

Strathbogie Shire Council

# **Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions**

**Tuesday 15 July 2025**

# Minutes

## Council Meeting

### 15 July 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**

Nil

## **6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

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

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

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

**That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

24/25-113

**CARRIED**

## 8 Petitions

### 8.1 Petition Relating to the Frost Street Underpass

A petition was received on 30 June 2025 from Katie Williams (on behalf of the petitioners). The petition was signed by 883 people.

This petition relates to a previous decision of Council made at the June 2025 Council meeting where Council determined to:

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.

#### **Closure of Frost Street, Euroa Underpass – the petition from citizens is as follows:**

*“the council have made a decision to close the Frost Street Underpass. This was done without consultation of the community and businesses that could be affected. We want the underpass to stay open allowing safe access for the many families that use this on a daily basis. We witness everyday young children walking to school/riding their bikes, people on mobility scooters, elderly, disabled, and people of all physical abilities use this underpass as their gateway into town.*

*To close this would impact on them all, making the only access through the railway station which is not a safe nor sensible solution.*

*Our elderly residents, our young children and our vulnerable community members should not have to face walking into an unmanned railway station that poses a high risk of potential harm to get to the other side of town.*

*If anything is going to divide this town....This is it!*

*Please show your support by signing this petition.”*

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

**That Council**

1. **Receive and note the petition**
2. **Refer the petition to the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director for consideration and response.**

24/25-114

**CARRIED**



## **9 Mayor and Councillor Reports**

### **9.1 Mayor's Report**

Another busy month has come and gone and it has been an important one for advocacy and meetings with our local communities and external stakeholders.

On the 30th of June, CEO Quattrochi and I met with Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland. We continued our discussions on drought relief but also had the chance to explore Council's advocacy priorities and how we can work together with Member Cleeland to achieve better outcomes for our municipality.

In addition, we spoke with Dr Helen Haines MP by phone to continue our discussions on drought advocacy. We emphasised the acute need for more on-the-ground support, and we look forward to progressing these conversations further in a face-to-face meeting next month.

Additionally, CEO Quattrocchi and I are embarking on a series of meetings with key local industry leaders aimed at building stronger partnerships and driving long-term growth for our region.

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the strong community interest and sentiment following Council's decision at the June Council Meeting regarding the future of the Frost Street underpass in Euroa, as part of the Inland Rail project.

Council made a difficult but considered decision in response to Inland Rail's revised proposal. We understand this change affects how people move around Euroa, and we want to assure residents that their voices have been heard.

A petition raising community concerns will be presented later in this afternoon's meeting. Council remains committed to advocating for the best outcomes for Euroa and will continue to work with Inland Rail and engage with our community as the project progresses.

We've made some strong progress on our advocacy efforts over the past month. The next stages of the Chinaman's Bridge project have now been announced, and I'm pleased to report that this has attracted widespread media attention, including interviews I did with ABC Shepparton and WinTV.

We've also released a new advocacy video that outlines Council's next steps in the Chinaman's Bridge project. We will keep producing these videos to highlight our broader advocacy priorities—ranging from long-term regional issues like improving our power supply, to local, place-based projects like Greening Euroa.

There will be more in this series over the coming weeks. These videos showcase our broader advocacy priorities across a range of key issues from our long-term needs such as improved power supply across our region to local place-based projects such as Greening Euroa. We'll continue to produce and publicly share these videos to keep the spotlight on the needs of our Shire.

We'll continue producing and sharing these updates publicly to keep a strong spotlight on the needs and priorities of our Shire.

In other positive news, our Cuppa with a Councillor series kicked off last week. While I wasn't able to attend the first session, Deputy Mayor Jeffrey and Cr Stevens were there to welcome a steady stream of locals. I'd like to thank everyone who came along, and encourage all community members to keep an eye out for upcoming sessions—we'd love for you to pop by

and say hello. Our next Cuppa with a Councillor is on tomorrow (Wednesday) 10am – 12pm at Mawson's Bakery.

Today I had the pleasure of attending two important local events, both of which are very dear to our hearts.

I was very fortunate to preside over the Citizenship Ceremony, which was held in the Euroa Cinema, and welcomed seven new citizens and one dependent to our amazing Shire.

It is so heartwarming to know that these wonderful new citizens have a real commitment to Australia, and have chosen Strathbogie Shire as their home adding to the rich diversity of our communities.

Council supports the awarding of grants as outlined in the Community Funding Model and Grant Guidelines.

This year there were fourteen grant recipients across a wide range of community groups, with grants being awarded to the value of \$161,724.

You can read more fully the details of the grant recipients in the agenda today, but to mark this important achievement Council hosted a light luncheon today.

This firstly celebrated being awarded a grant, but most importantly this was an opportunity for Councillors to meet the representatives from the various community organisations, and hear about the projects and initiatives that the funding will go towards.

While many of our community organisations rely heavily on volunteers and operate with limited resources, they continue to show incredible commitment and resilience working to enrich the recreational, social, and economic life of our broader Municipality.

## **9.2 Councillor Reports**

### **Cr Binks**

Last month Annette Walton, Strathbogie Shire Council's Youth Officer, an incredible woman from Violet Town passed after a hard fought battle with cancer. Nett's support and championing of youth in our region from the 1990s, when I was in primary school (and she was a big part of my life), till just months ago is a testament to her commitment to ensuring kids in our region had every opportunity possible to them.

My deepest condolences go to Nett's family, Andie, Indi, and everyone else who called her mum, aunty, Nanny Nett, friend, mentor and anything else!

I'd like to share with you a poem penned by Bruce Hunt-Hughes which is published in this month's Violet Town Village Voice, and which so perfectly sums up the incredible life and contribution of Nett.

To Annette Walton-Guerin  
Punk, Hippie, Dr Who, Bush-Gatherer, People-Connector,  
Brewer of Tea, Server of Cheeses and Nectar  
& Fruit. Ally of the Young, Leader of the Throng,  
Acute Believer in the Power of Song,  
Dream-Catcher, Game-Changer, Visionary, Leader of VAMP,  
Lover of Thrash, Bach, Low-Brow & High Camp,  
Made things Happen, Got things Done,  
Spruiker, Spritzer, Saucier with Lashings of Fun,

Nett was an Empath, she was easy to approach  
As fellow creator or collaborator-coach.  
Nett created Safety, Inclusivity and Laughter,  
She was there for Set-Up, Show-time, Pack-Down, and Party After.  
She applied the Healing Balm, gave the Clueless a Clue  
To get across a Crack we might have Fallen Through,  
Propped us and Plied us with Food & Warmth & Love,  
Gave us everything except the Shove!  
Crusher of Fears, Lover of Queers, Champion of Diversity:  
Whether you dropped out of High School or went to University,  
Young or Old, Black or White, Male or Female or In-Between,  
You knew Nett would Back you on the Tambourine!  
Nett knew you weren't yet who you'd be,  
nor who you once had been,  
And that all of us, always,  
are somewhere in between.  
So when she saw you, she saw YOU,  
and it was good to be seen.

### **Cr Halsall**

Earlier this month we took a visit to Wangaratta to experience the underpass that is being built. I thought I was going to see a vehicle underpass but it was a pedestrian underpass. The first thing was being hit by the scale of it. It really is very big.

I thought we needed two underpasses to have a fitness loop, but actually this one underpass creates a loop with the ramps on either side and two stairwells. It really was amazing. I was actually still reeling from the scale of the structure even on the way home. We stood there at the top looking over to a vehicular overpass and both Clarke and I reflected how lucky we felt that our community advocated so strongly for an underpass because it was super ugly.

After visiting the underpass I wondered whether or not, you know, advocating for Frost Street. I might regret it, not regret it, but I might actually reflect that I could have been on the other side of the vote and saying we could lose Frost Street because of the scale of this and whether or not we could have had two side by side. You know, it will be interesting to see.

Don't lose hope just yet because when this underpass is actually built, it's big, it's safe, there is security. There are very wide ramps and paths so the pedestrian underpass is pretty good. Whether or not it will suffice in the long term, we just have to wait and see.

The second thing we did was take a bus trip across to the Council, they have a very comfortable building which was nice. There was shared government services and after quizzing the Mayor about how they run their meetings, I was interested to learn that there were questions on the night of the meeting without prior notice. There were questions throughout the meeting if somebody was interested in an item that was later in the agenda. So it wasn't just at the beginning.

I was also interested to learn that Council maintained operation of pools and facilities, and age care services and that kind of really took my interest. So for a new Councillor to learn about what other Councils are doing was a really good opportunity.

I just wanted to thank the officers who organised the trip. It certainly opened my eyes to the scale of the underpass, the opportunity to meet other Councillors, to visit a different Council building and to meet some Inland Rail representatives.

**Cr Carlson**

Just a short one about the Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation.

We had another meeting and there will be a briefing regarding the new management arrangements. The new governance arrangements which are being put in place by the Chief Executive Officer of that corporation next month.

I understand that there are significant changes in the wind. However, we have twelve months to digest them, and to resolve any difference we may have in terms of membership. As a heads up, just say that this is coming in the next month.

## **10 Public Question Time**

### **Our Reference - CF 45/2025**

#### **Question One**

How was the formal use of the term 'cash' in the recommendation deemed appropriate considering transparency standards and public trust in council governance?

#### **Response**

As mentioned Colleen, I'm aware of the letter that we also received from you and understand this is in relation to the Frost Street underpass.

So in answering your question, disclosing the amount received from inland rail, this reflects our commitment to transparency and our integrity. It acknowledges the value of an asset that was no longer required for the inland project and ensures that the community is informed about what funds and how this will be used.

There has not been a decision on the investment of the \$350,000 that was included within the report, only that the money will be contributed to capital and asset improvement within the Euroa precinct.

Through the Euroa Precinct Master Plan, there will be consultation with the opportunity to meet with staff and Councillors to listen to feedback on that Master Plan. This will also look at improvements for pedestrian access in and around the precinct. Once the consultation has been heard, there will be a report put before the Council for consideration, and it will also consider that investment of the contribution amount that will benefit the broader community.

Thank you for your question.

### **Our Reference - CF 46/2025**

#### **Question**

How can the agenda report credibly assert a 'minimal' social and 'nil' human rights impact when this assessment disregards the lived experience of residents north of the railway line?

#### **Response**

I acknowledge the concerns raised by Committee Members and I do understand that this change may impact on how people move in and around Euroa.

Council made a difficult but considered decision in response to the proposal from Inland Rail regarding the Frost Street Underpass. The new design proposed by Inland Rail removes the underpass as a pedestrian route while improving accessibility at two nearby crossing points – Handbury Street and the station precinct. The Frost Street structure will remain as a floodway only.

Council acknowledges the concerns raised and understands how this may affect. However, the decision avoids significant future maintenance cost, preserves a mature red gum tree, and secures broader benefits that include the \$350,000 contribution as I mentioned that will go to capital and asset works within the Euroa precinct.

**Our Reference - NB 48/2025****Question**

Why the Shire Councillors did not ask the community on the northwestern side for their say on the closure of the Frost Street Underpass before some of the Shire Councillors voted to close it on the community.

**Response**

Neil, thank you for your question and I acknowledge your concerns and thank you for bringing that to our attention.

As mentioned it was a very difficult decision by the Council and that the new design will focus on two new pedestrian crossing points that will allow for pedestrian traffic through to Binney Street and the new Euroa precinct.

Inland Rail communicated to Council as part of the information provided to the Council in making a decision that there was consultation that had been led since 2019 with the specific groups and the broader community.

Inland Rail communicated that no concerns were noted by the community during the engagement process regarding the designs in November last year. The Council did however, request in informing their information for a decision for further information through pedestrian counts for Frost Street to be undertaken to inform the decision. Our staff have also met with community stakeholders to seek feedback that helped inform that decision.

Thank you for your question.

**Our Reference - NB 49/2025****Question Four**

Mayor and Councillors. Who comes first the Community, the gum tree or the \$350,000 thousand pay out from inland rail?

I thought the Council role was to make good decisions for the benefit of the wellbeing for Community.

**Response**

In providing you a response, as I mentioned there has not been a decision on the investment of the \$350,000, only that the money will be contributed towards improvement works for capital and assets within the Euroa precinct.

The Euroa Precinct Master Plan consultation is about to begin and there are staff and Councillors that will be looking to meet with members of the committee to listen to seek feedback on the Master Plan, and this will help to inform the decision of the Council on the investment of that \$350,000 that has been a contribution made by Inland Rail.

**Our Reference - VW 50/2025****Question**

Can a report on the maintenance for the Frost St underpass be made available showing what work has been done to maintain it, how many hours have been spent on it, and the costings and also a report on what the projected cost would have been to maintain the Underpass if the upgrade were to go ahead.

## Response

Thank you for your question. Vanessa, I will answer that question now rather than taking it on notice.

Council staff currently inspect the Frost Street underpass on a weekly basis as well as in response to specific works such as graffiti removal, general cleaning or upgrade or maintenance. And in the event of adverse weather, staff are dispatched to access and address any issues that may arise.

Maintenance costs can vary depending on the extent and the nature of any damage. These costs are in the vicinity of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per annum. An underpass such as Frost Street in its current and original design is not ideal and is not designed for accessibility to accommodate different user needs. There is inadequate lighting, poor visibility and lack of natural light making people feel very unwelcome and potentially unsafe as they pass through the underpass. We note that particularly for the vulnerable users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

If we were to look for the upgrade of that underpass to meet with current standards, we're looking in the vicinity of \$750,000. The two new pedestrian pathways will be upgraded for accessibility, focus on pedestrian traffic through Binney Street and the Euroa precinct as I've mentioned.

As mentioned by one of our Councillors earlier, recently Councillors and Staff visited the Wangaratta Railway to observe safety and security enhancements that have been installed as part of the railway upgrade, and its well improved to what we have existing here in Euroa.

## Our Reference - KW 52/2025

### Question

What security measures will be taken to ensure that the unmanned Railway Station will be safe for all our most vulnerable community members (elderly, young children and community members with a disability) that must use this crossing 24 hrs per day?

### Response

Thank you for raising these concerns.

This has been front of mind for us, as well as from the conversations we have with Inland Rail and stakeholders throughout the project. Whilst the project may be a Federal Government project, we very much see that we advocate on behalf of the needs of the community, and we understand that as part of the upgrade of the freight corridor and as part of the project, safety improvements are to be made that include security and lighting etc.

Strathbogie Shire Council has been and will continue to be involved in discussions with Inland Rail, as well as ARCT, Vline, the Department of Transport and Planning to advocate for the needs of the community to make sure we improve safety along the railway corridor.

As mentioned, we visited Wangaratta Rail precinct recently and really observed first hand the safety and security enhancements that have been made, and were quite surprised at what the outcome of that design was. The design is very similar to what we're seeing and the improvements that would be made here in Euroa.

I do actually want to acknowledge and to better understand your specific concerns with safety, and I think it would be a good idea for staff to meet with you, and to also understand exactly

what those concerns are in relation to safety and the design elements so that we can directly follow up with Inland Rail.

### **Our Reference - KW 53/2025**

#### **Question**

Will the councillors consider taking the time to visit and door knock houses to talk to some residents on the Northwest side of the Railway line for their point of view and following that, put it to a re-vote with all councillors present?

#### **Response**

As mentioned its been a very difficult decision by the Council to make. The two new pedestrian pathway will be upgraded for accessibility and will focus on pedestrian traffic through Binney Street and the new Euroa precinct. We had requested from Inland Rail that further consultation was undertaken and that pedestrian counts of people who were using the current underpass were undertaken to help inform the decision of Council. Our staff also met with community stakeholder groups. Our Director Sustainable Infrastructure is going out to meet with members of the community to hear from them and undertaking in a timely way to help inform the Council. It was a balance view of the Council in taking that into consideration and deliberating on the decision.

We also understand the consultation of the project that has been led by Inland Rail and there are many lessons probably at our end to learn from that consultation, as well as the interactions and questions we have asked about that engagement process throughout the design along the way.

We understand that there is no further planned consultation on the Frost Street underpass with the community by Inland Rail. This decision has now been made and Inland Rail have started the planning work for the removal of Frost Street, with more information to be made available to the community about the upcoming works.

As mentioned, through the Euroa Precinct Master Plan Consultation, Staff and Councillors will be available to meet with members of the community to listen to feedback on the overall Master Plan and look at the broader improvements that can be made within the precinct that would include pedestrian movements in and around the railway corridor or so that we can negotiate to secure the best outcomes for Euroa.

### **Our Reference - PW 51/2025**

#### **Question**

Why was the decision made to close the Frost St Underpass without Consultation with the people it hurts and disadvantages the most.

Councillors would have heard the needs of everyone for the best outcome of the Residents?

#### **Response**

Thank you for your question Pauline.

As mentioned it has been a very difficult decision and we at the Council are of the view from the information provided by both Inland Rail and Staff that the two new pedestrian pathways are going to be upgraded for accessibility, and all focus on that pedestrian traffic through to Binney Street and the Euroa Precinct.



We've also been working really closely with Inland Rail and holding them to account, and to ensure their engagement with the community along the way. Although there are some learning's that we have heard through this project particularly in asking for questions around what their engagement has been, and who they have engaged with through this process.

Inland Rail has been leading that consultation for an extended period and Strathbogie Shire has been and will continue to be involved in negotiations to secure the best outcomes for the Euroa Precinct, particularly with our consultation around the Master Plan that's coming up in the next few weeks.

### **Our Reference - FY 54/2025**

#### **Question**

Could Council please provide an accurate update on the community consultation process that it proposed in relation to its recognition of Australia Day. What progress has been made and when will the results be published?

#### **Response**

Thank you for your question Frank.

There is planned consultation with the community over the coming months, further information and the results of the consultation to be made public in October/November this year.

### **Our Reference - RW 43/2025**

#### **Question**

The practice of supplying iPads for visitors to follow the council agenda appears to be a failure.

As an experienced iPad user regularly, I find councils pads to be impossible to use effectively and used to "follow" the council meeting agenda.

Will Council provide written or printed paper-based agendas for the meeting on request from attending members of the public? At each meeting.

#### **Response**

Thank you for the question Robin. The Council meeting agendas are provided electronically as our standard practice. However, if you require a paper copy, requests must be submitted by 10:00am the day prior to the meeting.

Please note that requests may be declined if the agenda is particularly lengthy and in some cases paper copies may be provided without attachments, depending on size.

### **Our Reference - RW 49/2025**

#### **Question**

Yes! commissioned and completed by Strathbogie Shire's administrator Mr Peter Stephenson six months ago.

At a cost of \$840,000. But labelled a "white elephant" by farming community.

where? in the new 25/26 budget v the line item — for a quarter of \$1 million?  
New expenditure, or repairs to make this 'valued asset' at the Euroa sale Yards "operational and usable?".

### **Response**

Thank you for your question Robin and in answering your question I will refer to the Director Sustainable Infrastructure.

I acknowledge firstly that there were poor decisions made in the development and delivery of the project to get us to where we are now. There were some poor decisions made and we do acknowledge that there is \$142,000 that has been allocated in the 2025-26 Capital Works Program towards resolving the issues and ongoing issues at the truck wash.

My team and I have been meeting with speciality suppliers over the last number of months, and we are due to go to the community in the short term to actually go out to the market and get the pumps upgraded and delivered to the standard that will be working, and the standards that we all deserve.

CEO Quattrocchi and I have been meeting with the user group down at the saleyards over the past number of months, and they are fully informed on the project and where we are going. Further communication will come out to the community in the coming months since we've been in a position to award the contract.

### **Our Reference - TM 55/2025**

#### **Question**

ROAD RESERVES

What is Councils responsibilities when my asset is damaged by the Reserve Vegetation?

#### **Response**

Thank you for your question Tom and in answering your question I will refer to the Director Sustainable Infrastructure.

Strathbogie Shire Council has a Tree Management Plan in place to manage trees on Council-owned and managed land, including those in designated roads and reserves.

In relation to your question, I or my team will catch up with you just to clarify specifically where your concerns are and we'll work through any process we need to with you.

### **Our Reference - TM 56/2025**

#### **Question**

Birkett Street, Euroa

What is the Commitment of the Shire Street/Road being used as an Arterial Road?

#### **Response**

Thank you for your question Tom and I will again refer your question to the Director Sustainable Infrastructure.

Birkett Street is currently a designated by-pass route as part of the Inland Rail project. Inland Rail are responsible for this asset for the duration of the works and are required to reinstate the asset to Council's satisfaction at the completion of the project.

**Our Reference - MM 57/2025****Question****FENCING**

Council and Regional Roads 'Fencing' of the Hume - who maintains this Fencing?

**Response**

Thank you for your question Maree, I will refer your question to the Director Sustainable Infrastructure.

Council staff and my team will get in touch with you in relation to your request just to get more specific clarity on what exactly your concerns are.

You can refer any queries about fencing along VicRoads directly to them by calling 131 170 24 hours a day. But my team will be in touch with you in the coming days and we will talk to you about your concerns and try to resolve them.

**Our Reference - MM 56/2025****Question****RATES**

At last council meeting Mr Maher asked a question re Rates and it was 'Falsely' answered, why was this?

**Response**

Thank you for your question, Maree.

I do acknowledge at the June Council meeting I made mentioned that contact had been made, however this was an error and I apologise for any inconvenience.

I do however understand that staff have made time available to you more recently to give our staff information about your enquiry.

## **11 Officer Reports**

### **11.1 Strategic and Statutory Planning**

#### **11.1.1 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined 1 June to 30 June 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 June 2025.

It is noted there were ten (10) new planning applications received, and twelve (12) planning applications determined in this reporting period.

The latest available Planning Permit Activity Reporting (PPARs) figures for the month of June 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. Council is working towards a resolution with the service provider to resolve this.

There are no unresolved Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) appeals involving Strathbogie Shire Council.

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 Fiona Stevens  
**SECONDED:** Cr Laura Binks

**That Council:**

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Note that there were ten (10) new planning applications received, and twelve (12) planning applications determined during the period of 1 June to 30 June 2025.**

24/25-115

**CARRIED**

## **11.2 Community**

### **11.2.1 Variations and Grants Awarded Under Delegation June 2025**

**AUTHOR** Manager Community and Culture

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director Community and Planning

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of the status of requests for variations or grants awarded under Chief Executive Officer or Director delegation for the period 1 June to 30th June 2025.

This report details all variations or grants awarded under the delegation of the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director, as per Council's adopted Community Funding Model.

Council adopted the 2025-2026 Community Funding Model and associated Grant Guidelines at the April 2025 Council Meeting. This authorises the Chief Executive Officer to award Community Strengthening Grants and Event Grants under delegation, provided the grant applications meet the program eligibility and assessment requirements and subject to available approved budget allocation.

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Note that there were 14 Community Grants awarded to the value of \$161,724 by the Chief Executive Officer between 1 June to 30 June 2025.**

24/25-116

**CARRIED**

### **11.2.2 Euroa Railway Precinct Masterplan- Endorsement of Final Consultation**

**AUTHOR** Director Community and Planning

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director Community and Planning

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Strathbogie Shire Council received funding from the Victorian State Government to develop a Euroa Railway Precinct Masterplan (Masterplan), building on the significant investment of Inland Rail to the Euroa Railway/and station area to improve connectivity, access, and movement to and from the Railway Precinct.

The draft Masterplan, shaped by community and stakeholder input, outlines a clear and staged vision for revitalising the Euroa railway precinct. It seeks to deliver better connectivity, enhanced public spaces, increased amenity, and new opportunities for local business, tourism, and community gathering.

The draft Masterplan is presented to Council in this report for endorsement, to enable public consultation with consultation opening on 16 July 2025, and concluding on 13 August 2025 inclusive.

**MOVED:** Cr Gregory Carlson

**SECONDED:** Cr Laura Binks

**That Council:**

- 1. Note the draft Euroa Railway Precinct Masterplan**
- 2. Endorse the draft Euroa Railway Precinct Masterplan for public exhibition and consultation for the period 16 July 2025 to 13 August 2025 and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor amendments before it is released for public exhibition and consultation**
- 3. Note Officers will provide a report to Council on the Community Consultation Feedback and completed Euroa Railway Precinct Masterplan for final adoption.**

24/25-117

**CARRIED**

## 11.3 Infrastructure

### 11.3.1 Road Management Plan Review 2025

**AUTHOR** Manager Asset Planning

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director Sustainable Infrastructure

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Officers prepared the draft Road Management Plan 2025 for Council's consideration and for the purpose of undertaking community consultation, in accordance with Strathbogie Shire Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The Road Management Plan outlines Council's responsibilities in managing and maintaining roads across the municipality. It also describes the management system established by Council to conduct its duty under the *Road Management Act 2004* (Vic) to inspect, maintain and repair public roads and road assets for which it is responsible.

The *Road Management Act 2004* requires a road authority that has a road management plan to review that plan at intervals prescribed by the regulations. Regulation 8(3) of the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 requires that a municipal council must conduct and complete a review of its road management plan within the period referred to in section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that being by 31 October in the year following a general election.

Additionally, Council will complete internal reviews on an annual basis to determine if a more detailed review is required.

**MOVED:** Cr Gregory Carlson  
**SECONDED:** Cr Clark Holloway

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 for the purpose of public exhibition.**
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the preparation of the draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 and place the document on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days and invite public submissions.**
- 3. Considers the adoption of a final Road Management Plan 2025-2029 at a future meeting of Council.**
- 4. Note that the Register of Public Roads will be made available for inspection by the community as part of this process.**

24/25-118

**CARRIED**

### **11.3.2 Capital Works Program 2025-26**

**AUTHOR** Manager Asset Planning

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director Sustainable Infrastructure

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Each year Council invests a considerable portion of its resources, both financial and physical in asset renewal works. This investment focuses on renewal of Council existing asset base with some minor investment in new or upgrade of assets. This asset investment work is also known as Councils Capital Works Program. The objective of this report is to improve the efficiency, timeliness and completeness of delivery of Council's Capital Works Program.

The Capital Works Program comprises a schedule of projects within nine sub-programs. Renewal works within each sub-program are prioritised based on condition assessments and fitness to provide a safe and reliable service in accordance with Council's Asset Management Plan.

The Capital Works Program 2025-2026 contains A list of projects within each sub-program scheduled for implementation in the 2025-2026 financial year.

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Approve the 2025-2026 Capital Works Program as set out in Attachment 1, Asset Investment, Capital Works Program, 2025-2026**
- 2. Note that a Capital Works report will be brought to Council at the end of each quarter that will track progress of the program and to endorse any changes or variations within the program.**

24/25-119

**CARRIED**



## 11.4 Corporate

### 11.4.1 S5 Delegation - Council 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.

So as to improve efficiencies, especially in relation to capital works projects, it has been identified that the S5 Instrument of Delegation Council to Chief Executive Officer resolved in May 2025 should be revoked.

Council is asked to consider an increase to CEO delegation from \$220,000 to \$550,000 specifically for the following:

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 \$550,000 for goods and services or \$550,000 for works
  - 1.2 making any expenditure that exceeds \$550,000 unless:
    - 1.3 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 \$660,000
    - 1.4 it is expenditure which Council is, by or under legislation, required to make, in which case it must not exceed \$660,000
    - 1.5 it is expenditure related to the payment of Insurance Premiums or Workcover Premiums in which case it must not exceed \$660,000

**MOVED:** Cr Clark Holloway  
**SECONDED:** Cr Gregory Carlson

**That Council:**

**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**
- 5. That the impact of these changes to the attached Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer be updated and reflected in all other related applications, Council Policies and Procedures, including the Procurement Policy.**

24/25-120

**CARRIED**

### 11.4.2 Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report June 2025

**AUTHOR** Governance Officer

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 54(4a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit and Risk Committee will undertake a biannual and annual assessment of its own performance against the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (Charter). This assessment is being reported in accordance with section 6.2 of the Charter.

The review includes meetings held during the year, attendance by Committee members, key matters considered by the Committee and an analysis of our performance against the Committee's Work Plan.

The Committees Biannual Performance report has been endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting held on 6 June 2025, and the Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report January 2025 to June 2025 was attached to the report.

**MOVED:** Cr Clark Holloway

**SECONDED:** Cr Scott Jeffery

**That Council:**

**Receive and note the Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025.**

24/25-121

**CARRIED**

**11.4.3 Confirmation of Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 17 April 2025****AUTHOR** Governance Officer**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents the confirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 17 April 2025 and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting held 6 June 2025.

The items considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on 17 April 2025 were:

- Draft 2025-26 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget
- Draft 2025-26 Fees and Charges
- Draft 2025-26 Revenue and Rating Plan
- Draft 2025-35 Financial Plan
- Confidential handover from Interim Chief Executive Officer following the appointment of the permanent Chief Executive Officer.

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

**That Council:**

**Note the confirmed minutes of the Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 17 April 2025.**

24/25-122

**CARRIED**

#### 11.4.4 2021-2025 Council Plan - Report on 2024-2025 Action Plan

**AUTHOR** Governance Officer

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* Section (89) a Council must undertake the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans in accordance with the strategic planning principles.

The strategic planning principles ensure that:

- an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted
- strategic planning addresses the Community Vision
- there are resources needed for effective implementation
- risks are identified and addressed for effective implementation
- there is ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances

The 2021-25 Council Plan was adopted by Council in October 2021 following comprehensive deliberative community engagement. The 2021-25 Council Plan, which for the first time incorporated the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, set the strategic direction and integrated approach Council would take to deliver Council services and allocate resources.

Annual Action Plans were developed to implement the 2021-25 Council Plan. Regular reporting has been presented to the community to provide updates on the implementation of the actions. This is the final action plan update for the period ending 30 June 2025.

Reporting on the action plan concludes Council's legislative and community obligations to the 2021-25 Council Plan, noting that work is still being undertaken to reflect the changes in actions (due to natural disaster responses and recovery and governance matters) through the lifetime of the 2021-25 Council Plan.

The 2025-29 Council Plan and a refreshed Community Vision 2035, along with other integrated strategies, were adopted in June 2025 following the election of a new Council in October 2024. The 2025-29 Council Plan commenced on 1 July 2025.

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

**That Council:**

1. **Note the outcome of the 2021-25 Council Plan year four actions (final) for the period ending 30 June 2025 as identified in attachment on**
2. **Inform the community of the outcomes the 2021-25 Council Plan year four actions (final) for the period ending 30 June 2025 advising through social and printed media.**

24/25-123

**CARRIED**

### 11.4.5 Councillor Allowances

**AUTHOR** Director People and Governance

**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director People and Governance

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Councillor Expenses Policy, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance whilst performing their duties. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

On 30 June 2025, the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal made the allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Annual Adjustment Determination 2025.

The Tribunal determined a 3% increase to the values of the base allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors, effective from 1 July 2025. A 3% increase has also been applied to the base allowance values for Mayors and Deputy Mayors which take effect on 18 December 2025.

The Determination also adjusted the value of the remote area travel allowance by 3%.

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

**That Council note:**

**(a) that the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal has set allowances from 1 July 2025 as follows:**

- 1. The Councillor Allowance is \$28,110 effective 1 July 2025**
- 2. The Deputy Mayor Allowance is \$44,661 effective 1 July 2025**
- 3. The Mayor Allowance is \$89,323 effective 1 July 2025**
- 4. From 1 July 2025, the Remote Area Travel Allowance will be \$48.90 per day for eligible councillors, up to a maximum of \$6,112.50 per annum**
- 5. That under section 39(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor may elect to receive the allowance, receive part of the allowance or receive no allowance**
- 6. That allowances will be paid to Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses Policy.**

**(b) That any future changes made by the above mentioned allowances will be adjusted in accordance with advice received by Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.**

#### **11.4.6 Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors June 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 June 2025 to 30 June 2025 were attached to the report.

**MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall**  
**SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens**

**That Council:**

**Note the Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors from 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2025.**

24/25-125

**CARRIED**

**11.5 Communications, Engagement and Advocacy**

Nil

**12 Notice of Motion**

Nil

**13 Notice of Rescission**

Nil

**14 Urgent Business**

Nil



## **15 Confidential Business**

### **15.1 Chief Executive Officer Performance Plan**

To be Confidential in accordance with Section 66(2)(A) and Part 1, Section 3 Definitions of the *Local Government Act 2020* –

- (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)

#### **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER MATTERS DEEMED CONFIDENTIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 66(2)(A) AND PART 1, SECTION 3 DEFINITIONS OF THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020***

An authorised Confidential Business Certificate was attached to the agenda.

**MOVED: Cr Fiona Stevens**  
**SECONDED: Cr Scott Jeffery**

**That Council:**

**In conformance with Section 66(2)(A) and the definitions for confidential matters under Part 1, Section 3 Definitions of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), resolve to close the meeting to the public:**

**Chief Executive Officer Performance Plan**

24/25-126

**CARRIED**

**The livestreaming of the meeting to the public closed at 5:30 pm.**

**MOVED: Cr Fiona Stevens**  
**SECONDED: Cr Scott Jeffery**

**That Council:**

**Reopen the meeting to the public.**

24/25-127

**CARRIED**

**The livestreaming of the meeting to the public recommenced at 5:36 pm.**

#### **Confirmation of Confidential Business Decisions**

**MOVED: Cr Scott Jeffery**  
**SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens**

**That the decisions made in camera be ratified by Council.**

24/25-128

**CARRIED**

**16 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on 19 August 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 5:40 pm.

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

.....  
Chair

.....  
Date