

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions

Tuesday 18 November 2025

Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 4:00 pm

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

Officers

Rachelle Quattrocchi	Chief Executive Officer
Amanda Tingay	Director People and Governance
Oliver McNulty	Director Sustainable Infrastructure
Rachael Frampton	Director Community and Planning
Sharon Rainsbury	Executive Manager Communications, Advocacy and Customer Service
Kerry Lynch	Governance Officer

Order of Business

1	Welcome	5
2	Acknowledgement of Country	5
3	Privacy Notice	5
4	Governance Principles	5
5	Apologies/Leave of Absence	6
6	Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest	6
7	Confirmation of Minutes/Decisions of Previous Meetings	7
8	Petitions	7
9	Mayor and Councillor Reports	7
9.1	Mayor's Report	7
9.2	Councillor Reports	8
10	Public Question Time	10
11	Officer Reports	16
11.1	Strategic and Statutory Planning	16
11.1.1	Quarterly Report - Statutory Planning	16
11.2	Community	17
11.2.1	Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-29	17
11.2.2	Variations and Grants awarded under Delegation - October	18
11.3	Infrastructure	18
11.3.1	Contract 25/26-19 2025-2026 Roads Reseal Program	19
11.3.2	Contract 25/26-15 Roads Rehabilitation Program 2025-2026	20
11.3.3	Contract 25/26-26 - Strathbogie Road Safety Improvements - Harrys Creek, Longwood Ruffy and Euroa Strathbogie Roads	21
11.3.4	Quarterly Report - Capital Works	22
11.4	Corporate	23
11.4.1	Audit and Risk Committee - Appointment of Independent Community Representative	23
11.4.2	Quarterly Report - Financial Report September 2025	24
11.4.3	Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors October 2025	25
11.5	Communications, Engagement and Advocacy	26
11.5.1	Quarterly Report - Customer Service	26
12	Notice of Motion	30
13	Notice of Rescission	30
14	Confidential Business	30
15	Urgent Business	30

16 Closure of Meeting	30
17 Next Meeting	30

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

6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

7 Confirmation of Minutes/Decisions of Previous Meetings

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

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy

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

25/26-04

CARRIED

8 Petitions

Nil

9 Mayor and Councillor Reports

9.1 Mayor's Report

Thank you. I am deeply honoured by the trust you, my fellow councillors, have placed in me. This morning I accept the responsibility of serving as Mayor of Strathbogie Shire with gratitude, humility, and determination.

Firstly, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our outgoing Mayor, Claire Ewart-Kennedy, for her exceptional leadership and service during her one-year term.

Over the past year, Councillor Ewart-Kennedy has led the Chamber with courage, vision, and an unwavering commitment to the people we serve. She has created stability where there was none, and guided us through many difficult decisions as well as the recruitment of CEO Rachelle Quattrocchi. She has championed important advocacy initiatives, travelled thousands of kilometers to be at almost every event she was invited to, and has thereby helped to reinvigorate trust in Council. She stands proudly as the leader who brought a conclusion to our history of government-appointed Monitors and Administrators.

To me, what makes Councillor Ewart-Kennedy's contribution extraordinary is that she has done this in the face of concurrent personal and organisational challenges. Despite those difficulties, she never wavered in her dedication. Her resilience and grace in the face of adversity have not only strengthened our respect for her as a leader but have also touched us deeply as individuals. I am very pleased to warmly welcome her into the Deputy Mayor role for the next 12 months, and I am excited to be working together again.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge and thank our Municipal Monitor, Marg Allan, who has successfully completed her term. Without Marg's extensive experience in the sector providing the councillor group with guidance, there is no doubt that we would have been able to achieve so much. I can confidently say on behalf of all of us, that her genuine care for, and advice to us as individuals and as a group will be missed by each of us in this Chamber. Marg – thank you for your service!

For more than 150 years - six generations - my family has called the Strathbogie Ranges home. My great-great-grandparents helped lay the foundations of this district. My grandparents worked the land, served on local committees, and passed down a lasting respect for community. Today, supported by my parents, my wife, and my children, I'm proud to continue that legacy. This role is not just a responsibility; it is a privilege rooted in the history and the future of the place we love.

Over the last 12 months, you have known me as someone who leads with Integrity, Trust, and Performance. These values will continue to guide every decision I make. And as Mayor, I will ground my leadership in four key principles: Listening, Transparency, Accountability, and Action.

Leadership begins with listening. The people of Strathbogie Shire - our farmers, our business owners, our educators, our families, and our organisation to name a few - know best. To ensure our community is genuinely heard, I will deliver a Municipal Performance Report with open-question sessions, twice in each township over the coming year. This is our opportunity to strengthen communication, build trust, and make sure our direction is truly shaped by the people we serve.

Transparency and accountability are fundamental to earning public confidence. Working closely with the CEO, with whom I have a strong and respectful relationship, I will ensure every policy, every project, and every dollar is directed toward the long-term interests of our

residents. Trust is built through honesty, openness, and responsible stewardship, and I intend to uphold that every day.

But leadership also requires action. Our Shire faces real challenges - achieving financial sustainability, maintaining ageing infrastructure, supporting local businesses, protecting our environment, and ensuring our towns remain safe, vibrant places to live. I see this mayoral role as an opportunity to bring a proven business perspective to local government, helping unify our community and drive stability, progress, and lasting change.

Our future depends on smart, forward-looking investment. That means strengthening economic development and advocacy, supporting local jobs and industries, and improving essential access to power, telecommunications, and internet - services our families and businesses rely on to build a life here. We will embrace progress while protecting what makes Strathbogie Shire unique.

Ultimately, everything we do must be guided by considering the generations that follow. I want our children and grandchildren to have every opportunity to create fulfilling lives right here - to start businesses, raise families, find meaningful work, and experience the same sense of belonging that we were fortunate enough to inherit.

I sought this office out of a deep sense of responsibility: to honour our past, strengthen our present, and help build a future worthy of those who will come after us. Together, with clear communication, a strong economic focus, and leadership built on trust, we can ensure that Strathbogie Shire remains a place of pride, opportunity, and belonging for generations to come.

Thank you.

9.2 Councillor Reports

Cr Ewart-Kennedy

I just wanted to say congratulations to Mayor Jeffery on being elected and thank you to my team of Councillors this year, the Executive, the Staff and CEO on the power of work we've done.

I'm very proud of what we've achieved this year and as I said before we've not always got it right but we've done it with the right intent, and I think that is what is important.

I wanted to say the last month has been probably the busiest of my mayorship. We attended the Rural Council Victoria Annual General Meeting. We went to the fantastic Euroa Agricultural Show which was just a beautiful day and I had so much fun that day.

We went to Canberra for two days, Rachelle and I with the Hume Regional Local Government Network, and we had twelve shadow ministerial meetings.

We met with Bridget McKenzie last week which was great.

We had the Pink Ribbon Breakfast in Nagambie, and we had the Bowerbird Op Shop celebration.

We attended Cuppa with a Councillor in beautiful Strathbogie and the Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre. I was unable to attend their AGM however Rachelle attended on my behalf, so thank you very much.

We also met with the Seymour Wind Farm project which was fantastic to find out more about that, and thank you to Cr Stevens for attending the Victorian Wine Show presentation lunch on

my behalf.

I just want to reinforce that it's not any easy job being a Councillor or a Mayor and it's probably a lot harder than I actually thought it was ever going to be, but I've enjoyed being Mayor more than I thought I would. So that balances it out nicely. We're here to support you in every way we can now Councillor Jeffery, and I feel very proud to sit around a table where we are all committed to the ethos of this community stronger and better.

Thank you.

Cr Holloway

Thank you Mr Mayor. I echo Councillor Ewart-Kennedy's statement that it's been a very busy month for myself also in terms of engagement with the community.

The highlight for myself by far was the Cuppa with a Councillor at the Strathbogie Store which is my home turf. And let me tell you, the local community came out in droves with positive, thoughtful questions and comments.

I think it is a great series of events we've put in motion and a shout out to Katherine and Sharon for making it perfect. All the brochures are laid out perfectly, the coffees flow, the conversation flows and it's absolutely great. It is a wonderful chance to find comments that relate to things that we as Councillors, or indeed Officers, just don't see, but the local community see - from a local dangerous tree to how often the roads are graded. There was only one or two pothole questions this time, so I consider that a positive development!

An absolutely wonderful morning that stretched on well into the afternoon for myself.

That's my report, thank you.

Cr Carlson

Thank you Mr Mayor, a couple of things. A tenant forum for the stakeholders and users of our municipal pools. I was simply an observer because the event managing pools was always a challenge, but it was interesting to see many new faces representing all the communities present and that was very interesting to observe.

We're continuing to observe the reform of the Goulburn Valley Regional Library. All three Councils have signed off on the new governance arrangements and funding arrangements. Yesterday we short listed candidates for the appointment process of the CEO which will be finalised next month.

Finally, I attended along with Councillor Binks, the Remembrance Day ceremony in Euroa, and it's pleasing to see the numbers attending despite some challenging weather.

Cr Halsall

I'd just like to take this opportunity to say hopefully Marg is watching, and farewell to Marg (our Monitor). I wasn't in the briefing last Tuesday so I missed her final address. The experience of joining Council and the induction of my first term was immeasurably smoother and reassuring with Marg in the room and available for a debrief.

Marg provided me the opportunity to ask more critical and at times prejudice questions freely. Her ability to cut through the BS and provide rational reasoning is something I will be forever grateful for. Her presence gave me the ability to better align my thinking. While I accept that I will never be indoctrinated into local government thinking, I feel confident that I can navigate

the gorge from private sector to local government without combusting as others have done before me.

I'd just like to recognise the work of the Mayor. We elected Claire last year to a difficult job in a first term. She embraced the opportunity. She exploited all the opportunities that came her way and seized others to put Strathbogie on the map to advertise our open doors.

Claire acknowledged that we didn't always get in right, which is responsibility taken. That's unusual in my experience of government. Claire always maintained a focus that isn't always visible to the community, with a short, mid and longer term focus that isn't always viable for the community. So thank you Claire.

To Mayor Jeffery, congratulations. Your clear and calm demeanour will provide a solid anchor for Council to bounce on. And bounce we shall.

I look forward to the next twelve months to build on our internal Council relationships, ensuring that we have all the energy and commitment to see out our current Council term. I look forward to your pragmatic logic and sound principles of governance, financial acumen and your commitment to Council success.

Lastly I just wanted to make mention of my attendance at the National Roads Congress last week. I took advantage of an Australian Local Government forum that was based on roads and infrastructure. It was in Western Australia last year and next year it's in Cairns, so the fact it was in Bendigo was too good an opportunity to pass up.

It covered two full days and a dinner. There was road innovation, a circular economy of roads which I found interesting, foam bitumen which was also very interesting, funding strategies and applications, active transport and road safety initiatives. It was two full days. It was extraordinary. I came home exhausted by actually invigorate about sustainable infrastructure which is good because it's 50% of our budget. So that was the driving reason and my intention is the value of the spend we have in our infrastructure. I think Ollie shared with us today it's \$17m so its significant.

10 Public Question Time

Question One - Our Reference HN 97/2025 and 98/2025

Is Council going to make the pipe wider so Armco railing can be installed on both sides of the road to make it safe at Ruffy Fire Shed?

Response

Thank you Henry, your question will be taken on notice and Director McNulty will be back in contact with you.

Question Two

Will Council continue the broken white lines on the road from Ruffy-Longwood Road to the Ruffy Fire Shed to guide road users for traffic safety?

Response

Thank you Henry, again your question will be taken on notice and Director McNulty will be back in contact with you.

Question Three - Our Reference NB 99/2025 and NB 100/2025

True or False: Council has the authority to permanently remove access to Commonwealth infrastructure without community consultation?

Response

Strathbogie Shire is the Committee of Management by Agreement for a number of commonwealth infrastructure assets, through agreement we maintain and manage infrastructure in line with these agreements.

Question Four

Council signed a formal agreement with Inland Rail in August 2024 that included the Frost Street Pedestrian Underpass in the project scope?

Response

The answer, as per the Master Inland Rail Development Agreement presented for noting at the Council meeting held on 20 August 2024, I quote the following section from page 39 of the agreement:

(c) Rail Structure Requirements

(iv) Demolish the existing rail bridges/pedestrian underpasses connecting Kirkland Avenue to Frost Street and provide a new single rail underbridge to accommodate both the re-aligned West and East Line.

Question Five - Our Reference YB 101/2025 and 102/2025

Council accepted a financial inducement from Inland Rail to remove the Frost Street Underpass from the project scope?

Response

As per the resolution of Council on 17 June 2025 it was resolved that Council:

“Accept the contribution of \$350,000 from Inland Rail into Councils Capital Works program for allocation to future identified projects”

In today’s agenda, Item 11.3.4 “Quarterly Report – Capital Works”

Councillors will receive a recommendation that Council:

“Approve that the \$350,000 contribution received from Inland Rail will be allocated towards the construction of the Frost Street footpath, including accessibility and connectivity improvements consistent with the Euroa Railway Precinct Master Plan”.

The officers report recommends how the funds should be allocated to improve community connectivity, accessibility, and safety within the Euroa Railway precinct.

Question Six

Council’s decision on 17 June 2025 was made without presenting the full scope change and its implications to councillors to make an informed decision?

Response

The Council was briefed by officers on two occasions prior to the decision in June 2025 which included discussions on the scope changes and implications.

Inland Rail also presented to Council their request to consider the removal of the Frost Street underpass from the scope of the project prior to the decision being made in June 2025.

Question Seven – Our Reference KW 103/2025 and 104/2025

True or False: Council’s own planning documents describe the Frost Street Pedestrian Underpass as a key pedestrian link not a stormwater drain?

Response

Frost Street has served two purposes, as a stormwater drain and a pedestrian access underpass, this is documented in Councils Stormwater Strategy and included in councils Land Subject To Inundation Overlay.

The Euroa Structure Plan and Township Strategy do not provide strategic justification for the protection or preservation, or retention of the Frost Street Underpass. They speak to the need for improvements to DDA compliance, access and safety in and around the railway precinct broadly. The two pedestrian underpasses to be delivered through the Inland Rail project will achieve DDA compliance, and improve access, safety and connectivity around the precinct connecting both the north and south areas of Euroa. There will be no change to service level for the community as two pedestrian underpasses will be available.

Question Eight

Yes or No: Do councillors consider it appropriate for the CEO to text and send messages to council officers during council meetings, given this has been witnessed in the last three meetings by members of the gallery and online?

Response

Yes, It is appropriate, if urgent matters are raised during the meeting that the CEO may need to communicate with Officers – the CEO uses a range of mediums to communicate with her staff in a timely manner.

She also uses electronic devices for time-keeping purposes during the meeting.

Question Nine - Our Reference MF 105/2025 and 106/2026

True or False. Does the Strathbogie Shire Council have the legal authority to permanently remove public access to Commonwealth infrastructure without a formal public consultation process with the community including the affected residents ?

Response

Thank you Max , this question was asked earlier in question time and has been answered previously.

Question Ten

Regarding the rail project in Euroa and the associated detour does the Strathbogie Shire Council acknowledge that the detour was built to an insufficient standard, has required dozens of patches on 6 month old, upgraded sections and currently has a unsafe surface and is a significant safety hazard ?

Response

Thanks Max. This question has also been answered at a previous meeting on 15 July 2025.

Question Eleven - Our Reference VW 107/2025 and 108/2025

Why has the Mayor not followed up, as promised since October, on why Director McNulty attended the ECC meeting when it was stated no council representative was present?" and what do you have as a reply?

There was discussion regarding the question submitted.

Response

Correspondence was sent by the Mayor on 13 November 2025.

Question Twelve

Yes or No: The council has conducted a formal risk and social impact assessment on how removing the underpass would affect vulnerable community members?

Response

Thanks for the question. Again, this question has been previously answered and was responded to at the October 21 Council meeting.

Question Thirteen – Our Reference CF 109/2025 and 110/2025

True or False: The removal of the Frost Street Pedestrian Underpass contradicts Council's own adopted policies and processes, including the Euroa Structure Plan, Euroa Township Strategy 2020, and Council's Community Engagement Strategy?

Response

Thank you for your questions Colleen.

Consideration of improved options for connectivity are subject to the Quarterly Capital Report, item 11.3.4 on this afternoon's agenda. Council will then undertake consultation in due course.

Question Fourteen

True or False: Council has met with Frost Street 883, as promised, to work with them on behalf of the North West community, specifically regarding potential works around Charles Street.

Response

Thank you for your question Colleen, this question has been previously answered on 19 August 2025.

Question Fifteen - Our Reference JF 111/2025 and 112/2025

True or False: Council accepted \$350,000 and a roundabout design valued at up to \$100,000 in exchange for agreeing to remove the Frost Street Underpass from the Inland Rail scope.

Response

Thank you for your question John.

As responded to previously, Council has received a \$350,000 contribution for the retirement of the Frost St pedestrian underpass.

The roundabout design is being completed by Inland Rails design team.

Consideration of improved options for connectivity are subject to the Quarterly Capital Report, item 11.3.4 on this afternoon's agenda. Council will then undertake consultation in due course.

Question Sixteen

True or False: Council will support a community-led delegation to meet with Inland Rail and the Minister to present the full facts and community position?

Response

Thank you for your question John. Short answer to that is no.

Question Seventeen - Our Reference PW 113/2025 and 114/2025

True or False: Council consulted directly with the North West Euroa community before voting to remove the Frost Street Pedestrian Underpass from the Inland Rail Scope?

Response

Thank you for your question Pauline, this question has been previously answered at Council meeting on 15 July 2025, 19 August 2025 and 16 September 2025.

Question Eighteen

True or False. Council received written confirmation from Euroa Connect that they had not canvassed the community and could not speak on its behalf regarding the underpass?

Response

Thank you for the question, Pauline. We are not in a position to speak on behalf of a community group in relation to their involvement with the project and community. Thank you.

Mayor: Can I make note please particularly for those members of 883 and Rising, all the questions that have been asked today are backward looking questions. Some of them are quite adversarial. Some of them are "gotcha" questions. My preference would be that we work together on this and that's our commitment. We want to be working as a team.

That's the Council's commitment forward looking. There's a massive opportunity in front of us still with this project. It's probably the most investment that Euroa is going to see in our lifetime, and we need to make the most of that. From my perspective, the questions that we have had over the past few months on this topic are based upon a decision that's been taken, it's been committed to and Inland Rail have commenced works in that regard.

So what we don't want to do is damage relationships within the community between the Council group and other community groups such as 883, and certainly not with our strategic partners. We need strong relationships with them in order to achieve the best community. I ask you to consider that at next month's meeting.

Resident: But we can expect Mayor Jeffery that you will reach out and work with 883 unlike the previous Mayor's commitment because nothing has happened to date.

Mayor: Very pleased to chat to you.

11 Officer Reports

11.1 Strategic and Statutory Planning

11.1.1 Quarterly Report - Statutory Planning

AUTHOR Manager Planning and Investment

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides listings of all Planning Applications Received (attachment one) and Planning Applications Determined (attachment two) for the period July 2025 to September 2025 (Quarter 3 2025). The latest available Planning Permit Activity Performance (PPARS) figures are also attached (attachment three) for this period.

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

It is noted that there were twenty-six (26) new planning applications received, and thirty-one (31) planning applications decided on during the reporting period. In addition to the applications determined, three (3) applications were withdrawn during the reporting period, and for a further three (3) applications it was determined that a planning permit was not required.

While the PPARS figures in attachment three indicate that thirty (30) applications were determined during the period, Greenlight, Councils Planning Permit system, indicates Council made decisions on thirty-one (31) applications, as detailed in Attachment Two. Throughout this time period, officers have been working with representatives of the State Government to fix the integration issue identified between the two systems that is causing this inconsistency in reporting on the Statewide platform.

MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

- 1. Receive the report**
- 2. Note that there were twenty-six (26) new planning applications received, and thirty-one (31) planning applications decided on during the period of July 2025 to September 2025.**

24/25-05

CARRIED

11.2 Community

11.2.1 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-29

AUTHOR Manager Community Safety

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all Victorian councils are required to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years, with the aim of promoting responsible pet ownership and ensuring the welfare of animals within the municipality. Councils must also review the plan annually and submit the updated plan to the Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action by 4 December every year.

This draft Plan has been developed in consultation with the community and key stakeholders, reflecting shared priorities, local challenges, and opportunities for improvement. It outlines a clear vision for domestic animal management across the municipality and provides a strategic framework to guide Council's approach to animal registration, compliance, community education, animal welfare, and the operation of pound and shelter services.

The Plan seeks to balance community safety, animal welfare, and responsible pet ownership through proactive education, evidence-based policy, and strong partnerships with veterinarians, animal rescue organisations, and the broader community. It sets measurable objectives and actions to support Council's continued leadership in the effective management of domestic animals.

This report seeks Council's adoption of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029.

MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson

SECONDED: Cr Clark Holloway

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029**
2. **Note the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029 Engagement Report October 2025**
3. **Place the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029 on Council's website.**

24/25-06

CARRIED

11.2.2 Variations and Grants awarded under Delegation - October**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 community grants or variations approved under delegation by the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director, as per Council's adopted Community Funding Model, for the period 1 October to 31 October 2025.

Council adopted the 2025-2026 Community Funding Model and associated Grant Guidelines at the April 2025 Council Meeting. This provides authorisation for the Chief Executive Officer to determine and award Community Grants and Event Grants under delegation, following a robust eligibility and assessment process, and subject to budget availability. Variations to Community Grants and Event Grants can also be approved via the Chief Executive Officer and/or the Director Community and Planning.

This report provides transparency to the community for decisions being made under delegation relating to the Community Funding Model 2025-2026.

MOVED: Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy**SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson****That Council:**

- 1. Note that there was one event grant awarded to the total value of \$3718 by the Chief Executive Officer between 1 October to 31 October 2025.**

24/25-07

CARRIED

11.3 Infrastructure

11.3.1 Contract 25/26-19 2025-2026 Roads Reseal Program

AUTHOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Strathbogie Shire Council's approved 2025-26 Capital Budget, selected roads have been identified for resealing. This will improve safety, increase the life of the roads, lower ongoing maintenance costs and decrease the frequency of maintenance activities. To implement the reseal program, tender documentation was prepared for the public advertisement.

Under this contract for 2025-26, it is planned to reseal selected segments of fourteen council roads which were prioritised based on third party road conditions assessment. The total work package expands across 25km in length. The resealing work also includes reinstatement of line marking with long life thermoplastic markings, as required and where applicable on those road segments.

Through public advertisements in Council's tender portal, local and state newspapers, Council invited tenders for the work under Contract No. 25/26-19, Roads Reseal Program between 27/08/2025 and 19/09/2025. At the closing of tender, seven (7) tender submissions were received. These tenders have been assessed and evaluated by Council Officers and a summary of results is detailed in this report.

It is recommended that the Council awards the lump sum contract to Boral Resources Pty Ltd, for a total amount of \$635,950.05 (including GST) based on the tender evaluation outcomes.

MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall

SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

Note the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No. 25/26-19:

- 1. Award the tender for Contract No 25/26-19 to Boral Resources Pty Ltd., for a total amount of \$635,950.05 (inclusive of GST)**
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council**
- 3. Authorise officers to advise unsuccessful tenderers**
- 4. Note that any additional works completed will be reported to Council through Councils quarterly Capital Works report.**
- 5. Note that the 25/26-19 Roads Reseal Program will be delivered during February – March 2026 after the contract is awarded.**

24/25-08

CARRIED

11.3.2 Contract 25/26-15 Roads Rehabilitation Program 2025-2026**AUTHOR** Director Sustainable Infrastructure**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR** Director Sustainable Infrastructure**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As part of the 2025-26 adopted Capital Works program, Council plans to carry out pavement rehabilitation of selected sections of the municipal roads which were prioritised based on the Road Conditions Assessment. Work will also include sealing, installation of raised reflective road markers, line marking, and installation of guideposts as required.

This maintenance program ensures Council roads retain their quality and their lifespans are extended, thus providing long-term cost savings to Council by ensuring that ongoing maintenance is kept to the minimum. Through public advertisement, Council invited tenders for the work under Contract No. 25/26-15 between 15 September 2025 and 12 September 2025.

Council received ten (10) tenderers for the work. These tenders have been assessed and evaluated by Council Officers and a summary of results is contained in this report. The report recommends that Council awards the tender to Central Vic Stabilising Pty Ltd of Bendigo, for a total amount of \$1,290,639.00 inclusive of GST.

Council allocated \$990,340 in the Capital Works Budget for 2025-2026 towards the works outlined within this report. It is proposed that the shortfall of the contract amount and the budget be provided from the Roads to Recovery budget which is currently unallocated. The approval for the allocation of the Roads to Recovery funding required for this project will be managed through the quarterly Capital Works Report.

MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy

That Council:

- 1. Note the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No. 25/26-15 Roads Rehabilitation Program 2025-2026**
- 2. Award the tender for Contract No 25/26-15 Roads Rehabilitation Program 2025-2026 for a total amount of \$1,290,639.00 inclusive of GST to Central Vic Stabilising Pty Ltd**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council**
- 4. Authorise officers to advise unsuccessful tenderers**
- 5. Note that the Contract 25/26-15 Roads Rehabilitation Program 2025-2026 will be delivered within six months after the contract is awarded.**
- 6. Note that the additional funding required to complete this project will be allocated through the quarterly Capital Works report.**

11.3.3 Contract 25/26-26 - Strathbogie Road Safety Improvements - Harrys Creek, Longwood Ruffy and Euroa Strathbogie Roads

AUTHORS

Manager Asset Planning
Acting Manager Project Delivery

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council was successful in securing \$1,956,900 (incl. GST) total in funding through the Transport Accident Commission's (TAC) Safe Local Roads and Streets Program (SLRSP) to deliver safety and speed reduction improvements on the following roads:

- Euroa–Strathbogie Road – Speed reduction and safety improvements
- Longwood–Ruffy Road (Tarcombe to Ruffy) – Speed reduction and safety improvements
- Harrys Creek Road (Kithbrook to Violet Town) – Guardrail installation and safety improvements

These roads were prioritised for funding due to their identified crash history. The TAC commissioned design works to support Council, with construction works required to be completed by 30 June 2026.

The project scope includes fixed-price components for guardrail installation, signage, and line marking, with additional schedule of rates/day works for associated earth and vegetation works minimising environmental impacts. Ten trees are proposed for removal along Harrys Creek Road, all assessed under the DEECA native vegetation exemption for road safety works. A cultural heritage due diligence assessment has been undertaken, and consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party will occur prior to construction.

Tenders were publicly invited under Contract 25-26-26 – Strathbogie Road Safety Improvements (Harrys Creek, Longwood–Ruffy and Euroa–Strathbogie Roads), with eight submissions received, ranging from \$1,016,330.61 to \$2,058,663.42 (incl. GST). The schedule of rates and day works are estimated at an additional \$110,000 (incl. GST).

Following a comprehensive evaluation, Safety Barrier Solutions (Aust) Pty Ltd has been identified as the preferred tenderer. It is recommended that Council award the contract for a total value of \$1,178,489.40 (incl. GST), inclusive of the estimated day works, based on the outcomes of the tender assessment.

MOVED: Cr Laura Binks
SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens

That Council:

- 1. Note the outcome of the tender assessment process for Contract No. 25-26-26 - Strathbogie Road Safety Improvements - Harrys Creek, Longwood Ruffy and Euroa Strathbogie Roads**
- 2. Award the tender for Contract No. 25-26-26 - Strathbogie Road Safety Improvements - Harrys Creek, Longwood Ruffy and Euroa Strathbogie Roads for a total amount of \$1,178,489.40 (incl. GST), including the estimated schedule of rates /day-work related works to Safety Barrier Solutions (Aust) Pty Ltd**

- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Contract by signing and affixing the Common Seal of Strathbogie Shire Council**
- 4. Authorise officers to advise unsuccessful tenderers**
- 5. Note that the works will be delivered by 31 May 2026.**
- 6. Note that additional road safety works will be identified in consultation and approval by the funding authority, the Traffic Accident Commission, to maximise the spending against the available budget.**

24/25-10

CARRIED

11.3.4 Quarterly Report - Capital Works

AUTHORS Acting Manager Project Delivery
Director Sustainable Infrastructure

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Note: All amounts mentioned within this report are exclusive of GST.

Council adopted the 2025-26 Capital Works Budget at the Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025. The approved program represents a total investment of \$14.291 million. This includes \$3.596 million in carried-forward financial commitments from 2024-25 financial year capital projects that are not completed.

The Capital Works Program is structured across three key categories:

Category	25-26 Budget (\$'1000)	Carried Forward (\$'1000)	Total Adopted (\$'1000)
Property	1,710	175	1,885
Plant and Equipment	1,420	600	2,020
Infrastructure	7,565	2,821	10,386
Total	10,695	3,596	14,291

This report provides an update on the status of the Capital Program as at 29 October 2025. It is important to note that there has been no significant actual expenditure during the reporting period. This is typical for the first quarter of the financial year, which is primarily focused on project scoping, tender preparation, tender activity, and the completion of ongoing capital works carried over from the previous financial year.

Throughout the first quarter of the 2025-26 financial year, several adjustments were identified as a result of tender awards, contract finalisations, and scope refinements that will be reflected as revised forecasts for applicable projects. These variations, along with additional carry-forward allocations from the end of the 2024-25 financial year (after the budget was displayed), will be further reviewed during the mid-year budget process in the second quarter of 2025-26. The outcomes of this review will be presented to Council for endorsement as part of the adoption of the mid-year budget at the February 2026 Council meeting.

Council officers are also evaluating opportunities to introduce additional infrastructure and facility projects within the 2025-26 program, using savings identified from existing allocations. In addition, it is proposed to establish and maintain a Capital Works Reserve fund as a contingency to address unforeseen project requirements, such as catering for new grant award council contributions and project variations, and to ensure flexibility in the overall delivery of the program.

MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall
SECONDED: Cr Clark Holloway

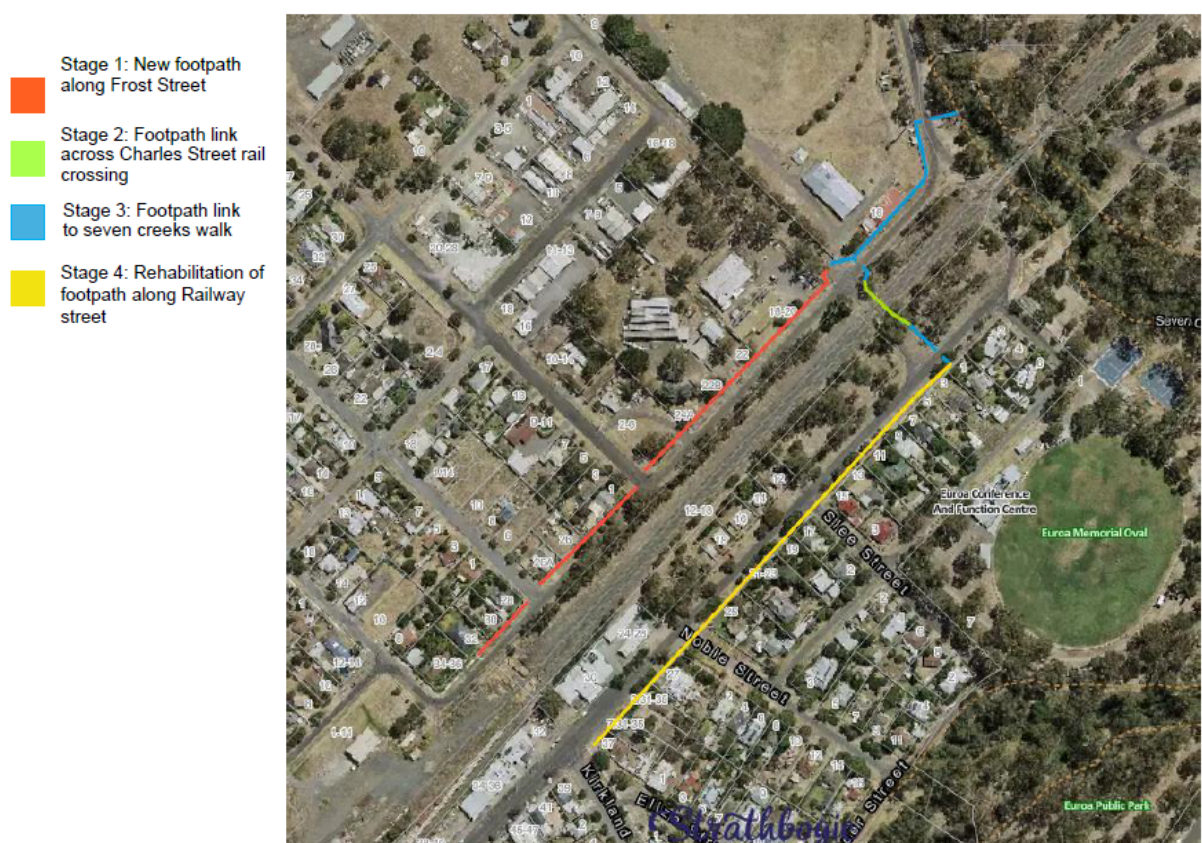
That Council:

- Note the status of the Capital Works Program for the period to 29 October 2025.**

2. Approve the changes to the budget allocation for each of Councils Capital Works Programs for 2025-2026, as set out within Attachment 3 to this report.
3. Approve that the \$350,000 contribution received from Inland Rail will be allocated towards the construction of the Frost Street footpath, including accessibility and connectivity improvements consistent with the Euroa Railway Precinct Master Plan.
4. Note that project savings identified through tender awards will be reallocated within the same asset classes to support delivery of other priority projects.

24/25-11

CARRIED

Attachment 3 – Proposed footpath works in and around Frost Street, Euroa.

11.4 Corporate

11.4.1 Audit and Risk Committee - Appointment of Independent Community Representative

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is currently one vacancy on Council's Audit and Risk Committee following the end of the tenure for independent community representative Alister Purbrick AM.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter requires the appointment of four independent community representatives to help drive the important work undertaken by the Committee to provide independent oversight over Council finances, risk management, and governance and integrity obligations.

Following a robust recruitment process, the panel have recommended that Leon Sargeant be appointed as an independent community representative to the Audit and Risk Committee for a term of three years.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

Endorse the appointment of Leon Sargeant as an independent community representative on the Audit and Risk Committee for a three-year term commencing 2 December 2025 and ending 1 December 2028.

24/25-12

CARRIED

11.4.2 Quarterly Report - Financial Report September 2025

AUTHOR Chief Financial Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The September Financial Report compares the year-to-date adopted budget for the 2025-26 financial year to the actual financial position of September 2025.

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

The current year operating surplus for the three-month period ending 30 September 2025 was \$16,363,989, as rates have been raised for the full financial year. This was \$835,337 favourable to the year to date budget.

As at 30 September 2025, the total expenditure on capital works was \$919,700, which excludes committed expenditure.

It is noted that a specific capital works program report is also included in the council meeting agenda. The figures contained within that report are as at 29 October 2025. They differ from the figures reported as at 30 September 2025, to meet Council's legislative requirement for a quarterly financial report.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the quarterly Financial Report and Financial Statements for the three months ending 30 September 2025.**
- 2. note that the Community Grants allocation will be increased by \$25,000 in the 2025-26 financial year, offset by other expenditure savings and reductions in the Community and Culture Department**

24/25-13

CARRIED

11.4.3 Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors October 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 October 2025 to 31 October 2025 are included in the attachments below.

MOVED: Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy
SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens

That Council:

Note the Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors from 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025.

24/25-14

CARRIED

11.5 Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

11.5.1 Quarterly Report - Customer Service

AUTHOR Customer Service Coordinator

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Executive Manager Communications, Advocacy and Customer Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report marks the first quarterly Customer Service Report presented to Council and the community. It provides a detailed overview of customer service performance during the reporting period, performance metrics and outcomes achieved. The report is intended to keep both Council and the community informed of progress in enhancing service quality and responsiveness.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

Note the Quarterly Customer Service Report from the period 1 July – 27 October 2025.

24/25-15

CARRIED

12 Notice of Motion

Nil

13 Notice of Rescission

Nil

14 Confidential Business

Nil

15 Urgent Business

Nil

16 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on 9 December 2025 at Euroa Community Conference Centre commencing at 4:00 pm.

17 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5:45 pm.

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

.....
Chair

.....
Date