

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions

Tuesday 17 June 2025

Minutes

Council Meeting

17 June 2025 at 4:00 pm

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

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

Councillors

Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy
Deputy Mayor Cr Scott Jeffery
Cr Laura Binks
Cr Gregory Carlson
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 give 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 Scott Jeffery

6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Cr Fiona Stevens declared a general conflict of interest in relation to Item 11.4.1 on the agenda, and in accordance with Section (129) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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.

MOVED: Cr Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Stevens

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 May 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 3 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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CARRIED

8 Petitions

Nil

9 Mayor and Councillor Reports

9.1 Mayor's Report

What a month it has been! Whilst enjoying a host of local community events, my fellow Councillors and I continue to advocate on your behalf across a number of important issues that affect our livelihoods and challenge our resilience.

On a very positive note, today is the culmination of six months of intensive work from your Councillors and communities as we deliver the Community Vision 2035 and the 2025-29 Council Plan.

The Council Plan is the strategic roadmap that will guide our work over the next four years and help us achieve our community's long-term aspirations.

These aspirations are articulated in our Strathbogie Shire Community Vision 2035:

"We will create a thriving place to live, work, and explore – where history and Country are honoured, innovation is welcomed, our collective spirit makes us stronger, and our natural environment is sustained for future generations".

This Council Plan reflects our shared vision for Strathbogie Shire as a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable place to live, work, play, and visit.

Everything we do at Council is driven by this plan and guided by the values and priorities of our community. It also provides a framework to monitor our progress and report back to you, ensuring we remain accountable and transparent.

The plan has been developed through consultation with residents, businesses, community groups, a working group, Council staff, and my fellow Councillors. Your invaluable input has ensured this plan is as unique and diverse as our region.

As a new council I'm proud to say that along with Council staff, we have invested a lot of time, and effort in listening to your feedback and identifying the key needs of our community which can only be achieved with long term financial sustainability. This council has committed to delivering on the outcomes highlighted in these plans in a financially responsible manner.

I want to thank my fellow Councillors, Community Working Group Participants and our CEO Rachelle Quattrocchi and her team who have all been on this journey together, and I am proud to present the Community Vision and Council Plan and other supporting documents to the meeting today for adoption.

Our communities are facing some significant challenges right now—from ongoing drought conditions to cost-of-living pressures—and as Councillors, we are united in our commitment to advocate for better outcomes across every platform available to us.

This month, I had the privilege of chairing the Hume Region Local Government Network meeting, where I joined fellow Mayors in calling for urgent and coordinated drought relief. On behalf of the Hume Regional group of Councils, we've proactively reached out to the Premier's newly formed Drought Response Taskforce and written to Cr Shane Sali, Chair of Regional Cities Victoria, and Cr Kate Makin, Deputy Chair of Rural Councils Victoria, to advocate for the unique needs of both the Hume region and Strathbogie Shire specifically.

This past month, I've had the opportunity to represent our Shire across a range of major media platforms to advocate for our region on the issues that matter most. From drought support and the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy, I've worked hard to ensure the voices of

our community are being heard loud and clear. I've also contributed to several Euroa Gazette features and responded to and provided responses to media requests from The Age, Country News, and The Herald Sun. Our messages are being heard both locally and nationally.

We've also launched a new advocacy video series to shine a light on the work Council is doing on your behalf. This series takes you behind the scenes of our conversations with state and federal governments and highlights the priorities we're pushing to ensure Strathbogie Shire continues to thrive. Because when we advocate together, we achieve more.

On the 11th of June we proudly joined the nation in marking "Thank a First Responder Day". It's a moment to pause and reflect on the courage, commitment, and compassion of the people who keep our communities safe—often under the toughest conditions.

From CFA volunteers to SES crews, police, paramedics, and countless support staff, their dedication means everything to us. In recognition, we invited all local emergency service volunteers to enjoy a free coffee or tea on us for the month of June—a small gesture filled with deep gratitude. In regional communities like ours, first responders are our neighbours, our friends, and our family. They deserve both our thanks and our continued support.

This month, I was joined by over 100 enthusiastic volunteers from across the Shire at Discovery Park Nagambie for a special day of celebration, inspiration, and relaxation to acknowledge Volunteer Week.

The event, hosted by Council, honoured the invaluable contributions of our local volunteers and provided a chance to connect, reflect, and enjoy the scenic beauty of the region.

I was thrilled to announce the recipients of this year's Local Legends Awards:

Maureen "Mozzie" Fowler from Nagambie and David Carson from Longwood.

Our guest speaker, Sarah Barnbrook, shared her incredible journey in volunteering, which has taken her to the United Nations, where she now serves as an accredited delegate and speaker. Her inspiring talk offered a fresh perspective on the value of volunteerism and how individuals can truly make the most of their service.

The day was a resounding success—a fitting and heartfelt celebration of the volunteers who give so much to our community and the Shire.

What wonderful communities we have who continue to support Australia's Biggest Morning Tea each year across the Shire. In May, I joined a fabulous group at the Nagambie Lakes Community House for a very special morning tea, whilst Councillor Halsall joined the CWA in Euroa to celebrate with local residents in that area.

I would also like to acknowledge our own Strathbogie Shire Council Staff who hosted a Biggest Morning Tea event and raised in excess of \$400 for Breast Cancer Charities.

National Reconciliation Week is an important moment for reflection, respect and unity. On Sunday 25 May, I had the pleasure of attending a community celebration at Shadforth Reserve, alongside Cr Laura Binks and CEO Rachelle Quattrocchi.

With the Shadforth Reserve Committee, the Burnanga (Bununug) Indigenous Fishing Club, and the Victorian Fisheries Authority, we joined local families in a celebration of culture and connection—complete with fishing, live music, dance, storytelling, food and art. It was a truly uplifting day and a reminder of the power of partnership and place.

On Wednesday, Deputy Mayor Scott Jeffery and I had the pleasure of attending the Euroa Cattle Sale and meeting with local community members. It was an excellent opportunity to not only better understand the importance of this facility to our agricultural sector and regional economy, but also to talk to local farmers and residents about the effects of the drought and hear what we can most do to support our communities.

Last week, Councillor Holloway and I attended an Artificial Intelligence Conference in Wangaratta to discuss how AI can be used to leverage and grow business.

The Forum was a chance to hear from industry leaders and explore the opportunities and practical applications for AI in regional Victoria. It was an informative day, and a great chance to network with other regional industry leaders.

I am constantly amazed at the capacity of our residents to support their communities through volunteerism, fundraising or just being available to one another. As Councillors, we are committed to advocating on your behalf to ensure we have strong and vibrant communities.

9.2 Councillor Reports

Cr Holloway

Last Thursday, Mayor Ewart-Kennedy, Director Frampton and I had the opportunity to attend an Artificial Intelligence symposium conducted at Wangaratta. While AI (as it's commonly known) may seem a somewhat exotic topic for a rural shire to be concerned with, it represents a transformational technology that is set to change virtually every aspect of our lives. It is not too extreme to say the rise of AI now will be as game-changing as the internet itself was a few decades ago.

Much of the symposium discussed productivity gains and workflow changes resulting therefrom.

These of course are important, but we are much more concerned with three other issues – security, governance and ethics. Unfortunately, the symposium's speakers touched on these only lightly or not at all. But they are absolutely critical for any organisation and particularly a local government. With security – any question asked of AI is sending one's data to an unaffiliated corporation, and quite likely a foreign one. The Privacy Act would cover parts of this data – are we ready for that? With governance – to what extent does an organisation such as ours allow employees to use an “intelligence” in their work that is not their own? Do we need procedures or policies around this, or even prohibitions? And with ethics – this is probably the most important of these three – what ethical challenges need addressing when basing decisions on deductions that are not our own, and indeed not even human?

One of the key themes discussed was that most employees want to use AI to make their lives easier and their output better and so will be using it off to the side whether we as an organisation are ready for it or not. This is the most important takeaway – the technology is already here and will wait for anyone – so we as an organisation need to get our security, governance and ethical frameworks firmly in place in order to meet this transformational challenge.

Cr Binks

Thank you Mayor Ewart-Kennedy.

On Sunday 25th May, I joined the Mayor, CEO, and Council staff at the Reconciliation Week event at Shadforth Reserve in Violet Town. The event was such a great partnership by the Shadforth Reserve Committee of Management, and including the Violet Town CFA, Violet Town Lions Club.

It was a hugely successful day with many locals turning up and people from afar to celebrate Yorta Yorta culture, our inclusive and resourceful community and the beautiful natural environment of the Shadforth Reserve is, and all that has been achieved in the space.

Sunday 15th June was the beginning of Refugee Week, with this year's theme being Finding Freedom: Diversity in Community.

On Sunday I attended a Picnic for Peace at the Euroa Arboretum, joining with many migrants, refugees, tourists and Australian citizens from near and far to celebrate the rich diversity that our multicultural community offers us. We had a shared picnic lunch with dishes from Iraq, Nepal, Indonesia, Italy, China, England and Australia.

It was wonderful to celebrate the inclusive communities right here in Strathbogie Shire that open our arms to those seeking refuge, providing platforms for connection and a sense of belonging. I wish to thank Liz Arcus, co-founder of Picnic for Peace, for all her efforts to create, support and champion these inclusive communities in our region and I encourage everyone to engage with other activities relating to Refugee Week 2025.

July 6 to 13 is NAIDOC Week and marks a powerful milestone: 50 years of honouring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience. The 2025 theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of First Nations young leaders, the vision of Indigenous communities, and the legacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors.

Council have provided funding to Avenel Active to Celebrate NAIDOC Week with a free screening of two short films and Welcome to Country from Taungurung Elder Auntie Jo Honeysett.

The event is happening on Friday 18 July, at the Avenel Memorial Hall and I look forward to seeing my fellow Councillors and many community members at the event.

Cr Carlson

Thank you Madam Mayor, I have a few short reports. I had a meeting of the Regional Library Corporation last week and we've made good progress on the fundamental architecture of the new company that will be created from 1 July 2026; the Constitution, make up of the Board, selection process, it will be a skills based board.

For instance the chairman of the group will not have to be a councillor. There is a lot of flexibility and innovation being brought into the system and is much more dynamic. We had a pretty productive day, but of course the last issue is always the toughest nut to crack and we haven't cracked that one yet so I'll leave that to a later date. Nevertheless it was a pretty productive meeting.

Also a few drought forums as I'm sure we all have. The information is slowly but surely coming together. I think the community is waiting for decisions from the state government but I should particularly like to congratulate our Mayor on her efforts. They have been pretty substantial with a lot of meetings and talking to different people, and her efforts on our communities behalf to work through what are complex issues. Addressing this is always a hard task and I think we all owe our Mayor a debt of gratitude so thank you on a good effort.

Cr Halsall

I briefly wanted to echo Councillor Carlson's thanks to your representation as our Mayor and our leader. You have been very strong in the media, very consistent and you're popping up all over the place. I reference your opportunities in Melbourne as well as in our local country and local regions media as well.

I just wanted to thank the residents that have been contacting me regarding the purple bins

and the Frost Street Underpass and encourage people to continue to reach out to Councillors because we do listen.

I would also like to thank the local Principals and some of the other groups like the Chamber of Commerce and Cricket Club representatives, the Secondary College and St John's for being available to make comment when I have sought community feedback from you to inform decisions that I need to make.

I am really enjoying the role of a Councillor, I'm enjoying being part of this team. The leadership that the Mayor is providing, and also being the conduit between our group and the community is actually a rewarding place to be at this point .

Cr Stevens

As we have a busy night I wasn't going to speak, but there is something I would like to share.

Last Friday I attended the Goulburn Valley Road Safety Committee meeting that I'm the representative on in Shepparton. Its a great committee and its has representation from our Shire and other Shires, but also the Department of Planning Transport and Planning Hume region and other stakeholders.

The Committee was pleased to hear that at our last meeting we voted to continue the school crossing supervisor at the Nagambie School Crossing and we're very appreciative they also acknowledge they know Goulburn Street well. They know that the school crossing is not the only issues so they look forward to any other mitigation's or works that might come into the future. They said to give that feedback which I am giving tonight.

One other thing I would like to pass on. We got all the statistics in relation to accidents and cause of accidents and unfortunately the thing that is still sitting very high is distraction. It is very concerning, and the statistics are very concerning throughout our region and the state.

Distraction regarding mobile phones, fiddling with radios etc and just fiddling in general while you're driving the car so there are some projects that are in the mix to move forward with a bit of education in the area and I'm hoping that our Shire can get on the list to get some sort of participation in that.

The other thing I want to say relates to new legislation coming in on 1 July 2025. At present you have to slow down if you see the police pulling over a car on the side of the highway when the lights are flashing or and ambulance. From 1 July, its going to be any vehicle that is pulled over on the side of the road for some emergency response. It might be a tow truck picking up a broken down vehicle or it might be some other issue that has come to attention, and they need to put the flashing lights on. Therefore you have to slow down to 40 and if you don't the penalty is going to be significant and the points are probably going to be about five points. So get into the habit please, if you see someone on the side of the road with flashing lights to drop down to 40.

10 Public Question Time

Thanks to all those who submitted questions for the meeting today. A reminder to submit your questions 30 hours prior to the Council meeting.

Before we commence public question time, the Council had a number of emails rather than questions from concerned residents relating to the Frost Street Underpass and Shire Swimming Pools.

Council acknowledges receipt of these emails and these were discussed at the Councillor Briefing held earlier today.

Our Reference - AB 28/2025 and 29/2025

Question

What steps did Council take to ensure Inland Rail takes responsibility for the remediation of Anderson Street, including the tree canopy ?

Response

Thank you Angela for your question. Council officers have regular meetings with Inland Rail and have been doing so since the commencement of the project around three years ago and work to minimise impacts on community infrastructure including the tree canopy. Through this process we have been able to work to save several trees that had been identified for removal. Officers continue to work with Inland Rail to replace trees removed, and where possible, taking into consideration safety and existing utilities.

Just for information as well, there are trees that are not actually on Council owned land that have been removed as part of the project, and we do advocate very strongly for our trees.

Question

What is the total number and replacement value of trees removed in Euroa so far ?

Response

Further to the answer to the first question in giving you a number, I don't have that information for you right now. As I mentioned, there are a number of trees that also have been removed on land that is not actually owned by Council. I will stress that we do advocate very strongly to maintain any trees not only on our Council land, but also in the vicinity of the site.

I have ongoing conversations with Inland Rail and we are advocating to maintain the tree canopy across the Shire. This includes trees that may facilitate detour routes and the new underpass. There are trees that will need to be removed to make way for the new infrastructure, but anything in and around that site, that's something we do continue to advocate for.

Approximately half of the trees as mentioned are on land managed by other agencies and outside Council control. However we do attend meetings with these stakeholders regularly. The Director Sustainable Infrastructure and I do meet with Inland Rail regularly, and we will look at future opportunities as well to fund and replace trees that have been removed, particularly on Council land.

Our Reference - MM 37/2025 and 38/2025**Question**

Why is this Shire's rate department always delaying in create enquiries, now being over six months for one rate enquiry and over 11 years for another?

Response

Thank you Maree for your question. In talking to our teams, I understand that you have been in discussion with our Rates Officer and there has been ongoing information commissioned about your enquiries.

If you're not satisfied with the information you have been provided I encourage you to still talk to our rates department so that you can seek the information you're after. I am aware that back in November there was correspondence back and forth and also of June this year.

Question

A local shire road was taken over from Regional Roads Victoria in 2011, with money given this Shire, and this road needs works done and council has done zero to date.

When will this shire attend to Roads that monies are allocated too?

Response

Thank you for your question Maree. The Team and I are a bit unclear about what road your question relates to. I have asked our Director Sustainable Infrastructure Oliver McNulty to make contact with you to better understand what the nature of the question is, the location of the road so we can better respond to your question.

Our Reference - TM 39/2025 and 40/2025**Question**

What is the Standard of the sealed and unsealed roads across the shire?

Response

Council completes asset condition inspections of its road network every four years. The last network inspection was in early 2022 and this identified that our road network is in a reasonable condition.

Officers are currently developing documentation to go out to the market to get up to date condition data that will help inform and prioritise the works program for our sealed and unsealed roads. It is anticipated this work will be completed by early 2026, and this will give us up to date information on the condition of our road network.

Further, we will be reporting quarterly on our capital works program and that is something we look to do from September of this year. The report will list the roads that are included within our program, and that will be made publicly available.

Question

Since amalgamation the rates dept has not provided professional accountability for the rates payers of this shire.

When will the requests I have made in relation to rates be attended too, now being well over 5 years to date ?

Response

Thank you for your question Tom and as mentioned previously it would be appreciated if you can get in touch with our rates department. I understand they have had correspondence with you more recently and it is encouraged that you talk to the department directly, and they will be happy to assist you with your requests.

11 Officer Reports

11.1 Strategic and Statutory Planning

11.1.1 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined 1 May 2025 to 31 May 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 1) and Planning Applications Determined (Attachment 2) in the month of May 2025.

It is noted there were eleven (11) new planning applications received, and eleven (11) planning applications determined in this reporting period.

The latest available Planning Permit Activity Reporting (PPARs) figures for the month of May have not been included with this report due to integration issues associated with the implementation of Greenlight, Council's new online planning and reporting portal.

The contents of this report are provided for information purposes only.

The listing of current planning applications on public notice can be found on Council's website.

MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Note that there were eleven (11) new planning applications received, and eleven (11) planning applications determined during the period of 1 May to 31 May 2025.**

24/25-103

CARRIED

11.2 Community

11.2.1 Contract Extension Belgravia Health Leisure Group Pty Ltd

AUTHOR Manager Community and Culture

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the September 2021 Council meeting, Belgravia Health Leisure Group Pty Ltd (Belgravia Leisure) was awarded a three (3) year contract (CN 21/22-01) with the option of two (2) single year extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and agreement between both parties.

The initial three (3) year contract term concluded on 30 June 2024.

Based on the satisfactory performance and negotiation, Council approved at the May 21 2024 Council Meeting to award a one (1) year contract extension at a cost of \$452,893 (excluding GST) for the operation of Council's four seasonal aquatic facilities for 2024-25. This exercised the first of two, single year extensions under the original contract.

This report considers the award of the fifth and final single year contract extension.

The single year contract price negotiated for season 2025-26 is \$453,597 (excluding GST) and is based on the same operating hours as season 2024-2025.

MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens

That Council:

Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve a single year contract extension to Belgravia Health Leisure Group Pty Ltd for the management and operation of Council's four (4) aquatic facilities for the 2025-2026 season at a cost of \$453,597 (excluding GST).

24/25-104

CARRIED

11.3 Infrastructure

11.3.1 Frost Street Underpass

AUTHOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Inland Rail project, the Euroa Station Precinct is undergoing major reconstruction to support double-stacked freight train movements. This includes upgrades or modifications to rail crossings affected within the project area.

Council currently maintains a pedestrian underpass at Frost Street, Euroa which also functions as a major stormwater floodway. Under the existing project scope, this underpass is scheduled for removal and replacement with a new structure built to current accessibility standards.

Inland Rail proposed a change: to remove the construction of the new Frost Street pedestrian underpass from the project, while still upgrading the floodway culverts. Pedestrian access would instead be provided via a new, fully accessible underpass at the station.

In lieu of constructing a new underpass, Inland Rail offered Council a \$350,000 cash contribution to support future capital works, along with a new shared-use path connection and support to complete the Binney Street, Euroa roundabout design.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Greg Carlson

Seconded: Cr Laura Binks

That Council

1. Approve the request from Inland Rail to remove the renewal and upgrade of Frost Street Euroa underpass from the scope of the project and note that the existing underpass will be removed and replaced with flood overlay infrastructure
2. Accept the contribution of \$350,000 from Inland Rail into Councils Capital Works program for allocation to future identified projects
3. Note that Inland Rail will complete the design of the road treatment at the intersection of Binney Street and Railway Street, Euroa
4. Note that a further report will be presented to Council by October 2025 to approve the allocation of the \$350,000 to new projects.

DIVISION

FOR

Cr Greg Carlson
Cr Laura Binks
Cr Fiona Stevens
Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy

AGAINST

Cr Clark Holloway
Cr Vicki Halsall

24/25-105

CARRIED

11.4 Corporate

11.4.1 Summary and Responses - Integrated Plans Submissions

AUTHOR Corporate Planning Advisor

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy formal submissions were sought from the community on the suite of draft integrated plans endorsed by Council on 29 April 2025.

A hearing of submitters choosing to speak to their submissions was held at the 3 June 2025 extraordinary Council Meeting. The suite of plans included the:

- a. Draft Community Vision 2025-2035
- b. Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 incorporating the Health, Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan and Disability Action Plan
- c. Draft Annual Action Plan 2025-2026
- d. Draft Financial Plan 2025-2035
- e. Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035
- f. Draft Rating and Revenue Plan 2025-2029
- g. Draft Budget 2025-2026

Nine (9) submissions were received by the closing date. Two submitters accepted the opportunity to speak to Council regarding their submissions at the extraordinary Council Meeting on 3 June 2025.

A summary of submissions and officer recommendations were included for Council's consideration in the report, as well as copies of the submissions.

MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

1. **Having considered each submission accept the Officers' recommendations in the summary of submissions contained in Attachment 1**
2. **Acknowledges the Officers' recommended changes have been included in the relevant proposed plans for the purpose of considering the adoption of the:**
 - a. **Community Vision 2025-2035**
 - b. **Council Plan 2025-2029 incorporating the Health, Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan and Disability Action Plan**
 - c. **Annual Action Plan 2025-2026**
 - d. **Financial Plan 2025-2035**
 - e. **Asset Plan 2025-2035**
 - f. **Rating and Revenue Pan 2025-2029**
 - g. **Budget 2025-2026**

allowing that relevant plans may be amended if resolved differently by Council.

- 3. Request the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, extend Council's appreciation to the submitters for their contributions and provide Council's response to their submission.**

24/25-106

CARRIED

11.4.2 2025-2035 Community Vision

AUTHOR Corporate Planning Advisor

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director of People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with *section 88* of the *Local Government Act 2020* Council has prepared a refreshed proposed Community Vision 2035 for Council's consideration:

'We will create a thriving place to live, work, and explore – where history and Country are honoured, innovation is welcomed, our collective spirit makes us stronger, and our natural environment is sustained for future generations.'

Community engagement responses and the "Our Community, Our Future" Working Group have informed the development of the refreshed Community Vision 2035.

A final engagement stage sought formal submissions on the endorsed draft Community Vision. One submission was received by the close of submissions on Thursday 22 May 2025.

A hearing of formal submissions on the full suite of integrated plans developed by Council, including the draft Community Vision 2035 was held at an extraordinary Council meeting held on 3 June 2025.

MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall
SECONDED: Cr Clark Holloway

That Council:

1. Adopt the Community Vision 2035:

'We will create a thriving place to live, work, and explore – where history and Country are honoured, innovation is welcomed, our collective spirit makes us stronger, and our natural environment is sustained for future generations'

which has been prepared in accordance with:

- a. Section 55 – Deliberative Community Engagement, section 88 – Community Vision, and section 89 – Strategic Planning Principles, of the *Local Government Act 2020***

thereby superseding the former Community Vision 2040.

- 2. Incorporates the adopted Community Vision 2035 into the proposed Council Plan 2025-2029.**
- 3. Informs the community that the Community Vision 2035 has been adopted on Council's website and through social and printed media.**

11.4.3 2025-2029 Council Plan

AUTHOR Corporate Planning Advisor

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Council prepared a proposed Council Plan 2025-2029.

A proposed Annual Action Plan 2025-2026 has been prepared to commence implementation of the four-year strategies and major initiatives, and a new Annual Action Plan will be developed for each financial year.

Deliberative community engagement activities have informed the development of the Council Plan, and the processes used were outlined under the Community Engagement section of the report.

The Council Plan incorporates the proposed Community Vision 2035, and the Community Vision was considered for adoption by Council in a concurrent report.

The Council Plan incorporates the *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029* and *Disability Action Plan 2025-2029*. These are collectively referred to as the Health, Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan.

The strategic directions for these plans have been integrated into the Council Plan strategic objectives, strategies and major initiatives.

Community engagement responses and stakeholder engagement has informed these plans, and the exemption to include them in the Council Plan has been given by the Department of Health.

Council resolved on 29 April 2025 to endorse the draft Council Plan and draft Annual Action Plan for a final community engagement and formal submission stage, and a hearing of formal submissions was held on 3 June 2025. A summary of the proposed changes arising from submissions was included in the report.

The report sought Council's consideration with a recommendation to adopt the proposed Council Plan 2025-2029, including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan, and adopt the proposed Annual Action Plan 2025-2026, with implementation to commence from 1 July 2025.

MOVED: Cr Laura Binks
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the proposed Council Plan 2025-2029, incorporating the Community Vision 2035, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, Disability Action Plan 2025-2029, contained in Attachment 1 and proposed Annual Action Plan 2025-2026, contained in Attachment 2, which have been prepared in accordance with:**

- a. **Section 55 – Deliberative Community Engagement, section 89 – Strategic Planning Principles, and section 90 – Council Plan of the *Local Government Act 2020***
 - b. **Section 27 – Inclusion of public health and wellbeing matters in Council Plan or Strategic Plan of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008***
 - c. **Section 38 – Disability Action Plan of the *Disability Act 2006***
2. **Require any amendments adopted for the Community Vision 2035 to be carried through into the Council Plan 2025-2029 prior to publication**
3. **Publish the Council Plan 2025-2029, including the Community Vision, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan, and the Annual Action Plan 2025-2026 on Council's website, and informs the community that the plans have been adopted through social and printed media.**

24/25-108

CARRIED

11.4.4 2025-2035 Asset Plan

AUTHOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Council prepared an Asset Plan 2025-2035 for Council's consideration and endorsement.

Strathbogie Shire Council is the custodian of a diverse and significant portfolio of infrastructure and community assets that support the delivery of essential services to our community.

The Asset Plan provides a strategic framework for the sustainable management of these assets over their lifecycle, ensuring they continue to meet current and future service delivery needs.

The Asset Plan outlines the condition, performance, and value of key asset classes—such as roads, bridges, buildings, drainage, footpaths, parks, and plant.

Key objectives of this plan include:

- Ensuring assets are maintained in a safe, functional, and cost-effective condition
- Optimising asset life through planned maintenance, renewal, and replacement strategies
- Aligning asset investment with community expectations and Council's long-term financial sustainability
- Meeting legislative and regulatory obligations related to asset management and reporting.

This plan is informed by robust asset data, risk assessments, lifecycle costing, and stakeholder consultation. It supports Council's broader strategic goals, including the Community Vision 2035, Council Plan 2025-2029, and Financial Plan 2025-2035.

By implementing the Asset Plan, Council is committed to responsible stewardship of public assets, improving asset performance, reducing long-term costs, and delivering value to the community now and into the future.

MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall
SECONDED: Cr Clark Holloway

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Asset Plan 2025-2035, contained in Attachment One, as a strategic document to guide the sustainable management of Council's infrastructure and community assets, which has been prepared in accordance with section 89 – Strategic Planning Principles, and Section 92 – Asset Plan, of the *Local Government Act 2020***

- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor editorial changes to the final Asset Plan 2025-2035, if required**
- 3. Note that the final Asset Plan 2025-2035 supports the achievement of Council's long term financial sustainability, service delivery and compliance of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**
- 4. Publish the Asset Plan 2025-2035 on Council's website, and informs the community that the plans have been adopted through social and printed media.**

24/25-109

CARRIED

11.4.5 Adoption of 2025-26 Budget, Revenue and Rating Plan and 2025-2026 Fees and Charges, and Declaration of Rates and Charges for the 12 months ending 30 June 2026

AUTHOR Chief Financial Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following its resolution of 29 April 2025 to release the 2025-2026 Draft Budget and Draft Fees and Charges 2025-2026 and the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 for public review and comment for a period of 21 days, Council fulfilled the legislative requirements for preparing the 2025-26 Budget.

The Budget was placed on public display in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, and three submissions related to the 2025-26 Draft Budget were received.

All submitters had the opportunity to make a verbal presentation at an extraordinary meeting of Council on 3 June 2025, and two parties elected to take up this opportunity in relation to the 2025-26 Draft Budget.

As per Sections 93 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Council is required to officially prepare and adopt the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025, 2025-2026 Budget and Fees and Charges 2025-2026 by June 30, and inform the community about the Budget's adoption.

This includes the declaration of rates and charges for the year ending 30 June 2026, as per the applicable requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Budget and Fees and Charges for the year ending 30 June 2026, and the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025.**
- 2. Declare the Rates and Charges for the year ending 30 June 2026 in accordance with the following recommendations:**

- 1. Amount intended to be raised:**

An amount of \$24,051,101 (or such other amount as is lawfully raised as a consequence of this resolution) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates, annual service charges and environmental levy (described later in this Resolution), which amount is calculated as follows:

General Rates	20,761,180
Annual Service Charges (Waste Management Charge)	3,248,900
Total	24,010,080

2. General Rates

- 2.1 A general rate be declared in respect of the 2025-26 Financial Year**
- 2.2 It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates**
- 2.3 A differential rate be respectively declared for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for each differential rate so declared:**

Residential Land

All land used primarily for residential purposes or obviously adapted to being used primarily for residential purposes but excluding farm land.

Vacant Residential Land

All vacant land which may be used primarily for residential purposes or obviously adapted to being used primarily for residential purposes but excluding farm land.

Farm Land

Any land zoned Farming under the Strathbogie Planning Scheme which is not less than 40 hectares in area and is not classified as having a commercial or industrial use.

Land situated within the Farming zone of less than 40 hectares in area may be considered for the farm differential rate, subject to satisfying Council's criteria for recognition as a bone fide farming activity.

Commercial / Industrial Land

All land used primarily for commercial or industrial purposes or obviously adapted to being used primarily for commercial/industrial purposes.

Vacant Commercial / Industrial Land

All vacant land which may be used primarily for commercial or industrial purposes or obviously adapted to being used primarily for commercial/industrial purposes.

- 2.4 Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in 2.3) by the relevant percentages indicated in the following table:**

Category	Percentage
Residential Land	0.318893% (or 0.00318893 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)
Vacant Residential Land	0.669675% (or 0.00669675 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)
Farm Land	0.255114% (or 0.00255114 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)
Commercial / Industrial Land	0.382672% (or 0.00382672 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)
Vacant Commercial / Industrial Land	0.669675% (or 0.00669675 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value)

2.5 It be recorded that Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying of Council functions, and that:

2.5.1 the respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025

2.5.2 the respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025

2.5.3 the respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types and classes of land be those described in the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 and

2.5.4 the relevant:

- (a) uses of
- (b) geographical locations of
- (c) planning scheme zoning of and
- (d) types of buildings on

the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025.

2.6 It be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.

3. Municipal Charge - No Municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2025-26 Financial Year.

4. Annual Service Charge:

- 4.1 An annual service charge be declared in respect of the 2025-26 Financial Year**
- 4.2 An annual service charge (Waste Management Charge) be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse from land**
- 4.3 The annual service charge (Waste Management Charge) be in the sum of, and be based on the criteria set out below but dependent upon which option is chosen:**
 - 4.3.1 for the collection and disposal of recyclables and glass \$205 per annum (120 litre, 240 litre and 360 litre bins)**
 - 4.3.2 for the collection and disposal of waste and organics (80 litre and 120 litre bins), \$432 per annum and**
 - 4.3.3 for the collection and disposal of waste and organics (240 litre bins), \$860 per annum.**

in respect of each rateable land (or part) to which the service of collection and disposal is made available.

5. Rebates and Concessions**Pensioner Rebate**

- 5.1 It is also recorded that Council grants to each owner of rateable land who is an "eligible recipient" within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 1986, a rebate as determined by the Victorian State Government, in respect of each rateable land; and**
- 5.2 The rebate described in paragraph 5.1 be granted to assist the proper development of the municipal district, and to provide a concession to ratepayers whose circumstances may limit their capacity to pay.**

6. Payment

- 6.1 All rates and charges to be paid in four instalments, in accordance with Section 167 (1) and (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989* due on:**

1st Instalment 30 September 2025

2nd Instalment 1 December 2025

3rd Instalment 2 March 2026

4th Instalment 1 June 2026

7. Consequential and Further Actions

- 7.1 It be confirmed that, subject to sections 171 and 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council will require a person to pay interest on any rates and charges which:**
 - 7.1.1 that person is liable to pay and**
 - 7.1.2 have not been paid by the date specified for their payment.**

7.2 The Director People and Governance be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and annual service charge in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

7.3 The adoption of the 2025-26 Budget and Fees and Charges and the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 be publicised through Council's website, notices in local newspapers and through Council's social media channels.

24/25-110

CARRIED

11.4.6 2025-2035 Financial Plan

AUTHOR Chief Financial Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to prepare and adopt a Financial Plan and Council Plan as part of a new integrated strategic planning framework.

The Financial Plan identifies how Council's human and financial resources will be allocated over a ten-year period to support the achievement of the Community Vision and delivery of the Council Plan (related strategic documents also being considered at this meeting).

Council resolved on 29 April 2025 to endorse the draft Financial Plan 2025-2035 for a community engagement and formal submission stage. The submission period commenced 30 April 2025 and a hearing of formal submissions was held on 3 June 2025. No submissions were received in relation to the draft Financial 2025-2035.

The report sought Council's consideration with a recommendation to adopt the Financial Plan 2025-2035.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Vicki Halsall

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Financial Plan 2025-2035, which was prepared in accordance with:**
 - a) **section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020***
 - b) **the financial management principles, service performance principles and community engagement principles of the *Local Government Act 2020***
 - c) **Engagement Policy.**
2. **Publishes the Financial Plan 2025-2035 on Council's website, and informs the community that the plans have been adopted through social and printed media.**

24/25-111

CARRIED

11.4.7 Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors May 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 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 May 2025 to 31 May 2025 are shown in the attachments below.

MOVED: Cr Fiona Stevens
SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

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

24/25-112

CARRIED

11.5 Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

Nil reports

12 Notice of Motion

Nil

13 Notice of Rescission

Nil

14 Urgent Business

Nil

15 Confidential Business

Nil

16 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on 15 July 2025 at the Euroa Community Conference Centre commencing at 4:00 pm.

17 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5:55 pm.

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

.....
Chair

.....
Date