

Strathbogie Shire Council

# **Extraordinary Council Meeting Minutes/Decisions**

Tuesday February 6, 2024

## **Minutes/Decisions**

### **Extraordinary Council Meeting**

**Tuesday February 6, 2024, at 6.00 pm**

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

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

### **Interim Administrator:**

Peter Stephenson

### **Officers:**

Julie Salomon – Chief Executive Officer

Amanda Tingay – Acting Director People and Governance

John Harvey – Director Sustainable Infrastructure

Rachael Frampton – Acting Director Community and Planning

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## 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 is made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes/Decisions 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/Decisions.*

### 4. Governance Principles

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

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

### 5. Apologies / Leave of Absence

### 6. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

## 7. Petitions

A petition has been received by Council from Dean Hurlston, President of Council Watch Inc, which reads -

*We the undersigned, petition that Council should LEAVE AUSTRALIA DAY ALONE.*

*Australia Day means different things to many.*

*It is still a day to be proud and acknowledge the sum of all Australians.*

*It is also a day to acknowledge those who have served, fought, and died under our flag, defending our freedoms.*

*For some Australia Day may be painful.*

*We believe that the debate about Australia Day is NOT THE ROLE OF LOCAL COUNCILS – who should be focused on local issues.*

*We ask that Council LEAVE AUSTRALIA DAY ALONE and hold community events that:*

*Celebrate Australia Day*

*Acknowledge Indigenous Culture*

*Mark Australia Day with Citizenship Ceremonies*

The petition comprised 13 pages of signatories.

### **The Administrator adopted the Motion**

***That the petition be received and noted.***

***EM-02-23/24 CARRIED***

## 8. Public Question Time

Council Ref: RW: 05/2024

Given the importance of the subject item, the future, the viability and the existence of the Shire of Strathbogie is on the table.

Will the administrator guarantee fair community involvement, fairer public consultation, fairer exposure of the economic future of Shire of Strathbogie?

I find it alarming that this question is being rushed. Please explain why the rush?

Why can you not fully disclose the full story and the facts?

Response by Chair

Future Viability of Strathbogie Shire:

*Firstly, I wish to reassure you and the community that whilst there are some significant infrastructure challenges facing the Council, the Strathbogie Shire remains in a financially viable position. The Audit and Risk Committee and VAGO also maintain strategic oversight on the financial viability of the Council and have reported no concerns with me or in fact the former Councillors.*

*The process for community engagement into the 2024/25 Budget process will be no different to other years. Once the draft 2024/25 Budget and Financial Statements (including the Long Term Financial Plan) is presented to Council for consideration, it will be released for public consultation. In our continued efforts to encourage meaningful community participation in the development of our Draft Budget, Council will implement a comprehensive, three staged engagement process again this year, similar to what occurred last year.*

## 8. Public Question Time (cont.)

*The community will be able to provide comments in the following ways:*

- *During stage one of the engagement process, Council launched the Pitch my Project initiative in December 2023. This initiative aimed to involve the community in every aspect of the Draft Budget's development, allowing them to provide valuable input. The same thing will occur.*
- *Moving on to stage two, Council developed a series of informative materials designed to communicate the details of the Draft Budget and Fees and Charges to our community. These materials were carefully crafted to ensure that individuals understood how they could contribute their opinions and suggestions. Written submissions could be lodged through Council's Share Strathbogie Engagement Page on our website. Recognising the importance of accommodating those without internet access, Council also continued to accept email and hard copy written submissions to provide an avenue for participation to all members of the community. We will also engage with members of our Community Panel to seek their input again this year.*
- *Stage three of the engagement program will be closing the loop with the community to inform them how their feedback was used to inform the final 2024/25 Budget.*

*Further to this budget engagement, I will be commencing a series of "Talk to the Administrator" forums, where community members can book a time to meet with me in person to ask any burning questions or discuss any concerns or issues they may have. I will be making myself available in townships across the municipality, commencing in Avenel next Tuesday.*

*Civic Accommodation:*

*In terms of Item 9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 23/24-26: Consultant to Provide Detailed Options and Design – Civic Accommodation and Outdoor Operations, you will recall that Council prioritised the Civic Accommodation options as a priority and funded this feasibility and options study in the 2023/24 Budget. Council acknowledges the growing population in Avenel and Nagambie to better serve the community, shire, and stakeholders and signaling the timeliness of addressing the inadequacies of the current facilities that do not meet current building or OHS standards. This allocation was clearly identified in the draft 2023/24 Budget that was released for public consultation. The Council and officers remain open and transparent. I do not believe that there is a rush to this project given that there is a clear mandate from Council for officers to proceed with this budgeted work and complete it in this financial year.*

## 9. Officer Reports

9.1 Strategic and Statutory

9.2 Community

9.3 Infrastructure

9.4 Corporate

9.5 Governance and Customer Service

9.6 Executive

## Reports Index

<b>9.</b>	<b>OFFICER REPORTS</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Strategic and Statutory</b>	
	Nil	
<b>9.2</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	
9.2.1	Event Grant Applications Received - Avenel Active Inc and Nagambie Lakes Sailing Club	6
<b>9.3</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>	
9.3.1	Tender for Contract No. 23/24-26: Consultant to Provide Detailed Options and Design – Civic Accommodation and Outdoor Operations	8
9.3.2	Tender for Contract 23/24-38: Nagambie-Locksley Road Bridge and Road Reconstruction at Charles Creek, Locksley - Stage 1	10
<b>9.4</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	
	Nil	
<b>9.5</b>	<b>Governance and Customer Service</b>	
	Nil	
<b>9.6</b>	<b>Executive</b>	
	Nil	

## **9. OFFICER REPORTS**

### **9.2 COMMUNITY**

#### **9.2.1 Event Grant Applications Received - Avenel Active Inc and Nagambie Lakes Sailing Club**

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.

An application was received from Avenel Active Inc to support the delivery of the Nagambie Lake Parkrun commencing from Saturday 6 April 2024, and each Saturday thereafter. The Nagambie Lake Parkrun covers a 5km course every Saturday morning along the newly installed Nagambie Boardwalk, enabling Nagambie, Avenel and regional residents and visitors to participate in exercise in a safe, natural environment. Avenel Active Inc have applied for a total of \$5,000, to cover the cost of licensing and equipment.

An application was also received from Nagambie Lakes Sailing Club Inc to support the delivery of Sailing activities during the Nagambie On Water Festival (NOW) 2024 being held on 24 February 2024. The Nagambie Lakes Sailing Club Inc. will host a sailing event as part of the Festival which will include coaching sessions for club members and sailing opportunities for the public. Sessions will be facilitated by Australian Sailing – Smooth Sailing School as well as the Shepparton Sailability Club. This event will be followed by a series of events throughout March 2024 for the public to enjoy that promote sailing and recreation. The funds have been requested to cover the cost of facilitation and delivery by Australian Sailing.

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 accordance with the relevant assessment process. The current applications are of an acceptable standard and officers are recommending them for funding.

9.2.1 Event Grant Applications Received  
- Avenel Active Inc and Nagambie Lakes Sailing Club (cont.)

**The Administrator adopted the Motion**

***That Council:***

- 1. *Approve the Event Grant application from Avenel Active Inc to the value of \$5,000 in cash, to support the establishment of Nagambie Parkrun;***
- 2. *Approve the Event Grant application from Nagambie Lakes Sailing Club Inc to the value of \$5,000 in cash, to support the establishment and delivery of Sailing activities at the Nagambie On Water Festival 2024 to be held on the 24 February 2024, and during March 2024; 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”.***

**EM-03-23/24 CARRIED**



### **9.3 INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 23/24-26: Consultant to Provide Detailed Options and Design – Civic Accommodation and Outdoor Operations**

Author: Manager Project Delivery

Responsible Director: Director Sustainable Infrastructure

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

The Strathbogie Shire Council recognises the imperative to enhance its civic presence and administrative capabilities to meet the evolving needs of the community. The existing Euroa-based civic office and operational depots are deemed inadequate in poor condition with water entering office during rain events at many locations, necessitating a comprehensive study to explore contemporary alternatives. This project aims to conduct a feasibility study to assess options for a renewed civic presence that aligns with the community's changing demographics and ensures efficient service delivery.

The project scope encompasses a thorough examination of the existing Euroa Civic Centre, the library service in Nagambie, operational depots in Euroa and Nagambie, and smaller satellite sites in Avenel, Violet Town and Strathbogie. The study aims to deliver location options and preliminary designs with indicative costing for civic office accommodations and outdoor operations hubs, considering the unique needs of the community and stakeholders. These deliverables will guide Council in making informed decisions for future development, ensuring alignment with community needs and preferences.

It is crucial to note that any subsequent works resulting from this feasibility study are contingent on securing funding and grant applications. Council acknowledges the growing population in Avenel and Nagambie, signalling the timeliness of addressing the inadequacies of the current facilities to better serve the community, shire, and stakeholders.

Through public advertisement in local and state newspapers, Council invited tenders for the work under Contract No. 23/24-26, between 03/11/2023 and 06/12/2023. At the closing of the Tender, eight (8) tender submissions received. These tenders have been assessed and evaluated by Council Officers and a summary of results is detailed in this report.

It is recommended that the Council awards this lump sum contract to Workshop Architecture Pty Ltd based in Melbourne, for a total amount of \$183,755.00 (including GST).

#### **The Administrator adopted the Motion**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. Note the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No 23/24-26 Consultant to provide detailed options and design – civic accommodation and outdoor operations;***

9.3.1 Tender for Contract No. 23/24-26: Consultant to Provide Detailed Options and Design – Civic Accommodation and Outdoor Operations (cont.)

*MOTION (cont.)*

2. ***Awards the tender for Contract No 23/24-26 Consultant to provide detailed options and design – civic accommodation and outdoor operations - Lump Sum for a total amount of \$183,755.00 (including GST) to Workshop Architecture Pty Ltd based in Melbourne;***
3. ***Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenderers; and***
4. ***Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council.***

*EM-04-23/24 CARRIED*

### **9.3.2 Tender for Contract 23/24-38: Nagambie-Locksley Road Bridge and Road Reconstruction at Charles Creek, Locksley - Stage 1**

Author: Manager - Projects Delivery

Responsible Director: Director Sustainable Infrastructure

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

Strathbogie Shire is committed to managing local transport infrastructure, ensuring safe and efficient access to the road network for the broader community within the municipality, maintaining a consistent standard.

The Nagambie Locksley Road Bridge over Charles Creek, situated approximately 12km from Nagambie, is currently inadequate and unsuitable for present and future road usage due to insufficient load capacity. Safety concerns are exacerbated by a compromised road alignment, impacting visibility and the overall speed environment.

During 2022 and 2023, a comprehensive assessment of requirements, along with detailed design considerations, including cultural heritage and environmental evaluations, was completed. The project successfully obtained a planning permit for the necessary native vegetation removal, and required offsets were secured.

Acknowledging budget constraints, the project was strategically divided into two stages. Stage 1 involves the urgent reconstruction of the bridge, coupled with road realignments in the immediate vicinity. Stage 2 focuses on the remaining road realignment, which will be completed as funds become available. By prioritising Stage 1, immediate concerns related to the bridge's structural integrity and safety are addressed.

Tender documentation for Stage 1 was prepared in the final quarter of 2023. Through public advertisement in local and state newspapers, Council invited tenders for the Contract No. 23/24-38 Nagambie-Locksley Road Bridge and Road Reconstruction at Charles Creek Locksley - Stage 1, between 22/11/2023 and 22/12/2023. By the close of tenders at 4.00pm on 22 December 2023, five (5) tender submissions had been received.

Following the tender and assessment process, this report recommends awarding the lump sum contract for Stage 1 to Apex Earthworks Pty Ltd. Their proposal, totaling \$1,854,988.60 (including GST), aligns with project objectives and has been selected based on comprehensive evaluation outcomes.

The recommendation in this report signifies a crucial step towards achieving a safer and more efficient road network within the Strathbogie Shire. It mirrors the municipality's unwavering commitment to maintaining a consistent standard for local transport infrastructure.

The successful execution of this project aims to make a significant contribution to the enhancement of road network access and safety for the community.

9.3.2 Tender for Contract 23/24-38: Nagambie-Locksley Road Bridge and Road Reconstruction at Charles Creek, Locksley - Stage 1 (cont.)

**The Administrator adopted the Motion**

***That Council:***

1. ***Notes the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No 23/24-38 Nagambie-Locksley Road Bridge and Road Reconstruction at Charles Creek Locksley Stage 1;***
2. ***Awards the tender for Contract No 23/24-38 Nagambie-Locksley Road Bridge and Road Reconstruction at Charles Creek Locksley Stage 1 - Lump Sum for a total amount of \$1,854,988.60 (including GST) to Apex Earthworks Pty Ltd based in Congupna;***
3. ***Notes that there will be a road closure with detours established on sealed roads in effect during the construction period;***
4. ***Authorises officers to advise the unsuccessful tenderers; and***
5. ***Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing with the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council.***

***EM-05-23/24 CARRIED***

***THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.26 PM***

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

.....  
Chair

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Date