contract No. 22-23-73 Provision of Internal Auditor to RSD Audit Pty Ltd of Bendigo for a period of three years from execution with options for two one-year extensions for a total amount of \$173,800.00 inclusive of GST;***
- 3. Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenderers;***

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION (cont.)

- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council; and**
- 5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer at the appropriate time to determine any extension options within the scope awarded by Council, after taking advice from the Audit and Risk Committee.**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the process and conclusions regarding the letting of a contract for Internal Audit services for the Shire, and to seek a decision on awarding of the contract.

AFS & Associates have provided the Internal Audit service to Council for the past 11 years. The last contract (with extensions) ended on 30 June 2023. Council invited tenders for an initial 3 year contract term (with up to 2 x one year extensions available) in the week following 23 June 2023 in the 'Age', local newspapers and through the Council tenders portal. The Request for Tender required tenderers to provide an audit plan for five audits per year, and a reporting and evaluation mechanism.

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. This principle is given effect through Council's tender assessment process.

The key issues in determining the award of the contract are:

- price, and
- audit methodology

Also considered are:

- Risk management
- Local economic contribution
- Social procurement
- OH&S systems
- A transition plan
- Additional lower weighted factors

Tender evaluations were conducted independently by each of the panel members, who were consistent in their respective ratings.

The recommended tenderer, RSD Audit, was ranked first in each qualitative category and in pricing. Key aspects in which the RSD bid excelled were price and audit methodology, with both their planning and reporting capacity offering an improved service to Council.

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor (cont.)

TENDER PROCESS

Tenders were invited by advertising on “Tendersearch” via the Council website on the 23 June 2023. Council also advertised in Saturday’s The Age newspaper (providing state-wide reach), Shepparton News, Euroa Gazette, Benalla Ensign, Violet Town Village Voice, in the week following release. By the close of tenders at 4.00pm on 19 July 2023, three tender submissions had been received.

All tender submissions were assessed for their compliance including the contractual terms and conditions and the requirements of the response schedules. All of the tender submissions were deemed conforming.

Table 1 below lists the tenders that were received at the close of the advertised tender period.

Table 1: Tender Submissions Received

Tender Submissions Received at the close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)
AFS & Associates
Moore Australia (Vic) Pty Ltd
RSD Audit

Table 2 below lists the Lump Sum pricing submitted including Provisionals.

Table 2: Tender Offers Received (including GST)

Lump Sum Offers as provided at Close of Tender Period (including GST) in lowest to highest order
\$173,800.00
\$210,431.10
\$376,925.00

Assessment Process

The Strathbogie Shire Staff members reviewing the submission were made up of the following:

1. Director People and Governance
2. Chief Financial Officer
3. Governance Advisor
4. Independent Member of Strathbogie Shire Audit and Risk Committee
5. Procurement and Tenders Officer (process facilitator, non-voting member).

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

This Tender Evaluation Panel’s process has been conducted to ensure compliance with the Charter of the Audit & Risk Committee and as such has endorsed the method used for this appointment.

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor (cont.)

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

- Tendered Price (40%)
This criterion measures the price only – either lump sum or unit rates – submitted by the tenderer. In accordance with Council's Procurement Guidelines, a price weighting of 40% is applied, unless a Council exemption is sought.

All submissions were given a weighted score for their submitted price based on a comparative assessment of pricing for all tenders. The comparative assessment awards the highest evaluation score (40%) to the lowest priced tender submission. The subsequent tender submissions received reduced evaluation scores based on the percentage difference between them and the lowest priced tender.

- Business & Management Requirements - OHS, , Insurance, Quality, Risk, Management, HR, QMS/ISO (Pass/Fail)
Quality Management Systems, Policies, Relevant Certifications, and Insurance, a weighting of 0 % was allocated to this criterium.
- Capability, Experience, Personnel CVs, Methodology, Equipment, Managing Contract with current commitment (40%)
As the work requires timely completion and elimination/mitigation of work-related risks, this criterium is considered important therefore allocated a weighting of 40%.
- Tender conformance, Offer of Alternative Tender, Request for Contract Changes/Exclusions (Pass/Fail) 0%
Due to the importance for the tender to meet the specification, a weighting of pass/fail (0)% was allocated to this criterium.
- Local Content (10%)
In accordance with Procurement Guidelines and being consistent with value for money principles, where different products are of comparable price, quality and equivalent value can be sourced either locally or regionally; preference will be given to local suppliers. A weighting of 10% was allocated to this tender.
- Sustainability (10%)
In accordance with Procurement Guidelines and Council's commitment to the environment this criterium is important and a weighting of 10% was allocated to this tender.

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor (cont.)

Table 3: Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Price	40%
Business & Management Requirements	Pass/Fail (0%)
Capability, Methodology and Experience	40%
Regional Benefit	10%
Conformance to Contract and Specification	Pass/Fail (0%)
Sustainability	10%

The members tasked with reviewing the submissions initially met on the afternoon of 1 August 2023. At conclusion of the tender evaluation process, the Evaluation Panel were satisfied that RSD Audit's submitted tender represented the overall Best Value due to overall equivalent sized local government experience, audit methodology and tendered pricing.

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.

No broad community engagement was applicable as part of the letting of this contract, although a member of the audit committee, selected from within the community, participated in the tender evaluation process.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The appointment of Council's internal auditors fits clearly within the Accountable.Transparent.Responsible. focus area of the 2021-2025 Council Plan through the following Council Plan actions:

6.1.4 Finalise the Strategic Risk Register through Council's Audit and Risk Committee after being reviewed in light of the priorities of this Council Plan

6.1.6 Support the Audit and Risk Committee in completing its work plan for 2021-22.

More broadly, the use of internal audit to review policies and procedures clearly contributes to the accountability and good governance of 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 process included local economic benefit as a weighted consideration in selection.

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor (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 s.53 requires that Council establish a skilled Audit & Risk Committee and at s.54 requires the establishment of an Audit and Risk Committee Charter which specifies functions including overseeing the audit function and monitoring Council's compliance with the overarching governance principles in the Act and the Act more generally.

The Audit & Risk Committee Charter, approved by Council, provides more detail on each of these matters and specifies responsibilities for the Committee in how to oversee the internal audit function.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, involved in the preparation of this report and the member of the Audit & Risk Committee assisting in this evaluation have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest related to the evaluation process or 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 ensures that the awarding of the contract and the basis of that decision is transparent to our 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.

The total cost over three (3) years is expected to be \$173,800 (incl GST). This amount will fund five (5) process audits per year, associated plan development with the Audit & Risk Committee and reporting to both the Audit & Risk Committee and Council. The cost is \$2,933 over budget this financial year and in each year of the Ten Year Financial Plan. This amount can be recovered from other activities this year and incorporated into the Ten Year Financial Plan for future years.

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 the auditors selected do not live in and contribute to the economic benefit of the Shire, they do reside and operate in the central regional Victoria.

Social

There are no social sustainability implications of this report.

11.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor (cont.)

Environmental

There are no environmental sustainability implications of this report.

Climate change

There are no climate change implications of this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

A change of internal auditors after 11 years will bring change in approach and fresh eyes to Council operations. It is considered good governance to change auditors periodically to ensure that auditors do not become too close to officers and the organisation.

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.

No collaboration was sought for this item.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights considerations under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

The recommended tenderer, RSD Audit Pty Ltd, was ranked first in each qualitative category and in pricing. Key aspects in which the RSD Audit bid excelled were price and audit methodology, with both their planning and reporting capacity offering an improved service to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 22/23-73: Provision of Internal Auditor - CONFIDENTIAL

11.3.2 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-15: Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale Shed

Author: Procurement and Tenders Officer

Responsible Director: Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2021 Council received \$10,000 grant funding from Sustainability Victoria to undertake a feasibility study into the introduction of a resale shop at one or more of Council's Resource Recovery Centres. At its meeting of 19 April 2022 Council adopted the recommendation (amongst other considerations) that it commits to funding the introduction of a Resale Shop at the Nagambie Resource Recovery Centre.

Council was subsequently successful in receiving funding of \$71,625 from Sustainability Victoria and allocated additional funding of \$35,812.62 for a project total of \$107,438.09.

Council invited tenders for Contract No. 22-23-15 Design and Construction of Nagambie Transfer Station Resale Shop in the week following 3 March 2023 in the 'Age', local newspapers and through the Council tenders portal. The Request for Tender required tenderers to provide a lump price. At close of tender on 30 March 2023, three tenders were received.

A tendered pricing review was undertaken by the Environment and Waste Coordinator, Director of Sustainable Infrastructure and Procurement and Tenders Officer. It was noted that all the tendered pricing was significantly over budget (between <28% and <460%).

As Strathbogie Shire had met its Procurement Policy requirements by seeking a quotation through a public tender process it was agreed Council was better placed to seek quotes via an email quote process from local commercial shed retailers in order to meet the set budget, the funding agreement deadline of 15 December 2023 and to obtain Overall Best Value.

Following this decision Council Officers sought email quotes. At conclusion of this process on 10 July 2023, a further three (3) quotations were received via email. It was a result of this process that the recommended supplier has been determined.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the outcome of the tender process and email quotation process for Contract No. 22-23-15 Design and Construction of Nagambie Transfer Station Resale Shop;***
- 2. Awards the tender for Contract No.22/23-15 Design and Construction of Nagambie Transfer Station Resale Shop to Cobram Sheds and Garages of Cobram for a total amount of \$96,820.00 inclusive of GST;***

11.3.2 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-15: Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale Shed (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION (cont.)

3. ***Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenderers and quoters; and***
4. ***Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Council was successful in receiving funding from Sustainability Victoria for the delivery of the infrastructure required to open a Resale Shop at the Nagambie Resource Recovery Centre.

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the process and conclusions regarding the seeking tenders and email quotations for the contract 22/23-15 - Design and Construction of Nagambie Transfer Station Resale Shop and to seek a decision on awarding of the contract.

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.

This principle is given effect through Council's tender assessment process. The key issues in determining the award of the contract are:

- Price,
- previous experience in the delivery and construction of large sheds, and
- ability to deliver to meet the Grant funding agreement deadline of 15 December 2023

Public Tenders were sought Council's e-tendering portal and three tenders were received. At initial reviews of the submitted tenders, it was determined that the pricing from all three tenderers were significantly over budget (between <28% and <460%).

Due to the Grant funding agreement containing the tight timeframe for delivery and the set financial budget, Officers determined that the tender process should not continue. For Officers to target specific suppliers in this marketplace, and to work to deliver the shed within budget and within the timeframe, it was agreed a less formal email quotation process involving commercial shed retailers would occur. It was noted that this was only possible as Strathbogie Shire Council had complied with its Procurement Policy by undertaking a public tender process. At closing of this process three email quotes were received.

The recommended supplier, Cobram Sheds and Garages, whilst not the cheapest remained within budget, could deliver to meet the Grant funding agreement deadline of 15 December 2023, and represented overall best value.

11.3.2 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-15: Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale Shed (cont.)

TENDER PROCESS

Tenders were invited by advertising on “Tendersearch” via the Council website on the 3 March 2023. Council also advertised in Saturday’s The Age newspaper (providing state-wide reach), Shepparton News, Euroa Gazette, Benalla Ensign, Violet Town Village Voice, in the week following release. By the close of tenders at 4.00pm on 30 March 2023, three tender submissions had been received.

All tender submissions were accessed for the pricing, and all of the tender submissions were significantly over budget.

Table 1 below lists the tenders that were received at the close of the advertised tender period.

Table 1: Tender Submissions Received

Tender Submissions Received at the close of Tender Period (in Alphabetical Order)
Exco Construct
Gradian Projects
Tiger Developments

Table 2 below lists the Lump Sum pricing submitted including Provisionals.

Table 2: Tender Offers Received (including GST)

Lump Sum Offers as provided at Close of Tender Period (including GST) in lowest to highest order
\$122,160.50
\$233,535.00
\$437,376.50

Tender process completed and Email quotation process commenced.

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

The Officers involved in this process were as follows;

1. Director of Sustainable Infrastructure,
2. (Acting) Manager of Community Safety,
3. (Acting) Environment and Waste Coordinator
4. Procurement and Tenders Officer

The panel noted that Strathbogie Shire Council had complied with its Procurement Policy by undertaking a public tender process. However, due to the Grant funding agreement deadline of 15 December 2023, and the set financial budget, Officers determined that the tender process should not continue as it would likely not deliver a shed that meets either requirement.

11.3.2 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-15: Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale Shed (cont.)

In its place a less formal email quotation process was undertaken. Officers emailed commercial shed retailers. By 10 July 2023, three email quotations were received.

Table 3 below lists the suppliers that were quoted by the close of the email quote period.

Email submissions received at the close of email quotation period
Ace Sheds
Cobram Sheds and Garages
Outdoor Steel Solutions

Table 4 below lists the Lump Sum pricing submitted.

Lump Sum Offers as provided at close of email quoting period (including GST) in lowest to highest order
\$91,900.00
\$96,820.00
\$144,846.00

Council Officers were satisfied that Cobram Sheds and Garages email quote represented the overall Best Value due to commitment to deliver and construct the shed by the Grant funding agreement deadline of 15 December 2023, demonstrated experience erecting large sheds and the price is within our budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Significant community engagement was undertaken during the development of the Feasibility Study to select the location. No community engagement was undertaken during this tender process.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

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 Government's circular economy plan, Recycling Victoria: A new economy, steps out the systemic change that's needed to cut waste and boost recycling and reuse of our precious resources. Recycling Victoria aims for a cleaner, greener Victoria with less waste and pollution, more jobs and a sustainable and thriving circular economy.

11.3.2 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-15: Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale Shed (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.

There are no legal matters raised by this project and it is noted that the procurement process is consistent with the principles outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, involved in the preparation of this report assisting in this evaluation have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest related to the evaluation process or 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 ensures that the awarding of the contract and the basis of that decision is transparent to our 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.

This project was budgeted for as part of Council's capital works budget for 2023/24.

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

Establishing a resale shop has the potential to create direct and indirect economic benefits for Council and our community. Resale shops have the ability to create local employment opportunities, income for community groups and resident 'upcyclers', whilst also providing access to pre-loved household goods at affordable rates.

Social

Establishing a resale shop has the ability to generate a greater understanding and practical realisation for the principles of a localised circular economy. Providing the social infrastructure surrounding the reuse, repurposing and upcycling of materials from within our Shire can instil behaviour change at the household level, placing value on materials that have been commonly or previously discarded.

11.3.2 Tender for Contract No. 22/23-15: Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale Shed (cont.)

Environmental

Establishing a resale shop will fill a current service gap, enhancing our Shire's waste diversion rates. The potential of waste diversion from one resale shop alone would prevent approximately 30m³ of waste from heading to landfill each fortnight. Providing the right infrastructure and material acceptance policy may also increase the ability to divert even more waste from landfill through knowledge sharing and in turn, providing further economic and social benefit.

Climate change

There is a direct correlation between a resale shop and Council's action on climate change. Committing to the introduction of a resale shop supports Council's Climate Change Emergency declaration, putting this into action. The ability to intercept and divert materials heading to landfill will enhance a localized circular economy; meaning less virgin material entering the market as pre-loved materials are reused, repurposed and upcycled – creating a range of direct and indirect socio-ecological benefits.

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.

Introducing fit for purpose physical and social infrastructure will further Council's efforts toward enhancing and adopting localised circular economy strategies that will have economic, social and environmental 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.

No collaboration was sought for this item.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights considerations under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

The recommended supplier, Cobram Sheds and Garages can deliver the Resale shed within the Grant funding agreement deadline of 15 December 2023, has vast experience erecting large sheds and pricing is within Strathbogie Shire's set budget and therefor represents overall best value.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 22/23-15: Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale Shed - CONFIDENTIAL

11.3.3 Contracts, Works and Grants Awarded under Delegation - 1 to 31 July 2023

Author: Procurement and Tenders Officer

Responsible Directors: A/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 July 2023 to 31 July 2023. This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's 2023/24 budget.

This report also details any grants awarded under delegation as per Council's adopted Community Funding Model. Council adopted a Community Funding Model at the June Council Meeting authorising the Chief Executive Officer to award Quick Response Grants and Community Conversations: January 26 Grants under delegation notifying Council in writing via this report.

RECOMMENDATION***That Council:***

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

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

In line with Council's approach to transparency and good governance, the Contracts, Works and Grants Awarded Under Delegation report will be tabled for information purposes at each Council Meeting. The report details any contracts, works or grants that have been awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer, a Director, or a Manager within their approved financial threshold. This report specifically relates to works and/or services that formed part of Council's approved 2023/24 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 \$170,000 for Goods and Services and \$220,000 for Works
- A Director – award a contract up to the value of \$50,000 for Goods and Services and \$50,00 for Works
- A Manager – award a contract up to the value of \$15,000 for Goods and Services and \$15,000 for Works.

11.3.3 Contracts, Works and Grants Awarded under Delegation - 1 to 31 July 2023 (cont.)

Council adopted a Community Funding Model at the 18 June 2023 Council Meeting authorising the Chief Executive Officer to award Quick Response Grants and Community Conversations: January 26 Grants under delegation notifying Council in writing via this report.

Officers received one *Community Conversations: January 26 Grant* application from the Avenel Australia Day Committee under the auspice of Avenel Active Incorporated. This application has been assessed against the grant criteria and Council's assessment process and was deemed eligible and recommended for funding under this category.

Contracts Awarded Under Delegated Authority by Chief Executive Officer

Contract No.	PN 23/24-01
Contract Name	<i>Violet Town Landfill Leachate Dam Decant and Water disposal</i>
Contract Details	This is an exemption to obtaining marketplace under the 2022 Strathbogie Shire Procurement Policy, Item 20 Exemptions – ‘genuine emergency or hardship’ Any further works have been sought under open tender provisions.
Value Including GST	\$55,548
Awarded to	Foott Waste Solutions
Scheduled Commencement	13 June 2023
Scheduled Completion Date	14 July 2026

Contract No.	PN 22/23-18
Contract Name	<i>Civic Centre Security System</i>
Contract Details	Failure of old Security System, required urgent emergency software and locking mechanism replacement. This is an exemption to obtaining marketplace under the 2022 Strathbogie Shire Procurement Policy, Item 20 Exemptions - <i>“Information technology, software renewals”</i> .
Value Including GST	\$ 8470
Awarded to	Insight Protection Services Shepparton
Scheduled Commencement	6 July 2023
Scheduled Completion Date	7 July 2023

11.3.3 Contracts, Works and Grants Awarded under Delegation - 1 to 31 July 2023 (cont.)**Grants Awarded Under Chief Executive Officer Delegation**

Grant	Community Conversations: January 26
Applicant	Avenel Australia Day Committee (auspice Avenel Active Incorporated)
Project Overview	<p>The project funds will be used to coordinate a student debate on whether to change the date of Australia Day (yes or no), followed by an online and letter-drop survey to establish how the Avenel community wants to celebrate Australia Day into the future.</p> <p>The grant is awarded under delegation as endorsed at the 18 June 2023 Council Meeting.</p>
Grant Amount approved	\$3136

Contracts Awarded Under Delegated Authority by Director

Contract No.	CN 23/24-07
Contract Name	Australia Post BillPay, MAV Agreement
Contract Details	<p>This is an exemption to obtaining marketplace under the 2022 Strathbogie Shire Procurement Policy, Item 20 Exemptions - Contracts and arrangements established by another government entity, local authority or group purchasing scheme.</p> <p>E.g. Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) or National Procurement network members (e.g. Local Buy), Procurement Australia (PA) etc.</p>
Value Including GST	\$ 19,500 P/A (minimum) Schedule of Rates Contract
Awarded to	Australia Post
Scheduled Commencement	01 June 2023
Scheduled Completion Date	31 May 2028

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

11.3.3 Contracts, Works and Grants Awarded under Delegation - 1 to 31 July 2023 (cont.)

Consultation

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

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 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.

Economic

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

Social

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

Environmental

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

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

11.3.3 Contracts, Works and Grants Awarded under Delegation - 1 to 31 July 2023 (cont.)**CONCLUSION**

It is important that decisions and actions taken under delegation be properly documented and transparent in nature. The report details the publicly advertised tenders, invitations for written quotations and quotations provided using collaborative and/or third party contracts which have been awarded by the Chief Executive Officer, Directors and Managers under delegated authority of the Council during the period 1 July to 31 July 2023.

This report also advises Council of any grants awarded under CEO delegation as per Council's adopted Community Funding Model.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.3.4 Growing Regions Funding Expression of Interest: Rehabilitation Works Kirwans Bridge

Author: Senior Engineer, Asset Planning

Responsible Director: Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Commonwealth Government Growing Regions Program* provides grants of between \$500,000 and \$15 million to local government entities and not-for-profit organisations, for capital works projects that deliver community and economic infrastructure projects across regional and rural Australia. There will be a two-stage application process. Under Stage One, applicants will be required to submit Expressions of Interest (refer Attachment 1) which will be assessed to ensure projects meet eligibility requirements, project readiness and program suitability, and are aligned with regional priorities for the area. Round One applications closed on August 1, 2023.

Expressions of Interest that are assessed as meeting requirements and approved to proceed will be invited to submit a full application (Stage Two).

Officers propose that as we approach the crucial stage of reviewing the options report for the bridge's restoration works undertaken by JJRyan consultants (refer attachment 2), it is imperative that Council takes a proactive approach and seek funding from government agencies to ensure the timely delivery of the project. Officers have submitted a Round 1 Expression of Interest to this funding round by the due date (refer attachment 1).

By securing the necessary funds, Council can swiftly proceed with the rehabilitation works, thereby reopening the bridge to the community. The restoration of Kirwans Bridge will not only enhance connectivity but also prioritise public safety.

It is important to note that a 90%:10% contribution required for flood impacted community infrastructure required under this grant. Should Council be invited to submit to stage 2 of the application process, officers seek an 'in-principle' endorsement for the 10% financial commitment of approximately \$700,000 towards this important community infrastructure project.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the Expression of Interest application submitted by officers on 1 August 2023, Commonwealth Government Growing Regions Program as an important opportunity to secure grant funding towards realising the much-needed rehabilitation and reopening of Kirwans Bridge.***
- 2. Note the 90%:10% contribution required for flood impacted community infrastructure required under this grant that should Council be invited to submit to stage 2 of the application process, and***

11.3.4 Growing Regions Funding Expression of Interest: Rehabilitation Works Kirwans Bridge (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION (cont.)

3. ***Subject to consideration of the preferred option proposed by the Kirwans Bridge Community Panel and the grant bid's success, provide an 'in-principle' 10% financial commitment of approximately \$700,000 towards the project.***
4. ***Note the Kirwans Bridge Community Panel will form a recommendation on its preferred option at its next meeting on August 23, 2023.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The primary objective of this report is for Council to note the Expression of Interest submitted Round 1 - Expression of Interest for "Growing the Regions" grant program aimed at the rehabilitation of Kirwans Bridge and to seek 'in principle' approval of a potential 10% financial contribution should Council be invited to State 2 of the process.

This grant program will enable Council to address the current state of Kirwans Bridge and undertake essential restoration efforts to ensure its long-term safety and functionality.

Kirwans Bridge is a vital heritage infrastructure within our shire connecting communities and facilitating transportation. Over time, the bridge has faced wear and tear due to various factors such as increased traffic and flood events. A thorough assessment conducted by engineering experts has revealed the urgent need for rehabilitation to preserve its structural integrity and prevent any potential hazards to the public.

It is important to note that a 90%:10% contribution required for flood impacted community infrastructure required under this grant. Should Council be invited to submit to stage 2 of the application process, officers seek an 'in-principle' endorsement for the 10% financial commitment of approximately \$700,000 towards this important community infrastructure project.

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 Growing Regions Program provides grants of between \$500,000 and \$15 million to local government entities and not-for-profit organisations, for capital works projects that deliver community and economic infrastructure projects across regional and rural Australia.

11.3.4 Growing Regions Funding Expression of Interest: Rehabilitation Works Kirwans Bridge (cont.)

The program is open competitive with grants awarded on a merit basis. There will be a two-stage application process. Under Stage One, applicants will be required to submit Expressions of Interest which will be assessed to ensure projects meet eligibility requirements, project readiness and program suitability, and are aligned with regional priorities for the area.

Expressions of Interest that are assessed as meeting requirements and approved to proceed will be invited to submit a full application (Stage Two).

Officers have prepared and Expression of Interest to the “Growing the Regions” grant to secure funding required for the comprehensive rehabilitation project for Kirwans Bridge.

Council will need to provide a co-contribution of 10% (\$700,000) towards the total funds required for the project. While this co-contribution represents a financial commitment, it also signifies our dedication to investing in the welfare of our community and preserving the historical significance of Kirwans Bridge.

The proposed grant will cover the following key aspects of the project:

- **Structural Repairs:** Extensive examination and refurbishment of the bridge piers, beams, and load-bearing components will be carried out to ensure the bridge can safely withstand current and future traffic demands.
- **Safety Enhancements:** Installation of modern safety features, such as lighting systems, and anti-skid surfacing, will be incorporated to improve the overall safety for pedestrians and motorists using the bridge.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Wherever possible, environmentally friendly materials and construction methods will be utilised to minimize the project's ecological footprint and promote sustainability.

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.

A dedicated community panel was established with the primary goal of ensuring community input into the options to ensure a long-term sustainable future for Kirwans Bridge.

After engaging in constructive discussions with the community, two (2) viable options for the bridge's restoration were carefully formulated. Council collaborated closely with an expert consultant JJRyan to develop comprehensive designs and accurate cost estimations for each of these options.

JJRyan presented the design report outcomes at the Community Panel (Panel) meeting on July 26, 2023. This provided the opportunity for the Panel to be actively involved in shaping the future of Kirwans Bridge and ensuring that its rehabilitation aligns with the collective vision of the people it serves.

11.3.4 Growing Regions Funding Expression of Interest: Rehabilitation Works Kirwans Bridge (cont.)

The panel will make a recommendation on its preferred option at its next meeting on August 23, 2023.

The historical significance of Kirwans Bridge is of utmost importance to the council. As part of due diligence, officers have proactively engaged with Heritage Victoria to seek their advice on the bridge's heritage aspects. This collaborative effort is aimed at ensuring that the scope of works for the rehabilitation project aligns with the preservation of its heritage elements. Officers have held a pre-application meeting with the experts from Heritage Victoria to foster a unified understanding and strategize the best way forward. By working in partnership with Heritage Victoria, officers are confident that Council will strike a harmonious balance between the restoration efforts and the preservation of Kirwans Bridge's rich heritage for generations to come.

The panel will make a recommendation on its preferred option at its next meeting on August 23, 2023. With this advice officers will then bring a recommendation to Council for consideration at the September 2023 Council meeting.

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.

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 recommendation has no legal or statutory implications which require the consideration of Council.

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.

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.

11.3.4 Growing Regions Funding Expression of Interest: Rehabilitation Works Kirwans Bridge (cont.)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

Based on the JJRyan report, it is estimated that the total cost for restoration works will be approximately \$7,000,000.00. It is important to note that this cost is based on estimates as at July 2023 and are likely to increase in accordance with market drivers.

Councils 10% co-contribution as required by the Growing the Regions Funding Guidelines for flood impacted community infrastructure projects is approximately \$700,000.00. Officers propose that this funding could be offset from the final flood insurance payout.

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

Restoring Kirwans Bridge can bring several economic benefits to the local community and the region.

- a) **Increased Tourism:** A well-restored and aesthetically pleasing bridge can become a tourist attraction. Tourists and visitors are often drawn to historical landmarks, and the restored Kirwans Bridge can attract more visitors, leading to increased tourism revenue for local businesses, hotels, restaurants, and other establishments.
- b) **Enhanced Property Values:** Infrastructure improvements, such as a rehabilitated bridge, can positively impact nearby property values. Improved connectivity and accessibility can make the area more desirable to residents and potential buyers, leading to potential increases in property prices and overall economic value.
- c) **Job Creation:** The rehabilitation project will require skilled labor and expertise, leading to job creation within the construction and engineering sectors. Local contractors, builders, and workers will benefit from the employment opportunities, thereby stimulating economic activity.
- d) **Cost Savings in the Long Run:** While the initial investment in the rehabilitation project may be significant, it can lead to cost savings in the long run. Regular maintenance costs and the risk of costly emergency repairs can be reduced through proper rehabilitation, resulting in more efficient use of public funds.
- e) **Boost to Local Businesses:** During the construction phase, businesses in the vicinity of the bridge may experience an increase in customers, as construction workers and visitors' frequent local shops and services, providing a short-term boost to the local economy.
- f) **Extended Lifespan:** By conducting thorough rehabilitation, we can extend the bridge's lifespan and postpone costly replacements in the future.

11.3.4 Growing Regions Funding Expression of Interest: Rehabilitation Works Kirwans Bridge (cont.)

Social

This project can have several social benefits and implications, positively impacting the lives of the local community and fostering a sense of cohesion and well-being. The project can foster community engagement, promote safety, preserve heritage, and enhance the overall quality of life for the residents, contributing to a vibrant and socially connected community.

- a) **Enhanced Connectivity:** The restored bridge will improve connectivity between communities on both sides, facilitating easier access to schools, healthcare facilities, recreational areas, and other essential services. This increased connectivity can strengthen social ties and promote interactions among residents from different neighbourhoods.
- b) **Community Engagement and Pride:** The restoration project provides an excellent opportunity for community members to be actively involved in the decision-making process. Public consultations and engagement activities allow residents to voice their opinions and ideas, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the bridge's rehabilitation and the overall development of their locality.
- c) **Safer Commuting:** A rehabilitated bridge ensures safer commuting for pedestrians and motorists alike. This improvement can lead to a reduction in accidents and injuries, creating a safer environment for everyone and instilling a greater sense of security within the community.
- d) **Preservation of Heritage:** Kirwans Bridge holds historical and cultural significance for the local community. By restoring the bridge, residents can take pride in preserving their heritage for future generations, promoting a shared sense of history and identity.
- e) **Improved Quality of Life:** The rehabilitated bridge will positively impact the daily lives of community members by reducing travel time and making transportation more convenient. This improved quality of life can lead to increased satisfaction and well-being among residents.
- f) **Community Cohesion:** The rehabilitation project can bring the community together, fostering a sense of unity and cooperation among residents, businesses, and local organizations. Such collaborative efforts can strengthen social bonds and lead to the development of a more closely-knit community.
- g) **Access to Recreation and Tourism:** Restoring Kirwans Bridge can open up new opportunities for recreational activities, such as walking, cycling, and picnicking. This can encourage residents and visitors to explore the area, enhancing social interactions and promoting tourism within the region.

Environmental

Restoring this bridge have several environmental benefits and implications, contributing to sustainable development and the conservation of natural resources.

Here are some key environmental advantages of undertaking the rehabilitation project:

- a) **Preservation of Natural Habitat:** By rehabilitating the existing bridge rather than constructing a new one, the natural habitat surrounding the bridge can be preserved. This minimises disturbance to local ecosystems.

11.3.4 Growing Regions Funding Expression of Interest: Rehabilitation Works Kirwans Bridge (cont.)

- b) **Reduced Environmental Footprint:** Restoring the bridge typically requires less construction material and energy compared to building a new structure from scratch. This approach can significantly reduce the environmental footprint associated with the project, including carbon emissions and resource consumption.
- c) **Sustainable Materials and Practices:** During the restoration process, efforts can be made to use sustainable materials and construction practices. Environmentally friendly materials, such as recycled or locally sourced materials, can be employed to minimise environmental impact.
- d) **Impact on Water Bodies:** When rehabilitating the bridge, measures can be taken to minimize disturbances to water bodies. Erosion control and sediment management can help maintain water quality and protect aquatic life.
- e) **Long-Term Sustainability:** By rehabilitating the existing structure, the bridge's lifespan can be extended, reducing the need for frequent replacements. This approach promotes long-term sustainability and helps conserve resources over time.
- f) **Community Awareness and Education:** The restoration project can also be an opportunity to raise environmental awareness within the community. Public engagement initiatives can educate residents about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices.

Climate change

Climate change poses significant challenges to infrastructure projects like this, and incorporating climate resilience measures in the restoration efforts is essential to ensure the bridge's long-term sustainability and functionality.

- a) **Rising Water Levels and Flooding:** One of the primary climate change impacts relevant to Kirwans Bridge is the potential water level rise. As water levels rises, the risk of flooding on the bridge increases. This can lead to damage and disruption to the bridge and its surroundings, impacting its structural integrity and public safety. Therefore, we must consider flood resilience measures in the design and construction to protect the bridge against the heightened flood risk.
- b) **Extreme Weather Events:** Climate change is likely to bring more frequent and intense extreme weather events, such as storms, hurricanes, and heavy rainfall. These events can cause damage to infrastructure, including bridges, and may lead to prolonged periods of closure for repairs. When planning the rehabilitation, we should take into account these potential events and design the bridge to withstand the forces of extreme weather.
- c) **Temperature Extremes:** Climate change can also lead to increased temperature extremes, with hotter summers and more heatwaves. These higher temperatures can impact the materials used in the construction of the bridge and may lead to thermal expansion, which could affect its structural integrity. Choosing appropriate materials and implementing cooling measures should be considered to address these challenges.
- d) **Erosion and Sedimentation:** Changes in precipitation patterns and increased storm intensity can contribute to erosion and sedimentation in nearby water bodies. This may lead to increased sediment buildup around bridge piers, affecting the flow dynamics and stability of the structure. Regular maintenance and erosion control measures will be essential to counteract these impacts.

11.3.4 Growing Regions Funding Expression of Interest: Rehabilitation Works Kirwans Bridge (cont.)

- e) Impact on Surrounding Ecosystems: The restoration project should also consider the potential effects on nearby ecosystems due to construction activities. Climate change impacts can disrupt the natural balance and habitats of local flora and fauna. Measures to minimize construction-related disturbances and protect the environment must be integrated into the planning and execution of the project.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

This report is for Council to note the Round 1 application for “Growing the Region” grant program to commence securing the much-needed funding for the rehabilitation of Kirwans Bridge. Should Council be invited to Stage 2 of this application process, a 10% co-contribution for the project is required.

Council’s support will be instrumental in ensuring the success of this critical project, benefiting our community for years to come.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Expression of Interest to Growing the Regions Fund - Final EOI - Growing the Regions

Attachment 2: JJRyan Report - JJR-4220916B-25.07.2023 Options Comparison Report

11.4 CORPORATE

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Waste Wise Events Policy

Author: Environment and Waste Coordinator

Responsible Director: Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Waste is a significant part of any event and typically comes from construction activity, promotional materials and food and drinks. This led to the development of a Waste Wise Events Policy, which was adopted by Council in September 2020, and it required adherence to the Policy requiring single use plastics, waste and litter at events that are directly managed by Council or are on Council managed or owned land.

A Waste Wise event is any event where the organiser/s have identified what kinds of waste there will be and how much waste the event will generate, as well as creating a plan to avoid, minimise, collect and remove that waste. Event organisers in Strathbogie will be encouraged and supported by Council to create a Waste Wise event plan. Council will provide bins, stickers and a Waste Wise guide Attachment 2) to ensure that messaging is consistent and easy to understand. This guide outlines how events can create a Waste Wise plan for their event, tips and tricks to reduce waste and it also allows events to access bin stickers and posters, free of charge, to assist with signage.

Council currently offers best practice waste management to its residents, which allows our residents to divert up to 70% of their waste away from landfill. This report recommends the endorsement of the updated Waste Wise Events Policy and Guide to ensure that the many events that happen in our Shire are able to access resources to ensure that waste is managed well and to minimise the impact on our environment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. *Adopt the updated Waste Wise Events Policy; and***
- 2. *Support the publication and encourage the use of the 'Waste Wise Events Guide' and associated supporting materials.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Waste is a significant part of any event and typically comes from construction activity, promotional materials and food and drinks. This led to the development of a Waste Wise Events Policy, which was adopted by Council in September 2020, and it required adherence to the Policy requiring single use plastics, waste and litter at events that are directly managed by Council or are on Council managed or owned land.

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Waste Wise Events Policy (cont.)

This policy was developed in conjunction with a Waste Wise Events Guide to help event organisers understand how they can comply with the policy.

A Waste Wise event is any event where the organiser/s have identified what kinds of waste there will be and how much waste the event will generate, as well as creating a plan to avoid, minimise, collect and remove that waste. Event organisers in Strathbogie will be encouraged and supported by Council to create a Waste Wise event plan. Council will provide bins, stickers and a Waste Wise guide (Attachment 2) to ensure that messaging is consistent and easy to understand. This guide outlines how events can create a Waste Wise plan for their event, tips and tricks to reduce waste and it also allows events to access bin stickers and posters, free of charge, to assist with signage.

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.

What is a waste Wise event?

A Waste Wise event is any event where the organizer/s have identified what kinds of waste there will be and how much waste the event will generate, as well as creating a plan to avoid, minimise, collect and remove that waste.

Why are the benefits of Waste Wise events?

Encouraging events across the shire to be Waste Wise will reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill, creating environmental benefits as well as social benefits for community members engaging with Waste Wise events offering waste education to event patrons.

How will Council support the use of the Waste Wise events guide?

Event organisers who choose to manage events in the Strathbogie Shire will be able to access the following materials and services;

- The Waste Wise events guide (Attachment 2),
- Educational bin stickers and posters (as seen in Attachment 2),
- Editable versions of the Waste Wise Checklist and Template letter (as seen in Attachment 2),
- Council will arrange for the provision and collection bins (waste, recycling and organics) (via Council's Collection Contractor),
- Access to a portable hydration station for outdoor events (via the Events Team),
- Online information about Waste Wise events on Council's website, and
- Support from the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Education Officer to prepare and check a Waste Wise event plan.

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Waste Wise Events Policy (cont.)

Who will use this guide?

This guide has been designed to be used by anybody. However, Strathbogie Shire Council requires that all event organisers, vendors, stall holders, council staff and venue owners to use this guide if they hold events or markets in Strathbogie Shire Council owned or managed venues or land this may include;

- Council organised events,
- Markets,
- Charity events,
- Sporting events, and
- Council meetings.

How will residents know about Waste Wise events?

Event organisers (including council officers) will be encouraged to publicly make a statement of commitment using the Waste Wise event logo. This helps get everyone on board and provides a clear message to event stakeholders and event attendees.

By creating a Waste Wise Plan and completing the Waste Wise Checklist (within Attachment 2) event organisers will be provided with the logo jpg to use on event promotional material.

There will also be page dedicated to Waste Wise events on the Council website.

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.

Additionally, State and Federal community engagement regarding waste management at events has also been undertaken. Research from NSW EPA shows that 87% of event attendees want the event they are attending to be clean and free of litter, and support Waste Wise practices.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Strategic focus area 3: Protect.Enhance.Adapt.

Action 3.1.4: Implement actions from the Southern Goulburn Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

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.

- Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Group Regional Education Strategy
Action 6: Guide the adoption of better waste management practices during events

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Waste Wise Events Policy (cont.)

Other State or National policies and strategies which directed the design of the Waste Wise guide include;

- Recycling Victoria: a new economy 2020,
- Victorian Organics Resource Recovery Strategy 2015,
- Victorian Waste Education Strategy 2016, and
- National Waste Policy 2018.

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.

No specific legislative matters apply to the voluntary uptake of the Waste Wise Events Guide.

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 matter is being discussed at an open Council meeting and once adopted will be uploaded onto Council's webpage.

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 development of the Waste Wise guide and associated support material (bin stickers, posters) was paid for through the waste budget and is considered an operational expense. The event bins and associated waste collection service is funded from the waste budget and the loan of a Waste Wise Hydration Station is co-ordinated by the Events team.

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

Reducing waste to landfill can reduce costs for event organisers by reducing reliance on single use items. The use of the Waste Wise logo may also help the event boost the brand and community recognition of the event.

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Waste Wise Events Policy (cont.)

Additionally, reduced waste to landfill has long term economic benefits, with reduced landfill management cost and recovered materials becoming part of the circular economy.

Social

The promotion and support for Waste Wise events will help event organisers, but also event attendees, learn more about waste management from participating in waste minimisation activities such as the use of a reusable coffee cup or a volunteer dishwashing station to learning about the impact of plastic water bottles from our portable hydration stations.

The use of the Waste Wise event logo will help to create a sense of community pride knowing Council supports Waste Wise events.

The materials and services used to support Waste Wise events such as providing bins and waste collections for events with Waste Wise stickers is a service improvement that will benefit event organisers and also event attendees.

Waste wise events will improve public facilities, reducing litter and contaminated public bins.

Environmental

Waste wise events encourage event organisers to shift from disposal of waste to re-use, recycle and overall reduction of waste. This reflects the waste hierarchy which states that these waste management practices (re-use, recycle, reduce) the environmental impact of waste.

Climate change

By promoting and supporting Waste Wise events Council supports local events to reduce their waste going to landfill. Landfill is a significant contributor towards greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the use of the Waste Wise events guide and supporting services will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of an 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 Waste Wise events guide encourages continuous improvement, it has been designed to help event organisers get started and consider best practice waste management. The guide also includes some ideas for “going above and beyond” Waste Wise and beginning to think about zero waste events.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights considerations arising from the issues discussed in this report. The use of this guide is encouraged but not mandatory.

11.4.1 Council Policy Review - Waste Wise Events Policy (cont.)

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the benefits of promoting and supporting Waste Wise events in the Strathbogie region and recommends that Council re-adopt the policy and supporting documents.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Waste Wise Events Policy

Attachment 2: Waste Wise Events Guide

Attachment 3: Waste Wise Events Policy Impact Assessment Tool

**11.4.2 2021-2025 Council Plan Update – 2023/2024 Actions and Advocacy Strategy
2021-2025 Progress Update**

Author: Acting Director People and Governance

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan represents a four-year road map for Council and describes the key priorities that Council will focus on between 2021 and 2025. The Strathbogie Shire Council Plan 2021-25 Council Plan was adopted in October 2021. A key consideration in developing this Council Plan was the new Community Vision, which captures the long-term goals and aspirations of the community for Strathbogie Shire. The Council Plan provides a guide to Council's strategic direction, objectives and key strategies for the period 2021 - 2025 and the role that Council plays in achieving the Community Vision. Together, these are important strategic plans to help plan for the future of the Shire. It is normal practice to review and update the Council Plan in parallel with the preparation of a new budget and revisions to the ten-year Long Term Financial Plan.

The first annual review of the Council Plan was undertaken in June 2022 and with an updated Plan adopted by Council on 21 June 2022.

This report presents the second annual review of the Plan and highlights actions in focus for the 2023/2024 financial year.

As per the Local Government Act 2020, it is a core duty of Council to advocate on behalf of our community and to prioritise achieving the best outcomes for the municipality currently and for future generations. Strathbogie Shire Council proactively works to attract and secure funding, project support, resources and collaboration for the advocacy priorities identified in the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

RECOMMENDATION***That Council:***

- 1. Note the completion of a range of actions across the six Strategic Focus Areas of the 2022-2023 Council Plan;***
- 2. Adopt the revised updated 2021-22 Council Plan (2023/2024 Actions);***
- 3. Inform the community that the updated 2021-22 Council Plan (2023/2024 Actions) has been adopted through social and printed media, with the revised document placed on Council's website; and***
- 4. Note the progress of the Strathbogie Shire Advocacy Strategy.***

11.4.2 2021-2025 Council Plan Update – 2023/2024 Actions and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 Progress Update (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The 2021-25 Council Plan was adopted in October 2021 following several months of deliberative community engagement. The first annual update to the Council Plan was adopted by Council in June 2022, following a public exhibition process. This report presents the second annual review of the plan. It is considered prudent to align the time of review and update of the Council Plan with the budget cycle, as has been standard practice for many years, even though the new Local Government Act 2020 is silent on the Council Plan review process. Whilst a separate consultation process was not undertaken for this annual review of the Plan, the updated actions align with actions contained within the adopted 2023/2024 Council Budget and resolutions and decisions recently made by Council.

Advocacy Strategy

Our Advocacy Strategy identifies the priorities where our Shire's ambition needs to be matched by other levels of government. 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.

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 2021-25 Council Plan is the key strategic document that governs the allocation of human and financial resources and outlines the actions and strategies to be employed by Council to achieve the Community Vision. It is essential that the Council Plan be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to not only reflect the actions that have been completed, but to ensure that the Plan remains relevant and responds to any unforeseen issues or significant changes that impact our community. Attachment 2 (2021/25 Council Plan Tracking document) to this report identifies those Council Plan actions that have been completed, and therefore can be deleted, and those that require rewording to reflect the work that has been undertaken by the organisation to implement the Community Vision and 2023-2024 actions. Actions have also been moved from the broad 2021-25 timeframe to form part of the 2023-24 Action Plan in recognition current key priorities.

New additions to the updated 2021-2025 Council Plan include the following:

- Inclusion of an action aligning to Flood Recovery following the October 2022 Flood Event
- Inclusion of an action Clarifying land arrangements with VicTrack for the car park precinct (Saleyard Road and Bank Street, Avenel) including a funding commitment to upgrade this area
- Inclusion of an action to work collaboratively with the Department of Transport and Planning to address the community's safety concerns (Saleyard Road and Bank Street, Avenel) in a coordinated manner

11.4.2 2021-2025 Council Plan Update – 2023/2024 Actions and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 Progress Update (cont.)

- Inclusion of an action to Continue to support community recovery from the October 2022 Flood Event
- Inclusion of an action to Develop and adopt a Gender Equitable Access and Use Policy (in line with State Government requirement)
- Inclusion of an action to develop and adopt a Destination Management Plan in partnership with Greater Shepparton and Mitchell councils
- Inclusion of an action to upgrade online and automated processes for approvals and permits through the Regional Digital Transformation Project in partnership with Benalla, Murrindindi and Mansfield Councils
- Inclusion of an action to commence review of the Rural Residential and Rural Land Use Strategies
- Inclusion of an action to commence and complete the Settlement Strategy
- Inclusion of an action to advocate for funding for Kirwans Bridge
- Inclusion of an action to advocate for funding for Chinamans Bridge; and
- Inclusion of an action to advocate for funding to undertake the role of Waterways Manager.

A number of actions have been reworded to reflect the work completed and to reflect that efforts will move to the next phase of the project or action. Where required, performance indicators have been updated to reflect new targets to underpin our emphasis on continuous improvement in our performance.

Advocacy Strategy

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 both the 2022 Federal Government and State Government elections, Council prepared an Advocacy Ask document which set out our key projects and funding requests for consideration. In addition, in June 2023 Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Cr Laura Binks met with several politicians to advocate for funding at the recently held Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA). The returned Australian Council Local Government (ACLG), held for the first time in a decade, was a great chance for Cr Binks to hear directly from Federal Government ministers about their commitment to the Australian Local Government sector and how they will work with Councils to ensure they are delivering the projects and programs that are needed at the local levels we know so well.

As highlighted in the progress update (attachment 3), the key achievements of the Advocacy Strategy thus far are:

- New mobile towers Graytown, Creighton's Creek, Boho, Euroa, Kirwans Bridge, Locksley, Mangalore, Nagambie, Tabilk and Violet Town.
- \$241.6K Victorian Government funding received to investigate, scope, plan and cost an all-abilities Mountain Bike Facility on Balmattum Hill.
- \$100K for Euroa Railway Precinct Plan
- \$5.4 million in funding including, Nagambie Recreation Reserve Lighting, ARTBOX, Nagambie Resale Shop, Flood Recovery, Cooler Canopies Urban Tree Plantings across the Shire, Emergency Management, New transfer station bins in Nagambie and Avenel, Nagambie Employment Precinct Structure Plan.

11.4.2 2021-2025 Council Plan Update – 2023/2024 Actions and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 Progress Update (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.

In developing its Council Plan, section 90 (3) of the Act requires a deliberative engagement process to be undertaken. This consisted of a range of 'town hall' style workshops, market stalls, online surveys and the creation of a Community Panel of around 35 people. The Community Panel developed the Community Vision and had significant input into the development of Council Plan actions and strategies. It is considered prudent to align the time of review and update of the Council Plan with the budget cycle, as has been standard practice for many years, even though the new Local Government Act 2020 is silent on the Council Plan review process. Whilst a separate consultation process was not undertaken for this annual review of the Plan, the updated actions align with actions contained within the adopted 2023/2024 Council Budget and resolutions and decisions recently made by Council.

Successful advocacy activities rely on working closely with the community to identify the problem or need, research relevant issues, plan a set of activities, obtain written support, undertake actions and evaluate the results.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The purpose of this report is to ensure the Council Plan remains up to date and drives the allocation of Council resources to ensure the Council and Administration work towards achieving the 2040 Community Vision.

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.

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.

Various actions and strategic priorities in the Council Plan are consistent with regional, State and National plans and policy directions.

The following lists have been compiled to demonstrate just some of the relevant policies, strategies and plans that Council reference in grant applications, business cases and advocacy campaigns.

11.4.2 2021-2025 Council Plan Update – 2023/2024 Actions and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 Progress Update (cont.)

Victorian Government/ State authority:

- Victoria's 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy;
- Department of Transport Policy and Strategy;
- Parks Victoria POL-710
- Sustainability Victoria 2030 Strategy
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- The Victorian Water Act
- Water for Victoria: Water Plan
- Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games Sports Program
- Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Department of Health and Human Services Victoria
- Playground equipment, layout and shade guidelines - Department of Health
- Victorian Budget 2022/23

Australian Government/ Federal authority:

- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional development and Local Government;
- National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy and National Action Plan;
- National Electricity Rules
- Australian Energy Market Agreement
- Australian Energy Market Commission Establishment Act 2004
- AusNet Distribution Connection Policy
- Drought Policy
- Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020-2024
- The Treasury: Federal Budget 2022-23
- Business.gov.au

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.

Section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to prepare and adopt a Council Plan of at least the next four financial years within 12 months of a general election.

The Council Plan must include:

- a) the strategic direction of the Council
- b) strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction
- c) strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next 4 financial years
- d) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives
- e) a description of the Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity
- f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

The new Local Government Act 2020 is silent on the need for Council to review and update the plan, in contrast to its predecessor from 1989.

11.4.2 2021-2025 Council Plan Update – 2023/2024 Actions and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 Progress Update (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.

The review and updating of the Council Plan ensure that Council's strategic priorities and actions to be resourced in the following financial year are clearly identified and communicated to the municipal 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.

The aim of advocacy is to attract funding and create new and beneficial assets for our community where our Shire's ambition needs to be matched by other levels of government.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

Economic

There are several economic actions and initiatives that form part of the Council plan to support the economic prosperity of the municipality, with a focus on supporting local businesses in recovering from the Covid 19 pandemic and lobbying other levels of government to provide the key infrastructure required to support our economy.

Council advocacy work directly impacts the region's economic activity through the introduction of new, additional or enhanced services of an infrastructure or regulatory form which in turn effects logistics, transport and access to market, business and local industry groups, visitor economy and local market growth.

Social

Actions that create social benefit form the basis of the entire Council Plan, including a focus on public health and wellbeing initiatives. There are several actions around identifying and planning for future social infrastructure to support population growth and to respond to changes across our population.

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;

11.4.2 2021-2025 Council Plan Update – 2023/2024 Actions and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 Progress Update (cont.)

- 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

The Council Plan 2021-2025 includes a number of environmentally focused initiatives including tree planting projects and investigate, in partnership with Goulburn Valley Water, opportunities to green open spaces in towns with recycled water from the towns' wastewater treatment plant.

Climate change

Climate change related initiatives underpin the Council Plan, not only through an action to implement the Climate Change Action Plan, but other initiatives around tree planting, community resilience, review of planning scheme controls and improved resource recovery and waste management.

Each Council advocacy project (as per the Advocacy Strategy) 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 inclusion of updated performance indicator targets reflects Council's focus on continuous improvement in our services and facilities. The fact that so many actions have been completed in a relatively short period of time is also testimony to the focus of the Administration on delivering the Council Plan.

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.

11.4.2 2021-2025 Council Plan Update – 2023/2024 Actions and Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 Progress Update (cont.)

COLLABORATION

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

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.

Collaboration with all levels of Government, authorities, associations, networks, private sector stakeholders, and community groups is essential in advocacy work and campaigns. The Advocacy Strategy 2021-2025 highlights strategic relationships and local, regional, state and national issues will attract more attention and may potentially be more successful when more stakeholders are involved in the process.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no implications arising out of this report in relation to the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act.

CONCLUSION

An update of the Council Plan is vital in ensuring its ongoing relevance and responsiveness to the changing issues, challenges and opportunities our community faces.

The Advocacy Strategy demonstrates Strathbogie Shire Council commitment to advocate on behalf of the community and to plan for the future of our region. Successful advocacy outcomes rely on considered planning and resourcing, managing and monitoring of strategic relationships and collaborations with partners to achieve positive community change, there have been a number of achievements made as mentioned throughout this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Shire Council Update Council Plan 2021-25 (2023/2024)

Attachment 2: Strathbogie Shire Council 2021/2025 Council Plan 2023 Action Update

Attachment 3: Strathbogie Shire Council Advocacy Update

11.5 GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

11.5.1 Receipt of Resignation – Councillor Kristy Hourigan

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chief Executive Officer received a written notice of resignation from Councillor Kristy Hourigan, Seven Creeks Ward, on Wednesday 26 July 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 Seven Creeks 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.

As CEO, I have informed the Hon. Melissa Horne Minister for Local Government and the Acting Electoral Commissioner for the Victorian Electoral Commission, Mairead Doyle of Cr Hourigan's resignation on 27 July 2023.

As there is one remaining eligible candidate for Seven Creeks Ward (a multi-member ward), under section 280(2) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the VEC have invited that candidate in writing to complete a written declaration specifying that they are still qualified to be a Councillor on Strathbogie Shire Council. If they do not return the signed qualification within 14 days then a by-election will be held.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note:

- 1. The Chief Executive Officer has received written notice from Councillor Kristy Hourigan of her resignation as Councillor for the Seven Creeks Ward, received 26 July 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 27 July 2023, that there is an extraordinary vacancy in the Seven Creeks Ward in accordance with section 258(8) of the Local Government Act 2020.***
- 3. The Victorian Electoral Commission has commenced proceedings for the election of a new Councillor for the Seven Creeks Ward 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 Kristy Hourigan from the Seven Creeks 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 Kristy Hourigan (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.

As there is one remaining eligible candidate for Seven Creeks Ward (a multi-member ward), under section 280(2) and (3) of *the Local Government Act 2020*, the VEC have invited that candidate in writing to complete a written declaration specifying that they are still qualified to be a Councillor on Strathbogie Shire Council. If they do not return the signed qualification within 14 days then a by-election will be held.

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 Kristy Hourigan (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The processes required to fill the extraordinary vacancy following the resignation of Cr Hourigan 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 Hourigan and Chief Executive Officer in terms of a resignation and the subsequent notification of an extraordinary vacancy having been created in the Seven Creeks 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 Hourigan's resignation as Seven Creeks Ward Councillor.

Further information was provided to the community regarding Cr Hourigan's 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 Kristy Hourigan (cont.)

A sum of \$15,000 was allocated in the 2023-24 Council budget to cover the costs of the Victorian Electoral Commission and Councillor induction process.

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 Hourigan received on her 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 Hourigan's in relation to her resignation from her position as a Councillor for Seven Creeks Ward, all procedures and requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 have been undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

11.5.2 Council Continued Commitment to Good Governance

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Further to the report and commitments endorsed at the June 27, 2023, Extraordinary Council meeting, this report details the collaborative work undertaken by Councillors to strengthen their good governance in response to the letter received from the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Melissa Horne MP, and the appointment of Mr Peter Stephenson as the Municipal Monitor.

Following the work facilitated by Andrew Douglas from FCW Lawyers, the Councillors have collectively developed the following statement that summarises their learning and commitment going forward:

We, the Strathbogie Shire Councillors, have reflected upon the successes and challenges of the Council. We have considered how we can improve the quality of representative work we undertake through a lens of collaboration, respect and ensuring both our, and the Council's employee working environments are safe, respectful, collegiate, and innovative. As the leaders within Council, we understand that the leadership role is ours to embrace. As we work together to recommit to our obligations, we do so with a strong commitment to follow good governance, reflect on difference and diversity and embrace and support it. We ask you, the community, and employees of Council, to be proud of the debate we undertake to create a better present and future for Strathbogie Shire and we commit do so in a generous, respectful, forgiving and wise manner. As councillors we will be accountable to this aspiration between ourselves, Council employees and the community of Strathbogie Shire.

To supplement this statement, the following Councillors have delivered:

- A signed Councillor 'Statement of Intent' that will guide and direct behaviour between Councillors as a group, and between Councillors and Council officers (internal working document – Attachment 1),
- An action-based response to the former Municipal Monitor, Ms Janet Dore's 10 – Point Plan to ensure that it informs and is embedded in Councillor practice (internal working document – Attachment 2), and
- A Councillors and ELT Transition Plan to re-establish a trusting, respectful and productive working relationship between Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Leadership Team (internal working document - Attachment 3).

Further collaborative work is being undertaken by the Mayor, Councillor Laura Binks to develop a Councillor specific set of KPIs and associated Professional Development Plan. This will further strengthen good governance practice and ensure Councillors are meeting the requirements under the Local Government Act 2020 and fulfilling their duties.

An additional Councillor / executive team forum is being considered for late August/early September to support and further consolidate the training undertaken with Andrew Douglas to date. This work will consist of an initial workshop and then monthly debrief sessions facilitated by a former Councillor or public servant.

11.5.2 Council Continued Commitment to Good Governance (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. *Formally commit to and sign the Statement of Intent that will guide and direct behaviour between Councillors as a group, and Councillors and Council staff,***
- 2. *Collectively and individually commit to the revised action based 10 Point Plan developed and used during the former Municipal Monitor Ms Janet Dore's term to inform and guide Councillor practice ensuring strengthened and ongoing good governance,***
- 3. *Formally commit to the Councillors and ELT Transition Plan that will further embed and consolidate the training undertaken with FCW lawyers,***
- 4. *Authorise officers to undertake an 'Request to Quotation' process in line with Council's Procurement Policy to enact the Councillors and ELT Transition Plan that aims to re-establish a trusting, respectful and productive working relationship between Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Leadership Team, and***
- 5. *Note that the Mayor, Cr Laura Binks provide the Minister for Local Government the Statement of Intent and action based 10 Point Plan to demonstrate councillors learning outcomes and ongoing commitment to good governance.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

At the June 27 2023 Extraordinary Council meeting, councillors recommitted a range of good government practices in response to a letter received from the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Melissa Horne MP in light of the appointment of Mr Peter Stephenson, the second Municipal Monitor to the Strathbogie Shire.

Amongst other commitments, Council endorsed that they:

Receive a further report to the extraordinary Council meeting scheduled to formally endorse the signed Statement of Intent, the culmination of the work with Andrew Douglas of FCW Lawyers at the Council Meeting on July 25, 2023 at 2.00 pm.

The Mayor, Cr Laura Binks, on behalf of her fellow Councillors have requested officers to prepare a report that details work undertaken with Andrew Douglas.

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.

11.5.2 Council Continued Commitment to Good Governance (cont.)

With the appointment of Mr Stephenson, the Mayor advised executive officers of the Councillors' express desire to uphold the democratic process of their election by providing the highest level of governance possible and requested officers to prepare this report that details the additional learnings and commitments stemming from their work with Mr Andrew Douglas, FCW Lawyers.

Following the work facilitated by Andrew Douglas from FCW Lawyers, the Councillors have collectively developed the following statement that summarises their learning and commitment going forward:

We, the Strathbogie Shire Councillors, have reflected upon the successes and challenges of the Council. We have considered how we can improve the quality of representative work we undertake through a lens of collaboration, respect and ensuring both our, and the Council's employee working environments are safe, respectful, collegiate, and innovative. As the leaders within Council, we understand that the leadership role is ours to embrace. As we work together to recommit to our obligations, we do so with a strong commitment to follow good governance, reflect on difference and diversity and embrace and support it. We ask you, the community, and employees of Council, to be proud of the debate we undertake to create a better present and future for Strathbogie Shire and we commit do so in a generous, respectful, forgiving and wise manner. As councillors we will be accountable to this aspiration between ourselves, Council employees and the community of Strathbogie Shire.

To supplement this statement, the following Councillors have delivered:

- A signed Councillor 'Statement of Intent' that will guide and direct behaviour between Councillors as a group, and between Councillors and Council officers (Attachment 1);
- An action-based response to the former Municipal Monitor, Ms Janet Dore's 10 Point Plan to ensure that it informs and is embedded in Councillor practice (Attachment 2), and
- A Councillors and ELT Transition Plan to re-establish a trusting, respectful and productive working relationship between Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Leadership Team (internal working document - Attachment 3).

Furthermore, the Mayor is working with Councillors to develop their own set of KPIs and associated Professional Development Plan to ensure Councillors are meeting the requirements under the Local Government Act 2020 and fulfilling their duties.

Councillors are confident and are committed that these additional documents will ensure Council's commitment to good governance and learning will be embedded into practice and continued throughout their remainder of their term.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Community engagement is not required for the purpose of this report and its subject matter.

11.5.2 Council Continued Commitment to Good Governance (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The appointment of a (second) Municipal Monitor is consistent with State policies and legislation around occupational health and safety and good governance practices across the State and Local government sectors. The appointment of a Monitor also ties in with the recent Local Government Culture Project Discussion Paper released by the Minister and in response to which Council made a written submission promoting the use of municipal monitors to support good governance practices across Councils in Victoria. This was endorsed by Council at the March 2022 Council Meeting.

Council Plans and Policies

The appointment of the Municipal Monitor is consistent with Strategic Focus Area 6 of the 2021-25 Council Plan – Accountable. Transparent. Responsible in that it assists Council to achieve the highest level of good governance across the organisation and elected Council.

Action 6.4 also relates to the provision of an ongoing good governance program for Councillors, of which the Monitor's discussion and advice and the work that has been undertaken with Mr Andrew Douglas forms part of.

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 state government is committed to having effective Councils to represent and provide services to ratepayers and residents.

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 Part 2, Division 1, 8 Role of a Council commences with

- (1) The role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.

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 is being specifically considered in an open Council meeting to display the importance which Councillors attribute to it.

11.5.2 Council Continued Commitment to Good Governance (cont.)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

The cost of the good governance and leadership training undertaken by FCW Lawyers and Councillors totalled \$43,182 (excluding GST).

The initial work undertaken by Andrew Douglas in June 2023 was \$15,963.50 (excluding GST) resulting in an over expenditure of \$8,873 in the 2022/23 Councillor training and development budget line.

An additional budget of \$26,000 was allocated in the 2023/24 Council budget for Councillor training to fund the remaining work undertaken between Councillors and Andrew Douglas from FCW Lawyers. The final account for work undertaken in July 2023 was \$27,218.50 (excluding GST) which leaves a balance of \$21,350 to cover Councillor training and development and expenses for the remainder of the 2023/24 financial year.

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 benefits and experiences of having a Municipal Monitor has been shared with Local Government Victoria and the local government sector in general. Such feedback to the State government was also shared through our written response to the Local Government Culture Discussion Paper, released by the State government in December 2021 around the issues and challenges around the operation of elected councils since the introduction of the new Local Government Act in 2020.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The matters discussed in this report do not adversely impact on the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 but it must be noted that the support and advice from the Municipal Monitor over the past two months has had a positive impact on:

- privacy and reputation,
- freedom of thought,
- conscience, religion and belief,
- freedom of expression,
- taking part in public life,
- cultural rights, and
- fair hearing.

11.5.2 Council Continued Commitment to Good Governance (cont.)

CONCLUSION

This report details the collaborative work undertaken by Councillors to strengthen their good governance in response to the letter received from the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Melissa Horne MP, and the appointment of Mr Peter Stephenson as the Municipal Monitor.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Councillor Statement of Intent

Attachment 2: Updated Municipal Monitor's (Ms Janet Dore) 10 Point Plan

Attachment 3: Councillors and ELT Transition Plan

11.5.3 Draft Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules – Community consultation

Author: Specialist Governance Advisor

Responsible Director: Acting Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) is the review of Council's Governance Rules one year before scheduled Victorian Council elections.

The Governance Rules contain:

- processes for Councillors, committee members and staff to declare conflicts of interest
- Council's Election (Caretaker) Period Policy
- processes for the election of Mayor and (if required) Deputy Mayor and Chairs of Delegated Committees or Community Asset Committees
- procedures for Council meetings, including the Audit and Risk Committee, any Delegated Committees and Community Asset Committees.

Councillors have participated in four internal workshops, with officers assisting, to review the Rules.

Key proposed changes are:

- Revised conflict of interest Rules to reflect learnings from state-wide implementations and recommendations from the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Agency (IBAC).
- Availability of Rules to address serious disruptions of Council Meetings.
- Simplification of processes.

The Act requires that a process of community engagement is followed in amending the Governance Rules. This report seeks endorsement from Council to undertake a community consultation process on the draft updated Governance Rules, allowing the community to provide feedback on the proposed amendments.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the release of the draft Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules for broad community consultation for a period of 28 days commencing on 16 August 2023.***
- 2. Receives a further report at the October 2023 Council Meeting to consider the final Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules detailing the outcomes of the community consultation on the draft Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The current Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules were adopted by Council on 25 August 2020.

11.5.3 Draft Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules – Community consultation (cont.)

The development of the Governance Rules was one of the key new requirements under the Local Government Act 2020. After their initial period of adoption, they now must be reviewed one year prior to the next state-wide council elections.

The Governance Rules contain:

- processes for Councillors, committee members and staff to declare conflicts of interest
- Council's Election (Caretaker) Period Policy
- processes for the election of Mayor and (if required) Deputy Mayor and Chairs of Delegated Committees or Community Asset Committees
- procedures for Council meetings, including the Audit and Risk Committee, any Delegated Committees and Community Asset Committees.

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.

Good governance is clearly a contributor to achieving this objective, and the Governance Rules are aimed at producing good governance in the Shire.

The Governance Rules are based on an original draft template provided by Local Government Victoria and have been modified in the workshopping process to include enhancements and best practice, particularly in line with recommended changes arising from the IBAC Report into 'Operation Sandon', the investigation into behaviours at Casey Council.

Councillors have participated in four internal workshops, with officers assisting, to review the Rules.

Key proposed changes are:

- Revised conflict of interest Rules to reflect learnings from state-wide implementations and recommendations from the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Agency (IBAC).
- Availability of Rules to address serious disruptions of Council Meetings
- Simplification of processes.

Several other draft Governance Rules documents, and a review of local law provisions relating to community participation in Council meetings, have also been considered in the review of the Rules.

The Rules are divided into four chapters:

Chapter	Name
Chapter 1	Meetings Procedures
Chapter 2	Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest
Chapter 3	Miscellaneous
Chapter 4	Election Period Policy

11.5.3 Draft Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules – Community consultation (cont.)

Overall, the draft Governance Rules underpin the fundamental decision-making processes of Council and are a way in which the Overarching Governance, and Supporting Principles of the Act are implemented on a day-to-day basis.

The Meetings Procedure Chapter outlines the role of Councillors, Officers and the community in the decision-making process. It ensures that decision making is orderly, inclusive and managed in a way that ensures maximum community participation.

Other key provisions of the Act are addressed, including the disclosure of interests by:

- Councillors
- members of Council appointed Committees
- officers making delegated decisions on a daily basis
- officers performing a statutory role such as the Municipal Emergency Response Officer.

The Miscellaneous chapter deals with more informal meetings of Councillors, which used to be called Assemblies of Council, and how records of those in attendance and a summary of the matters discussed at these meetings are to be made available to the public through the Council agenda and minutes.

This chapter also deals with the classification of information as confidential by the Chief Executive Officer.

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.

There are also supporting principles relating to community engagement and public transparency that further promote community participation in Council decision making processes and Council meetings.

To meet these new obligations, the Governance Rules contain a dedicated section of Chapter 1, Meetings Procedure, dedicated to Community Participation (Division 1.5). This includes Question Time, Petitions and Joint Letters, and Representations/Deputations to Council.

Section 60(4) of the Act requires the draft Governance Rules to be subject to public consultation, however the form of consultation is not prescribed. Our Community Engagement Strategy, and the community engagement principles of the Act, state the draft policy needs to be exhibited for public review and comment. This engagement will be set at “Consult”.

Submissions will be open for a period of 28 days commencing on the 16 August 2023.

11.5.3 Draft Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules – Community consultation (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

This report addresses the Council Plan area of Accountable, Transparent, Responsible, and in particular the following goals:

- Achieve the highest level of good governance across the organisation and as an elected Council
- Maximise public transparency and accountability around our performance and decision-making processes

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

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

This report addresses existing best practice from across the state and has considered potential government directions arising from a recent major IBAC investigation and 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.

The Governance Rules have been drafted and will be publicly exhibited in accordance with the requirements of section 60 the Act. The original Rules were developed under the guidance of an experienced governance lawyer and the department of Local Government Victoria, and the amendments have been drafted by a governance professional with legal qualifications.

The Rules provide a comprehensive and consistent framework to ensure Council, its Committees and its Officers comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2020 relating to decision making, consultation and conflicts of interest.

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 recommends the transparency of the process to have the amended Governance Rules adopted.

11.5.3 Draft Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules – Community consultation (cont.)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

The costs of seeking community input on the Governance Rules are budgeted and relatively insignificant.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

Economic

There are no negative economic implications associated with this report.

Social

There are no negative social implications associated with this report.

Environmental

There are no negative environmental implications associated with this report.

Climate change

There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

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 Governance Rules themselves promote best practice in Council operations.

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.

No formal collaboration was undertaken in the production of this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights implications for this report.

CONCLUSION

The Act requires that a process of community engagement is followed in amending the Governance Rules. This report seeks endorsement from Council to undertake a community consultation process on the draft updated Governance Rules, allowing the community to provide feedback on the proposed amendments.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft Strathbogie Shire Council Draft Governance Rules

11.5.4 Monthly Performance Report

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

- Building Department – July 2023 Statistics
- Planning Department – Planning Application Approvals – Development Cost (Capital Improved Value) – July 2023
- Customer Enquiry Analysis Report – Report for July 2023
- Waste Management Reporting ~ Year to Date – July 2023
- Transfer Station Date - July 2023
- Actioning of Council Reports Resolutions – Council Meeting Tuesday July 18, 2023
- Outstanding Actions of Council Resolutions to July 31, 2023
- Review of Council Policies and Adoption of new Policies – July 2023
- Records of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings – 1 to 31 July 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.

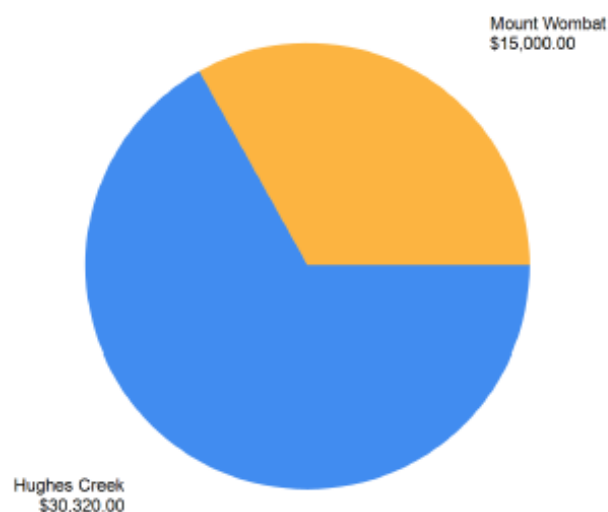
RECOMMENDATION

That the report be accepted.

BUILDING ACTIVITY**JULY 2023****Building Activity**

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

Ward	Number of Lodgements	Cost Of Works
Hughes Creek	1	\$30,320.00
Mount Wombat	1	\$15,000.00
	2	\$45,320.00

**Hughes Creek**

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
4063476678352	11/07/2023	Construction of	Shed	Avenel	\$30,320.00
					\$30,320.00

Mount Wombat

Permit Number	Permit Date	Works	Building Use	Town	Cost Of Works
5696245824209	14/07/2023	Construction of	Shed	Longwood East	\$15,000.00
					\$15,000.00

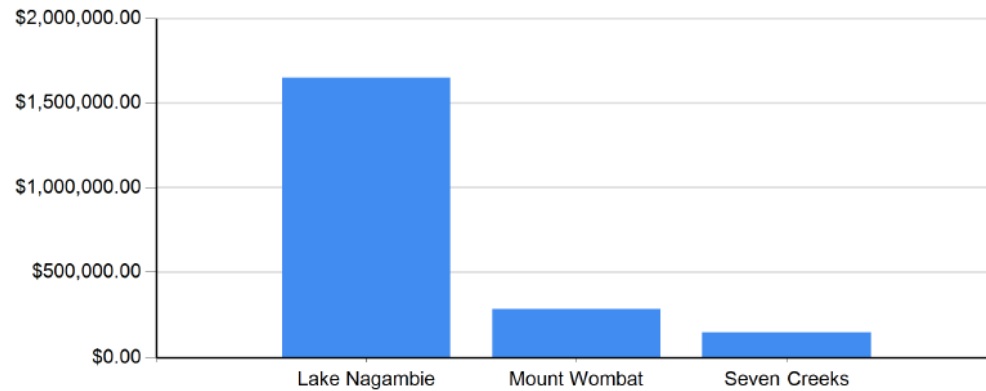
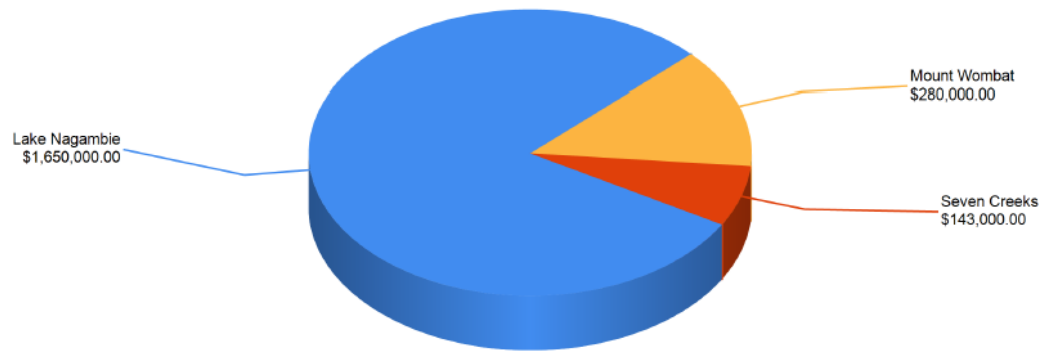
PLANNING APPLICATION APPROVALS – DEVELOPMENT COST (CAPITAL IMPROVED VALUE)
JULY 2023



Planning Applications Determined

July 2023

Lake Nagambie	\$1,650,000.00
Nagambie	\$950,000.00
Nagambie	\$700,000.00
Mount Wombat	\$280,000.00
Strathbogie	\$280,000.00
Seven Creeks	\$143,000.00
Euroa	\$143,000.00
Total Value	\$2,073,000.00



CUSTOMER ENQUIRY ANALYSIS REPORT - REPORT FOR JULY 2023



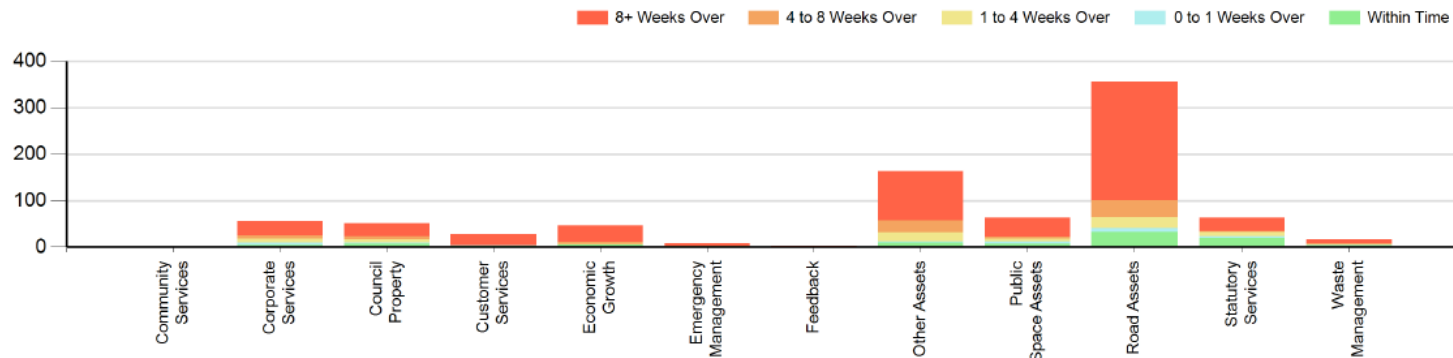
Request Throughput Analysis

01/07/2023 to 31/07/2023

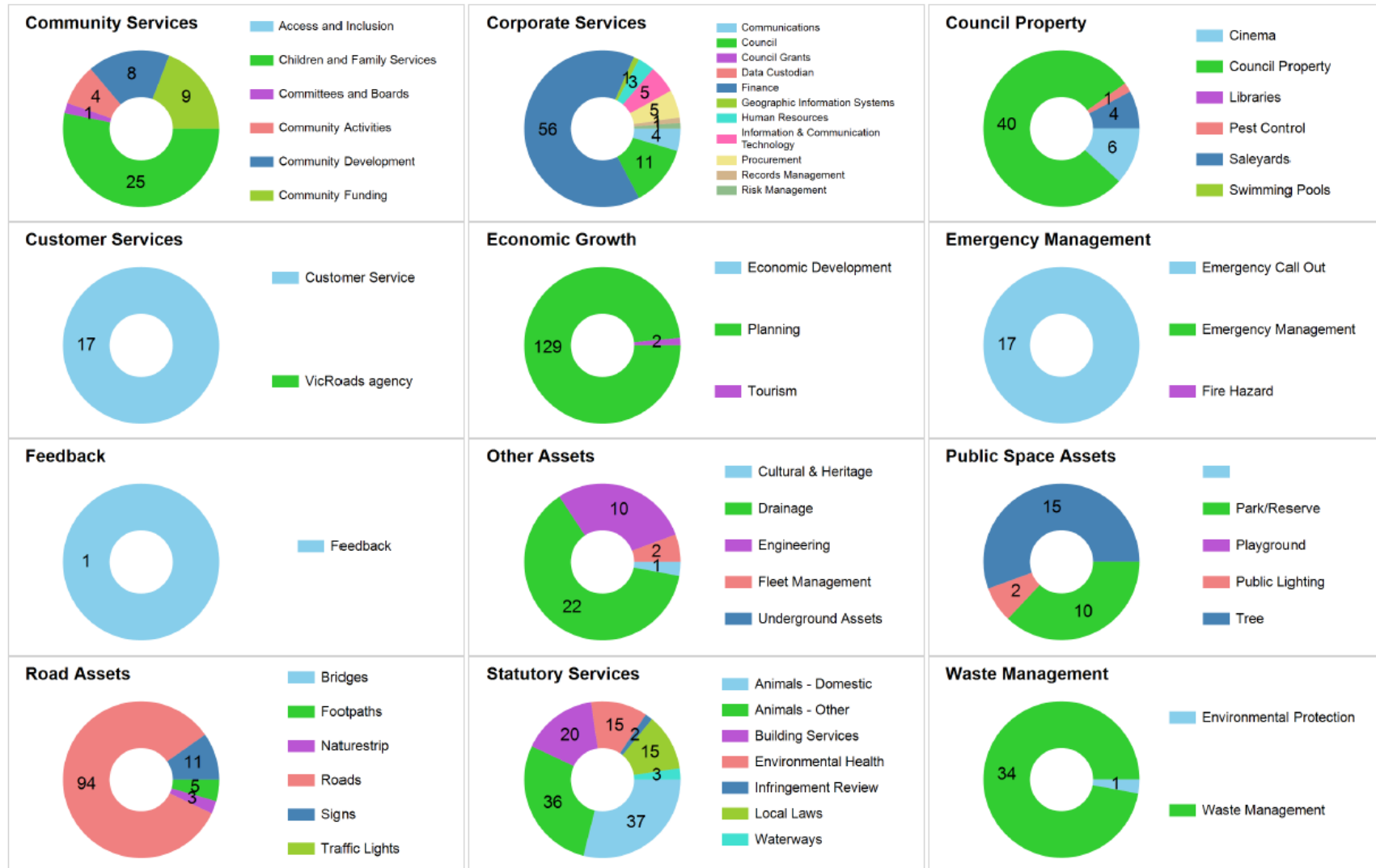
Legend	Complete / New	> 80%	50-80%	< 50%
	Overdue / Remaining	< 33%	34-70%	> 70%

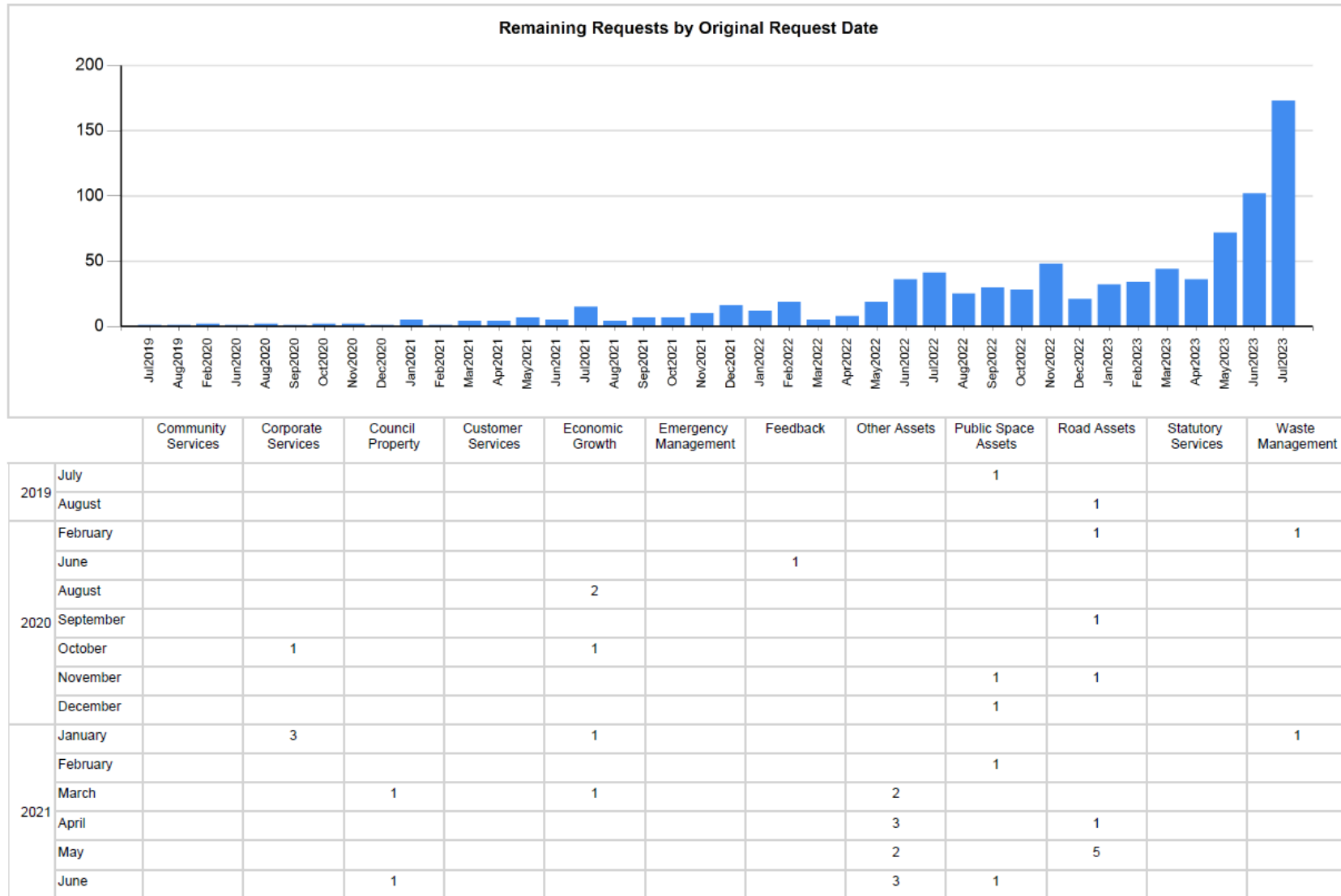
Service Area	Existing Requests	New Requests	Completed Requests	Remaining Requests	C/N	Within Time	Over Time	O/R	Pending Resources	Service Area Usage
Community Services	6	47	51	2	✓	1	1	●	0	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Corporate Services	61	87	92	56	✓	5	51	✗	0	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>
Council Property	60	51	59	52	✓	8	44	✗	0	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>
Customer Services	27	17	14	30	✓	3	27	✗	0	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
Economic Growth	47	131	131	47	✓	6	41	✗	0	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
Emergency Management	13	17	21	9	✓	0	9	✗	0	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
Feedback	3	1	1	3	✓	0	3	✗	0	<div style="width: 0%;"></div>
Other Assets	171	35	37	168	✓	10	158	✗	1	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Public Space Assets	83	27	34	65	✓	8	57	✗	11	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Road Assets	357	113	112	358	✓	32	326	✗	0	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>
Statutory Services	59	128	123	64	✓	19	45	●	0	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
Waste Management	37	35	55	17	✓	4	13	✗	0	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Total	924	689	730	871		96	775		12	

Request Ageing



Service Usage





2021	July								9		6		
	August		1								3		
	September			1	1	1			1	1	2		
	October			2						2	3		
	November			1					1		8		
	December			1			1		4		10		
2022	January		5	1					1	2	3		
	February			1					4	4	10		
	March			1						1	3		
	April			1					2		5		
	May		1						4	1	11	1	1
	June		1	1					6		27	1	
	July	1		5	1	1			3		28	1	1
	August			2	2	2	1		9	1	5	3	
	September		1		3	1		1	9	2	11	2	
	October				1	3			12		9	3	
	November				6	5			13	1	19	4	
	December		1	1		2			3	1	8	5	
2023	January		2		9	1	4		2	1	11	1	1
	February		1	2		5			2	5	16	3	
	March		6	1				1	3	8	21	1	3
	April		2	1		1			2	12	16	2	
	May		7	8	1	10			13	7	21	3	2
	June		7	5		3	2		35	7	38	4	1
	July	1	17	15	6	7	1		21	15	54	30	6
Total		2	56	52	30	47	9	3	169	76	358	64	17

Definitions

Service Area Grouping of services by area of responsibility

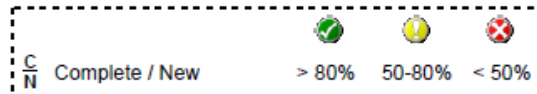
Existing Requests open prior to reporting period

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.



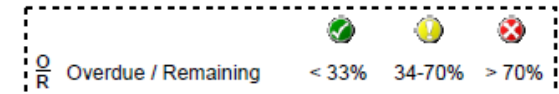
Service Activities that provide value to the customer

Remaining Requests incomplete at end of reporting period

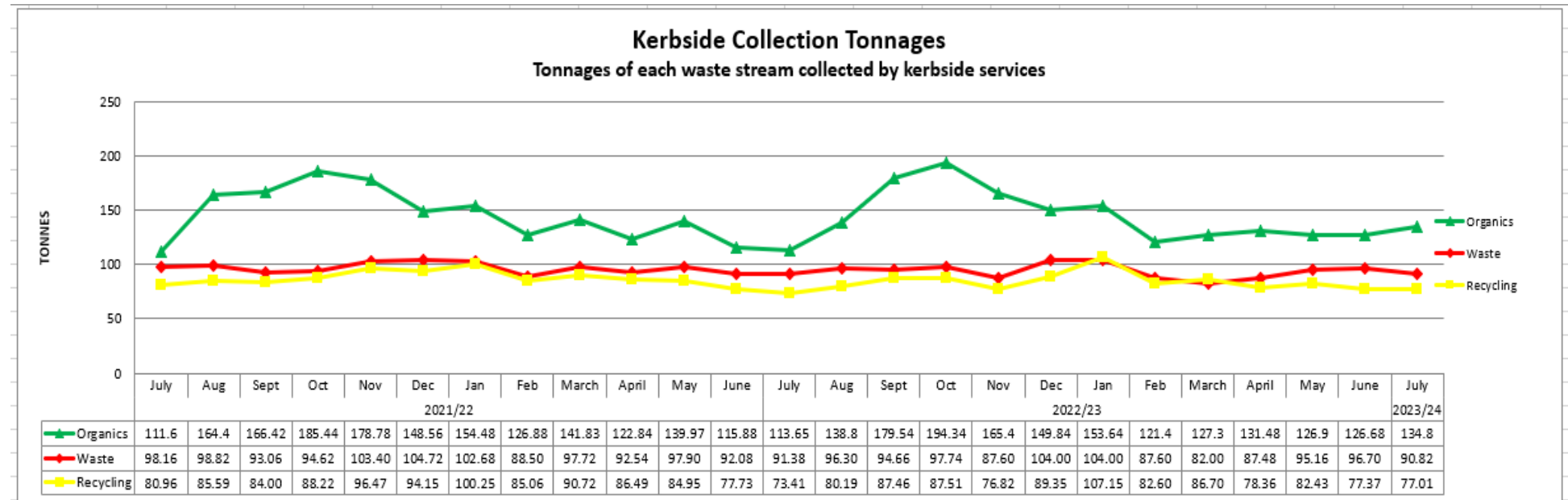
Completed Requests completed during reporting period

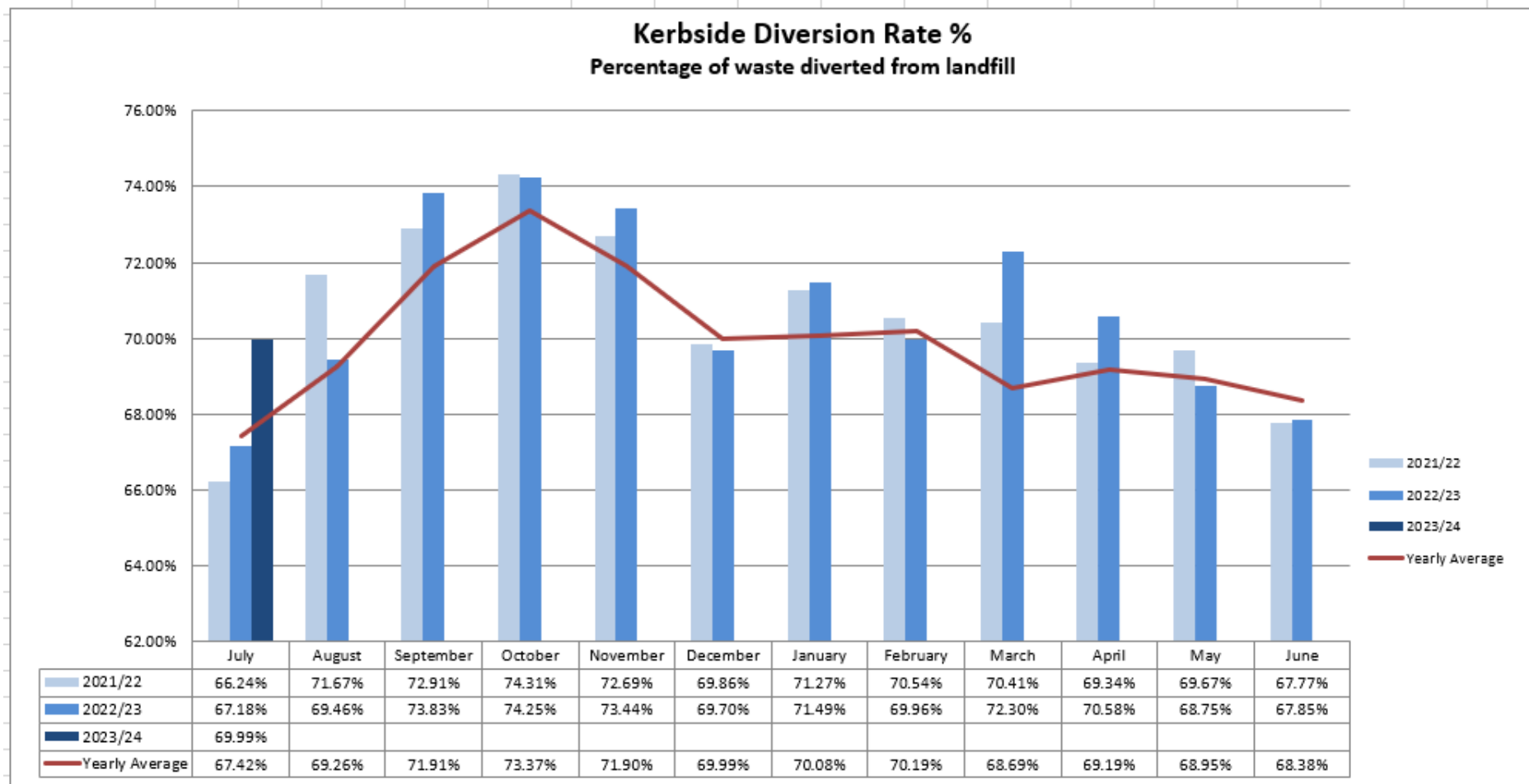
Over Time Remaining Requests where defined deadline is before the end of the reporting period

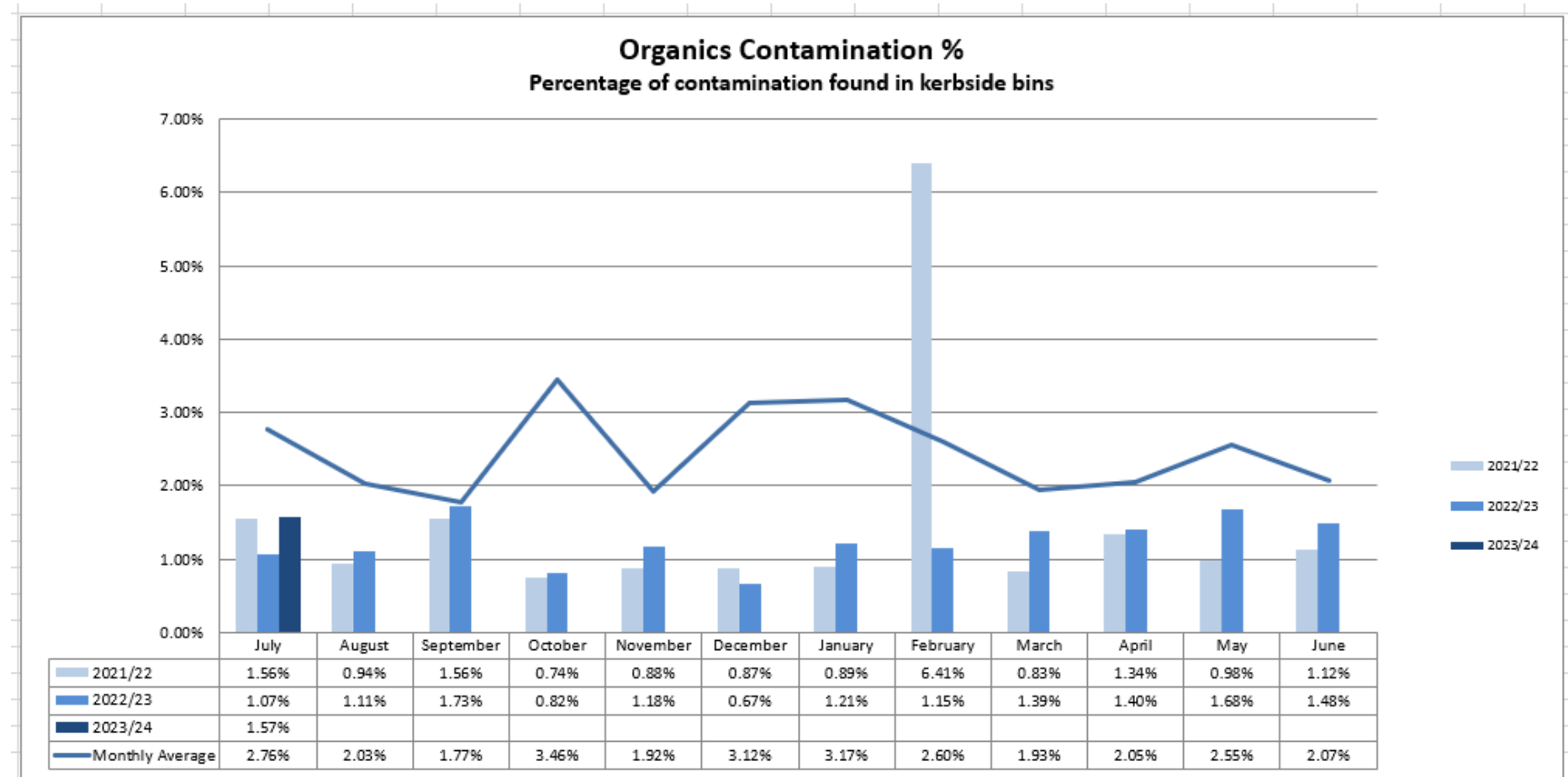
Overdue Remaining An indicator showing the ratio of Overdue requests and Remaining requests. Designed to represent how well we are keeping to the defined deadlines.



WASTE MANAGEMENT REPORTING **YEAR TO DATE - JULY 2023**



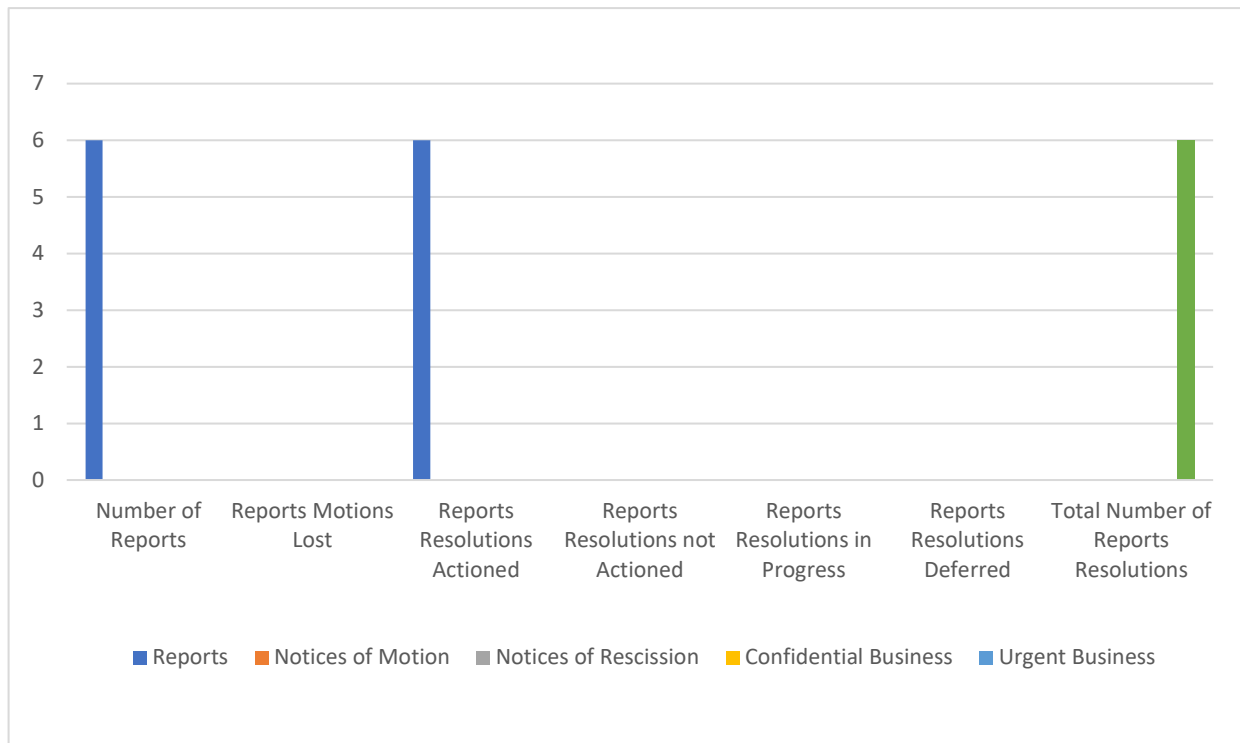




TRANSFER STATION DATA – JULY 2023



ACTIONING OF COUNCIL REPORTS RESOLUTIONS
COUNCIL MEETING – 18 JULY 2023



OUTSTANDING ACTIONS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS TO
31 JULY 2023

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

Council Meeting Date	Item No.	Description
Nil		

REVIEW OF EXISTING COUNCIL POLICIES
AND ADOPTION OF NEW POLICIES

Review of Policy / New Policy	Policy Name	Details
Nil		

RECORDS OF INFORMAL COUNCIL BRIEFINGS / MEETINGS**FOR PERIOD 1 TO 31 JULY 2023**

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

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

Name of Meeting: Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 4 July 2023

Location: Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 12.30 pm – 3.45 pm

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Paul Murray (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Sally Hayes-Burke

Cr Reg Dickinson

Cr Chris Raeburn

Municipal Monitor:

Peter Stephenson

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)

Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)

Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)

Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)

Phillip Carruthers (Governance Advisor)

Michelle Bromley (Co-Ordinator Governance and Records Management) [Item 1]

Apologies:

Cr Laura Binks (Mayor), Cr Kristy Hourigan, Rachael Frampton (Acting Director Community and Planning), Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager Communications and Engagement)

1. Governance Rules Workshop No. 4

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

Councillor/s - NIL

Officer/s - NIL

Record of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

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

Name of Meeting: Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 11 July 2023

Location: Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 12.30 pm – 4.15 pm

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Laura Binks (Mayor),
Cr Paul Murray (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Sally Hayes-Burke
Cr Kristy Hourigan
Cr Chris Raeburn

Municipal Monitor:

Peter Stephenson

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)
Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)
Rachael Frampton (Acting Director Community and Planning)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager Communications and Engagement)
Phillip Carruthers (Governance Advisor)

Apologies:

Cr Reg Dickinson

1. Council Plan Review – Year 2 Actions
2. Review of draft Agenda for July Council Meeting
3. Councillor only discussions

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

Councillor/s - NIL

Officer/s - NIL

Record of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

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

Name of Meeting: Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 18 July 2023

Location/Time: 9.00 am – 2.00 pm: Euroa Community Conference Centre
6.00 pm – 7.14 pm: Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Laura Binks (Mayor),
Cr Paul Murray (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Sally Hayes-Burke
Cr Kristy Hourigan
Cr Reg Dickinson
Cr Chris Raeburn
Cr Robin Weatherald (following Oath of Office at Council meeting)

Municipal Monitor:

Peter Stephenson

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)
Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)
Rachael Frampton (Acting Director Community and Planning)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager Communications and Engagement)
Phillip Carruthers (Governance Advisor)

Apologies:

Nil

1. Councillors only workshop with Andrew Douglas
2. July 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 - NIL

Officer/s - NIL

Record of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Record in accordance with Council's Public Transparency Policy 2020

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

Name of Meeting: Informal Council Briefings / Meetings

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 25 July 2023

Location Euroa Community Conference Centre

Time: 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Attendees:

Councillors

Cr Laura Binks (Mayor),
Cr Paul Murray (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Sally Hayes-Burke
Cr Kristy Hourigan
Cr Chris Raeburn (*apology for Item 1*)
Cr Robin Weatherald

Municipal Monitor:

Peter Stephenson

Officers

Julie Salomon (Chief Executive Officer)
Amanda Tingay (Director, Community and Planning)
Vlad Adamek (Director, Sustainable Infrastructure)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement)
Rachael Frampton (Acting Director Community and Planning)
Kristin Favaloro (Executive Manager Communications and Engagement)
Phillip Carruthers (Governance Advisor)

Apologies:

Cr Reg Dickinson

1. Councillor Induction
 - Welcome to Cr Robin Weatherald
 - Overview of Induction
 - Introduction to ELT
 - Key Issues
2. Councillor only discussions

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

Councillor/s - NIL

Officer/s - NIL

11.6 **EXECUTIVE**

11.6.1 **Community Satisfaction Survey**

Author: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) is held annually. Each year 400 interviews take place, and this year Council moved to quarterly interviewing, with phone calls occurring in June/July, September, November/December in 2022 and January 2023.

This year's survey has seen a drop in overall satisfaction of three points to an index score of 53. This drop in satisfaction is consistent with an overall drop in satisfaction across small rural shires of three points to 55 and a state-wide reduction of three points to 56.

On most individual service areas, changes to performance ratings have not been statistically significant. The exceptions being:

- **Art centres and libraries:** Increased by four (4) points to an index score of 71,
- **Overall council direction:** Decreased by five (5) points to an index score of 45, and
- **Community decisions:** Decreased by four (4) points to an index score of 47.

While the decrease in satisfaction is disappointing, given our record achievement in 2021, we are making significant progress in closing the gap between our performance compared to other small rural shires.

This year our performance is in line with both the small rural group and the state-wide average for half of the individual service areas evaluated. Just three years ago, in 2020, Council was a statistically significant six points behind the small rural average and eight points behind the state-wide average.

This year Council, for the first time, also recorded significantly higher results compared to the average results for small rural shires group in:

- Appearance of public areas,
- Waste management, and
- Customer service.

In 2020, 2021 and 2022 there were no areas in which our performance was significantly higher. In response to this year's survey results we have developed an Action Plan that will continue driving improvements.

11.6.1 Community Satisfaction Survey (cont.)**RECOMMENDATION*****That Council:***

- 1. Notes the findings of the 2023 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Strathbogie Shire Council, and***
- 2. Endorses the action plan developed collectively by officers and Councillors in response to the community feedback within the 2023 Local Government Community Satisfaction report.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) is coordinated by the State Government but is primarily funded by participant Councils and conducted by independent researcher JWS Research.

The purpose of the survey is to measure how Victorian residents rate the performance of their Council. The results are useful to Councils as they highlight areas in need of improvement and enable them to track performance over time.

Strathbogie Shire Council has participated in this annual survey since 2012 except for 2017 where an alternate provider was used.

The 2023 survey moved to quarterly interviewing with phone calls occurring in June/July, September, November/December in 2022 and January 2023.

As with previous years the survey was conducted via a random telephone survey of 400 Strathbogie Shire residents aged 18-plus years old.

Table 1: Statistical representation of this year's survey.

Demographic	Survey size
Overall	400
Men	197
Women	203
Lake Nagambie	104
Seven Creeks	112
Mount Wombat	59
Honeysuckle Creek	56
Hughes Creek	69
18 to 34 years	45
35 to 49 years	52
50 to 64 years	76
65+ years	227

Respondents were asked to rate council performance on a five-point scale from 'very good' to 'very poor', with 'can't say' also a possible response, across 20 key areas.

11.6.1 Community Satisfaction Survey (cont.)

Topics range from overall performance to customer service, roads, communications, enforcement of local laws and local streets and footpaths. The topics and detailed findings are detailed in the JWS Research report (refer Attachment 1).

The index score is then calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale) which enables Council to compare the results over time. Strathbogie Shire Council's results are benchmarked against results for two groups of Councils:

- The small rural group participating councils. The Small Rural Shire Group provides the most relevant and important set of benchmarks for Strathbogie; and
- The State-wide group included all participating councils, namely metropolitan, interface, regional centres, large rural and small rural councils.

2023 RESULTS:

Perceptions of overall performance in Strathbogie Shire Council have declined over the last 12 months, though not to a statistically significant degree.

Council's overall performance achieved an index score of 53, down from 56 in 2022, which is in line with the small rural group average.

- Residents aged 65 years and over rate overall performance the highest (index score of 57, although this is not significantly lower than the Council average).
- Residents aged 35 to 49 years rate over performance the lowest (index score of 44) – significantly lower than the Council average.
- Perceptions of overall performance among women declined significantly in the last 12 months (index score of 51, down seven points from 2022).

Just over one in five residents (21%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. Twice as many rate Council as 'very poor' or 'poor' (42%) on the same metric. A further 34 per cent rate Council as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.

In almost all other service areas, Council performs in line with last year's results, having not significantly changed.

The exceptions are arts centres and libraries, where Council's performance rating increased significantly over the last 12 months, and decisions made in the interest of the community, where in contrast, perceptions significantly declined.

Council performs in line with both the small rural group and the state-wide average for councils in half of the individual service areas evaluated.

11.6.1 Community Satisfaction Survey (cont.)

On the appearance of public areas and waste management, Council performs significantly higher than the small rural group and the state-wide average. In contrast, Council's performance is rated significantly lower than both group averages on informing the community, the condition of local streets and footpaths and community decisions.

Table 2: A summary of Strathbogie Shire Council's performance.

Service	Strathbogie results				Small Rural 2023
	2023	2022	2021	2020	
Overall performance	53	56	57	50	55
Value for money	41	42	41	-	49
Council direction	45	50	55	51	47
Customer service	69	73	69	72	65
Public areas	74	73	74	-	71
Recreational facilities	67	68	65	-	67
Arts centres and libraries	71	67	67		73
Waste management	69	67	67	62	66
Tourism development	61	62	61	62	61
Business / tourism	60	60	59	-	61
Environmental sustainability	57	59	57	56	59
Enforcement of local laws	59	57	61	59	61
Informing the community	53	55	56	55	58
Lobbying	52	54	51	50	52
Consultation and engagement	50	52	52	50	53
Community decisions	47	51	52	49	52
Local streets and footpaths	47	47	52	46	52
Planning and building permits	47	44	51	-	45
Sealed local roads	45	47	51	51	44
Unsealed roads	36	40	42	41	38

	Significantly higher		Significantly lower
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Participants were also asked what was the one best thing about Strathbogie Shire Council and what does Strathbogie Shire Council most need to do to improve its performance?

11.6.1 Community Satisfaction Survey (cont.)**Table 3:** Top mentions in each of the above questions.

2023 best things about Council (%)	2023 areas for improvement (%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer service (13) • Parks and gardens (10) • Road/street maintenance/streetscape (6) • Community engagement/involvement/approachable (6) • Tourism (5) • Public areas (5) • Recreational/sporting facilities (5) • Location (4) • Waste management (4) • Councillors/good representation of community/local/know them (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealed road maintenance (26) Community consultation (9) Unsealed road maintenance (9) Financial management (9) Footpaths/walking tracks (8) Rates – too expensive (8) Council management (6) Roads/bridges – better (6) Nothing (4)

This year's survey moved to quarterly interviewing with phone calls occurring in June/July, September, November/December in 2022 and January 2023.

Table 4: Council news and events during the interview periods.

Quarter	Topics in the news
June/July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022/23 Budget • Draft Public Art Policy • Talk to a Planner • Rowing Advocacy campaign • Rockies footbridge works • Council's role on January 26 • Streetscape upgrades
September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Action Plan • Draft Tree Management Plan • Draft Nagambie Streetscape Plan • Strathbogrie Rocks podcasts launched • Have your say: Nagambie electric vehicle charging station
November/December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch My Project open • Draft two Nagambie Streetscape Plan • Round two Community Grants • Flood recovery and free rubbish collection • Funding for Balmattum Hill Mountain Bike Trail received • Join our community panel
January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirwans Bridge. Visit of Emergency Service Minister, calls for new members to community panel. • Nagambie Splash Park • ARTC calling for feedback on underpass solution • Flood recovery

11.6.1 Community Satisfaction Survey (cont.)

COMMUNICATION FINDINGS:

For the first time, residents' preferred form of communication from Council about news and information and upcoming events is a council newsletter sent via email (28%), followed by a council newsletter sent via mail (26%).

In years past, the order of preference was reversed, with newsletter via mail being until now the top preference since tracking commenced in 2018.

Order of preference has also changed among residents under 50 years. This year, council newsletter via email is the first preferred form of communication (32%, up from 18% in 2022), followed by social media (23%, down from 29% in 2022) and council newsletter via mail (20%, down from 32% in 2022).

Preferences are more stable when it comes to residents over 50 years of age. A council newsletter via mail remains the first preferred form of communication (29%), followed by a council newsletter via email (26%).

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 acknowledges the results of this year's survey are disappointing. Our goal is well and truly buck the downward trend seen in other small rural shires and across Victoria.

To do this the survey provides Council with information on where to focus our efforts. The individual service area with the strongest influence on the overall performance rating is:

- **Decisions made in the interest of the community.** Good communication and transparency with residents about decisions Council has made in the community's interest provides the greatest opportunity to drive up overall opinion of Council's performance. Currently, this is among Council's poorer performing areas (index score of 47).

Areas which have a more moderate influence on overall perceptions are:

- **Lobbying on behalf of the community.** Council performs relatively less well in this area (index of 52). Ensuring Council demonstrates efforts to advocate on residents' behalf and defend community interests is important.
- **Planning and building permits.** An area in need of attention is its performance is rated as poor (index of 47).

In response to this year's Community Satisfaction Survey officers have produced an action plan to ensure we continue driving improvements for our community.

11.6.1 Community Satisfaction Survey (cont.)

The action plan (see attachment one) contains actions under the following areas:

- Streamline planning processes,
- Community decisions,
- Increasing Council presence in the community, and
- Pulse surveys.

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 survey is designed to ensure that the community has the opportunity independently provide feedback and insight into Strathbogie Shire Council performance and their services. It is a telephone survey that collects direct feedback from the community. A minimum of 400 local residents and ratepayers in each municipality over 18 years of age are selected at random. It uses publicly available phone records, including up to 60 per cent mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Strathbogie Shire Council, particularly younger people.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

Each year, Local Government Victoria (LGV) coordinates and auspices an annual Community Satisfaction Survey for Victorian councils. The results of core measures are included in Council's Annual Report each year and as part of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework

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.

The full results of this survey have been made public (in this meeting agenda) and will be communicated to residents on Council's website.

Whilst there is no requirement for Councils to make their results available publicly, Strathbogie introduced this practice following the release of the 2020 survey results in the interests of open government and transparency.

11.6.1 Community Satisfaction Survey (cont.)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

There are no significant financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. Any actions detailed in the Action Plan (refer Attachment 2) that cannot be accommodated within existing budget resourcing and require additional resourcing will be referred to the 2024/25 Budget process for consideration.

Climate change

Council will continue to digital communications and a digital-first website to reduce our reliance on printed products.

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 survey results provide with the opportunity to share with the Council team and our community that our hard work is creating better outcomes for our community. It inspires the team to continue working hard, to focus our efforts and continue improving our performance.

CONCLUSION

Council thanks the community for its feedback. We look forward to continuing to work on the areas outlined by our community for improvement.

We continue to ask for our community's support in our efforts and believe working together will help us achieve great things.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey Report

Attachment 2: Response to 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey

Attachment 3: Update on 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey actions

11.6.2 Municipal Association of Victoria October 2023 State Council Motion: Road and Infrastructure Funding

Author: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Small rural shires like Strathbogie Shire have been devastated by the effect of ongoing wet weather and major flooding in October 2022.

Across Strathbogie Shire there is 2,210km of roads – 1,465km unsealed and 748km sealed – and 521 bridges and culverts to maintain.

With about 7,500 ratepayers Council's ability to generate enough revenue to cover the actual costs to construct, maintain and upgrade roads and other assets is impossible without government assistance.

Strathbogie Shire now has road surfaces across the region which have deteriorated to a point they are impossible to navigate without significant reductions in speed. This is not just frustrating for the community; it is a safety concern.

Roads and infrastructure projects in rural and regional areas are not 'nice to have'.

Strathbogie Shire welcomes the Victorian Government's commitment to deliver a comprehensive **\$2 billion package** to ensure regional Victoria still receives all the benefits that would have been facilitated by the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Furthermore, Council applauds the commitment of \$1 billion to social and affordable housing.

While Council understands and wholeheartedly supports the significant benefits of sport in Strathbogie Shire and throughout Victoria, rural and regional communities need safe roads and bridges to get people there.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the Notice of Motion to the MAV October 2023 State Council Meeting seeking advocacy to the Minister for Local Government and other relevant Minister to reallocate funding previously allocated to the 2026 Commonwealth Games, and now earmarked for sporting upgrades, to critical roads and bridge projects in small rural and regional shires.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Notice of Motion which calls for the Victorian Government to invest in critical road and bridge projects in small rural and regional shires, and has been submitted to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) for consideration at the MAV State Council Meeting scheduled for October 13, 2023.

11.6.2 Municipal Association of Victoria October 2023 State Council Motion: Road and Infrastructure Funding (cont.)

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

This report provides seeks Council's endorsement of the Notice of Motion to the MAV October 2023 State Council Meeting seeking advocacy to the Minister for Local Government and other relevant Minister to reallocate funding previously allocated to the 2026 Commonwealth Games, and now earmarked for sporting upgrades, to critical roads and bridge projects in small rural and regional shires.

The next MAV State Council Meeting will be held on October 13, 2023; the agenda will include consideration of motions from the membership.

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 MAV Rules require motions to be of strategic relevance to the MAV (aligned with their six Strategic Outcomes) or of such significance to local government that they ought to be considered at the State Council meeting.

Under the MAV Rules 2022, all motions must be submitted not less than 60 days before the meeting, with motion submissions closing on Monday, August 14, 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This report aims to raise awareness of the cost burden for small rural and regional shires associated with flood damage and road and infrastructure maintenance. While no direct community engagement has been undertaken the community is kept informed via Council's webpage, media and advertising and social media on our advocacy work.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The Motion is consistent with the following strategies in the 2021-25 Council Plan:

Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible:

- Be accountable for the decisions we make and the quality of service we deliver
- Maximise 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.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

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

11.6.2 Municipal Association of Victoria October 2023 State Council Motion: Road and Infrastructure Funding (cont.)

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with the attached Motion.

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 aims to raise awareness of the cost burden for small rural and regional shires associated with flood damage and road and infrastructure maintenance. The report is being presented to an open Council meeting and a copy of the Motion will all be available on Council's website.

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.

Change to the current levels of funding for road and infrastructure projects is one of Council's key advocacy issues. With about 7,500 ratepayers Council's ability to generate enough revenue to cover the actual costs to construct, maintain and upgrade roads and other assets is impossible without government assistance.

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.

Other small rural and regional councils within the region would benefit from the redirection of funding to road and infrastructure projects.

The intent of submitting this Motion to the October 2023 MAV State Council meeting is to trigger further urgent talks with the Minister for Local Government which, it is hoped, will lead the drive to reallocate funding to roads and bridges.

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. It is anticipated that this motion to MAV should open up discussions between the State and Local Government bodies.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

11.6.2 Municipal Association of Victoria October 2023 State Council Motion: Road and Infrastructure Funding (cont.)

CONCLUSION

Small rural shires like Strathbogie Shire have been devastated by the effect of ongoing wet weather and major flooding in October 2022.

With about 7,500 ratepayers Council's ability to generate enough revenue to cover the actual costs to construct, maintain and upgrade roads and other assets is impossible without government assistance.

This motion calls for MAV to advocate to the Minister for Local Government and other relevant Ministers for a reallocation of funding previously allocated to the 2026 Commonwealth Games, and now earmarked for sporting upgrades, to critical roads and bridge projects in small rural and regional shires.

While Council understands and wholeheartedly supports the significant benefits of sport in Strathbogie Shire and throughout Victoria, rural and regional communities need safe roads to get people there.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Strathbogie Shire MAV October 2023 State Council Notice of Motion

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

- 12.1 **Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 15 August 2023**
Report on attendance at the Australian Local Government Association 2023
National General Assembly ‘Our Communities, Our Future’ – 13-16 June
2023 in Canberra, including the Australian Council of Local Government
Forum
- Lodged by Councillor Laura Binks (Notice of Motion Ref. No. 07/2023)

I, Councillor Laura Binks,

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

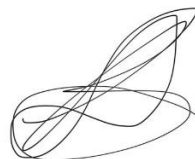
The motion I wish to put to Council is:

MOTION

That Council:

1. ***Note the report from Cr Laura Binks from her attendance at the Australian Local Government Association 2023 National General Assembly ‘Our Communities, Our Future’, Canberra, 13th – 16th June, including the Australian Council of Local Government Forum.***

Signed: Councillor Laura Binks (Mayor)



Date: 4th August 2023

BACKGROUND

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

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) was founded in 1947 and today represents 537 councils across Australia as the national voice of local government. ALGA's policies and strategic priorities are to champion a strong local government sector focusing on:

- financial sustainability
- roads and infrastructure funding
- waste and recycling
- stronger community resilience
- addressing the risk of climate change.

- 12.1 Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 15 August 2023
Report on attendance at the Australian Local Government Association 2023
National General Assembly 'Our Communities, Our Future' – 13-16 June 2023 in
Canberra, including the Australian Council of Local Government Forum
- Lodged by Councillor Laura Binks (Notice of Motion Ref. No. 07/2023) (cont.)

Mayor Binks had a Councillor Expense Request relating to her attendance at the ALGA 2023 NGA passed at the Ordinary Council Meeting on April 18th 2023 and subsequently attended Canberra in June 2023 for the National General Assembly of Local Government and the Australian Council of Local Government. This Notice of Motion is to note Cr Binks' report back to council relating to what she learned and achieved at the ALGA 2023 NGA.

DISCUSSION

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

It is important that councillors keep abreast of trends, issues, and possible solutions to matters that impact on Strathbogie Shire and its community. Mayor Binks attended this conference for advocacy advancement.

The NGA23 program was held from 13th – 16th June 2023 and explored how councils are responding to new challenges and opportunities to create jobs and drive economic growth, and how they are shaping a better future for their community and all Australians. The event included a series of panels where mayors and councillors shared their learnings and lived experience leading their communities through the turbulence of the past few years and importantly, how they engaged with the Federal Government about building stronger relationships and partnerships.

This year saw the return of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG). Hosted by the federal government, it brought together local and federal government leaders to discuss the key national and local challenges we are facing, and to workshop potential solutions, especially those in which councils might play a leading role. Discussions focused on the valuable role of local government, the importance of resilient leadership and communities, improving liability in cities and in regions, and supporting economic and industry growth and transition.

The ACLG was an opportunity to hear from Australian Government Ministers about priorities in their portfolios and how those priorities respond to and support local governments.

CONCLUSION

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.

- 12.1 Notice of Motion – Council Meeting Tuesday 15 August 2023
Report on attendance at the Australian Local Government Association 2023
National General Assembly 'Our Communities, Our Future' – 13-16 June 2023 in
Canberra, including the Australian Council of Local Government Forum
- Lodged by Councillor Laura Binks (Notice of Motion Ref. No. 07/2023) (cont.)

This Notice of Motion is to note Cr Binks' report back to council relating to what she learned and achieved at the ALGA 2023 NGA and provides for accounting of the Councillor expense requests relating to public funds achieving public transparency.

This Notice of Motion shares the experience and knowledge gained by Cr Binks with her fellow councillors and the whole municipality ensuring the best outcome from Cr Binks' attendance at the ALGA 2023 NGA.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: ALGA NGA 2023 Program

Attachment 2: Invitation from Kristy McBain MP, to the ACL

Attachment 3: Mayor's Report ALGA 2023

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. 22/23-73:
Provision of Internal Auditor

C.A. 2 (g) Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 22/23-15:
Supply and Construct Nagambie Transfer Station – Resale
Shed

NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm.

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