

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 20 May 2025

Agenda

Council Meeting

20 May 2025 at 4:00 pm

Meeting to be 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/>

Councillors

Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy
Deputy Mayor Cr Scott Jeffery
Cr Laura Binks
Cr Vicki Halsall
Cr Clark Holloway
Cr Fiona Stevens

Municipal Monitor

Marg Allan

Officers

Rachelle Quattrocchi	Chief Executive Officer
Amanda Tingay	Director People and Governance
Oliver McNulty	Director Sustainable Infrastructure
Rachael Frampton	Director Community and Planning
Michelle Harris	Interim Media and Communications Manager
Kerry Lynch	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 ([Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#)) 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

Cr Greg Carlson

6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

7 Confirmation of Minutes/Decisions of Previous Meetings

The minutes have been circulated to Councillors and posted on Council website [Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#) pending confirmation at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 29 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

8 Petitions

Nil

9 Mayor and Councillor Reports

9.1 Mayor's Report

9.2 Councillor Reports

10 Public Question Time

Public Question Time

Questions for the Ordinary Council Meeting can be submitted to be read, and responded to, by the Chair, or a member of Council staff nominated by the Chair, during the Public Question Time. Questions must be submitted 30 hours prior to the Council meeting, by emailing info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au.

Public Question Time will be conducted as per Rule 35 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.

11 Officer Reports

11.1 Strategic and Statutory Planning

11.1.1 Planning Report Planning Application P2025-023 - 2 Millards Lane Euroa

AUTHOR	Principal Planner
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR	Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An application has been received for a two-lot subdivision (house excision) of a 61.48ha parcel of farming zoned land at 2 Millards Lane, Euroa.

The proposal seeks to excise off the existing dwelling and part of the farming business into a lot that measures 21.48ha, creating a vacant 40ha lot with an as of right use for a dwelling. The site is zoned Farming Zone and is partially controlled by the Erosion Management Overlay.

The site is located at the base of the Strathbogie Ranges, along roads with significant vegetation, and surrounded by large farm holdings ranging from 83ha to 1652ha. The subject site previously underwent a previous loss of farming land when a boundary realignment was undertaken, and the separate title sold on. The current site comprises one lot only.

The application has been notified to adjacent and nearby owners and occupiers and one (1) objection has been received citing concerns about incompatibility and impacts on surrounding large farm holdings and activities.

A detailed assessment of the proposal against the relevant provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme is contained within the Planning Officer report in attachment one. This assessment concluded that on balance the proposal is not supported by the Strathbogie Planning Scheme and recommends that Council issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Having caused notice of Planning Permit Application No. P2025-023 pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, decides to issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit under the provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme in respect of the land known as 2 Millards Lane Euroa VIC 3666 (Lot 1 PS803102R), for a Two lot subdivision (house lot excision), based on the following grounds –

- 1. The proposal is inconsistent with the purpose and relevant decision guidelines of the Farming Zone (Clause 35.07) of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme as it:**
 - a. Results in the creation of a lifestyle size lot, which may or may not retain the current farming activity or be capable of accommodating any alternative future agricultural activity including the ability for expansion.**

- b. Has failed to demonstrate that the subdivision supports or enhances the agricultural productivity of the land.
 - c. Restricts the future operation of the agricultural activities on the proposed Lot 1.
 - d. Has the potential to adversely affect the use of land for agriculture both on the land due to the proposed lot sizes and activities, and on the surrounding area.
- 2. The proposal is considered to have the potential to further exacerbate erosion and landslide by placing a greater strain on the land through its subdivision of the land.
- 3. The proposal is not supported by the relevant rural land use and agricultural policies of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme most notably 02.03-4, 11.01, 13.04-2S, 14.01-1S, 14.01-1L as it:
 - a. Results in the creation of a rural lifestyle size lot and a vacant farming size lot with an as of right use for a dwelling.
 - b. Fails to demonstrate or guarantee that agricultural activities can and will continue on both lots into the future.
 - c. Restricts any future expansion of the existing agricultural operations on the proposed Lot 1.
 - d. Results in the permanent loss of productive farming land that is currently part of the local economy.
 - e. It potentially proliferates another dwelling not associated with farming activities.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of the report is to bring before Council a recommendation in response to an application for a two-lot subdivision (dwelling excision) within the Farming Zone for decision.

The matter is being reported to Council for a decision in accordance with Council's Planning Permit Applications Referral to Council Policy and the matters it raises due to inconsistency with the rural land use policy settings in the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Council is a Responsible Authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

In this role, Council administers the Scheme and, among other things, determines planning permit applications made for the use and development of land within the municipality.

Under delegated authority of Council, Council Officers determine some matters. However, this application is being presented to Council for a decision due to issues it raises when assessed against the rural land use policy settings contained within the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

The Subject Site

The subject site is located on the southeast corner of Millards Lane and Seven Creeks Estate Road. The subject site has an overall area of 61.48ha. Millards Lane borders the site to its north.

The site has a dwelling, shedding, farming infrastructure, and there is currently a mix of equine and grazing related business undertaken on site, utilising the full extent of the land.

The majority of the physical infrastructure is located on the northern portion of the site.

There is a mix of native and introduced vegetation particularly to the south of the land, and several waterways crossing the site.

The site is easily accessible from the Euroa Mansfield Road (being only 10 minutes from the centre of Euroa) and Seven Creeks Estate Road, via an all-weather road that is tree lined, and identified as having significant roadside vegetation which also provides for a wildlife corridor.

The surrounding area is characterised by larger holdings ranging from 82ha to 110ha in size.

Site History

- In 2019 the subject site comprised of two lots and measured approximately 109ha in one ownership. A boundary realignment was undertaken that did not require a planning permit, creating a lot over 40ha, and leaving the current subject site at approximately 62ha.
- P2024-024 an application for a two-lot subdivision, excision of the existing dwelling, was recommended for refusal. The application was withdrawn.

Planning Controls and Permit Triggers

The subject site is zoned Farming Zone (FZ) and the Erosion Management Overlay (EMO) affects the southern portion of the site and along the eastern boundary of the site.

The surrounding area is generally zoned Farming Zone.

Control	Clause(s)	Consideration
Farming Zone	35.07-03	A permit is required to subdivide land.
Erosion Management Overlay (EMO)	44.01-5	A permit is required to subdivide land. An application under this overlay is exempt from notification and review rights.

The Proposal

The proposal is for a two-lot subdivision (house lot excision) of the land as outlined below in Figure 1.

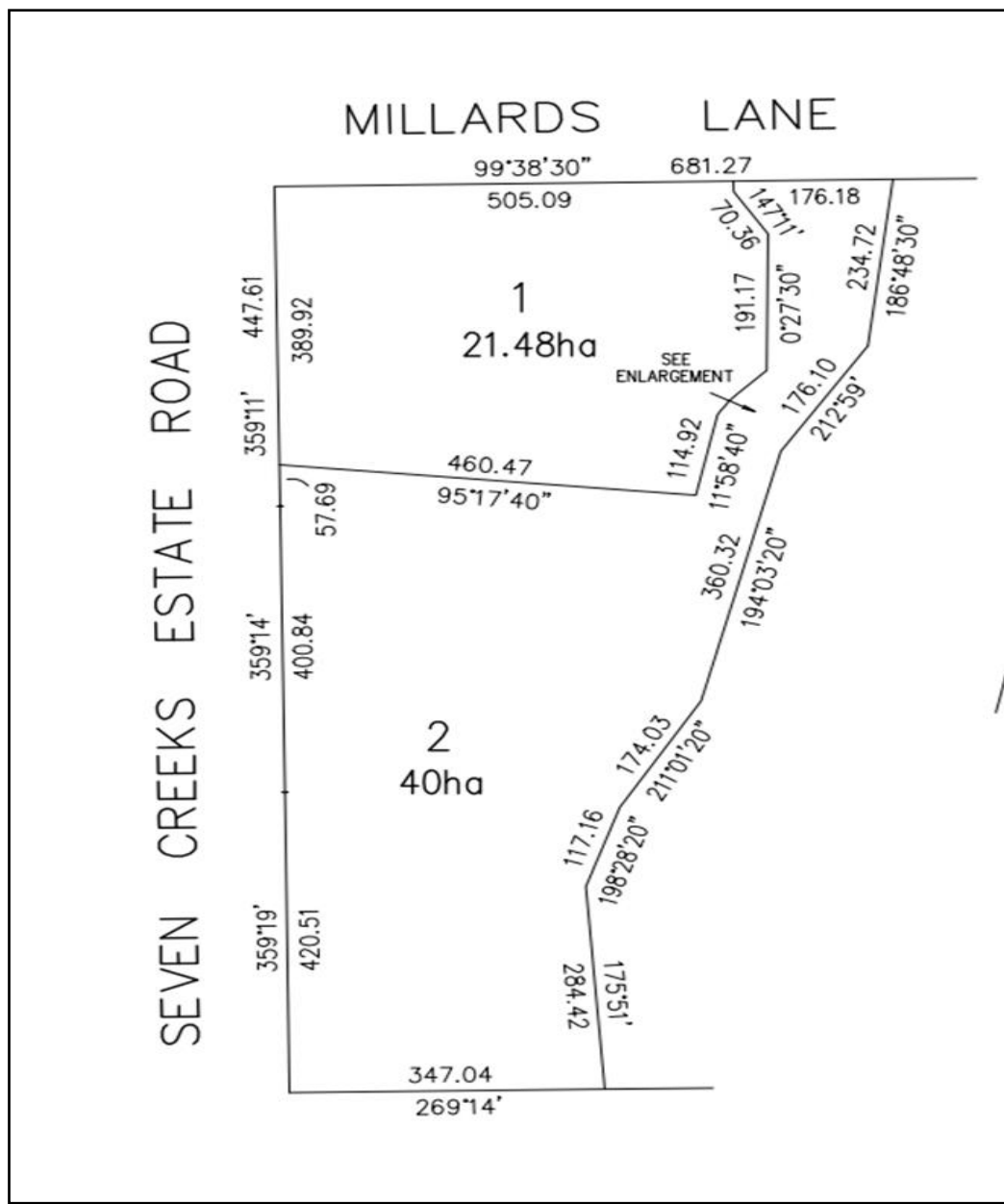


Figure 1: The proposed plan of subdivision.

The proposed **Lot 1** will be 21.48ha in area and designed to contain the existing dwelling on site and all the physical infrastructure associated with the current equine business that includes breeding, agistment, training, events and clinic enterprises. This includes 3 horse training arenas, stables, 21 private paddocks, horse wash bays, shedding and four larger paddock areas.

The proposed **Lot 2** can be described as an irregular battle axe allotment occupying the southern portion and a small tract along the sites eastern boundary. This lot has a total area of 40ha. Lot 2 is proposed to accommodate horse and cattle grazing and breeding, along with an animal therapy business separate from Lot 1. Lot 2 presently has limited farming infrastructure and no dwelling. By virtue of the proposed lots size (40ha) the use of the dwelling on this Lot would be as of right.

Farm Management Plan

The application includes a Farm Management Plan (Plan) to outline the proposed activities on both Lots. The Farm Management Plan provides evidence of a qualified and experienced

business that has produced more than 400 horses and stood 12 stallions and demonstrates a history of producing top level eventing horses. The business also provides support and therapy for individuals with a disability using animal assisted services.

The animals used in this therapy are bred on site and they also notably aid in pasture management. The cattle breed used are prolific breeders and long living.

Weeds and pest animals are being effectively controlled on site at this time. There are areas of erosion on site and the Plan provides management techniques to repair and stabilise.

The Plan informs that the property has moderate agricultural production capability. The site has been identified as receiving an average rainfall that is high by Victorian standards when compared to other areas of Victoria and is effective from April to November (8 months of the year) based on figures from the Commonwealth of Australia Bureau of Meteorology provided in the Plan.

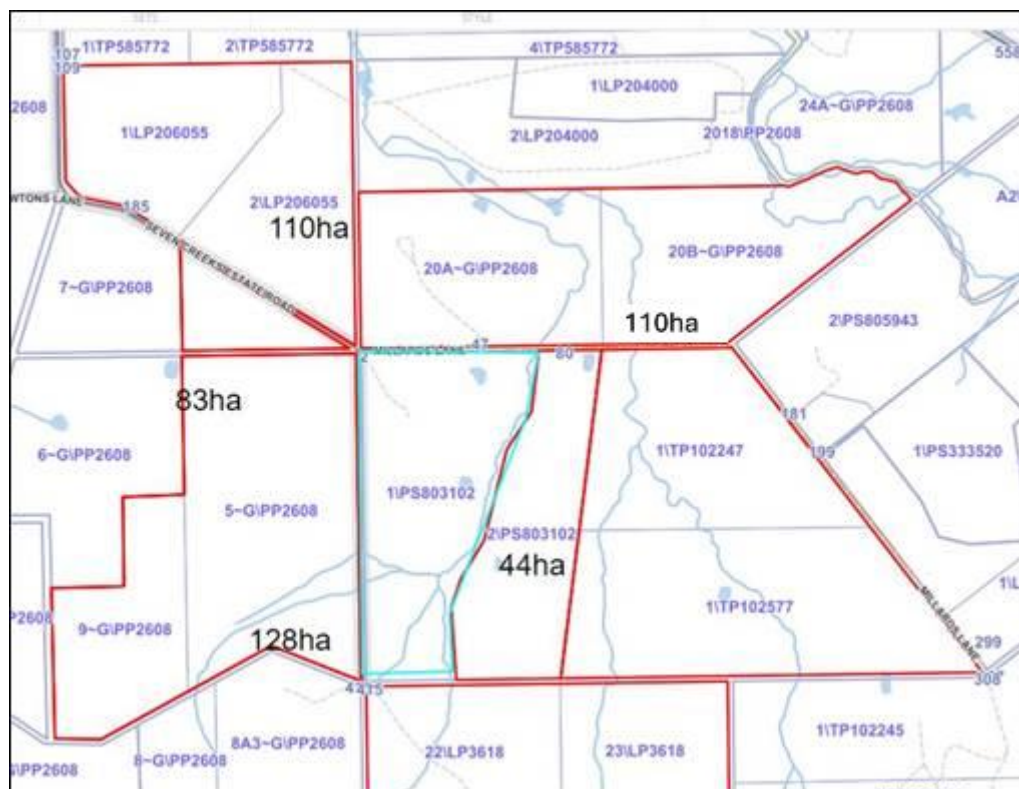
The aim of the proposal is to improve overall productivity by providing two fully commercial scale businesses, by splitting one current lot. Horse business managers are required to live on site and the objective of the owner is to provide the potential for two farm businesses.

Climate Smart Agricultural Development Report

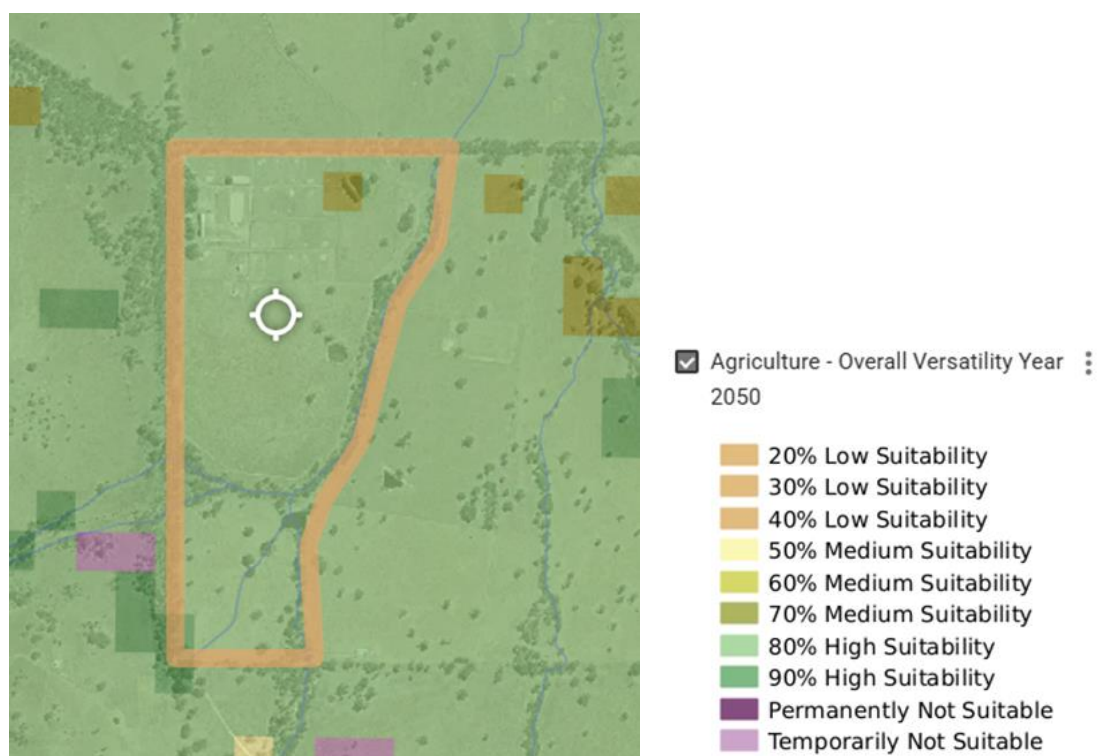
This location is in the foothills of the Strathbogie Ranges and the land capability has been identified as being of high suitability for overall versatility into the future (2050). This equates to the land being viable for a range of farming activities to preserve food security into the future, taking into account climate change impacts.

The Climate Smart Agricultural Development in Goulburn Broken was a study undertaken by GBMCA and Deakin University, funded by State Government, to understand land capability now and into the future. It combined the latest information on soil types, topography and climate to produce mapping of ideal production areas through time over the region. This is still a useful tool used by planning to identify land capability particularly when assessing potential loss of agricultural land.

The below insert identifies the remaining large farming holdings (the 44ha was extracted from the subject farm in 2019 without the need for a planning permit – the subject site is outlined in blue)



The insert below shows the CSAD (Climate Smart Agricultural Development projections) overall versatility identified for the subject site and is shown as **high** till 2050 (this is the projection boundary for the study)



The Farm Management Plan identifies the site as having a Fair capability where agricultural uses can be sustained with low to moderate levels of land disturbance as broad acre

cultivation in rotation with specialist management practices such as low tillage. This is identified as having considered agricultural production on the basis of climate, topography, and soil.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Individual applications consider these requirements through assessment phase of each application as per the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) and the provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme.

The application has been advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the Act, by:

- sending letters to adjoining landowners
- Notification of the application on Council's website.

One (1) objection was received outlining the below planning considerations:

- The subdivision should not be supported as it has the potential to make the site unviable. This proposal is out of keeping with the character of the surrounding farms which are large holdings.
- I would like to see the property remain in keeping with policy as subdivision less than a 100acres is not allowed.
- Properties of less than the minimum lot size are challenging for the community.

The objection raises valid planning considerations and further assessment of these is detailed in the Planning Officer report (**Attachment one**).

Assessment against the Farming Zone and relevant Rural Planning Policy

A detailed assessment of the proposal against the relevant provisions of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme is contained within the Planning Officer report at **Attachment 1** to this report, a summary of this report and conclusions against the relevant planning provisions is detailed below.

Municipal Planning Strategies and Planning Policy Framework

These policies set a vision that requires planning for long term economic development and growth. Strathbogie Shire has a rural economic base. This application, if supported has the potential to have a detrimental impact on productive agricultural land and economic viability as there is no certainty that the lots will remain a farming enterprise. There is the potential for these to become rural lifestyle blocks and create conflict with adjacent land uses, at the cost of agricultural land.

If the permit is approved, there is no planning mechanism to prevent the sale or use of the land for rural living.

The strategic direction given in the planning scheme and planning policy is that high quality farming areas need to be retained and protected for agriculture and breaking up this existing farm into smaller parcels is not consistent with this.

Planning is directed to encourage consolidation of small lots, and this proposal is creating a small lot in the Farming Zone, albeit with an existing dwelling. The direction includes prioritising productive farming over residential development and in this instance a dwelling is left on a small lot with an as of right use on the newly created at 40ha, which does not prioritise productive farming.

Using the Farming Zone for rural lifestyle development does not align with the policy that aims to protect existing agricultural use, given it aims to create a small lifestyle lot with an existing dwelling and a farming lot with an as of right use for a dwelling and the loss potentially of any farming activity that is currently there

Given the land is identified in the 'Climate Smart Agricultural Development' data as land being capable for overall versatility for a range of farming activities, as High Suitability, into the future (2030 and 2050), it is considered productive into the future. Although it is not identified in the Hume Regional Growth Plan as being of state significance, it is locally important for the economy.

Planning is directed to consider the compatibility between the proposed development and the existing use of the surrounding land. The surrounding land is still retained in large farms (comprised of a number of lots) that range (in total) from 83ha to 110ha. Therefore, allowing this currently compatible lot to be subdivided will create incompatibility and potentially detrimentally impact on the surrounding large enterprises.

It is considered that there is no weighting in favour of support found in these policies.

Farming Zone (Clause 35.07)

The proposal intends to subdivide off what is considered a rural lifestyle lot measuring 21.48ha in size and being under the minimum lot size of 40ha for this area. Although it is informed in the Farm Management Plan that the existing equine associated activities will continue on this site, there is no planning mechanism that can guarantee this. There is also concern that, given the amount of activities and outcomes stated in the Farm Management Plan, the subdivision could constrain the activities which cover the entire site as understood by the Farm Management Plan, or further framing activities.

The subdivision has the potential to lead to either a reduction of the farming productivity of the land or an eventual rural lifestyle sale, compromising an area that is identified as being of high capability into the future for farming.

This is an assumption, but one that VCAT has considered many times, and has concluded that the State policy directs farming land to be protected for farming. This then does not accord with the purpose of the zone, as productive farming land would not be retained, and there would be opportunity for another dwelling through the creation of an as of right for a dwelling on the newly created Lot 2, creating land use conflict.

The proposal also does not find weighting in favour of support from appropriate decision guidelines. The site is suitable at this time for the current farming activities as specified in the Farming Management Plan, given there is a lot of activity, involving a lot of animals, and is currently managed on the 62ha. This current site 61.48ha is compatible with the surrounding land uses on larger holdings.

Overall, it is considered, based on what is currently being undertaken on site and what is proposed to ensure ongoing productivity, that the subdivision will constrain productivity potential and therefore it is considered the proposal does not find support from the considerations of the appropriate decision guidelines.

Erosion Management Overlay (Clause 44.01)

The risk of erosion and landslide is considered in light of the subdivision in that it would put further pressure on the areas prone to erosion which are around the waterways to the south, given the activities informed in the Farm Management Plan, regards grazing of stock.

Creating a Lot 1 and Lot 2, potentially in separate ownership, is considered to have the potential to constrain the amount of land available for agistment, breeding and grazing and exacerbate the areas prone to erosion and landslide.

Overall

The land is not suitable for subdivision even though the Farming Zone allows for consideration of an existing dwelling, the outcome is not supported by the planning scheme overall. It is intended that farming land is retained in not just minimum lot sizes but in sizes that ensure ongoing sustainable farming productivity. It is known that smaller lot sizes usually equate with less economically productive outcomes.

Planning is directed to protect farming land and in allowing a currently productive undertaken to be constrained by subdivision, allowing a further dwelling to be as of right, planning would be going against this direction.

It is considered that this proposal does not produce an acceptable outcome in terms of the decision guidelines at Clause 65.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plan

This report is consistent with the following key strategic focus areas and or actions 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.

Regional, State and National Plans, Policies and Legislation

Responses to state planning policy are included within the Planning Officers Report at **Attachment 1**.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

This report has identified the following risk(s):

Risk(s)	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
VCAT appeal by applicant	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Support refusal

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

VCAT is available to the applicant if they are not satisfied with the decision of Council.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

No Council officers and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a general or material conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

TRANSPARENCY

In the interests of transparency and open and honest communication with our community this report is presented to a public Council meeting.

This report continues to demonstrate that Council is being transparent in its position in relation to all applications received and determined by the Council.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no significant human rights implications arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

The proposal fails to support the purpose of the Farming Zone and does not find weighting for support in the appropriate decision guidelines of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme. The proposal does not find support throughout the relevant policy, nor does it address the decision guidelines at Clause 65 in a positive way.

Overall the policy directs planning to protect farming land therefore refusal is recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Delegate Report - 2 Millards Lane, Euroa



Delegate Report

SSCEDOC-462509507-2636

Planning Application No.: P2025-023

Responsible Officer: Principal Planner

Conflict of Interest

After reading the definitions of a general or material conflict of interest as defined by the *Local Government Act 2020*, do you have a conflict of interest?

Yes ☐

(if YES, please complete a Conflict of Interest and Declaration Making Declaration form)

No ☒

Application Details	
Applicant	[REDACTED]
Proposal	Two lot subdivision (house lot excision)
Application lodged	14/3/2025
Statutory days	60 days = 13 May 2025 Council May 20 2025 extends the time out over 60 days
Property Details	
Property address	2 Millards Lane Euroa VIC 3666
Land Description	Lot 1 PS803102
Land area	61.48ha
Existing Use	Existing farming activity and business with dwelling and outbuildings and other farm and farm business infrastructure
Planning Controls	
Zone	Farming Zone

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Overlays	Erosion Management Overlay
Particular Provisions	Nil
General Provisions	Clause 65.02
Permit Triggers	
<p><u>Farming Zone</u></p> <p>Pursuant to Clause 35.07-3 a permit is required to subdivide land.</p> <p>A permit may be granted to create smaller lots if it is to create a lot for an existing dwelling. The subdivision must be a two lot subdivision.</p> <p><u>Erosion Management Overlay</u></p> <p>Pursuant to Clause 44.01-5 a permit is required to subdivide land.</p> <p>An application under this overlay is exempted from notice requirements and review rights.</p> <p><u>Other Matters</u></p> <p>A Farm Management Plan has been provided with the application that details that there is an existing farming associated business being carried out on site that includes breeding, agistment, training, events and clinic enterprises.</p>	
Considerations	
Minimum garden area	No
Area cultural heritage sensitivity / CHMP Consider AH Regs 2018 and Tool	<p>Is the activity within an ACHS – No</p> <p>Is the activity a HIA –</p> <p>Has there been previous SGD –</p> <p>Has a statement been provided by the applicant –</p> <p><i>If unsure then RFI as the onus is on the applicant to provide evidence</i></p>
Encumbrances & easements	Nil
SWCA Consider Clause 66.02-5	No
Contamination Consider PPN30	Unknown
Adjacent to principal road network Section 55 to DoT	No

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HP gas line Section 52 to APAProtection@apa.com.au	No
Proximity to activity that may impact amenity either way	Unknown
Is land owner consent required? GMW Advise applicant to contact GMW Council Advise applicant to contact CEO	No
Bushfire Prone Area Consider Clause 13.02	Yes
Clause 71.02-3 'Integrated Decision Making' assessment	Considered in report
Clause 71.03-2 'Acceptable Outcomes	Considered in report

Provided documents

Application form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Title <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fee paid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Plans of Proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LCA <input type="checkbox"/>
Geotechnical Report <input type="checkbox"/>	Bushfire Reports <input type="checkbox"/>	Biodiversity Report <input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-Application Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clause 54/55/56 <input type="checkbox"/>	Any other -

Site visit

Inspection date/s: April 2025**Officer:** Principal Planner

The site is accessible via an all weather road with a visible entry. The subject site is located to the south of Euroa. This area is on the 'prettier' side of Euroa set amongst the foothills of the Strathbogie Ranges. This area is in high demand for rural lifestyle living given its natural beauty, accessibility to the Hume Freeway, and regional centres as well as local towns and a range of services. The subject site is located amongst a number of very large farms, ranging from 99ha to over 1000ha. This is productive farming land as demonstrated by the CSAD study (Climate Smart Agricultural Development, a project undertaken by GBCMA and Deakin University, funded by Victorian State

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Government). This is a valuable tool that is used by the planning team to give an indication of the viability and capability of the farming land in the Shire, now and into the future.

Further information

Relevant principles in relation to the operation of section 54 are expressed in *Calodoukas v Moreland CC*⁴¹. In *Calodoukas*, the Tribunal outlined:

- the purpose of the power in section 54 is to enable a responsible authority to properly deal with a permit application –e.g. to clarify the application, or to overcome a deficiency in the application that prevents the responsible authority from understanding or resolving a key issue raised by the application that need to be assessed before a decision can be made.
- the further information required must relate to the potential planning impacts of the development or use proposed in the application, and the matters that the responsible authority must consider before making a decision on that application.
- importantly, the further information required must be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposal, and the issues to be assessed.
- a requirement under s 54 must be a bona fide request for information. It should not be used to delay an application, or to effectively seek changes to the application. Nor should it seek generic information not directly related to the particular application under consideration, or information that would ordinarily be required only after a decision to grant a permit had been made – e.g. by way of a subsequent permit condition.

Further Information Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
What was requested?		
FI Requested:		
FI Due:		
FI Received:		

Background

Subject site, neighbourhood and environs

The subject site is located along Millards Lane to the south of Euroa.

The property is surrounded by larger holdings ranging from 82ha to 1652ha.

This location is in the foothills of the Strathbogie Ranges and the land capability has been identified as being of high suitability for overall versatility into the future (2050). This equates to the land being viable for a range of farming activities to preserve food security into the future, taking into account climate change impacts.

The Climate Smart Agricultural Development in Goulburn Broken was a study undertaken by GBMCA and Deakin University, funded by State Government, to understand land

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capability now and into the future. It combined the latest information on soil types, topography and climate to produce mapping of ideal production areas through time over the region. This is still a useful tool used by planning to identify land capability particularly when assessing potential loss of agricultural land.

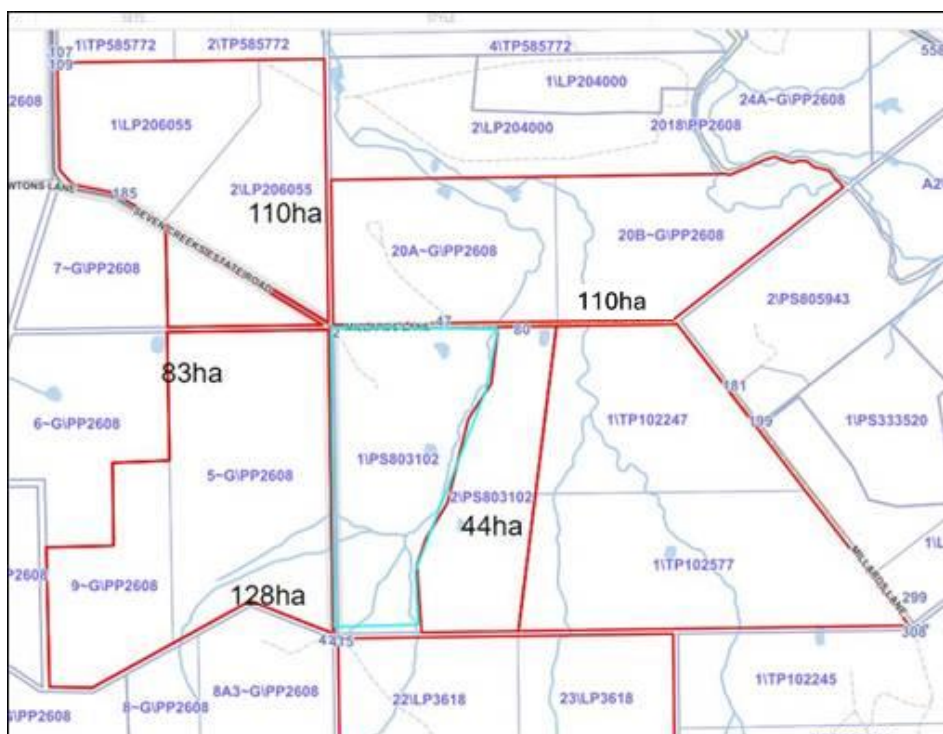
This property was, until 2019, similar to the surrounding properties, in that it was considered a large holding at 109ha, until a boundary realignment that did not require a planning permit allowed for a lot to be excised off measuring approximately 47ha, leaving the remaining farm of approximately 62ha.

It measures approximately 62ha and has a dwelling, shedding, farming infrastructure, and there is currently a farming related business undertaken on site, utilising the full extent of the farm.

There is a mix of native and introduced vegetation particularly to the south of the land, and a number of waterways crossing the site.

It is easily accessible from the Euroa Mansfield Road (being only 10 minutes from the centre of Euroa) and Seven Creeks Estate Road, via an all weather road that is tree lined, identified as having significant roadside vegetation providing fauna connectivity.

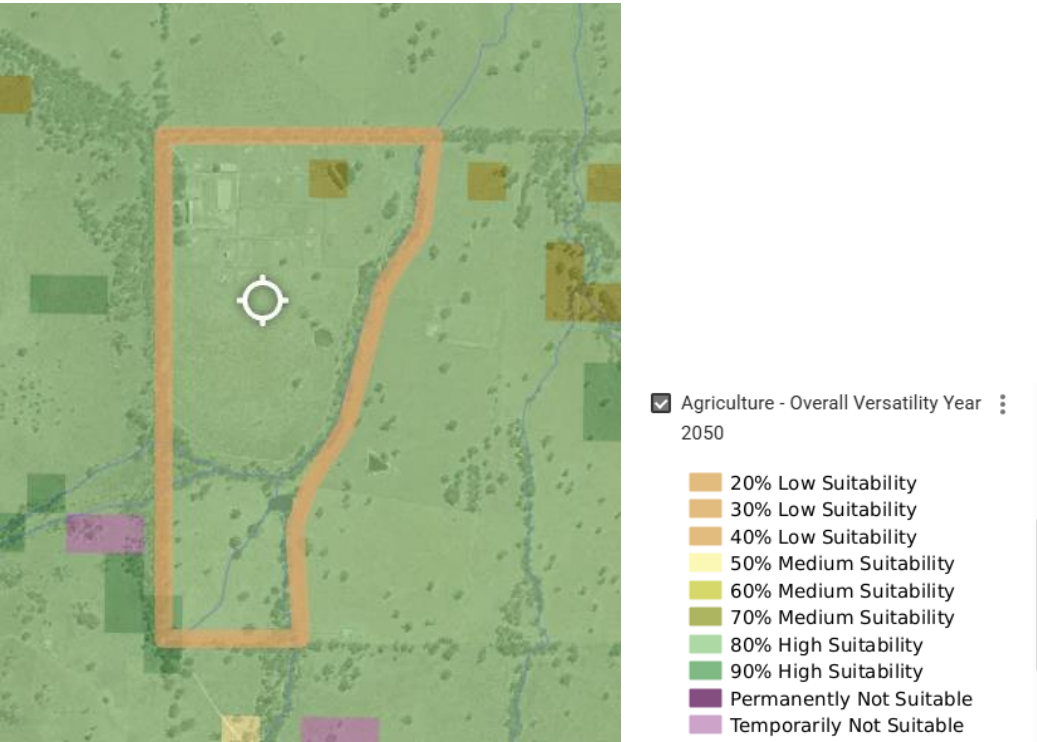
Below insert identifies the remaining large farming holdings (the 44ha was extracted from the subject farm in 2019 without the need for a planning permit – the subject site is outlined in blue) -



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The insert below shows the CSAD (Climate Smart Agricultural Development projections) overall versatility identified for the subject site and is shown as **high** till 2050 (this is the projection boundary for the study) -



The provided Farm Management Plan identifies the site as having a Fair capability where agricultural uses can be sustained with low to moderate levels of land disturbance as broad acre cultivation in rotation with specialist management practices such as low tillage. This is identified as having considered agricultural production on the basis of climate, topography, soil. The site has been identified as receiving an average rainfall that is high by Victorian standards when compared to other areas of Victoria, and is effective from April to November (8 months of the year).

Below insert shows the area in which the subject site is located, the average rainfall and compared to other locations in Victoria –

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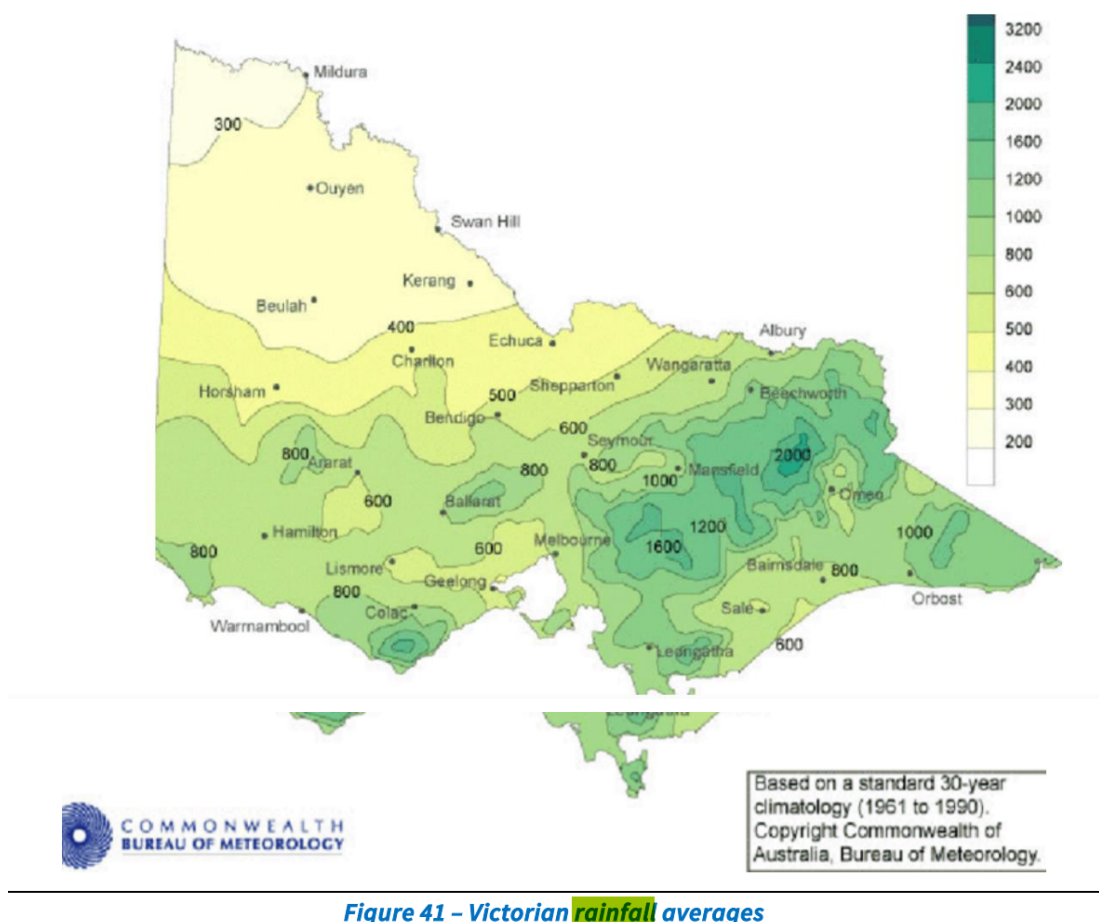


Figure 41 – Victorian rainfall averages

Permit/Site History

A search of Council's planning electronic records results in the following planning permits being issued for the site:

- In 2019 the subject site comprised two lots and measured approximately 109ha in one ownership. A boundary realignment was undertaken that did not require a planning permit, creating a lot over 40ha and which is no longer in same ownership. This leaves the current subject site at approximately 62ha.
- P2024-024 an application for a two lot subdivision, excision of the existing dwelling, was recommended for refusal. The application was withdrawn.

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Proposal

The proposal is to excise off the existing dwelling and farm related infrastructure onto a lot measuring 20ha leaving a 40ha lot with as of right use for a dwelling which also has farming infrastructure on it.

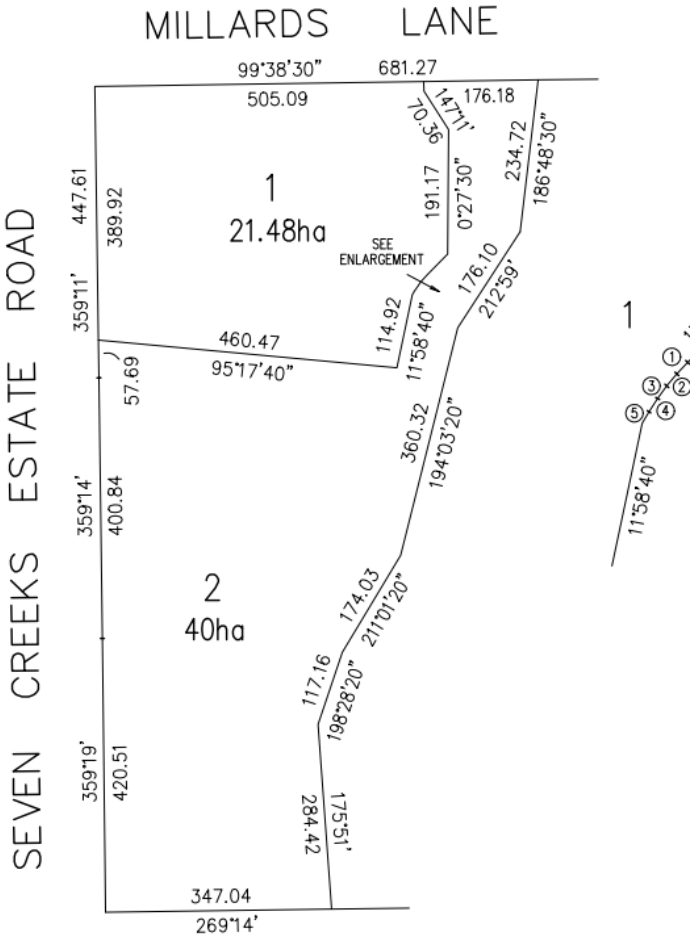
There is a current equine business on the land that includes breeding, agistment, training, events and clinic enterprises.

A Farm Management Plan that forms part of the application informs that the dwelling and other existing infrastructure in this area will remain on the newly created Lot 1. This area forming Lot 1 will retain 3 horse training arenas, stables, 21 private paddocks, horse wash bays, shedding and four larger paddock areas. It also informs that Lot 2 is proposed to accommodate horse and cattle grazing and breeding, along with an animal therapy business.

The Farm Management Plan goes on to inform that the owners, with experience and qualifications, has produced more than 400 horses and stood 12 stallions and that this business has consistently produced more top level eventing horses than any other stud in Australia. It also informs that as part of the ongoing business, support and therapy is given to those with disabilities using animal assisted services. The animals used in this therapy are bred on site and they also notably aid in pasture management. The cattle breed used are prolific breeders and long living. The Plan also informs that rainfall is high by Victorian standards and there is a long growing season. Weeds and pest animals are being effectively controlled on site at this time. There are areas of erosion on site and the Plan provides management techniques to repair and stabilise. The Plan informs that the property has moderate agricultural production capability. The aim of the proposal is to improve the productivity by providing for two fully commercial scale businesses, one on each lot. The Vision is to have two properties with the attributes to support two full time businesses. Horse business managers are required to live on site and the objective of the owner is to provide the potential for two farm businesses.

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Referrals		
Referral Authority	Type of Referral	Response
Engineering		Draft standard conditions

Advertising

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Is notification/advertisement required under section 52? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt Please provide comment if No: The proposal was notified under the Farming Zone. The proposal is exempt from notice requirements and review rights under the Erosion Management Overlay.		
Advertising Required		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letters to Neighbors
List Notice Document ID's: Notice Sent: «Date» Doc ID:	List Website Document ID's: Advertising Sent: «Date» Doc ID:	Internal Document ID's: Advertising list - Advertising map – 80 Millards Lane Euroa owners and occupiers only Letters Sent: «Date» Advertising Closes: «Date»
<input type="checkbox"/> Signs	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> SPEAR
Number of Signs:	Details:	Details:

Objections received?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Number:1
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Objection	Officers Response
<u>Objection 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subdivision should not be supported as it has the potential to make the site unviable. This proposal is out of keeping with the character of the surrounding farms which are large holdings. I would like to see the property remain as a whole in keeping with policy as subdivision less than a 100acres is not allowed. Properties of less than the minimum lot size are challenging for the community. 	<p>This is an objection from the largest land holder in this area with a total property measuring 1653ha.</p> <p>Although not using planning language it can be understood that there is concern from smaller holdings and that smaller holdings are not supported generally by planning policy.</p>

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Consultative Meeting (if applicable)

The objection was acknowledged.

The applicant was informed of the recommendation to council.

Assessment**Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) & Planning Policy Framework (PPF)**

Clause 02.01 identifies that the shire has a rural economic base of wool, grain, cattle production, vineyards and horticulture.

Clause 02.02 identifies a Vision that requires planning for long term economic development and growth.

Clause 02.03-4 identifies that given the shire's proximity to Melbourne that there are often land use conflicts proposed commonly between lifestyle properties and rural industries. There are approximately 700 farming enterprises which include intensive animal husbandry, horticulture and the equine industry. Small allotments are prominent and continue to experience demand for development of dwellings which are not consistent with the primary purpose of the Farming Zone. Councils strategic direction for agriculture is –

- Retain areas of high-quality rural land for farming and agricultural purposes.
- Encourage consolidation of small rural lots within the Farming Zone.
- Encourage emerging rural enterprises, such as intensive animal husbandry, horticulture and the equine industry.
- Prioritise productive farming development over residential development.
- Encourage value adding rural industries.
- Protect, maintain and grow environmentally sustainable intensive agriculture.
- To promote the clustering of co dependant uses.

Clause 02.03-6 directs planning to encourage rural residential development that is located and designed to protect existing agricultural uses and encourage rural residential development that can be efficiently serviced by social and physical infrastructure.

Clause 11.01 directs planning to limit urban sprawl and direct growth into existing settlements.

Clause 13.02 has to be considered where a site is in the Bushfire Protection Area and must be considered above all other policy to ensure protection to human life.

Clause 13.04-2S sets an objective to protect areas prone to erosion, landslip or other degradation processes.

Clause 14 directs that planning should ensure agricultural land is managed sustainably, whilst acknowledging the economic importance of agricultural production.

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Clause 14.01-1S sets an objective to protect the states agricultural bases by preserving productive farmland. Strategies are –

- Identify areas of productive agricultural land, including land for primary production and intensive agriculture.
- Consider state, regional and local, issues and characteristics when assessing agricultural quality and productivity.
- Avoid permanent removal of productive agricultural land from the state's agricultural base without consideration of the economic importance of the land for the agricultural production and processing sectors.
- Protect productive farmland that is of strategic significance in the local or regional context.
- Protect productive agricultural land from unplanned loss due to permanent changes in land use.
- Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.
- Protect strategically important agricultural and primary production land from incompatible uses.
- Limit new housing development in rural areas by:
 - Directing housing growth into existing settlements.
 - Discouraging development of isolated small lots in the rural zones from use for dwellings or other incompatible uses.
 - Encouraging consolidation of existing isolated small lots in rural zones.
- In considering a proposal to use, subdivide or develop agricultural land, consider the:
 - Desirability and impacts of removing the land from primary production, given its agricultural productivity.
 - Impacts on the continuation of primary production on adjacent land, with particular regard to land values and the viability of infrastructure for such production.
 - Compatibility between the proposed or likely development and the existing use of the surrounding land.
 - The potential impacts of land use and development on the spread of plant and animal pests from areas of known infestation into agricultural areas.
 - Land capability.
- Avoid the subdivision of productive agricultural land from diminishing the long-term productive capacity of the land.
- Give priority to the re-structure of inappropriate subdivisions where they exist on productive agricultural land.

Officer Response

The policy sets a Vision that requires planning for long term economic development and growth. The Vision identifies that the Shire has a rural economic base. If this currently established farming enterprise, that is identified as being agricultural land that is viable into the future, is supported to subdivide down, then this may well impact detrimentally on the economic viability into the future and there is no guarantee that the smaller lot wont be sold off as a rural lifestyle lot. This is then a loss of a currently established farm to the economy and an introduction of rural lifestyle and the detrimental impacts that brings to a farming area.

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There is every reason to consider that the smaller lot or even the larger vacant lot will be sold off for rural lifestyle given the identified demands for rural residential opportunities in the shire, particularly as this subject site is located in the foothills of the Strathbogrie Ranges and is located in easy access to towns and transport networks and is aesthetically pleasing. There is no guarantee that can be locked in that authentically protects farming land for farming into the future. Therefore it is at this stage of consideration that it can be protected.

The strategic direction given in the policy is that high quality farming areas need to be retained for agriculture and in breaking up this existing farm into smaller parcels is not in alignment with this. Planning is directed to encourage consolidation of small lots, and this proposal is creating a small lot in the Farming Zone, albeit with an existing dwelling. The direction includes prioritising productive farming over residential development and in this instance a dwelling is left on a small lot with an as of right use on the newly created at 40ha, which does not prioritise productive farming, rather the application is about being able to create a lot that has an as of right use for another dwelling in this locality.

Using the Farming Zone for rural lifestyle development does not align with the policy that aims to protect existing agricultural use, given it aims to create a small lifestyle lot with an existing dwelling and a farming lot with an as of right use for a dwelling and the loss potentially of any farming activity that is currently there. There is no guarantee that either of these lots will be retained for farming activities, regardless of the Farm Management Plan.

This all leads then to consider that the proposal does not align with Clause 14 which directs planning to ensure that agricultural land is managed sustainably, with the potential loss of farming from the economy. Given the land is identified in the 'Climate Smart Agricultural Development' data as land being capable for overall versatility for a range of farming activities, as High Suitability, into the future (2030 and 2050), it is considered productive into the future. Although it is not identified in the Hume Regional Growth Plan as being of state significance, it is still locally important for the economy.

Planning is directed to consider the compatibility between the proposed development and the existing use of the surrounding land. The surrounding land is still retained in large farms (comprised of a number of lots) that range (in total) from 83ha to 110ha. Therefore allowing this currently compatible lot to be subdivided will create incompatibility and potentially detrimentally impact on the surrounding large enterprises.

It is considered that there is no weighting in favour of support found in the policy.

Zoning

Farming Zone

Pursuant to Clause 35.07-3 a permit is required to subdivide land.

The purpose is –

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To provide for the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.

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- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.
- To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.

Appropriate decision guidelines are considered to be –

- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.
- How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.
- Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.
- How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.
- Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.
- Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.
- The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.
- The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.
- The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure.
- Any integrated land management plan prepared for the site.

Officer Response

The proposal intends to subdivide off what is considered a rural lifestyle lot measuring 20ha in size and being under the minimum lot size of 40ha for this area. Although it is informed in the Farm Management Plan that the existing equine associated activities will continue on this site, there is no guarantee that can tie it to continue. There is also concern that, given the amount of activities and outcomes stated in the Farm Management Plan, then the subdivision would constrain the activities which cover the entire site as understood by the Farm Management Plan. It is concerning that the subdivision could lead to either a curtailing of the farming productivity or require the larger site to carry out and thus an eventual sale and potentially into rural lifestyle. This is an assumption, but one that VCAT has considered many times, and has concluded that the state policy directs farming land to be protected for farming. This then does not accord with the purpose of the zone, as productive farming land would not be retained, and there would be opportunity for another dwelling through the creation of an as of right for a dwelling on the newly created Lot 2. The Farming Management Plan does inform that managers dwellings will be required, and that can be achieved currently by applying for Rural Workers Accommodation or a Managers Dwelling on the current site, rather than creating two lots, two dwellings, both with potential to become rural lifestyle lots in this aesthetically pleasing and well located part of the Shire.

It is considered that the proposal does not enhance and support agricultural production given it is minimising the size of land that the current operation takes place over. Given a lifestyle size lot is being created, with no guarantee it won't be sold off as that, it is considered that the proposal has the potential to limit not only operations and expansion of farming activities on both sites, but on surrounding farms, which are all large holdings well over the minimum lot size for the area, in an area that is identified as being of high capability into the future for farming.

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The Farm Management Plan provided is very informative, however it does not provide guarantee into the future that the farming activities will be retained on either lot, and that the lots will stay in the same ownership to carry out what has been informed in the Farming Management Plan, and if it is to be in the same ownership (as suggested by the Farm Management Plan), why the need for the subdivision?

The proposal also does not find weighting in favour of support from appropriate decision guidelines. The site is suitable at this time for the current farming activities as specified in the Farming Management Plan, given there is a lot of activity, involving a lot of animals, and is currently managed on the 62ha. This site is currently compatible with the surrounding land uses on larger holdings. The Farm Management Plan identifies a lot of infrastructure being used in the activities and this is proposed to continue. However, given the array of activities, it is considered that should the 62ha be subdivided it will potentially constrain the productive farming being undertaken currently, identified in the Farm Management Plan. The activities should they be constrained particularly on proposed newly created Lot 1, where there is already a lot of activity undertaken to ensure a productive business, the subdivision may detrimentally impact the soil which has been identified as Fair if managed well. Having a large number of small paddocks to agist and breed from and any future need to expand will undoubtedly create potential for unsustainability.

Overall it is considered, based on what is currently being undertaken on site and what is proposed to ensure ongoing productivity, that the subdivision will constrain that productivity potential and therefore it is considered the proposal does not find support from the considerations of the appropriate decision guidelines.

Overlays

Erosion Management Overlay

Pursuant to Clause 44.01-5 a permit is required to subdivide land.

The purpose is –

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To protect areas prone to erosion, landslip, other land degradation or coastal processes by minimising land disturbance and inappropriate development.

Appropriate decision guidelines are considered to be –

- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- Control of Erosion on Construction Sites, Soil Conservation Authority.
- Any proposed measures to manage concentrated runoff and site drainage.
- Any proposed measures to minimise the extent of soil disturbance.
- Any other matters specified in a schedule to this overlay.

Officer Response

The risk of erosion and landslide is considered in light of the subdivision in that it would further put pressure on the areas prone to erosion which are around the waterways to the south, given the activities informed in the Farm Management Plan, regards grazing of stock. Creating a Lot 1 and Lot 2, potentially in separate ownership, is considered to have the

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potential to constrain the amount of land available for agistment and breeding and grazing and put pressure on the areas prone to erosion and landslide.

Particular Provisions

Nil

General Provisions

- The suitability of the land for subdivision.
- The existing use and possible future development of the land and nearby land.
- The availability of subdivided land in the locality, and the need for the creation of further lots.
- The effect of development on the use or development of other land which has a common means of drainage.
- The subdivision pattern having regard to the physical characteristics of the land including existing vegetation.
- The density of the proposed development.
- The area and dimensions of each lot in the subdivision.
- The layout of roads having regard to their function and relationship to existing roads.
- The movement of pedestrians and vehicles throughout the subdivision and the ease of access to all lots.
- The provision and location of reserves for public open space and other community facilities.
- The staging of the subdivision.
- The design and siting of buildings having regard to safety and the risk of spread of fire.
- The provision of off-street parking.
- The provision and location of common property.
- The functions of any owners corporation.
- The availability and provision of utility services, including water, sewerage, drainage, electricity, and, where the subdivision is not a residential subdivision, gas.
- If the land is not sewered and no provision has been made for the land to be sewered, the capacity of the land to treat and retain all sewage and sullage within the boundaries of each lot.
- Whether, in relation to subdivision plans, native vegetation can be protected through subdivision and siting of open space areas.
- The impact the development will have on the current and future development and operation of the transport system.

Officer response

The land is not suitable for subdivision even though the Farming Zone allows for consideration of an excision of an existing dwelling, the outcome is not supported by the planning scheme overall. It is intended that farming land is retained in not just minimum lot sizes but in sizes that ensure ongoing sustainable farming productivity. It is known that smaller lot sizes usually equate with less economically productive outcomes. Planning is directed to protect farming land and in allowing a currently productive undertaken to be constrained by subdivision, allowing a further dwelling to be as of right, planning would be going against this direction.

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It is considered that this proposal does not produce an acceptable outcome in terms of the decision guidelines at Clause 65.

Clause 71.02-3 Integrated Decision Making

Victorians have various needs and expectations such as land for settlement, protection of the environment, economic wellbeing, various social needs, proper management of resources and infrastructure. Planning aims to meet these needs and expectations by addressing aspects of economic, environmental and social wellbeing affected by land use and development. The Planning Policy Framework operates together with the remainder of the scheme to deliver integrated decision making. Planning and responsible authorities should endeavour to integrate the range of planning policies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations. However, in bushfire affected areas, planning and responsible authorities must prioritise the protection of human life over all other policy considerations. Planning authorities should identify the potential for regional impacts in their decision making and coordinate strategic planning with their neighbours and other public bodies to achieve sustainable development and effective and efficient use of resources.

Officer response

On balance it is considered that the proposal does not find weighting in support – detailed throughout the report.

Clause 71.03-2 Making Decision about Section 2 Uses

Because a use in Section 2 does not imply that a permit should or will be granted. The responsible authority must decide whether the proposal will produce acceptable outcomes in terms of the Municipal Planning Strategy, the Planning Policy Framework, the purpose and decision guidelines of the zone and any of the other decision guidelines in Clause 65.

Officer response

When assessed against the planning policy, it is considered that the proposal will not produce acceptable outcomes – detailed throughout the report.

Relevant State Policy

- Plan for Victoria
- Hume Regional Growth Plan 2014

Relevant incorporated, reference or adopted documents

- Sustainable land use strategy 2010.

Relevant Planning Scheme amendments

- Nil

Risk Management

The author of this report considers that there are no significant Risk Management factors relating to the report and recommendation.

Strategic Links – policy implications and relevance to Council Plan

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

Summary and conclusion

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As discussed throughout the assessment, the proposal fails to support the Purpose of the Farming Zone and does not find weighting for support in the appropriate decision guidelines. The proposal does not find support throughout the relevant policy, nor does it address the decision guidelines at Clause 65 in a positive way. Overall the policy directs planning to protect farming land and to do that the proposal must be refused.

Decision:

Councillor Connect and Date -	Council Report and Date – 20 May 2025
Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOD Issued -
	Appeal lodged -

Recommendation**That Council:**

- Having caused notice of Planning Permit Application No. P2025-023 pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, decides to issue a **Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit** under the provisions of the Strathbogrie Planning Scheme in respect of the land known as **2 Millards Lane Euroa VIC 3666 (Lot 1 PS803102R)**, for a **Two lot subdivision (house lot excision)**, based on the following grounds –
1. The proposal is inconsistent with the purpose and relevant decision guidelines of the Farming zone (Clause 35.07) of the Strathbogrie Planning Scheme as it:
 - a. Results in the creation of a lifestyle size lot, which may or may not retain the current farming activity or be capable of accommodating any alternative future agricultural activity including the ability for expansion.
 - b. Has failed to demonstrate that the subdivision supports or enhances the agricultural productivity of the land.
 - c. Restricts the future operation of the agricultural activities on the proposed Lot 1.
 - d. Has the potential to adversely affect the use of land for agriculture both on the land due to the proposed lot sizes and activities, and on the surrounding area.
 2. The proposal is considered to have the potential to further exacerbate erosion and landslide by placing a greater strain on the land through its subdivision of the land.
 3. The proposal is not supported by the relevant rural land use and agricultural policies of the Strathbogrie Planning Scheme most notably 02.03-4, 11.01, 13.04-2S, 14.01-1S, 14.01-1L as it:

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- a. Results in the creation of a rural lifestyle size lot and a vacant farming size lot with an as of right use for a dwelling.
- b. Fails to demonstrate or guarantee that agricultural activities can and will continue on both lots into the future.
- c. Restricts any future expansion of the existing agricultural operations on the proposed Lot 1.
- d. Results in the permanent loss of productive farming land that is currently part of the local economy.
- e. It potentially proliferates another dwelling not associated with farming activities.

DRAFT CONDITIONS

PLANNING PERMIT

Permit No:	P2025-023
Planning Scheme:	Strathbogie
Responsible Authority:	Strathbogie Shire Council
ADDRESS OF THE LAND:	2 Millards Lane Euroa VIC 3666 Lot 1 PS803102

THE PERMIT ALLOWS:

Planning Scheme Clause No.	Description of what is allowed Two lot subdivision (house lot excision)
35.07-3	Subdivision of land
44.01-5	Subdivision of land

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY TO THIS PERMIT:

Compliance with documents approved under this permit

1. At all times what the permit allows must be carried out in accordance with the

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requirements of any document approved under this permit to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Layout not altered

2. The layout of the development must not be altered from the layout on the approved and endorsed plans without the written consent of the responsible authority.

Mandatory Conditions

3. The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity and gas services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time.
4. All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.
5. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of the Act.

EngineeringRural Vehicle Crossing Requirements

6. Prior to the issue of a statement of compliance, the proposed lots must have a vehicular crossing constructed to the council's Infrastructure Design Manual standard drawing SD255 or SD265, and must:
 - a) Be constructed at a right angle to the road or as otherwise approved, any redundant crossing shall be removed and reinstated to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority
 - b) Be setback a minimum of 1.5 meters from any side-entry pit, power or telecommunication pole, manhole cover, or marker, or 3 meters from any street tree;
 - c) residential vehicular crossings shall not be less than 3 meters nor more than 6 meters in width and shall be constructed from concrete or other material as approved in writing by the Responsible Authority; and
 - d) A works within Road Reserves permit must be obtained from the Responsible Authority prior to carrying out any vehicle crossing works.

Internal Access Road Requirements

7. Prior to the commencement of the use all internal access roads must be constructed, formed and drained to avoid erosion and to minimise disturbance to natural topography of the land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Internal access, including the turn-around areas for emergency vehicles, must be all weather construction with a

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minimum trafficable width of 4m.

Drainage Requirements

8. All stormwater and surface water discharging from the site, buildings, and works must be conveyed to the legal point of discharge drains to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority/Goulburn Murray Water or dissipated within the site boundaries. No effluent or polluted water of any type may be allowed to enter the stormwater drainage system.
9. Prior to the commencement of any works, the design parameters for any defined watercourse crossing(s), both structural and hydraulic design, shall be approved by the Responsible Authority (GBCMA- works on waterways permit)

Miscellaneous

10. Prior to the issue of a certificate of occupancy, the nature strip and all disturbed areas are to be topsoiled and seeded to establish grass cover.
11. Appropriate steps must be taken to retain all silt and sediment on-site during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, in accordance with the sediment control principles outlined in Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA, 1991) and to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
12. No excavated or construction materials may be placed or stored outside the site area or on the adjoining road reserves, except where the materials are required in connection with any road or footpath construction works in such reserves that are required as part of the permit.
13. Prior to the commencement of works, the owner or developer must submit to the Responsible Authority a written report and photos of any prior damage to public infrastructure. Listed in the report must be the condition of the kerb & channel, footpath, seal, streetlights, signs, and other public infrastructure fronting the property and abutting at least two properties on either side of the development. Unless identified with the written report, any damage to infrastructure post-construction will be attributed to the development. The owner or developer of the subject land must pay for any damage caused to the Council's assets/Public infrastructure caused as a result of the development or use permitted by this permit.

Commencement of permit

14. This permit will operate from the issued date of this permit.

Expiry – Subdivision

15. This permit as it relates to subdivision, will expire if one of the following circumstances

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applies:

- a) The plan of subdivision has not been certified under the Subdivision Act 1988 within 2 years of the issued date of this permit.
- b) A statement of compliance is not issued within 5 years of the date of certification.

In accordance with Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 an application may be submitted to the responsible authority for an extension of the periods referred to in this condition.

Declaration:

In making this decision as a delegated Officer, I declare that I have had regard to the decision-making requirements of the Strathbogrie Shire Council's Governance Rules 2020 outlined by Rule 6 and have:





Made a fair, balanced, ethical and impartial decision - Sub Rule 6(c)(i)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Made a decision based on merits, free from favouritism or self-interest and without regard to irrelevant or unauthorised considerations- Sub Rule 6 (c)(ii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Applied the principles of natural justice to my decision, ensuring any person whose rights will be directly affected by the decision has been entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered - Sub Rule 6(d)	N/A
Identified the person or persons whose rights will be directly affected Sub Rule 6(e)(i)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Given notice of the decision Council must make under Sub Rule G(e)(i)	N/A
Ensured that such person(s) have had an opportunity to communicate their views and have their interests considered before I made the decision - Sub Rule 6(e)(i)	N/A
Included information about how I've met these Sub Rules in my delegate report- Sub Rule 6(e)(iv)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Attachments

Plans for endorsement Doc ID

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Assessed by:	 	Reviewed by:	 
Date:	25 April 2025	Date:	28/04/2025

Copy of permit to:

Ag Vic

Date sent:..... Initials:.....

11.1.2 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined 1 April 2025 to 30 April 2025

AUTHOR Principal Planner

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Council's Planning Applications referral to Council Policy, this monthly report lists all Planning Applications Received (Attachment One) and Planning Applications Determined (Attachment Two) from 1 April 2025 to 30 April 2025.

It is noted that there were nine (9) new planning applications received for the month and seven (7) determined for the month.

The latest available Planning Permit Activity Performance (PPARs) figures for the month of March have been included as Attachment Three.

Attachment Four provides an update on current Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) appeals.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Note that there were nine (9) new planning applications received, and seven (7) planning applications decided on during the period of 1 April 2025 to 30 April 2025.**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

To report to Council on the current planning application activity and matters considered under delegation.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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.

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

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.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

This report has identified the following risk(s):

Risk(s)	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Failure to notify Council of a planning permit application of significant public interest or that is controversial in nature.	Possible	Moderate	Low	Regular reporting on planning permit applications received and decided.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

No Council officers and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a general or material conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

TRANSPARENCY

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 for April 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Planning Applications Received April 2025
2. Planning Applications Determined April 2025
3. PPARs April 2025
4. Attachment 4 Current VCAT Appeals

Attachment 1: Planning Applications Received Summary 1-30 April 2025

Received Date	Application No	Description	Property	Cost of Development
01-04-2025	P2025-028	Use of land for a retail premises and display of business identification signage	6 QUEEN STREET AVENEL VIC 3664 Australia	\$9K
03-04-2025	P2025-027	Use and development of land for the construction of a dwelling	565 GELLIBRAND TONKS ROAD EARLSTON VIC 3669 Australia	\$450K
09-04-2025	P2025-029	Additions and alterations to an existing dwelling	41 PRIMROSE STREET VIOLET TOWN VIC 3669 Australia	\$40K
10-04-2025	P2025-032	Development of land for the construction of a dwelling	132-142 Boundary Road North Euroa VIC 3666 Australia	\$350K
11-04-2025	P2025-031	Development of land for a dependent persons unit	18 CHARMAN AVENUE EUROA VIC 3666	\$10K
16-04-2025	P2025-033	Use of the land for materials recycling	Old Gooram Lane GOORAM VIC 3666 Australia	\$0
23-04-2025	P2025-036	Use of the land for a liquor license and winery / cellar door; Display of business signage	362 EUROA-MANSFIELD ROAD EUROA VIC 3666 Australia	\$10K
28-04-2025	P2025-034	Creation of an easement	297 MITCHELLSTOWN ROAD TABILK VIC 3607	\$0K
28-04-2025	P2025-035	Development of land for the construction of a second dwelling	10 ORCHID STREET VIOLET TOWN VIC 3669	\$0K

Attachment 2: Planning Department Applications Determined Summary 1-30 April 2025

Date of Decision	Application No	Description	Property	Decision
09-04-2025	P2024-102	Development of land for alterations and additions to a dwelling	172 Peck Road Violet Town VIC 3669	Permit issued
11-04-2025	P2024-118	Development of land for an extension to a dwelling	3 Tucknotts Lane Euroa VIC 3666	Permit issued
09-04-2025	P2024-120	Development of land for the construction of two (2) dwellings; Two (2) lot subdivision	10 Nelson Street Euroa VIC 3666 Australia	Permit issued
14-04-2025	P2024-124	Use of land for a Liquor License (General)	45 Binney Street Euroa VIC 3666 Australia	Permit issued
14-04-2025	P2021-122-1	Extend the operating hours	25 Tarcombe Street Euroa VIC 3666	Permit issued
15-04-2025	P2025-019	Use and development of land for a second dwelling.	206 HIGH STREET NAGAMBIE VIC 3608 Australia	Permit issued
04-04-2025	V2025-006	Construction of a farm shed 16x7x3m, Colourbond, to store machinery and tools, 1/5 floor concreted.	1805 Creightons Creek Road Creightons Creek 3666	Permit issued

Attachment Three – Planning Permit Activity Performance figures

Summary

1 April 2025 to 30 April 2025

Planning permits summary helps identify trends in planning permit applications. This helps to support improvements to the planning system, understand reasons for permit workload volumes in council areas, compare data across Victoria and give councils helpful information for managing resources.

Applications received

The number of applications received. This gives an indication of the pipeline of Planning applications and workload for responsible authorities (RA) along with supporting a comparison to the number determined or approved. This has been broken down into application type to demonstrate the proportion of new applications compared to amendments.

9

Responsible authority (RA) outcome

The number of applications with an outcome from the responsible authority, this includes any outcome which removes it from RA processing. This supports insight into the workload and delivery from RAs. This has been broken down into application type to demonstrate the proportion of new applications compared to amendments.

7

7 permits were issued within the statutory timeframe

Within timeframe (All applications)

83.33%

Cost estimates for works

Estimated cost of works for permits issued

Indicates the total estimated value of development indicated by approved planning permits issued. This supports insight into the potential economic benefit from approved applications.

\$2M

OFFICIAL

Attachment 4: Current VCAT Appeals

Hearing Date	Ref No	Address	Proposal	Appeal
Compulsory Conference 2 May 2025 Completed Further Compulsory Conference scheduled 12 May 2025 Hearing scheduled for July if required	P2023-128 P1022/2023	82 Kirwans Bridge Road Kirwans Bridge	Camping and Caravan Park	S82 (objector)

11.2 Community

11.2.1 School Crossing Supervision- Goulburn Street Nagambie

AUTHOR Manager Community Safety

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As per the resolution from the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2024, Council Officers have prepared this report to present options for the future supervision of the Goulburn Street School Crossing in Nagambie.

The report outlines current and potential service levels, associated risks and the financial and operational impacts of each option, informed by the findings of a Road Safety Audit at this site.

In response to safety concerns raised by the community and Council, supervision of the crossing was temporarily reinstated for Terms one and two of the 2025 school year whilst further assessment was undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the findings of the Goulburn Street (Nagambie) School Crossing Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit March 2025**
- 2. Authorise officers to refer the recommendations relating to infrastructure works and any further treatments from the Goulburn Street (Nagambie) School Crossing Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit March 2025 to the annual capital budget process to inform future safety works at the site**
- 3. Approve operating model A as listed in table one, to use a contractor to deliver the school crossing supervision service at the Goulburn Street Nagambie School Crossing ongoing**
- 4. Authorise officers to engage a contractor to deliver the school crossing supervision service at Goulburn Street Nagambie, in accordance with Councils' Procurement Policy**
- 5. Amend the draft budget 2025-2026 to accommodate the increased contractor expenditure to the value of up to \$34,000 (excluding GST).**
- 6. Write to the Minister of Transport advocating for a contribution to deliver the Goulburn Street Nagambie School Crossing supervision service in line with the State Government School Crossing Supervision Subsidy interim guidelines.**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

To present options to Council regarding the ongoing reinstatement of a school crossing supervisor at the Goulburn Street crossing outside Nagambie Primary School.

This follows the completion of an independent Road Safety Audit and further investigation into operating options, service impacts and financial implications.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Council withdrew from the School Crossing Supervision program in 2023.

The Department of Transport and Planning took on the service delivery of four of the five school crossings in Strathbogie Shire. However, the Department of Transport would not service the Goulburn Street Nagambie school crossing, citing it was not their responsibility as the crossing was located on a Council owned road.

In December 2024, in response to safety concerns raised by the community and Council, supervision of the crossing was temporarily reinstated for Terms one and two of the 2025 school year whilst further assessment was undertaken.

To inform this decision, Council engaged Red Square Traffic to conduct a Road Safety Audit of the existing school crossing site and approached the Department of Transport to explore options for support.

Goulburn Street School Crossing Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit

The Road Safety Audit indicated that a School Crossing Supervisor is warranted at the Goulburn Street Nagambie school crossing.

Key findings from the audit include:

Vulnerable Road Users: The crossing primarily serves young children attending Nagambie Primary School, many of whom travel to school independently.

High Pedestrian and Vehicle Volumes:

- AM Peak: 38 children x 218 vehicles = 8,284 (hourly equivalent)
- PM Peak: 86 children x 162 vehicles = 13,932 (hourly equivalent)
- These figures meet the thresholds in the School Crossing Supervisor Subsidy Interim Guidelines.

Unsafe Behaviour and Conditions:

- Children were observed crossing informally away from the designated facility.
- Lack of pedestrian containment at alternative entrances poses significant safety risks.
- Absence of adequate signage and traffic calming measures reduce driver awareness.

The audit recommends that a supervisor continue to be deployed to actively manage pedestrian movements, promote safe crossing behaviour, and provide a visual presence to alert motorists.

The Road Safety Audit also recommends several minor infrastructure improvements to improve road safety and crossing use including signage, tactile surfaces across full road width, fencing and a speed reduction.

Department of Transport and Planning

The Department of Transport and Planning have advised that:

- They will not supervise this crossing as it is located on a Council-managed road
- Council is not eligible for financial support or subsidies for the provision of a School Crossing Supervisor at this location as it is a Council managed road, unless Council take on provision of the service at all five crossing sites in the Municipality.

Resourcing Implications

Two options have been considered in detail to enable the continued delivery of this supervision service.

Table 1.

Option	Key Considerations	Estimated Annual Cost
Option A: Continue with the current contract until the end of 2025 and then going forward contract the service out to a third party.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal disruptions to service delivery • Retain the current employee • Council reputation upheld • No additional FTE required • No requirement for Council to cover sick leave/ annual leave. 	\$34,000
Option B: Direct staff engagement with recruitment of a dedicated School Crossing Supervisor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery will be impacted if staff member is on leave/sick, costing Council more • Employee costs such as uniform, superannuation, WorkCover, equipment, advertising etc. are the responsibility of Council • Increased FTE will be required within the Community Safety Team. 	\$33,000

The option to cease supervision at the crossing was also considered however this was deemed unviable due to the findings of the Audit and the potential risk to safety for children, pedestrians and users of the crossing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been no formal community engagement on this matter. Multiple council questions, letters and correspondence were received regarding this matter following Council's withdrawal from the service and the unexpected change to service level.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plan

This report is consistent with the following key strategic focus areas and or actions in the 2021-25 Council Plan:

Strategic Focus Area 2: Live. Access. Connect.

We all have access to important services.

Regional, State and National Plans, Policies and Legislation

This report is aligned with the following legislation, council policies and key strategic documents:

- State Government School Crossing Supervision Subsidy interim Guidelines.
- Road Management Regulations 2016

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

This report has identified the following risk(s):

Discontinuing supervision would conflict with a professionally endorsed road safety recommendation.

Risk(s)	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Inadequate supervision for children and users of the Goulburn Street Nagambie crossing.	Probable	Major	High	Council endorsing the recommendations within this report and reinstating permanent supervision at this site.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following legislation was considered in the preparation of this report:

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Road Management Act 2004* and associated Regulations 2016
- Road Safety Road Rules 2017

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

No Council officers and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a general or material conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

TRANSPARENCY

In the interests of transparency and open and honest communication with our community this report is presented to a public Council meeting.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

No external funding is currently available for this crossing. All costs associated with supervision—regardless of operating options will be required to be borne by Council.

The cost of each option is outlined below:

Option A: \$34,000

Option B: \$33,000

The recommendation proposes the approval of option A (\$34,000), as this option will result in no disruption to the service at the site and will have a minimal impact to Council's service delivery

An amendment to the draft budget 2025-26 will be required to accommodate the provision of this service in a permanent capacity. This will also have an impact on future budgets and Councils Financial Plan 2025-2035.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Social

Children's school crossings are placed at locations to help children safely cross the road, especially on their way to and from school with formal crossings monitored by a crossing supervisor.

The service is one that is highly valued by the community and the school. Allowing children to ride and walk to school in a safe manner provides a healthy option that has minimal impact on the environment.

Environmental

Riding and walking to school provides a way for students to minimise their environmental footprint.

Climate Change

Riding and walking to school provides a way for care givers to reduce carbon emissions, as they may not be required to use a vehicle as their primary form of transport.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council continuously reviews the services it provides to the community and how Council funds are allocated against program areas. Council is responding to significant community feedback received on this matter, in particular the requirement for supervision.

Additionally a Road Safety Audit was also conducted at this site.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

The Goulburn Street, Nagambie school crossing meets the quantitative and qualitative thresholds for a supervised crossing under state guidelines as evidenced by the findings from the Goulburn Street School Crossing Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit undertaken in March 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Goulburn Street Nagambie, School Crossing Road Safety Audit



RedSquare
Traffic

Creativity in Transport Engineering

Goulburn Street School Crossing Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit



Prepared for Strathbogie Shire Council

20 March 2025

Reference J851RT1126-0225

Goulburn Street School Crossing

Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit

REVISION HISTORY

REVISION No.	DATE	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED FOR ISSUE BY
1.0	20/02/2025	Claudia R.	Dinith W.	Dinith W.

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Strathbogie Shire Council	20 March 2025

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Goulburn Street School Crossing

Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit

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1 INTRODUCTION

RedSquare Traffic has been engaged by [Strathbogie Shire Council](#) ('Client') to prepare an Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit pertaining to the School Crossing near Nagambie Primary School in Nagambie, Victoria ('Subject Site', 'Site').

This report presents the finding of a Road Safety Audit conducted in accordance with [Austroads Guide to Road Safety, Part 6: Road Safety Audit](#). A road safety audit is defined as a 'formal examination' of a future road or traffic project or an existing road or road related area, in which an independent, qualified team reports on the project's crash potential and actual safety performance respectively.

This Road Safety Audit is an Existing Conditions Stage Road Safety Audit and has been undertaken by a team of independent Department of Transport & Planning (DTP) Accredited Road Safety Auditors.

In line with [Austroads Guide to Road Safety, Part 6](#), the site and existing conditions are contextualised in the first half of this report. Then, the audit details and findings, including a corrective action schedule, is presented in the second half.



2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.1 SUBJECT SITE

2.1.1 Nagambie Primary School

The site for this Road Safety Audit features a designated school crossing on Goulburn Street in Nagambie, Victoria. Positioned about 340 meters east of High Street and just west of Boyd Street, the crossing plays a vital role in facilitating pedestrian access for students and other users traveling to Nagambie Primary School.



FIGURE 1: SUBJECT SITE (SOURCE: NEARMAP)

The school crossing on Goulburn Street was observed to be supervised during school hours, with children guided by an adult, in accordance with the VicRoads Traffic Engineering Manual – Part 6:



Goulburn Street School Crossing

Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit

Intersections, Interchanges, and Crossings, which states that a children's crossing should not be installed solely for kindergarten use unless children are escorted by an adult.

A 40 km/h speed limit applies in both directions when approaching the crossing. The crossing is equipped with standard children's crossing infrastructure, including posts, flags, stop-lines, crosswalk markings, and a hand-held STOP sign (R6-7) used by the crossing supervisor (Source: Figure 4, VicRoads Supplement to Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 10). Additionally, pedestrian containment fencing is present on both sides of the road.

The crossing itself functions as a wombat crossing ("zebra crossing with a raised platform, similar to a speed hump"), with a 30 km/h speed limit, reinforced by warning signs and kerb extensions designed to reduce the crossing distance.

Images captured during the site inspection are provided below.



FIGURE 2: SCHOOL CROSSING LOOKING EAST ON GOULBURN STREET



Goulburn Street School Crossing

Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit



FIGURE 3: CROSSING AS OBSERVED FROM BOYD STREET

The audit team from RedSquare Traffic identified several key observations regarding the operation of the crossing.

- The school crossing was supervised by an adult crossing supervisor, who was equipped with a hand-held STOP sign (R6-7) and wearing high-visibility clothing. Observations indicated that vehicles approaching the crossing complied with the supervisor's instructions, ensuring safe pedestrian movement.
- Parents and guardians were observed waiting on both the north and south sides of Goulburn Street for children entering/exiting the school. Vehicles associated with school pick-ups and drop-offs primarily utilised street parking spaces on Goulburn Street and Boyd Street.
- During the audit, no vehicles were observed in designated No Standing areas, and parking compliance was found to be satisfactory.
- School buses were observed parking on the southern side of Goulburn Street. This arrangement reduced pedestrian crossing movements for bus riders.
- A relatively low number of vehicles were observed making left and right turns from Boyd Street, compared to the higher volume of through traffic on Goulburn Street.



- By 3:15 PM (school pick-up period), almost all parking spaces along Goulburn Street were fully occupied, indicating high parking demand during peak periods.
- The school crossing flags were removed at 8:57 AM and 3:45 PM, marking the end of the supervised crossing period. At the time of removal, no students remained at the crossing, ensuring no further pedestrian activity required supervision.
- It was observed that multiple children arrived in the same vehicle, suggesting shared transportation among families during drop-off and pick-up periods.
- Crossing supervisor used whistles to manage pedestrian movements and signal drivers, ensuring safe crossing conditions.
- A notable number of heavy vehicles were observed traveling along Goulburn Street, passing through the audit site. These vehicles were associated with construction activities at the eastern end of Goulburn Street as well as industrial land uses in the area. Figures 4 illustrates an example of heavy vehicle movements recorded during the site inspection.



FIGURE 4: HEAVY VEHICLE OBSERVED DURING THE SITE INSPECTION



2.2 ROAD NETWORK

2.2.1 Goulburn Street

Goulburn Street is a municipal road owned and managed by Strathbogie Shire Council, generally aligned in an east-west direction. The road has a sealed surface with a trafficable width of 12.5 meters and connects to High Street (an arterial road) to the west, providing access to multiple residential properties.

Footpaths are present on both sides of Goulburn Street, and a posted speed limit of 40 km/h was observed near the audit site. Apart from the school crossing with the raised safety platform, no other Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) treatments were identified to mitigate vehicular speeds.



FIGURE 5: GOULBURN STREET

2.3 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

No public transport services are available in the vicinity of the Subject Site.



2.4 TRAFFIC & PEDESTRIAN COUNTS

Traffic and pedestrian counts were conducted by RedSquare Traffic on March 19, 2025, as part of the Road Safety Audit. The data collection encompassed vehicle movements through the intersection and pedestrian activity at the crossing. The results of the traffic counts are summarised as follows:

- Pedestrian activity data is detailed in Table 1 (AM drop-off) and Table 2 (PM pick-up)
- Vehicle movement data is presented in Table 3 (AM drop-off) and Table 4 (PM pick-up).

The counts were recorded during school pick-up and drop-off periods to capture peak pedestrian and vehicle movements during a typical weekday. Data was collected at 10-minute intervals.

2.4.1 Pedestrian Activity

TABLE 1: PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY DATA (AM DROP OFF)

TIME	IN ¹	IN (CROSSING) ²	OUT	OUT (CROSSING)
08:25am	24	12	0	1
08:35am	12	19	4	3
08:45am	26	3	5	0
08:55am	8	0	4	0
TOTALS	CROSSING	38	NON-CROSSING	83

The pedestrian movement data, which includes both students and parents, recorded during the morning drop-off period, highlights key trends near the school crossing. At 08:25am, 24 pedestrians entered using alternative routes, while 12 used the crossing, and around 6 students arrived in a mini-bus parked on the same side as the school, eliminating the need for them to cross. Observations

¹ IN & OUT refer to pedestrians that directly entered and exited the school premises without utilising the children’s crossing. Also referred to as “alternative routes”.
² IN (CROSSING) & OUT (CROSSING) refer to pedestrians that entered and exited the school premises having used the children’s crossing.



indicated that most of the pedestrians using the crossing were students, as many parents dropped off their children further away from the school, allowing them to walk along the footpath and use the designated crossing. At 08:35, 12 pedestrians entered via alternative routes, while 19 students used the crossing. The peak crossing activity was observed between 08:45am and 08:55am, where a total of 29 entry movements were recorded, although 26 of them were via alternative routes. By 08:55am, entries had declined to 8, with none using the crossing, while four pedestrians exited using alternate methods.

TABLE 2: PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY DATA (PM PICK UP)

Time	IN	IN (Crossing)	OUT	OUT(Crossing)
3:00pm	3	0	2	0
3:10pm	6	0	0	0
3:20pm	16	Skating –16 Fishing – 10 Cycling – 12	0	0
3:30pm	0	2	54	44
3:40pm	1	0	10	2
TOTALS	CROSSING	86	NON-CROSSING	92








The pedestrian movement data, which includes both students and parents, recorded during the afternoon pick-up period, highlights key trends near the school crossing. Pedestrian entries remained low, with most using alternative routes rather than the designated crossing. At 3:20pm, 16 pedestrians entered using alternative routes, while students returning from extracurricular activities such as skating (16), fishing (10), and cycling (12) used the crossing. Pedestrian exits peaked at 3:30pm, with 54 pedestrians leaving via alternative routes and 44 using the crossing, showing a high demand for the crossing during dismissal. By 3:40pm, exit numbers dropped to 10, with only 2 using the crossing. Additionally, 10 to 15 students took the school bus home, which was parked on the same side as the school, eliminating the need for them to cross the road.



2.4.1 Vehicle Movement

Table 3 presents the morning (AM Peak) vehicle counts captured during the site inspection.

TABLE 3: VEHICLE MOVEMENT DATA (AM DROP OFF)








TIME	FROM BOYD STREET		FROM GOULBURN STREET EB			FROM GOULBURN STREET WB	
							
08:25am	0	0	4	4	10	0	10*
08:35am	0	1	2	3	7*	0	17*
08:45am	0	0	0	0	6*	1	15
08:55am	0	1	0	3	6*	0	10*
09:05am	1	0	0	0	2	1	5**
DIRECTION TOTAL	1	2	6	10	31	2	57
TOTAL	109 vehicles observed across 30minutes (218veh/hour – Hourly Equivalent)						

The vehicle movement data recorded during the morning drop-off period reveals key traffic patterns that contribute to congestion at the intersection. Minimal turning movements were observed from Boyd Street, while U-turns from Goulburn Street Eastbound (EB) were concentrated earlier in the drop-off period, particularly at 08:25am and 08:35am, before ceasing. Straight-through movements from Goulburn Street EB remained consistent but gradually decreased, from 10 vehicles at 08:25am to 2 vehicles at 09:05am. Traffic from Goulburn Street WB was dominated by straight-through movements, peaking at 17 vehicles at 08:35am before declining to 5 vehicles at 09:05am, with minimal left-turn movements recorded. Heavy vehicles were consistently present, with up to 2 heavy vehicles recorded at various times, all traveling straight through the intersection. The findings indicate that through traffic, U-turns, and straight-through movements from Goulburn Street EB are the primary



contributors to congestion near the pedestrian crossing, with heavy vehicles further adding to traffic complexity.

TABLE 4: VEHICLE MOVEMENT DATA (PM PICK UP)

TIME	FROM BOYD STREET		FROM GOULBURN STREET EB			FROM GOULBURN STREET WB	
							
3:00pm	0	0	2	1	0	1	10
3:10pm	0	2	2	0	2	0	5
3:20pm	0	1	1	1	13**	0	9*
3:30pm	3	1	3	0	17*	1	21
3:40pm	1	1	1	0	3	0	6*
DIRECTION TOTAL	4	5	9	2	35	2	51
TOTAL	108 vehicles observed across 40minutes (162veh/hour – Hourly Equivalent)						

The vehicle movement data recorded during the afternoon pick-up period highlights key traffic patterns contributing to congestion at the intersection. Turning movements from Boyd Street remained low, with only a few left and right turns observed throughout the period. U-turn movements from Goulburn Street EB were minimal, peaking at 3:30pm with 3 vehicles. Straight-through traffic from Goulburn Street EB increased significantly at 3:20pm (13 vehicles) and peaked at 3:30pm (17 vehicles), before decreasing to 3 vehicles at 3:40pm. Traffic from Goulburn Street WB was dominated by straight-through movements, reaching a maximum of 21 vehicles at 3:30pm, with minimal left turns recorded across all time periods.

Asterisks (*) indicate heavy vehicle movements, with 3 heavy vehicles recorded at 3:20pm, 1 at 3:30pm, and 1 at 3:40pm, confirming the presence of heavy vehicles primarily as through traffic during pick-up time.



2.4 CRASH HISTORY

A review of crash statistics for the roads and intersections surrounding the Subject Site was sourced from the VicRoads Crash Statistics database. This database records fatal and injury (serious/other) crashes on Victorian roads during the latest five-year reporting period and categorises these crashes as follows;

- Fatal injury: At least one person was killed in the crash or died within 30 days as a result of the crash.
- Serious injury: At least one person was sent to hospital as a result of the crash.
- Other injury: At least one person required medical treatment as a result of the crash.

According to the review, there have been no incidents reported in the vicinity of the Subject Site for the past 5 years.



3 ROAD SAFETY AUDIT DETAILS

3.1 ROAD SAFETY AUDIT PROCEDURE

This Road Safety Audit has been conducted in accordance with the Austroads Guide to Road Safety, Part 6: Road Safety Audit. Road Safety Audit is a formalised procedure, which can be applied to all phases of a road project or to an existing road system. The auditor and audit team must be independent of the designer.

In reviewing the safety aspects of a road, the reporting procedure is not intended as a redesign process. It is instead intended to outline potential or existing road safety issues and establish a basis upon which ongoing designs may produce an acceptable solution to the design intent.

In accordance with the Austroads guide, this audit seeks to identify potential safety hazards, however, auditors cannot guarantee that every deficiency has been identified and if all the recommendations in this report were to be followed, this would not guarantee that this section of road is “safe”. Rather, adoption of the recommendations should improve the level of safety for this road.

3.2 THE SAFE SYSTEM

Austroads Guide to Road Safety Part 6 (2019): Managing Road Safety Audits states that “for any project, there is a responsibility on the road authority to maximise alignment with Safe System principles”. The Guide continues to offer two methods for achieving this:

1. Undertake a Safe System Assessment in the early stages of the project.
2. Integrate Safe System principles into the Road Safety Audit process.

VicRoads Safe System Assessment Guidelines (2018) states that a Safe System Assessment must be undertaken for any Victorian Government project greater than \$5M in value, is desirable for where the project value is greater than \$2M and optional for projects under \$2M. Where A Safe System Assessment is not undertaken, the project team should document how the project has considered Safe System alignment. Safe System Assessments are most valuable when conducted during the early stages of a project.



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This Road Safety Audit has been undertaken to conform with AGRD Part 6: Managing Road Safety Audits (2019). As such, an assessment has been undertaken for each Road Safety Audit finding to determine if the kinetic energy associated with the possible crash is above the tolerable levels set out in Table 1.

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Goulburn Street School Crossing

Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit

TABLE 5: SAFE SYSTEM KINETIC ENERGY

CRASH TYPE	TOLERABLE (10%) SPEED - PASSENGER VEHICLE
HEAD-ON	70km/h
SIDE IMPACT (90-DEGREES)	50km/h
SIDE IMPACT (45-DEGREES)	60km/h
SIDE IMPACT INTO POINT SOURCE HAZARD	30-40km/h
PEDESTRIAN, CYCLIST, MOTORCYCLIST	30km/h

Each recommendation is also categorised into one of the Austroads Safe System treatment categories described in Table 2.

TABLE 6: SAFE SYSTEM TREATMENT CATEGORIES

TREATMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PRIMARY	Road planning, design and management considerations that practically eliminate the potential of fatal and serious injuries occurring in association with the foreseeable crash types.
SUPPORTING	Road planning, design and management considerations that improve the overall level of safety associated with foreseeable crash types, but not expected to virtually eliminate the potential of fatal and serious injury occurring. Does not change the ability for a Primary Treatment to be implemented in the future



3.3 ROAD SAFETY AUDIT TEAM

It is a requirement in Victoria that road safety audits are undertaken in teams of two or more, with at least one Senior Road Safety Auditor. Each auditor must be accredited and registered on VicRoads Register of Road Safety Auditors (www.vrsa.com.au).

The independent audit team for this audit was Dinith (Dane) Wanninayake, and Sachini Hewawasam. Dinith is a DTP Accredited Senior Road Safety Auditor and a DTP Recommended Safe System Assessor. Sachini is a DTP accredited Road Safety Auditor. All auditors have been independent of the design process, as stipulated by Austroads Guidelines.

A Corrective Action Schedule summarising the findings of this Road Safety Audit is provided in Section 5 of this report. The Project Manager/Designer shall indicate in this schedule whether the finding is accepted, and if not accepted, shall provide a reason for non-acceptance.

3.4 SITE INSPECTIONS & MEETINGS

A pre-audit discussion was held with Paul O'Connor of Strathbogie Shire Council via an email conversation on 18 February 2025, during which Paul explained the details associated with the project.

RedSquare Traffic's Road Safety Audit undertook a site inspection on 19 March 2025 during which matters relating to the existing conditions of the site was noted down (both under AM and PM peak conditions).



3.5 RISK ASSESSMENT

The potential road safety issues identified have been assigned a risk rating based on the likelihood of a crash occurring as a result of the deficiency together with the potential consequence of that crash.

The risk rating adopted are:

- Almost Certain
- Likely
- Possible
- Unlikely
- Rare

TABLE 7: LIKELIHOOD OF A CRASH (AUSTROADS, 2019)

Likelihood	Description
ALMOST CERTAIN	One per quarter
LIKELY	Quarter to 1-year
POSSIBLE	1 to 3 years
UNLIKELY	3 to 7 years
RARE	7 years +



Goulburn Street School Crossing

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TABLE 8: LIKELY SEVERITY OF THE RESULTING CRASH TYPE

SEVERITY	DESCRIPTION
FATAL	Death within 30 days of the crash
SERIOUS	Admitted to hospital
MODERATE	Major first aid and/or presents to hospital (not admitted)
MINOR	Minor first aid

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Goulburn Street School Crossing

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TABLE 9: RESULTING LEVEL OF RISK

Likelihood/ Severity	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	SERIOUS	FATAL
ALMOST CERTAIN	Medium	High	High	Extreme (FSI)	Extreme (FSI)
LIKELY	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme (FSI)	Extreme (FSI)
POSSIBLE	Low	Medium	High	High (FSI)	Extreme (FSI)
UNLIKELY	Negligible	Low	Medium	High (FSI)	Extreme (FSI)
RARE	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Medium (FSI)	High (FSI)

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4 AUDIT FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS


TABLE 10: AUDIT FINDINGS

NO	FINDINGS	LEVEL OF RISK (INC. FSI)	SAFE SYSTEM ENERGY	Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Primary (P)Supporting (S)	Responsible Officer	
					Accept - Yes/No	Comments
1.1	We understand that the crossing currently functions as a Raised Safety Platform (RSP) with kerb extensions. According to VicRoads Road Design Note 03-07, when pedestrian crossings are combined with raised safety platforms, "Safety Platform/Pedestrian Crossing Ahead (with Advisory Speed)" signs should be installed approaching the platform. A site inspection confirmed that while the "Pedestrian Crossing Ahead" sign is in place, the Advisory Speed component is missing. Reference: VicRoads Road Design Note 03-07, Table 2, Typical Signage Arrangements	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Serious High (FSI)	Above Tolerable Limits	It is recommended that the missing Advisory Speed sign be added to the crossing approach, in accordance with VicRoads Road Design Note 03-07. This will ensure compliance with the guidelines and enhance safety by alerting drivers to reduce speed as they approach the raised safety platform (S).		



						
1.2	<p>Most vehicles exiting Boyd Street are associated with local residences and are familiar with the conditions. However, T-intersections require drivers to process multiple pieces of information and make quick decisions. The placement of the pedestrian crossing relative to the stop-line on Boyd Street increases complexity, as drivers must yield to vehicles on Goulburn Street while also following instructions from the crossing supervisor and coming to a complete stop immediately after turning.</p> <p>While sightlines were observed to be adequate, the crossing's location on the departure end of the intersection means vehicles exiting Boyd Street are typically accelerating as they approach it. In the event of a misjudgement, the minimal braking distance between the point of conflict and the stop-line makes it challenging for drivers to come to a sudden stop, increasing the risk of potential conflicts with pedestrians.</p>	<p>Likelihood: Rare</p> <p>Severity: Serious</p> <p>Medium (FSI)</p>	<p>Above Tolerable Limits</p>	<p>Installing advance warning signage on Boyd Street before the intersection would help alert drivers to the upcoming pedestrian crossing, improving awareness and reaction times (S).</p>		




					
1.3	<p>In Victoria, the parking restrictions near pedestrian crossings are primarily governed by the Victorian Road Safety Road Rules 2017 and guidelines provided by VicRoads. According to Road Rule 172:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 meters before a pedestrian crossing: Vehicles must not park, stop, or leave their vehicle within 20 meters of the <u>approach side</u> of a pedestrian (zebra) crossing that is not at an intersection, unless a sign permits otherwise.	<p>Likelihood: Rare</p> <p>Severity: Serious</p> <p>Medium (FSI)</p>	<p>Above Tolerable Limits</p>	<p>Verify whether the marked parking spaces comply with the required 20-meter approach and 10-meter departure zones of the pedestrian crossing as per AS 1742.10 and VicRoads regulations.</p> <p>If the current parking arrangement does not meet these requirements, consider relocating</p>	




<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 meters after a pedestrian crossing: Vehicles must not park, stop, or leave their vehicle within 10 meters of the <u>departure side</u> of a pedestrian (zebra) crossing that is not at an intersection, unless a sign permits otherwise. <p>These restrictions are designed to maintain clear sightlines for both drivers and pedestrians, thereby improving safety around pedestrian crossings. If parking is necessary, the Traffic Engineering Manual (TEM) recommends that permissive parking signs be installed.</p> <p>Marked parking spaces were observed near the pedestrian crossing. Although marked parking spaces may permit legal parking (even without signs), their presence within this restricted zone could lead to reduced visibility and a higher risk of pedestrian-vehicle conflicts, especially during peak school drop-off and pick-up times.</p>		<p>the marked parking spaces outside the restricted zones to improve sightlines and pedestrian safety (S).</p> <p>If relocation is not possible, install the missing “permissive signs” in addition to the line marking (S).</p>		
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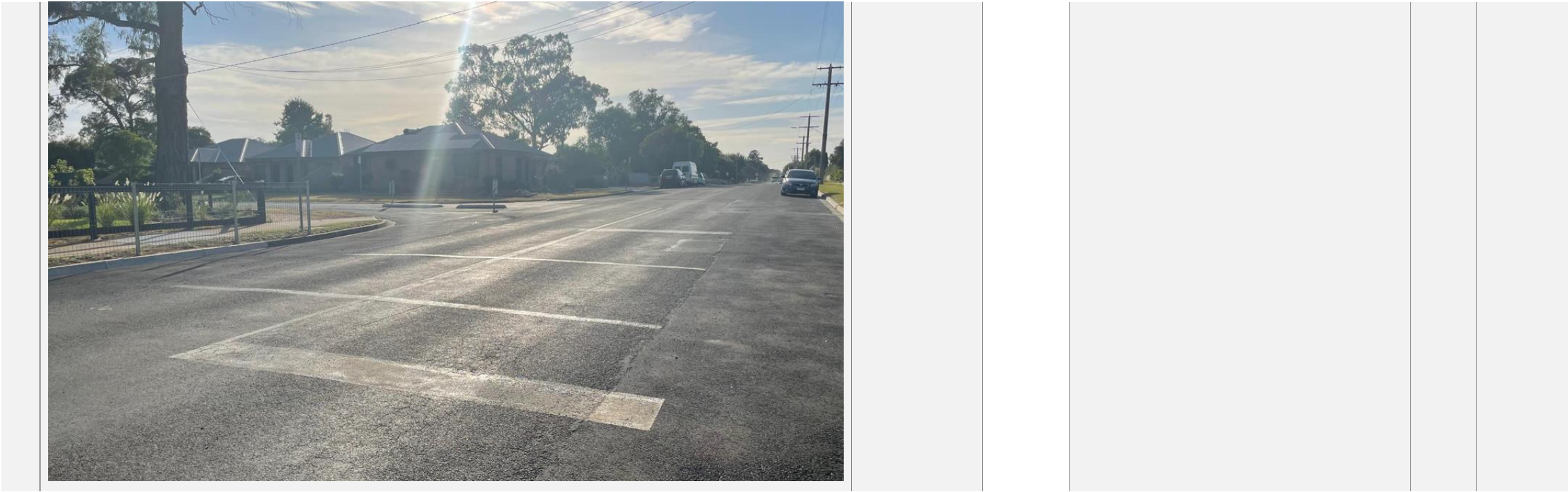


					
<p>1.4 A significant number of students and pedestrians were observed accessing the school from Boyd Street, which serves a residential catchment, as well as from areas further north of the designated pedestrian crossing. Instead of utilising the intersection or the designated crossing facility, pedestrians frequently crossed the road at random locations, increasing their exposure to potential conflicts with vehicles.</p> <p>Additionally, two alternate school entrances located further east of the crossing provide direct access from the roadway without a dedicated pedestrian refuge or setback. The lack of formal pedestrian infrastructure at these entrances results in students exiting directly onto the road, presenting a heightened safety risk, particularly during peak school drop-off and pick-up times when pedestrian and vehicle movements are at their highest.</p>	<p>Likelihood: Rare</p> <p>Severity: Serious</p> <p>Medium (FSI)</p>	<p>Above Tolerable Limits</p>	<p>To enhance pedestrian safety and encourage the use of the designated crossing, it is suggested to consider installing pedestrian containment fencing along the roadside near the school entrances. This would help guide students away from unsafe mid-block crossing behaviours and towards formalised, safer crossing points (S).</p>		



					
1.5	Auditors noted remnants of removed linemarking treatments on the ground. In certain instances, the sun's glare made these markings difficult to interpret, which could lead to confusion. As a result, vehicles may not stop at the intended location of the stop line treatment.	Likelihood: Rare Severity: Serious Medium (FSI)	Above Tolerable Limits	Consider fully removing the redundant linemarking treatments and refreshing the current ones (S).	





5 SUMMARY

5.1 AUDITOR'S CONCLUSION

RedSquare Traffic considers that a school crossing supervisor is warranted at this location based on the observed conditions and identified risks during the audit. The crossing serves a primary school, with the majority of users being young children, a particularly vulnerable road user group requiring a higher level of crossing support and supervision. A noteworthy number of students attended the primary school independently, without supervision, except for the assistance provided by the crossing supervisor.

Audit observations identified a high volume of pedestrian activity during peak school periods, with many students accessing the school from Boyd Street and areas further east of the designated crossing. A notable number of pedestrians were observed crossing the road informally at random locations, bypassing the crossing facility altogether. Additionally, two alternate school entrances located east of the crossing were found to have no pedestrian containment, resulting in students exiting directly onto the carriageway, presenting a safety concern.

Other observations include the absence of advanced speed-reducing signage, and limited traffic calming treatments leading up to the crossing, all of which tend to reduce driver awareness and increase the potential for pedestrian-vehicle conflict.

Given the above, RedSquare Traffic recommends the provision of a school crossing supervisor to actively manage pedestrian movements, promote safe and consistent crossing behaviour, and provide a visible presence to alert approaching drivers. A supervisor would continue to significantly improve the safety and operation of the school crossing during high-activity periods.

Additionally, the traffic and pedestrian counts recorded during the site inspection align with the School Crossing Supervisor Subsidy Interim Guidelines, as they meet the criteria outlined below, specified for Primary Schools:

- Children's crossings for primary school children – where the number of children (minimum 20) multiplied by the number of vehicles in the hour (minimum 100) exceeds 5,000.

The calculations observed during the AM and PM peaks are as follows:

- AM Peak – 38 children x 218 vehicles = 8,284 > 5,000 (using hourly equivalent).



Goulburn Street School Crossing

Existing Conditions Road Safety Audit

-
- PM Peak – 86 children x 162 vehicles = 13,932 > 5,000 (using hourly equivalent).
 - AM Peak – 38 children x 109 vehicles = 4,142 < 5,000 (without using hourly equivalent).
 - PM Peak – 86 children x 108 vehicles = 9,288 > 5,000 (without using hourly equivalent).

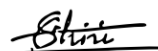
This Road Safety Audit has been conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the Austroads Guide to Road Safety Part 6: Road Safety Audit (2022). The findings, recommendations and Safe System elements are provided for consideration to the client and any other interested parties.



Dinith Wanninayake – Principal Traffic Engineer

Senior Road Safety Auditor/Audit Team Leader

Date: 28 March 2025



Sachini Hewawasam – Senior Traffic Engineer

Road Safety Auditor

Date: 28 March 2025



11.3 Infrastructure

11.3.1 Euroa Saleyards Fees and Charges

AUTHOR Procurement and Tenders Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council manage and operate the Euroa Saleyards located at 52-56 Sutherland Street, Euroa.

As part of the facilitation of livestock sales at the Euroa Saleyards, Council had used the contract services of Scanclear Pty Ltd, who specialise in scanning, weighing, droving services, data entry and sales clerking for livestock sales.

In January 2025, Scanclear informed Council that they would cease operation after the 2 April 2025 Euroa cattle sale.

To support Council with ongoing cattle sales, Council went to public tender for droving, scanning, weighing and data entry services. Outcross Agri-Services were the successful tenderer and were awarded the contract under CEO delegation in May 2025.

The schedule of rates charged by Outcross Agri-Services do not align with the previous contractors pricing. As this is a service which Council on-charges to the users of the Saleyards, it is noted that Councils applicable 2024-25 fees and charges must increase immediately to reflect the changes in charges.

The amended fees and charges will be included in the final version of the draft 2025-26 budget to be considered by Council in June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Ratify the amended fees and charges for weighing and scanning service for the May 2025 Euroa cattle sale as listed below:**
 - Weighing and scanning from \$5.83 to \$7.30
 - Scanning only from \$4.35 to \$3.25
 - Private weighs from \$5.83 to \$11.00.
- 2. Approve the amended fees and charges for weighing and scanning service for the June 2025 Euroa Cattle Sales as listed below:**
 - Weighing and scanning from \$5.83 to \$7.30
 - Scanning only from \$4.35 to \$3.25
 - Private weighs from \$5.83 to \$11.00.
- 3. Note that the amended fees and charges will be incorporated in the final version of the draft 2025-26 Fees and Charges to be considered by Council in June.**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of the report is for Council to:

- ratify the amended fees and charges for Outcross Agri-Services contract delivery for the May 2025 Euroa cattle sale
- approve the amended fees and charges for Outcross Agri-Services contract delivery for the June 2025 Euroa cattle sale
- include the amended fees and charges in the final version of the draft 2025-26 budget to be adopted in June 2025.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Fee amendments are required after a new contract was awarded by tender to Outcross Agri-Services on 1 May 2025 to deliver contract services at the Euroa Saleyards. Outcross Agri-Services schedule of rates for these services are different than the previous contractor.

The previous contractor engaged to deliver contract services at the Euroa Saleyards gave written notice that they would cease their operations after the Euroa cattle sale held on 2 April 2025.

The contract services for droving, weighing, scanning and data entry duties is a service which Council on-charges to the users of the Saleyards in accordance with the Fees and Charges Schedule set out in the Strathbogie Shire Councils Annual Budget.

Outcross Agri-Services schedule of rates does not align with the previous Contractors, or those in the 2024-25 Council Budget. As such, Council's fees and charges require adjustment to ensure the correct fees are on-charged to the users of the Euroa Saleyards for the May and June 2025 sales, and those conducted during the 2025-26 financial year.

The current and amended schedule of rates in relation to the Euroa Saleyards are shown below:

Schedule of Rates		
Type	2024-25 Rate	2025-26 Rate (including May and June 2025)
Weighing and scanning	\$5.83	\$7.30
Scanning only	\$4.35	\$3.25
Private weigh only	\$5.83	\$11.00

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An onsite meeting was held with the Stock Agents who use the Euroa Saleyards to conduct cattle sales, Outcross Agri-Services and Council staff on Wednesday 30 April 2025 to inform them of the outcome of the Tender for Contract 25-26-08 - Provision of Contract Services - Droving, Scanning, Weighing and Data Entry - Euroa Saleyards, and alert them to the proposed changes to fees.

The Stock Agents understood the need for the change to take effect.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plan

This report is consistent with the following key strategic focus areas and or actions in the 2021-25 Council Plan:

Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible.

Be financially responsible, achieving the greatest possible community benefit from the programs, initiatives, and services we fund.

Regional, State and National Plans, Policies and Legislation

This report is aligned with the following legislation, council policies and key strategic documents:

- Draft 2025-26 Budget
- Draft 2025-26 Fees and Charges

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

This report has identified the following risk(s):

Risk(s)	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
If Council does not amend fees and charges, this will reduce income and there is a risk that sales become unsustainable.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Amend fees and charges to align with Contract 25-26-08 Schedule of Rates

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no legal considerations associated with this report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

No Council officers and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a general or material conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

TRANSPARENCY

In the interests of transparency and open and honest communication with our community this report is presented to a public Council meeting.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations made in this report will ensure the financial viability and sustainability of the Euroa Saleyards.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Economic

The recommendations of this report will ensure the financial viability and sustainability of the Euroa Saleyards and indirectly support other local businesses who benefit from the operation of the Euroa Saleyards.

Social

The Euroa Saleyards are an integral part of the Shire's rural landscape and provide the opportunity for rural residents who attend the monthly sales to regularly socialize, as well as interact business.

The canteen is run as a fundraiser by one of the local primary schools, and this adds to a rich social setting where residents can gather and interact with each other.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The recommendations of this report will form part of the continuous improvement for the operation of the Euroa Saleyards.

COLLABORATION

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

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no implications for human rights arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

Fee amendments are required from and including the May 2025 Euroa Cattle Sale after a new contract was awarded on 1 May 2025 to Outcross Agri-Services by a public tender process.

The amended fees and charges will be incorporated in the final version of the draft 2025-26 Fees and Charges to be considered by Council in June.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.4 Corporate

11.4.1 Response to the Minister for Local Government - Commitment to Ministers Governance Expectations

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 26 November 2024 Council received correspondence from the previous Minister for Local Government, The Hon Melissa Horne MP requesting Council outline it's commitment to the Minister's governance expectations.

A response was provided to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Nick Staikos reiterating Councillors commitment to achieving the best outcomes and financial sustainability for our community and focusing on the strategic governance of our Municipality.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Endorse the response to the Minister for Local Government The Hon Nick Staikos summarising Councillor progress to date on the expectation of Councillor performance duties and commitment to the Ministers governance expectations.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

To provide the community with the response to the Minister for Local Government request outlining Council's commitment to the Minister's governance expectations.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Since taking the Oath or Affirmation of Office on 12 November 2024, Councillors have undertaken rigorous mandatory training and induction as set out in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 within a period of four months of swearing in.

This has set the tone for the Councillors commitment to their statutory obligations and establishing a high level of strategic direction for Strathbogie Shire Council.

The response to the Minister for Local Government summarised Councillor progress to date including (but not limited to):

- Mandatory training
- Preparation, community consultation and finalisation of the 2025-29 Council Plan and other legislated documents by 30 June 2025
- Councillors vision and commitment to their role
- Internal resolution solutions
- Working with the Municipal Monitor
- Councillor Briefings
- Community Activity

The response was submitted on 31 March 2025, and the letter to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Nick Staikos is attached for information.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plan

This report is consistent with the following key strategic focus areas and or actions in the 2021-25 Council Plan:

Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible.

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

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.

Regional, State and National Plans, Policies and Legislation

This report is aligned with the following legislation, council policies and key strategic documents:

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

No Council officers and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a general or material conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

TRANSPARENCY

In the interests of transparency and open and honest communication with our community this report is presented to a public Council meeting.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* was considered in the preparation of this report with particular consideration given to the aspects of respect, equality and dignity.

CONCLUSION

The Councillor group is committed to achieving the best outcomes and financial sustainability for our community and focusing on the strategic governance of our Municipality.

ATTACHMENT

1. Response to the Minister for Local Government Hon Nick Staikos MP
2. VLGA Statement of Completion



31 March 2025

The Hon. Nick Staikos
 Minister for Local Government
 121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Delivered via Email: minister.staikos@dgs.vic.gov.au

Council's Commitment To Minister's Governance Expectations

In response to Minister Horne's letter received on 3 December 2024, I am pleased to report that the elected Councillors at Strathbogie Shire Council have had a very intense and diligent three-month induction, so as to achieve high levels of team work, good governance, accountability, transparency, efficiency, representation and inclusion for our municipal community.

Pursuant to section 179(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), in November 2024, the Minister for Local Government provided notice of the appointment of Ms Marg Allan as Municipal Monitor to Council. The appointment is from 6 November 2024 to 6 November 2025.

Ms Allan has been a positive influence and has provided supportive, steady and reassuring advice and mentoring to the Councillor group, and the Councillors have reciprocated by seeking Ms Allan out for one-on-one mentoring as required.

As to partake in the induction and training programs at the earliest possible time, Councillors elect were sworn in on 12 November 2025. The Councillors elect sworn in were:

- Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy
- Deputy Mayor Cr Scott Jeffery
- Cr Laura Binks
- Cr Greg Carlson
- Cr Clarke Holloway
- Cr Vicki Halsall
- Cr Fiona Stevens

The Councillors are a collaborative group who were very keen to establish early in their tenure a set of values and vision that they have displayed in the Council Chamber and incorporated into the welcome of each Council meeting.

The establishment of the values and vision consistently reinforces the Councillors commitment to good governance, ethical behaviour and transparency of their decisions.

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.

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Customer Service Centres

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 352 High Street Nagambie VIC 3608



Councillors Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Responsiveness

The values and vision commitment is also supported by inclusive reflective practices. At the conclusion of each Council meeting, Councillors and Officers debrief and record their reflections relating to:

- What worked well during the meeting?
- What aspects of the meeting could be improved to enhance future meetings?
- Did Councillors come prepared for the meeting with relevant materials reviewed?

CEO Recruitment

An important focus of the Councillors since coming to office has been the recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive Officer.

In April 2024, the Administrator, Mr Peter Stevenson determined that the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer should be one of the first tasks of the newly elected Councillors post the 26 October 2024 elections. As such, Mr Stephenson appointed an Interim Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tim Tamlin, whose tenure finishes in July 2025.

The CEO Employment and Recruitment Committee, under the leadership of an independent Chair commenced the recruitment process in January 2025. An external Executive Recruitment Agency was appointed to support the process in line with Council's CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy which is now complete. Council appointed Rachelle Quattrocchi as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Rachelle brings over 25 years of experience in local government, with a strong background in strategic leadership, community engagement, and service delivery.

The Municipal Monitor has also had oversight of the recruitment process.

Mandatory Training

It is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* that all councillors complete a councillor induction program that satisfies the obligations set out in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 within a period of four months of swearing in.

Commencing in November 2024 Councillors undertook and have completed mandatory training. The mandatory training was facilitated by the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) and the training modules are aligned to the statutory obligations outlined in the Local Government Victoria publication Guidance on the mandatory training for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors - October 2024. A statement of completion is attached.

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The mandatory training sessions covered the following topics:

Topic	Focus of Training
Local Government Fundamentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lays out the fundamentals of local government, explaining the origins of local governments, how they are funded and the extent of powers available to Councils and how they can be exercised. Focus on the different roles of Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Councillors and the CEO and other Council staff, and the legislative and practical day to day obligations of each. Particular focus placed on the relationship between Councillors and Council staff, including a look at the formal protocols in place. Emphasise the role of Councils in providing strategic direction to the organisation and outline the pitfalls of seeking to delve into operational issues.
Building an Effective Councillor Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes activities to build relationships, connection and trust between Councillors to support working as a cohesive group. Establish the ground rules for Councillors to work together as a Councillor group, and an agreement and mechanism to hold each other to account
Training Financial Literacy for Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of Council's Strategic Planning Framework, including the role of the Community Vision, Council Plan, financial plans and annual budget. Explain how budgets work, how to read quarterly financial reports, the role of the audit and risk committee etc.
Effective Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes activities to build relationships, connection and trust between Councillors to support working as a cohesive group. Establish the ground rules for Councillors to work together as a Councillor group, and an agreement and mechanism to hold each other to account
Councillor Conduct, Integrity, and Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the behavioral expectations of Councillors, with a focus on the application of the Model Code of Conduct and the standards of conduct. For returning Councillors, the session will outline the changed expectations arising from recent legislative changes. The session will provide examples of acceptable and unacceptable conduct, illustrated by real-life case studies of what happens when things go wrong. Works through a range of practical compliance obligations that Councillors have, including health and safety obligations, personal interests returns, conflicts of interest, the treatment of confidential and other information and compliance with Council's own governance policies
Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the role of the media in the local government landscape, looking at both traditional media channels and social media. Looks at the policies which govern Councillor activity and illustrate some of the risks with real-world examples. Examines how to speak as an individual Councillor rather than a spokesperson for the Council, and whether it is ever possible to speak in a personal capacity
Understanding Community Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave participants with an understanding of the complexity of the community they serve, and the importance of meaningful community engagement in the decision making process. Examine the role of Councillors as community leaders and highlight some specific legislative obligations that apply.
Mayor and Deputy Mayor Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2024, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended the Mayoral Leadership Program in a face to face session in Melbourne along with fellow Mayors and Deputy Mayors from around Victoria.

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Additionally, Councillors have participated in non-mandatory induction training activities, including, but not limited to:

- Governance rules and meeting procedures
- Briefing on the Annual Performance (Audit and Risk) from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee
- Internal briefings from each of the business areas of Council
- A bus tour of the municipality to inspect Council property and assets
- A Taungurung Cultural Experience

The Councillors have also received external presentations/briefings from:

- Regional Development Australia
- Local Government Inspectorate (LGI)
- Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC)
- Victorian Grants Commission (VGC)
- Planology - Land Use and Planning.

Significantly, Councillors have also elected to undertake additional “effective team building” training which will be independently facilitated. This emphasises the values that Councillors have set for themselves, and the collaborative nature in which Councillors want to progress through their council tenure.

Following the completion of the mandatory training component of their induction programme, Councillors are undertaking a self-assessment evaluation. This will assist in the tailoring of ongoing training and professional development to meet Councillors specific needs, and to establish the program of mandatory training required under the *Local Government Act 2020* for the next four years.

In the first three months of their tenure, Councillors have adopted policies and procedures recommended as “model” and “best practice” as determined by the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 including:

- Councillor Social Media Policy
- Councillor Confidentiality Policy
- Internal Resolution Procedure.

These policies and procedures have reinforced Councillors focus on their behaviour and good governance.

Through their mandatory training and ongoing professional development Councillors are committed to their own continuous improvement and their obligations to the Model Code of Conduct introduced in 2024.

Strategic Planning

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, sections (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) and (94) in January 2025, Council has commenced the development of the:

- Community Vision
- Council Plan 2025-29 (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan)
- Revenue and Rating Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Plan
- 2025-26 Annual Budget.

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This is a very extensive body of work, including community consultation and deliberative engagement. It is anticipated that the strategic planning documents will be completed and adopted by Council in June 2025.

Additionally the Rural Residential Land Use Strategy and Urban Growth Strategy are also under review and Councillors have been observers at the community engagement sessions that have taken place to date.

Through this process, Councillors have committed to their statutory obligations and establishing a high level of strategic direction for Strathbogie Shire Council.

Council Briefings

The current Councillors have a strong appetite for information and each week Councillors have a full day of briefings with Council's Interim Chief Executive Officer, Directors and Officers, and external stakeholders as required.

The Councillors are briefed on internal and external activity affecting the operation of Council which assists Councillors to make informed and considered decisions.

Community Activity

As a Council coming after a period of Administration, Councillors have expressed their desire to rebuild trust with the community and listen to and understand the concerns, priorities and issues that affect our residents.

As a group, we have shared the load to support our residents by attending as many community events as possible, and community engagement sessions associated with the development of our forward 2025-29 strategic planning.

With the support of the Interim Chief Executive Officer, Council Staff and the Municipal Monitor, I believe we have achieved great strides towards improving governance and accountability and regaining the trust of our community.

Our Councillor group is committed to achieving the best outcomes and financial sustainability for our community and focusing on the strategic governance of our Municipality.

We have responded to the Victorian Government reforms to strengthen governance, integrity and councillor conduct, and look forward to improved, sustainable and progressive outcomes for the whole of our Shire in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on Strathbogie Shire Council's achievements to date of the commitment to the Minister's governance expectations.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cr Claire-Ewart Kennedy".

Cr Claire-Ewart Kennedy
Mayor Strathbogie Shire Council

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STATEMENT OF COMPLETION

Mr Tim Tamlin
Acting CEO
Strathbogie Shire Council
Date: 26 March 2025

Dear Tim

Statement of Completion – VLGA Councillor Readiness Program

Thank you for enrolling your councillors in the VLGA Councillor Readiness Program. In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and to assist you with your record keeping, we are pleased to certify the following:

Program Name

VLGA Councillor Readiness Program

Modules

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Local Government Fundamentals | 4. Effective Decision Making |
| 2. Building and Effective Councillor Team | 5. Councillor Conduct Integrity and Behaviour |
| 3. Financial Literacy for Councillors | |

Councillor Attendees

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Mayor, Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy | • |
| • Deputy Mayor, Cr Scott Jeffrery | • Cr Gregory Carlson |
| • Cr Clark Holloway | • Cr Laura Binks |
| • Cr Fiona Stevens | • Cr Vicki Halsall |

Date of Completion: 18 February 2025

The VLGA is pleased to provide our members with high quality learning and development opportunities across the Councillor journey.

- Our [Councillor Professional Development Program Prospectus](#) is now available for review, with 17 recommended modules available now for booking.
- Registrations for [Fasttrack](#), our signature full day annual conference, are now open with key notes from Melbourne's Lord Mayor, Nick Reece and panellists such as Alison Byrne, IBAC CEO.

We look forward to working with you to enhance good governance and leadership skills amongst your Councillor team.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'KArndt', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kathryn Arndt
Chief Executive Officer

11.4.2 S5 Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the context of the *Local Government Act 2020* "S5" refers to an instrument of delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer. This delegation grants the CEO the authority to perform certain powers, duties, and functions that would otherwise be the responsibility of the Council.

The primary purpose of this delegation is to enable the Chief Executive Officer to manage the organization's day-to-day operations and make decisions on behalf of the Council within the scope of the delegated authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council in the exercise of the power conferred by S11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Strathbogie Shire Council resolves that:

- 1. There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument**
- 2. The instrument comes into effect immediately upon the Common Seal of Council is affixed to the instrument**
- 3. On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked**
- 4. The duties and functions set out in the Instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the Instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of the report is to ensure that the S5 Instrument of Delegation Council to Chief Executive Officer is current. There have been no changes to the limitations and conditions stated in the S5 Instrument of delegation, and the updated delegation reflects the appointment of the Strathbogie Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer Rachelle Quattrocchi.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Delegations are fundamental to good governance. They allow Council as an organisation to function effectively without every decision having to be made at a Council meeting.

S5 delegations are typically subject to specific exceptions and limitations outlined in the instrument itself and may not cover every aspect of Council responsibilities.

Council subscribes to a service through Maddocks Lawyers who provide advice regarding the powers, duties and functions that may be delegated by Council. Periodic updates are made to reflect legislative amendments and personnel changes.

The Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer was last reviewed and endorsed by Council on 16 July 2024. This review was prompted by the commencement of new Chief Executive Officer Rachelle Quattrocchi.

A copy of the S5 delegation is attached to this report for information.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plan

This report is consistent with the following key strategic focus areas and or actions in the 2021-25 Council Plan:

Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible.

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

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.

Regional, State and National Plans, Policies and Legislation

This report is aligned with the following legislation, council policies and key strategic documents:

- *Local Government Act 2020*

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

This report has identified the following risk(s):

Risk(s)	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
If the delegations are not current the enforceability of decisions and actions taken by the CEO may be compromised.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Legal and reputational risk is minimised by maintaining the currency of delegations and reviewing them every six months or as required.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Updating the S5 Instrument of Delegation is to be undertaken within twelve months of a general election of Council under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

A copy of the instrument will be made available to the public in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and regulations.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

No Council officers and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a general or material conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

TRANSPARENCY

In the interests of transparency and open and honest communication with our community this report is presented to a public Council meeting.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer has financial delegations subject to conditions and limitations. Any financial decisions made by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation are reported to Council on a monthly basis.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

The authorisation of the S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer ensures the ongoing efficiency of Council operations and a clear legal framework through which day-to-day decisions are made.

ATTACHMENT

1. S5 Instrument of Delegation Council to CEO

OFFICIAL

S5 Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer



Strathbogie Shire Council

Instrument of Delegation

to

The Chief Executive Officer

OFFICIAL

Instrument of Delegation

In exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* and all other powers enabling it, the Strathbogie Shire Council (**Council**) delegates to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the position of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation,

AND declares that

1. this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by a Resolution of Council passed on
20 May 2025.
2. the delegation
 - 2.1 comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to this Instrument of Delegation
 - 2.2 is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule
 - 2.3 must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopt; and
 - 2.4 remains in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke it.

The Common Seal of the)..... Councillor

Strathbogie Shire Council)..... Councillor

was hereunto affixed)..... Chief Executive Officer

On 20 May 2025

OFFICIAL**SCHEDULE**

The power to:

1. determine any issue
2. take any action; or
3. do any act or thing.

arising out of or connected with any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act.

Conditions and Limitations

The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing:

1. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves
 - 1.1 entering into a contract exceeding the value of \$170,000 for goods and services or \$220,000 for works
 - 1.2 entering into a contract exceeding the value of \$170,000 for goods and services or \$300,000 for works where exceptional circumstances only* apply
 - 1.3 making any expenditure that exceeds \$220,000 unless
 - 1.4 it is expenditure made under a contract already entered into or is expenditure which Council is, by or under legislation, required to make in which case it must not exceed \$450,000
 - 1.5 it is expenditure which Council is, by or under legislation, required to make, in which case it must not exceed \$250,000
 - 1.6 it is expenditure related to the payment of Insurance Premiums or Workcover Premiums in which case it must not exceed \$450,000
 - 1.7 it is a decision on the short-term investment of Council funds with Australian financial institutions, in which case it must not exceed \$3,000,000 and must be reported to the next Audit and Risk Committee
 - 1.8 appointing an Acting Chief Executive Officer for a period exceeding 28 days
 - 1.9 electing a Mayor or Deputy Mayor
 - 1.10 granting a reasonable request for leave under s 35 of the Act
 - 1.11 making any decision in relation to the employment, dismissal or removal of the Chief Executive Officer
 - 1.12 approving or amending the Council Plan
 - 1.13 adopting or amending any policy that Council is required to adopt under the Act
 - 1.14 adopting or amending the Governance Rules
 - 1.15 appointing the chair or the members to a delegated committee
 - 1.16 making, amending or revoking a local law

OFFICIAL

- 1.17 approving the Budget or Revised Budget
 - 1.18 approving the borrowing of money
 - 1.19 subject to section 181H(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, declaring general rates, municipal charges, service rates and charges and specified rates and charges
 - 2. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which is required by law to be done by Council resolution
 - 3. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council
 - 4. if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a
 - 4.1 policy; or
 - 4.2 strategy
 adopted by Council;
 - 5. if the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing cannot be the subject of a lawful delegation, whether on account of s 11(2)(a)-(n) (inclusive) of the Act or otherwise; or
 - 6. the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff.
 - 7. **Exceptional Circumstances Only** * – where a delay due to timing of Council reports poses an unacceptable risk. A report to Council detailing expenditure is required at the next scheduled Council meeting.
- Note: *Where the CEO has determined that a contract must be entered into because of a declared emergency, disaster impacting life, property or to ensure business continuity.

11.4.3 Council Financial Report March 2025

AUTHOR Chief Financial Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The September Financial Report compares the year-to-date midyear budget review forecasts (as reported at the February 2025 Council meeting) for the 2024-25 financial year to the actual financial outcome and position as at 31 March 2025.

The report contains the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and capital performance and other financial data in graphical format.

The current year operating surplus for the three-month period ending 31 March was \$6,490,511, as rates have been raised and recognised for the full financial year, and some grants have been received earlier than anticipated.

As at 31 March 2025, the total expenditure on capital works was \$6,160,285, which excludes committed expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the quarterly Financial Report and Financial Statements for the nine months ending 31 March 2025.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The 2024-25 Budget was prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and was formally adopted at an Extraordinary Council meeting held on 25 June 2024.

Council considers and notes the quarterly Financial Report in accordance with the Act. Under Section 97, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to Council, and it includes a comparison of actual and budgeted results to date. This report satisfies those requirements.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Explanations for significant budget variances are below and are also provided in financial performance overview section of the Financial Report attachment.

Income variations:

1. **Statutory fees and fines variance of \$84,772 (unfavourable)** - decrease in statutory fees and fines income is mainly due less than budgeted subdivision fees income received (\$36k), and lower than expected YTD animal registration fee income.
2. **Grants – operating variance of \$682,812 (favourable)** - Increase in operating grant income is mainly due to receipt of flood and storm support grant (\$408k) and financial assistance grant received \$157k more than the YTD budget - due to early payment of 85% of the grant. The overall grant for the year will be lower than budget.

3. **Grants – capital variance of \$453,987 (favourable)** - Higher YTD capital grant income is due to the receipt of female friendly change room facility grant (\$330k) and the receipt of LRCIP infrastructure funding stage 2 grants (\$124k).
4. **Monetary Contribution variance of \$119,675 (favourable)** - Higher monetary contribution is due to the receipt of (\$118k) Energy Resilience Community fund (AusNet) contribution, to complete a project.
5. **Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure variance of \$37,503 (unfavourable)** - There have been no capital fixed assets disposals during the reporting period.
6. **Other income variance of \$98,508 (unfavourable)** - Increase in other income is due to higher than expected interest income on outstanding rates (\$105k).

Expense variations

7. **Materials and services variance of \$1,247,410 (favourable)** - The current variance in materials and services is mainly due to less than budgeted community recovery hub -flood event October 2022 - expenses (\$319k), waste collection expenses(\$139k), caravan park building expense (\$115k), sealed roads and unsealed roads expenses(\$147k), external consultancies expense (\$124k), service delivery expense - Victoria health promotion(\$98k), other community expense-early years (\$44k), and annual maintenance-application software expense (\$43k).
8. **Depreciation and amortisation variance of \$57,421 (unfavourable)** - Current depreciation and amortisation actual expense is a provisional amount and this will be reviewed and finalised when infrastructure capital works are finalised during the year and at the year end.
9. **Other expenses variance of \$122,071 (favourable)** - Other expenses are lower than year to date budget mainly due to timing of local council election expenses and auditor's remuneration.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2024-25 Budget was prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and was formally adopted at an Extraordinary Council meeting held on 25 June 2024, after a public display period.

Council officers believe that appropriate community engagement has occurred during the annual budgeting process and the quarterly financial report is now ready for Council consideration.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plan

This report is consistent with the following key strategic focus areas and or actions in the 2021-25 Council Plan:

Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible.

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.

Be financially responsible, achieving the greatest possible community benefit from the programs, initiatives and services we fund.

Ensure our organisation's structure and resource allocation are regularly reviewed so they align with the goals and deliverables of the Community Vision and this Council Plan.

Regional, State and National Plans, Policies and Legislation

There are a number of other relevant sections of *the Local Government Act 2020* that guide the preparation of this report, and its reports on progress and achievement against Council's adopted annual budget.

The consideration of the year-to-date financial position is in accordance with State policies, and Australian Accounting standards and reflects income and grants received under State and Federal government funding initiatives and priorities.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

This report has identified the following risk(s):

Risk(s)	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Regular monitoring and reporting of performance against budget and forecast variances.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

No Council officers and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a general or material conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Transparency

This report demonstrates that Council is being transparent in its position in relation to all applications received and determined by the Council.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The March 2025 year to date financial statements consider all known economic and financial implications for the financial year ending 30 June 2025. The current financial position shows a surplus of \$6.491 million which is a \$2.208 million positive variance compared to the predicted year to date surplus in the mid-year review budget.

The current cash position is \$3.863 million higher than the Quarter three (Q3) year to date budget. This is mainly due to higher than year to date budgeted operating and capital grant income received and lower than year to date operating expenses and capital works expenditure.

Council held cash and cash equivalents balance of \$7.215 million and other financial assets balance of \$1.500 million (investment in term deposits over 90 days) as of 31 March 2025.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Economic

The March 2025 year to date financial statements consider all known economic and financial implications for the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

Social

The 2024-25 budget supports the ongoing delivery of community services, facilities and new initiatives to support our community. The September statements highlight expenses and the income received from State and Federal governments to support the community's ongoing recovery from various natural disaster events that have occurred in the municipality during the past two years.

Environmental

The 2024-25 budget include various environmental and sustainable initiatives such as Violet Town landfill restoration work and street tree planting projects.

Climate Change

As highlighted above the budget includes various environmental and sustainable initiatives which are also intrinsically linked to Councils Climate Change Action Plan 2022-27.

COLLABORATION

The March 2025 financial report highlight the support provided by State and Federal governments in initiatives around emergency management, digital transformation, infrastructure and community services.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no significant human rights implications arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

The report presents Council's actual financial performance compared to the adopted budget and subsequent midyear review forecasts the nine months ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements show Council's continued financial sustainability, status of delivery of capital projects and its continued support to community to recover from various natural disaster events that have occurred in the past two years.

ATTACHMENT

1. March 2025 Council Finance Report 2024-25

OFFICIAL

Comprehensive Income Statement
For the period ended 31 March 2025

For the period ended 31 March 2025

Note	Current year				Same time last year		
	MYBR 2024/25	YTD M/Y Budget Mar 2025	YTD Actual Mar 2025	YTD Variance Mar 2025	YTD Budget Mar2024	YTD Actual Mar2024	
Income							
Rates and charges		23,288,300	23,288,300	23,277,752	(10,548)	22,203,555	22,229,683
Statutory fees and fines	1	686,450	487,906	403,134	(84,772)	503,500	402,037
User fees		890,718	738,708	731,405	(7,303)	598,725	668,472
Grants - operating	2	8,320,180	7,537,621	8,220,433	682,812	2,375,012	2,921,464
Grants - capital	3	4,327,700	390,985	844,972	453,987	2,381,451	2,653,251
Contributions - monetary	4	325,873	267,420	387,095	119,675	55,467	66,542
Contributions - non monetary	5	250,000	187,497	-	(187,497)	187,497	-
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of PPE & infrastructure	6	50,000	37,503	-	(37,503)	37,503	2,689
Other income	7	850,795	631,363	729,871	98,508	598,230	844,412
Total income		38,990,016	33,567,303	34,594,663	1,027,360	28,940,940	29,788,549
Expenses							
Employee costs		(14,592,856)	(10,944,567)	(10,964,442)	(19,875)	(10,096,587)	(10,042,716)
Materials and services	8	(17,826,924)	(12,480,698)	(11,233,288)	1,247,410	(12,457,939)	(12,677,169)
Depreciation	9	(7,057,287)	(5,156,442)	(5,469,237)	(312,795)	(4,621,608)	(4,908,716)
Amortisation - right of use assets	9	-	(136,503)	-	136,503	(136,503)	-
Bad and doubtful debts		(500)	(378)	-	378	(378)	-
Borrowing costs		(174,602)	(123,298)	(124,020)	(722)	(131,454)	(131,164)
Finance costs - leases		-	(7,731)	-	7,731	(9,747)	-
Other expenses	10	(686,568)	(434,795)	(312,724)	122,071	(324,170)	(331,916)
Total expenses		(40,338,737)	(29,284,412)	(28,103,712)	1,180,700	(27,778,386)	(28,091,680)
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		(1,348,721)	4,282,891	6,490,951	2,208,060	1,162,554	1,696,869

Financial Performance Overview
Income

- Note 1** - The decrease in Statutory fees and fines income is mainly due to budgeted subdivision fees income not received during the period (\$36k) and animal registration income received was \$37k less than the YTD budget.
- Note 2** - Increase in operating grant income is mainly due to receipt of flood and storm support grant (\$408k) and financial assistance grant received \$157k more than the YTD budget - due to early payment of 85% of the grant. The overall grant for the year will be lower than budget.
- Note 3** - Higher YTD capital grant income is due to the receipt of female friendly change room facility grant (\$330k) and the receipt of LRCIP infrastructure funding stage 2 grants (\$124k).
- Note 4** - Higher monetary contribution is due to the receipt of (\$118k) Energy Resilience Community fund (AusNet) contribution, to complete a project.
- Note 5** - Non-monetary contribution will be reviewed and finalised at year end.
- Note 6** - There have been no capital fixed assets disposals during the reporting period.
- Note 7** - Increase in other income is due to higher than expected interest income on outstanding rates (\$105k).

Expense

- Note 8** - The current variance in materials and services is mainly due to less than budgeted community recovery hub -flood event Oct 22 - expenses (\$319k),waste collection expenses(\$139k), caravan park building expense (\$115k), sealed roads and unsealed roads expenses(\$147k), external consultancies expense (\$124k), service delivery expense-Victoria health promotion(\$98k), other community expense-early years (\$44k), and annual maintenance-application software expense (\$43k).
- Note 9** - Current depreciation and amortisation actual expense is a provisional amount and this will be reviewed and finalised when infrastructure capital works are finalised during the year and the year end.
- Note 10** - Other Expenses are lower than YTD budget mainly due to timing of local council election expenses and auditor's remuneration.

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Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2025

	Current year			Same time last year	
	MYBR 2024/25	YTD M/Y Budget Mar 2025	YTD Actual \$ Mar 2025	YTD Budget Mar2024	YTD Actual Mar2024
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	2,184,436	4,852,276	7,215,670	3,341,616	3,464,632
Trade and other receivables	3,637,167	12,038,000	10,881,227	10,045,759	9,973,202
Other financial assets	-	-	1,500,000	10,200,000	11,100,000
Inventories	14,516	14,516	21,575	14,762	41,637
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	-	-	-	-	219,780
Other assets	546,432	546,432	477,253	1,099,271	559,477
Total current assets	6,382,551	17,451,224	20,095,725	24,701,408	25,358,728
Non-current assets					
Other financial assets	-	-	2,032	-	2,032
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	280,945	280,945	260,487	278,691	258,723
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	396,540,453	389,682,887	389,130,138	361,384,762	362,123,837
Right-of-use assets	143,023	143,023	324,934	275,205	586,695
Total non-current assets	396,964,421	390,106,855	389,717,591	361,938,658	362,971,288
Total assets	403,346,972	407,558,079	409,813,316	386,640,066	388,330,016
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	3,027,962	565,200	457,954	2,612,208	1,881,882
Trust funds and deposits	1,092,680	1,609,348	2,045,848	1,786,471	1,813,352
Provisions	2,905,009	2,885,009	2,900,049	3,053,143	4,218,255
Interest-bearing liabilities	177,291	177,291	42,948	62,483	60,428
Total current liabilities	7,202,942	5,236,848	5,446,799	7,514,305	7,973,916
Non-current liabilities					
Trust funds and deposits	-	-	34,791	-	34,791
Provisions	1,402,392	1,382,392	1,382,392	1,713,752	1,713,752
Interest-bearing liabilities	2,992,060	3,557,649	3,171,056	3,169,377	3,339,659
Lease liabilities	154,211	154,211	343,646	119,000	609,948
Total non-current liabilities	4,548,663	5,094,252	4,931,884	5,002,129	5,698,150
Total liabilities	11,751,605	10,331,100	10,378,683	12,516,434	13,672,066
Net assets	391,595,367	397,226,979	399,434,633	374,123,632	374,657,950
Equity					
Accumulated surplus	124,158,873	128,441,764	130,649,418	120,159,418	120,693,736
Reserves	267,436,494	268,785,215	268,785,215	253,964,214	253,964,214
Total Equity	391,595,367	397,226,979	399,434,633	374,123,632	374,657,950

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Statement of Cash Flows
For the period ended 31 March 2025

	Current year			Same time last year	
	MYBR 2024/25	YTD M/Y Budget Mar 2025	YTD Actual Mar 2025	YTD Budget Mar2024	YTD Actual Mar2024
Cash flows from operating activities					
Rates and charges	24,004,644	17,417,789	17,440,878	16,036,036	16,330,186
Statutory fees and fines	686,450	514,838	403,134	502,425	402,037
User fees	796,830	597,623	731,405	517,650	909,499
Grants - operating	8,110,180	7,537,621	8,140,463	946,363	1,761,816
Grants - capital	5,826,080	1,434,214	1,888,201	1,207,038	1,558,838
Contributions - monetary	325,873	244,405	387,095	55,467	66,542
Interest received	500,000	375,000	300,280	300,000	387,063
Other receipts	619,908	464,931	704,331	449,813	817,738
Net GST refund/payment	1,840,465	1,380,349	1,415,272	1,874,980	1,921,423
Employee costs	(14,585,256)	(10,938,942)	(10,949,403)	(10,053,366)	(10,004,422)
Materials and services	(18,210,067)	(14,218,030)	(14,634,191)	(15,649,555)	(17,297,935)
Trust funds and deposits collected/(paid)	-	-	(44,759)	-	144,820
Other payments	(618,968)	(464,226)	(312,723)	(332,713)	(331,915)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9,296,139	4,345,570	5,469,984	4,145,862	(3,334,311)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(16,467,003)	(8,923,681)	(6,160,284)	(5,710,088)	(6,928,511)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	240,000	180,000	-	180,000	22,089
Payments for investments - Other Financial Assets *	-	-	(1,500,000)	9,900,000	10,450,000
Special rate schemes made/repaid	(6,000)	(4,500)	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(16,233,003)	(8,748,181)	(7,660,284)	4,369,912	3,543,578
Cash flows from financing activities					
Finance costs	(164,296)	(123,222)	(124,020)	(131,456)	(131,164)
Repayment of borrowings	(170,308)	(127,731)	(125,656)	(191,683)	(195,175)
Interest paid - lease liability	(10,306)	(7,730)	-	(9,750)	-
Repayment of lease liabilities	(189,435)	(142,076)	-	(131,250)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(534,345)	(400,759)	(249,675)	(464,139)	(326,339)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(7,471,208)	(4,803,369)	(2,439,975)	(240,089)	(117,073)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	9,655,645	9,655,645	9,655,645	3,581,705	3,581,705
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period*	2,184,437	4,852,276	7,215,670	3,341,616	3,464,632

*Note : Cash and cash equivalents include all items at call and short-term deposits with an original maturity of less than three months. Other financial assets include term deposits with an original maturity of greater than three months. Council held total of \$1.5m in term deposits with an initial maturity greater than 90 days as at 31 March 2025.

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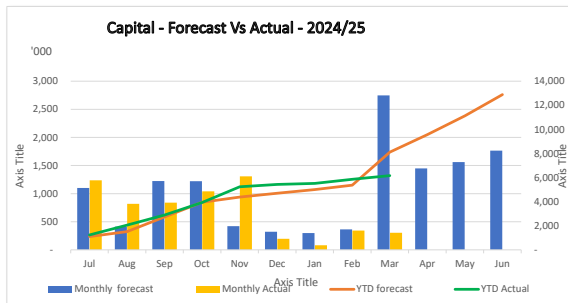
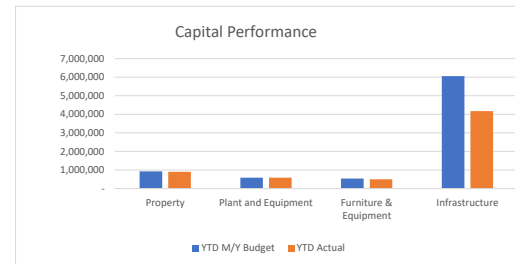
Statement of Capital Works
For the period ended 31 March 2025

	Current year				Same time last year	
	MYBR 2024/25	YTD M/Y Budget Mar 2025	YTD Actual Mar 2025	YTD Variance Mar 2025	YTD Budget Mar2024	YTD Actual Mar2024
Property						
Buildings	1,723,039	1,218,921	1,074,481	144,440	1,555,469	1,494,503
Total property	1,723,039	1,218,921	1,074,481	144,440	1,555,469	1,494,503
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,412,588	588,584	588,665	(81)	550,815	300,815
Computers and telecommunications	820,666	536,477	498,046	38,431	171,788	96,477
Total plant and equipment	2,233,254	1,125,061	1,086,711	38,350	722,603	397,292
Infrastructure						
Roads	5,419,091	3,305,845	1,949,594	1,356,251	1,781,920	2,333,296
Bridges	1,641,112	964,614	871,258	93,356	1,087,569	231,355
Footpaths and cycleways	517,027	153,268	140,246	13,022	233,687	258,669
Drainage	416,282	187,382	172,528	14,854	236,068	174,427
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	657,600	560,524	252,059	308,465	368,647	419,139
Waste management	255,000	-	-	-	-	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,107,599	596,822	613,408	(16,586)	1,627,488	1,619,830
Total infrastructure	11,013,710	5,768,455	3,999,093	1,769,362	5,335,379	5,036,716
Total capital works expenditure	14,970,003	8,112,437	6,160,285	1,952,152	7,613,451	6,928,511
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure	1,623,846	425,389	437,940	(12,551)	1,372,811	1,900,414
Asset renewal expenditure	10,385,241	5,972,699	4,186,770	1,785,929	4,035,009	3,681,097
Asset expansion expenditure	308,893	-	-	-	-	8,057
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,652,022	1,714,349	1,535,575	178,774	2,205,631	1,338,943
Total capital works expenditure	14,970,003	8,112,437	6,160,285	1,952,152	7,613,451	6,928,511

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Capital Performance

	Adopted Budget	Mid Year Budget	Forecast after Mid year	YTD M/Y Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Completion %	Annual Completion against Mid year Budget%
Property	561,373	1,004,356	1,628,539	929,841	904,176	97%	90%
Plant and Equipment	855,000	1,412,588	1,112,588	588,584	588,665	100%	42%
Furniture & Equipmen	1,046,805	820,666	820,666	536,477	498,046	93%	61%
Infrastructure	11,130,821	11,732,393	9,324,418	6,057,535	4,169,397	69%	36%
	13,593,999	14,970,003	12,886,211	8,112,437	6,160,284	76%	41%



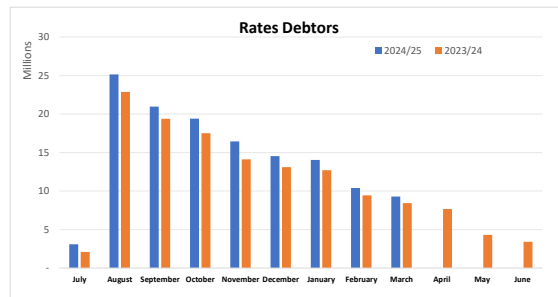
This graph shows YTD capital expenditure for March25 with comparison to YTD budget for each category of major capital expenditure.

This graph shows monthly capital expenditure for this financial year with comparison to monthly forecast. Orange trend line is YTD forecast budget and green trend line shows YTD actual for the year. A narrow gap between these two lines shows a better performance and wider gap is an indication of poor capital works delivery performance.

Other Financial Data

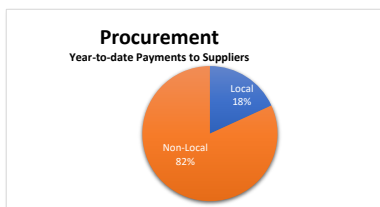
1. Rates Debtors Comparison (excluding Fire Service Levy)

Month	2024/25	2023/24
July	3,084,698	2,087,784
August	25,149,068	22,891,045
September	20,979,651	19,387,447
October	19,406,959	17,527,319
November	16,458,348	14,127,181
December	14,548,628	13,111,990
January	14,044,078	12,714,360
February	10,405,290	9,449,010
March	9,280,947	8,427,975
April		7,663,802
May		4,298,627
June		3,412,149



This graph shows total rate debtors for each month comparison to last year. August has a higher value due to rates run for the full financial year. Council staff have activities planned to try to reduce the current levels of unpaid rates.

2. Financial contribution to the local community



This is a comparison of total creditor payments for suppliers located within the shire and outside the shire.

11.4.4 Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors April 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 April 2025 to 30 April 2025 are shown in the attachments below.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Notes the Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors from 1 April 2025 to 30 April 2025.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plan

This report is consistent with the following key strategic focus areas and or actions in the 2021-25 Council Plan:

Strategic Focus Area 6: Accountable. Transparent. Responsible.

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.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

No Council officers and/or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a general or material conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration

TRANSPARENCY

This report will be presented to Council in a Council meeting, open to the public and live streamed to the public. This is consistent with Council's Transparency Policy, enabling the community to have oversight regarding the matters being discussed by Council and the decisions being made.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 20250401 Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors
2. 20250408 Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors
3. 20250415 Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors
4. 20250429 Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Staff Only

Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Meeting Details	Title	Councillor Briefing	
	Date and Time	1 April 2025 at 9:15 am	
	Location	Euroa Conference Room	
Present	Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor Cr Ewart-Kennedy Deputy Mayor Cr Jeffery Cr Binks (via Teams) Cr Carlson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cr Holloway Cr Halsall Cr Stevens Marg Allan (Municipal Monitor)
	Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim Tamlin – Interim CEO Amanda Tingay – Director People and Governance Rachael Frampton – Director Community and Planning Michelle Harris – Interim Media and Communications Manager Oliver McNulty – Director Sustainable Infrastructure Andrew Davis – Chief Financial Officer Sagara Gunasekara – Finance Coordinator Manager People and Culture – Heike Manet June Strutt – Corporate Planning Advisor Kerry Lynch – Governance Officer 	
	Guest Speakers	InSync – Vivian Ho and Tony Matthews Euroa Caravan Park – Kristy Hourigan	
	Apologies		

Disclosures of Conflict of Interests

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed
(Local Government Act 2020 - Section 131)

Matters Considered		Disclosures and Comments
1	Planning matters	None
2	Council Plan 2025-29 and Community Vision	None
3	2025-26 Draft Budget and Financial Plan	None
4	Euroa Caravan Park	None
5	Employee Satisfaction Survey Results	None

The meeting concluded at 4:45 pm

Record completed by	Officer Name - Officer Title	Kerry Lynch, Governance Officer
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Staff Only

Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Meeting Details	Title	Councillor Briefing	
	Date and Time	8 April 2025 at 9:15 am	
	Location	Euroa Conference Room	
	Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Cr Ewart-Kennedy • Deputy Mayor Cr Jeffery • Cr Binks • Cr Carlson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Holloway • Cr Halsall • Cr Stevens • Marg Allan (Municipal Monitor)
	Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Tamlin – Interim CEO • Amanda Tingay – Director People and Governance • Rachael Frampton – Director Community and Planning • Michelle Harris – Interim Media and Communications Manager • Oliver McNulty – Director Sustainable Infrastructure • Andrew Davis – Chief Financial Officer • Sagara Gunasekara – Finance Coordinator • June Strutt – Corporate Planning Advisor • Kerry Lynch – Governance Officer 	
	Guest Speakers		
Present	Apologies		

Disclosures of Conflict of Interests

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed
(*Local Government Act 2020* - Section 131)

Matters Considered		Disclosures and Comments
1	Draft Agenda Review – Council Meeting 15 April 2025	None
2	Waste Management Services Overview	None
3	2025-29 Council Plan and Key Strategic Documents Update	None
4	Draft 2025-26 Budget	None

The meeting concluded at 5:30 pm

Record completed by	Officer Name - Officer Title	Kerry Lynch, Governance Officer
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Staff Only

Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Meeting Details	Title	Councillor Briefing	
	Date and Time	15 April 2025 at 10:00 am	
	Location	Euroa Conference Room	
	Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Cr Ewart-Kennedy • Deputy Mayor Cr Jeffery • Cr Binks • Cr Carlson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Holloway • Cr Halsall • Cr Stevens (via Teams) • Marg Allan (Municipal Monitor)
	Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Tamlin – Interim CEO • Amanda Tingay – Director People and Governance • Rachael Frampton – Director Community and Planning • Michelle Harris – Interim Media and Communications Manager • Oliver McNulty – Director Sustainable Infrastructure • Andrew Davis – Chief Financial Officer • Sagara Gunasekara – Finance Coordinator • June Strutt – Corporate Planning Advisor • Kerry Lynch – Governance Officer 	
	Guest Speakers	Urban Folds (via Teams)	
Present	Apologies		

Disclosures of Conflict of Interests

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed
(Local Government Act 2020 - Section 131)

Matters Considered		Disclosures and Comments
1	Agenda Review – Council Meeting 15 April 2025	None
2	ALGA National General Assembly June 2025	None
3	Procurement Policy	None
4	Consultations for Key Strategic Documents	None
5	Road Management Plan	None
6	2025-29 Council Plan and all strategic documents	None
7	Euroa Precinct Masterplan	None
8	2025-26 Draft Budget	None

The meeting concluded at 3:30 pm

Record completed by	Officer Name - Officer Title	Kerry Lynch, Governance Officer
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Staff Only

Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Meeting Details	Title	Councillor Briefing	
	Date and Time	29 April 2025 at 12:30 pm	
	Location	Euroa Conference Room	
	Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor Cr Ewart-Kennedy Deputy Mayor Cr Jeffery Cr Binks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cr Holloway Cr Halsall Cr Stevens Marg Allan (Municipal Monitor via Teams)
	Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim Tamlin – Interim CEO Amanda Tingay – Director People and Governance Rachael Frampton – Director Community and Planning Michelle Harris – Interim Media and Communications Manager Oliver McNulty – Director Sustainable Infrastructure Leanne Carbonneau – Manager Community and Safety Kerry Lynch – Governance Officer 	
	Guest Speakers	Yorta Yorta Nation – John Kerr CEO (via Teams)	
Present	Apologies	Cr Carlson	

Disclosures of Conflict of Interests

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed
(*Local Government Act 2020* - Section 131)

Matters Considered		Disclosures and Comments
1	Engagement for Key Strategic Documents	None
2	School Crossing Options	None
3	Overview – Community Safety, Introduction to Local Law and Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-29	None
4	“Coffee with Councillors”	None
5	Yorta Yorta Nation	None
6	Review Agenda – Extraordinary Council Meeting 29 April 2025	None

The meeting concluded at 3:30 pm

Record completed by	Officer Name - Officer Title	Kerry Lynch, Governance Officer
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11.5 Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

Nil to report.

12 Notice of Motion

Nil

13 Notice of Rescission

Nil

14 Confidential Business

Nil

15 Urgent Business

Nil

16 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on 17 June 2025 at Euroa Community Conference Centre commencing at 4:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed atpm.