Strathbogie Shire Council

# **Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions**

**Tuesday 18 February 2025** 



### **Minutes**

# **Council Meeting**

## Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 4:00 pm

A meeting was held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre and livestreamed on Council's website.

https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/council/our-council/council-meetings-andminutes/

#### Councillors

Mayor Cr Ewart-Kennedy Deputy Mayor Cr Jeffery Cr Binks Cr Carlson Cr Halsall Cr Holloway Cr Stevens

#### **Municipal Monitor**

Marg Allan

#### Officers

Tim Tamlin Amanda Tingay Brian Doyle Rachael Frampton Michelle Harris Kerry Lynch Interim Chief Executive Officer Director People and Governance Acting Director Sustainable Infrastructure Director Community and Planning Interim Media and Communications Manager Governance Officer

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### Meeting Procedure

#### 1 Welcome

#### **Councillors Vision**

We will be a Councillor group that delivers valuable outcomes for our community through teamwork characterised by:

- respectful debate
- collaboration, and
- the commitment to being inclusive and transparent.

#### **Councillor Values**

- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Responsiveness

#### 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 (<u>Council Meetings and Minutes</u> | <u>Strathbogie Shire</u>) and 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 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 are to be pursued
- 6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought
- 7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured
- 8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making
- 9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

#### 5 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Nil.

#### 6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Nil.

#### 7 Confirmation of Minutes/Decisions of Previous Meetings

The minutes have been circulated to Councillors and posted on Council website <u>Council</u> <u>Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire</u> pending confirmation at this meeting.

#### MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson SECONDED: Cr Scott Jeffery

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 January 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

24/25-39

CARRIED

#### 8 Petitions

Nil.

#### 9 Mayor and Councillor Reports

#### 9.1 Mayor's Report

Firstly, I would like to thank my Deputy Councillor Jeffery and all the Councillors for their support and for covering for me at the last meeting in my absence due to ill health. It is very much appreciated to know that we have such a warm group of Councillors who work together for the betterment of the community.

Before we get underway I just want to emphasise the importance of staying safe amid the recent outbreaks of avian influenza and Japanese encephalitis.

It is crucial that we remain vigilant, follow public health guidelines, and take necessary precautions to protect ourselves and our community. Together, we can navigate these challenges and ensure the health and safety of our residents.

Council will continue to share information from the relevant authorities as it comes to hand.

Now onto my usual wrap up.

It has been a busy month with lots of local and community events taking place across the Shire, and I have been fortunate to attend some of these events.

My fellow Councillors and I attended various Australia Day Celebrations on 26 January including events in Nagambie, Nagambie RSL, Avenel, Euroa, Strathbogie, and Longwood.

I was thrilled to join the Pink Stumps Day events held in Nagambie and Euroa earlier in the month. These are great community events supporting Breast Cancer Awareness and important opportunities to advocate on behalf of local woman who may be affected by breast and other cancers, and to raise significant funds.

Amongst many events I also attended the opening of the Nagambie Rowing Club Mural with fellow councillors. The breath, width and diversity of our region is never lost on me as I work my way through the region and I salute all the great volunteers and community groups.

As a current member of Regional Development Australia Hume Committee I am working alongside many of the members in the Hume region (eight LGA's) to identify, prioritise and shape our regions priority partnership projects which are crucial to our growth.

We are currently undertaking an exciting initiative, Our Community Our Future, to shape the key strategic plans that will guide our direction over the next four years and beyond.

This includes developing our Community Vision, Council Plan (incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan), Financial Plan, Asset Plan, Budget, Rating and Revenue Plan and other important documents to reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

We have been out and about over the past few weeks attending markets and pop-ups to hear what is important to our community.

We invite you to be part of this process and share your insights to help us understand the priorities that matter most to our community. Your feedback will be crucial in informing the priorities in our strategic plans and helping us better understand the needs and aspirations of Strathbogie Shire residents.

If you can't attend a session, please head to Council's Share Strathbogie website at share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/our-community-our-future and use the tabs to complete the different activities or alternatively please visit your local survey station or call us on 1800 065 993.

Last week my follow Councillors and I joined Interim CEO Tim Tamlin and Directors Amanda Tingay, Rachael Frampton and Brian Doyle on a bus tour of the municipality. We visited Euroa, Violet Town, Strathbogie, Avenel, Kirwans Bridge, Longwood and Nagambie and were able to gain a better understanding of many of the positive aspects of our Council operations as well as the challenges that we will face. It was a great day and encouraged robust and positive discussion in the group.

There are many community events scheduled during the year which are supported by Council and during March and April we will focus on a number of events including:

- International Women's Day
- Climate Ready Gardens courses scheduled over several days
- Outdoor cinema events and children's holiday activities
- ARTBox

Please head to Council's website for more information.

More importantly I implore each and every person to have your say in your future and be proactive in giving feedback for the betterment of all.

#### 9.2 Councillor Reports

#### **Councillor Halsall**

I just wanted to provide a brief report about some of the engagement activities I have been undertaking with the community around our "Our Community-Our Future".

I attended the saleyards and spoke to farmers, agents, children and young adults quizzing them, and probing their thoughts and suggestions was a great indicator of the various thoughts and ideas and priorities that people have. There is a very broad difference between people within our community and I think its important that we take and consider all of those views and perspectives.

I continue to co-op friends and community members into the Council plan conversation and I take this opportunity to encourage all watching or in the gallery to have your say. It's your time to tell Council what's important and what your priorities are. It's accessible and if you need assistance I'm happy to help.

#### **Councillor Carlson**

The Mayor's been quite comprehensive in her comments regarding our activities. We have all been very busy in the last month to say the least but it's my understanding we have just completed our last compulsory mandatory induction training and I was wondering whether we get some kind of certificate.

The training took up a lot of time and was quite comprehensive and to be fair it was quite beneficial and quite good presentations by all those professionals who came to us over the last couple of months.

I went to a Violet Town Council Plan engagement and it's really interesting that people are very appreciative of the fact that the Council is actually making the effort to engage with them. They appreciate and said it's something that they would like to see happen in the future so I think it's very positively received. Sometimes people are reluctant to engage and I understand that, but nevertheless I think on balance it's a very beneficial procedure.

I went to the Nagambie Rowing Club which was a bit of an eye opener to be honest, quite an extraordinary organisation and group of people.

I also spoke to the community over there regarding the activities on the lake and the river and the Bridges. There's obviously a lot of challenges there for us to address over coming months and years.

Lastly, I was a guest speaker at the Australia Day event in Euroa, which was well attended, and I very much enjoyed it.

#### 10 Public Question Time

#### Submitter One - Council Reference RW 08-2025

#### **Question One**

Will Council commit to a comprehensive education program to welcome the fourth Purple Bin service to the waste collection services?

#### Response

Yes – there is an education program that is ongoing.

The program commenced in October 2024 and will continue to see Council Officers out and about at local markets, at street pop ups, in our schools and at the transfer stations.

It's a very detailed program and we look forward to working with our communities to educate our residents around the use of the purple waste bins which will be rolled out in July 2025.

#### **Questions Two**

Will Councillors update the community on changes to "State of Art Truck" wash at Euroa sale yards?

#### Response

Council will continue to inform the community the progress on any changes when new information becomes available.

#### Submitter Two – Council Reference MB 09-2025

The submitter was not present in the meeting.

In accordance with section (35.7) of Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules, if the person who submitted the question is not present at the meeting either in person or virtually, the question will not be read out. A response will be made directly to the person who submitted the question.

#### 11 Officer Reports

#### 11.1 Strategic and Statutory Planning

#### 11.1.1 P2023-121 - 222 Faithfull Road, Longwood East

AUTHOR	Senior Planner
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR	Director Community and Planning

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Planning Application P2023-121 was lodged with Strathbogie Shire Council in November 2023 for the use and development of the site at 222 Faithfull Road, Longwood East as a Greyhound re-homing facility (domestic animal husbandry) and caretaker's house. Council subsequently issued a Notice of Decision to refuse a permit for the site in June 2024.

The permit applicant appealed Council's decision with the *Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal* (VCAT). Upon engagement of a planning consultant, on behalf of Strathbogie Shire Council, it was determined that the proposal should now be supported, instead of the original refusal that was recommended.

This situation has arisen due to the permit applicant providing additional documentation and proposing recommended permit conditions that address the primary concerns previously raised by Council's planning officers.

The purpose of this report enables Council (as the respondent) to understand the revised position of officers and to enable consent orders to be signed and a decision to be passed by VCAT.

Council is not being asked to reassess the application, only to provide direction to Council officers and Council's representative in relation to the current VCAT proceeding.

#### MOVED: Cr Laura Binks SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

- Agree for VCAT to issue a planning permit under the provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme allowing for the use and development of 222 Faithfull Road, Longwood East (Lots 1 & 2 TP953561 and CA20 Sec B Parish Longwood) as a domestic animal husbandry and caretakers house, generally in accordance with the amended draft conditions included in Attachment one of this report and the recommendations of the acoustic report in Attachment two
- 2. Delegates power to Council's Manager of Planning and Investment, Principal Planner and Senior Planner to settle this matter at future VCAT hearings or by way of consent orders.

24/25-40

#### 11.1.2 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined 1 January to 31 January 2025

AUTHOR Manager Planning and Investment

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director Community and Planning

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with Council's Planning Applications referral to Council Policy, this monthly report lists all Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined from 1 January to 31 January 2025.

It is noted that there were ten (10) new planning applications received, and two (2) planning applications decided in this period. The number of applications decided on this reporting period is lower than usual as officers have allocated significant time to the implementation of the new Greenlight statutory planning software system. This implementation is expected to impact on productivity during the months of February and March 2025.

The latest available Planning Permit Activity Performance (PPARS) figures for November-January 2025 have not been included in this report as there are currently inaccuracies in the reporting associated with the Greenlight implementation. These reports will be provided at a future council meeting once the integration issues have been resolved.

An update on current Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) appeals was also provided.

The contents of this report are provided for information purposes only, the listing of current planning applications on public display can be found on Council's website.

### MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

- 1. Receive the report
- 2. Note that there were ten (10) new planning applications received, and two (2) planning applications decided on from 1 January to 31 January 2025.

24/25-41

#### 11.2 Community

11.2.1 Euroa Swimming Pool - Petition

AUTHOR Manager Community and Culture

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director Community and Planning

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition was received on 17 December 2024, from the Euroa Swimming Club, requesting Council support for extended use of the Euroa Swimming Pool, by using a group of Volunteers to support the extension of operating hours. The petition was signed by eighteen people.

The petition was presented to Council at the Council Meeting on 21 January 2025. Council resolved to:

- 1. Receive and note the petition in relation to council support for extended utilisation of the Euroa Swimming Pool through the utilisation of a group of volunteers
- 2. That the petition be referred to the Director Community and Planning for consideration and response.

Following investigation, several constraints have been identified with a volunteer workforce model, particularly regarding serious legal, compliance and safety, operational, and financial implications with the suggested volunteer workforce model.

As the facility owner, Council has a legal and moral responsibility to comply with various legislative requirements and industry guidelines.

Aquatic facilities are highly regulated and controlled environments due to the nature of the activity with risk to life for patrons, through drowning, and the use of chemicals and plant required to provide commercial aquatic facilities.

Safety of the community and of those working at our aquatic facilities is our number one priority. Significant training of the workforce is required to ensure this safety and the safety of these facilities.

The use of volunteers in this environment is also particularly limited as in general life guarding and centre management is considered a paid job and could be seen as exploiting volunteers and may breach relevant labour laws.

It is recommended that transitioning to a volunteer-run model is not viable due to the compliance, risk and safety issues associated with this model for the public, staff and volunteers. An extension of hours using the current contractor due to cost and timing is also not viable.

#### MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

- 1. Decline the offer to use a volunteer workforce or extend the hours of operation of the Euroa Pool due to the safety, risk, cost and compliance implications associated with the proposed petition model
- 2. Authorise officers to notify the petition writer of the outcome of the petition and Council's decision
- 3. Authorise officers to work with the Euroa Swimming Club to assess qualifications and interest in running events and activities to help activate the Euroa Pool using volunteers within the existing season and hours of operation, and
- 4. Invite members of the Euroa Swimming Club to join the Friends of the Pool Group.

24/25-42

#### 11.3 Infrastructure

#### **11.3.1 Changes to Capital Works Footpath Program**

AUTHOR Project Officer

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director Sustainable Infrastructure

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to amend Council's Footpath renewal program that was approved at the August 2024 Council Meeting to include a section of footpath on Railway Street, Euroa.

John Holland is currently establishing a compound on Railway Street, Euroa where the proposed footpath works are proposed. It is recommended that the footpath works be deferred until the Inland Rail works are completed, and the John Holland compound is removed due to the possible impact of construction activity at the location.

It is further recommended that the funds be reallocated to the next highest priority in the Bicycle and Walking Path Strategy to ensure expenditure of the allocated funds for the 2024-25 Footpath Replacement Program.

### MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall SECONDED: Cr Scott Jeffery

That Council amend the location of the footpath renewal work contained in Council's 2024-25 Capital Works program by:

- 1. Approving the removal of the section of footpath along Railway Street, Euroa
- 2. Refer the funding associated with the removal of the section of footpath along Railway Street, Euroa for reallocation in accordance with Council's Bicycle and Walking Path works program.

24/25-43

#### 11.4 Corporate

#### 11.4.1 Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Motions

AUTHOR Governance Officer

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council's endorsement for the submission of three motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting scheduled for Friday 16 May 2025. The MAV is a membership association and the legislated peak body for local government in Victoria. The State Council is the governing body and is made up of delegates from each member council, including delegates from Strathbogie Shire Council.

Councils are encouraged to submit motions of strategic relevance to the MAV or significance to local government that align with the ten enabling priorities in the MAV Strategy 2024-2027.

The proposed three motions to the MAV are:

#### Motion 1: Emergency Services and Volunteers Funds

That the MAV call on the State Government:

- a) to require the impacted Emergency Services and Volunteer Agencies to engage their members to advise Councils if they are exempt from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund service charge on their rates notice.
- b) To ensure equitable distribution of funds on a needs-based equalisation basis, ensuring that the rural and regional branches of the benefiting Emergency Services and Volunteer Agencies are adequately supported given the higher impact of natural disasters in the regions.

#### Motion 2: Natural Disaster Recovery Funding

That the MAV call on the State and Federal Governments to ensure that the Natural Disaster Recovery Funding is sufficient at a minimum to reinstate the level of service provided by the damaged asset to the same level as before.

Furthermore, all consideration must be given at the time of reinstatement to secure all funding options for a betterment response including, but not limited to, if the previous service delivery level was found to be lacking.

#### Motion 3: Local Government Sustainability

That the MAV work in partnership with the State and Federal Governments to derive a funding model that addresses the challenges of Local Government as set out in the MAV Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability (June 2024).

A council resolution is required to submit any motion to the MAV State Council meeting.

#### MOVED: Cr Laura Binks SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens

1. That Council endorse the following three (3) motions for submission to the 16 May 2025 Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting:

Motion 1

That the MAV call on the State Government:

- a. to require the impacted Emergency Services and Volunteer Agencies to engage their members to advise Councils if they are exempt from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund service charge on their rates notice.
- b. To ensure equitable distribution of funds on a needs-based equalisation basis, ensuring that the rural and regional branches of the benefiting Emergency Services and Volunteer Agencies are adequately supported given the higher impact of natural disasters in the regions.

#### Motion 2

That the MAV call on the State and Federal Governments to ensure that the Natural Disaster Recovery Funding is sufficient at a minimum to reinstate the level of service provided by the damaged asset to the same level as before.

Furthermore, all consideration must be given at the time of reinstatement to secure all funding options for a betterment response including, but not limited to, if the previous service delivery level was found to be lacking.

#### Motion 3

That the MAV work in partnership with the State and Federal Governments to derive a funding model that addresses the challenges of Local Government as set out in the MAV Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability (June 2024).

#### 2. That Council:

- a. Authorise officers to submit the Motions to Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) for consideration at the MAV State Council Meeting scheduled for 16 May 2025
- b. Authorise the Mayor to approve amendments to the above motions following any feedback or advice from the MAV in keeping with the Council endorsed motions intent.

24/25-44

#### 11.4.2 Quarter Two Finance Report and Mid-Year Budget Review 2024-25

#### AUTHOR Finance Coordinator

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A mid-year budget review for the 2024-25 financial year has been undertaken as a means of tracking where the delivery of the operating budget and capital works program is at, and also to better inform the development of the 2025-26 budget and revision of Council's 2025-26 to 2034-35 Long Term Financial Plan.

The mid-year budget review for the 2024-25 financial year shows a forecast deterioration of the operating result by \$1,772,635 and increased capital expenditure of \$1,376,004 (which is largely offset by grant income or expenditure requirements carried forward from prior years) when compared to the adopted Budget.

The mid-year review, and associated financial statements, were presented to Council for noting.

There was also a proposal to increase the fee for the truck wash at the Euroa Saleyards from \$1.15 per minute to \$1.25 per minute from Monday 3 March 2025, following the opening of the additional truck wash bays during December 2024.

#### MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway SECONDED: Cr Scott Jeffery

That Council:

- 1. Note the quarter two Financial Report and the Mid-Year Review of the Financial Statements for the period ending 30 June 2025
- 2. Note the statement by the Interim Chief Executive Officer in the attachment that a revised budget is not required for the period ending 30 June 2025
- 3. Approve the increase of the truck wash fee at the Euroa Saleyards from \$1.15 per minute (ex-GST) to \$1.25 per minute (ex-GST) from 3 March 2025.
- 4. Receive a briefing outlining a 'traffic light' report to ensure Council has adequate oversight of the delivery of Council's Capital Works program at a frequency and timeliness to meet good governance practices.

24/25-45

### 11.4.3 Contracts, Works, Variations and Grants Awarded Under Delegation - 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025

AUTHOR Chief Financial Officer

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of the status of request for the publicly advertised tenders, invitations for written quotations and quotations provided using collaborative and/or third-party contracts which have been awarded under delegation for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025. This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's 2024-25 adopted Budget.

This report also details any grants awarded as per Council's adopted Community Funding Model, or variations approved under delegation. Council adopted a Community Funding Model at the July 2023 Council Meeting authorising the Chief Executive Officer to award Quick Response Grants.

### MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council note:

- 1. There was one Contract awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer
- 2. There were nil Contracts awarded under delegated authority by Director(s)
- 3. There were nil Contracts awarded under delegated authority by Manager(s)
- 4. There were No Low value Contract Variations of up to 15% of original Contract value awarded under delegation by the Chief Executive Officer in January 2025, and
- 5. There were no quick response grant applications received during the reporting period.

24/25-46

#### 11.4.4 Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors - January 2025

AUTHOR Governance Officer

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section (114) of the Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules, if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff, and
- is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting, these are known as Informal Meetings of Councillors.

The Interim Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:

- tabled at the next convenient Council meeting
- recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

The details of the Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025 were documented in the attachments to the report.

### MOVED: Cr Scott Jeffery SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

Notes the Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors from 1 January 2025 to 31 January 2025.

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#### 11.5 Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

Nil reports.

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Nil.
13 Notice of Rescission
Nil.
14 Confidential Business
Nil.
15 Urgent Business
Nil.
16 Closure of Meeting
There being no further business the meeting closed at 4:57 pm

**Notice of Motion** 

#### 17 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on 18 March 2025 commencing at 4:00 pm at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.

	••••••
Chair	Date

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting.