

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions

Tuesday 9 December 2025

Minutes

Council Meeting

9 December 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/>

Present

Councillors

Mayor Cr Scott Jeffery
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 Communication, Advocacy and Customer Service
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

Deputy Mayor Cr Claire Ewart-Kennedy

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 Statutory Meeting held on 18 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

25/26-16

CARRIED

8 Petitions

Nil

9 Mayor and Councillor Reports

9.1 Mayor's Report

My first few weeks as Mayor have been a whirlwind of meetings, community events, advocacy and media interviews.

When I was elected last month, I promised to listen to the community, strengthen relationships and demonstrate transparency and accountability.

So I'm pleased to report one of my first official duties as Mayor was meeting community members at the Cuppa With a Councillor session at Graytown.

The community extended a very warm welcome to Cr Stevens and myself with about 20 community members sitting down with us at the Graytown Community Centre.

We discussed a range of topics including overhanging trees and roadside vegetation, rural and residential land use and the Graytown Community Centre Facility Management Agreement.

The Violet Town Cuppa with a Councillor was held last week, and that was the final one for the year. Crs Halsall, Stevens and Binks represented the Council at that event and I'm sure we'll hear more about that from them later in the meeting.

These have been important engagement opportunities for Councillors this year. It has been enlightening, and sometimes challenging, for Councillors to hear directly from residents about their concerns and issues. And it's always wonderful to hear some positive feedback.

One of the best parts of being a councillor is being able to travel around the shire and meeting with members of our community and I look forward to doing more of that in the new year.

Another of the highlights of the past month was joining more than 100 members of the Avenel community for a rally on 29 November where we called for the State Government to fund \$3.1 million in urgent rail safety upgrades.

I was joined at that event by Councillors Stevens, Carlson and Ewart-Kennedy, and Council Officers.

I would also like to thank local MPs Sam Birrell and Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell who attended and pledged to support our efforts to secure safer rail crossings in the township.

Rail safety in Avenel is one of the key priorities in our advocacy strategy, and this event was a fabulous example of community advocacy at its best. The Council is right behind Avenel Active, and we're not going to stop until our kids can travel to school safely.

Last Wednesday night, I was honored to present the graduation certificates for the 2025 Community Leadership program. This was the first time Council has offered a Community Leadership Program, which was made possible with support from Emergency Recovery Victoria.

As well as the importance of integrity, inclusion, accountability and collaboration in leadership, the syllabus included leading through emergencies and strengthening local resilience.

The participants came from a number of townships across the Shire including Creightons Creek, Miepoll, Strathbogie, Violet Town, Gooram, Avenel, Euroa and Nagambie. All these communities should be very proud of the graduates.

I can assure you the future of Strathbogie is very bright with such talented and passionate young people stepping up to lead in their communities.

At the end of November, Deputy Mayor Claire Ewart-Kennedy and I undertook our compulsory Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Training.

The program is directly aligned with the mandatory regulatory requirements outlined by the Victorian Government in its new Governance and Integrity Regulations.

As well as refining our skills, the program presented an opportunity for mayors and deputy mayors from across Victoria to foster and strengthen connections and establish support networks at the beginning of the term.

As we head into December, my fellow Councillors and I hope we'll see you at one of the end-of-year Christmas events that are planned across the Shire. All the details are on our website.

What a wonderful way to end the year, as well as support the organisations and volunteers who run these events.

As this is Council's last meeting before Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents of Strathbogie a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and safe new year.

Please enjoy the time with family and friends, and I hope you all get to rest and recover after what has been a long and, at times, challenging year for many in our community.

Stay safe, enjoy all the wonderful things our Shire has to offer, and see you all in 2026.

Finally, before we move onto Councillor Reports, I would like to make a very special presentation to one of our Councillors.

I would like to present Cr Carlson with two Victorian Councillor Service Awards: Ten Years of Service and Mayor Emeritus.

The Municipal Association of Victoria provides these two Councillor Service Awards, recognising the contribution that councillors make to their communities.

Cr Carlson has held various leadership roles over more than 14 years as a Councillor, serving across three Councils between 1990 and 2008.

And of course he returned as a councillor when he was elected to Strathbogie 12 months ago.

His impressive resume includes four terms as Mayor.

I would like to thank Cr Carlson for his dedication to his communities, and personally for the friendship, wisdom and advice he has generously shared with me over the past year.

9.2 Councillor Reports

Cr Halsall

The year in review for Vicki Halsall.

I'm still coming to terms with being a Councillor and all that comes with the role. I don't see the power that others talk about. I am still the same person I was when I started, but I honour the opportunity I have at the table to represent my community.

I have found this first 12 months challenging both in volume of information and the rate I've challenged myself to consume it. In the first meeting I was asked why I ran for council, and my response was to "To challenge the default". To some it wasn't understood, but to me it was quite clear. To find the 'why' and prosecute the 'how'. Just because it is, doesn't mean it should be. It is this that fuels my engagement in every briefing.

My greatest achievement in my eyes this year has been to bring the Urban Growth and Rural Residential Planning Strategies to the Councillors table. I believe these two strategies have a very significant role to play in the future of our municipality.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to sit around the table and develop both personally and as a Councillor group extremely rewarding.

This month I attended Violet Town Cuppa with a Councillor which was very enjoyable. I met Neil, Hank, Robbie Rae and one other resident whose name escapes me right now. I was really pleased to be sought out personally by Neil to discuss planning strategies.

I want to congratulate the Violet Town community on their preparedness to test recommendations that were made in the Urban Growth and Rural Residential Strategies. They seem to be very constructive. The idea is to challenge the recommendation that in fill is appropriate in Violet Town by holding their own community forums, which I thought was a really good idea.

I met Hank, a recent local of six years, I believe investing in his community and halls and gardens. He took the time to discuss with me the historic and active possum infestation at the community hall, the asbestos and the aged toilet facilities, and the lack of signage to the RV dump site which I was like, okay.

I also had a very a conversation with Robbie Rae about the local community fundraising to support the schools swimming program.

The State Government chips in \$40 per student. To her calculation, the Violet Town School cost was \$214 per student.

In Violet Town, learning to swim is so important that the community are looking for Council support and local fundraising to support a successful school swimming program.

Robbie also shared that she had worked with the School and Belgravia to schedule swim times that were most economical. We talk about cost shifting from State to Local, but this instance, I think it's state to community. Learning to swim is a fundamental responsibility of our education system, local government and community.

I attended the Roads Congress in November. I learned all sorts of things. I felt like I was sitting with my people surrounded by engineers. A totally different experience to the Planning Forum that I attended. I networked with engineers from Geelong, people providing online platforms

for rotation assessments and using AI in a very clever way.

I heard Rupert Hoskin. He was my standout speaker talking about leadership in communities, the importance of people in industrial development, the importance of finding common ground with community and asking fundamental questions prior to decision making.

He talked about keeping projects operating and taking risks. But his question was, do we have all the information to make this decision?

Across the country there was talk about road significance. There were Shires sharing that they that supported road funding models per kilometre which I think is in alignment with us.

Macedon Ranges had a wildlife strike submission on road safety. I was very interested in the talk about vision zero which is a road safety strategy and increasing safety and reducing the road toll to zero.

I took the opportunity to ask why isn't the impact of roadside vegetation as attracted to native animals part of the review rather than a focus on reducing speed limits?

It was a really valuable couple of days trying to understand the thinking and the industry views on roads and where we're going with sustainability and infrastructure, and I thank the Council for the opportunity for my attendance. Thank you.

Cr Stevens

Mine will be very brief. I don't always report back each month even though I'm out there doing things. I think this month I'd like to because it was so diverse.

As the Mayor has mentioned, we had Cuppa with a Councillor in Graytown which was absolutely fabulous. Great little community and good feedback. We had the Violet Town Cuppa with a Councillor and once again a great, small community and fabulous feedback. So thank you to those who attended.

The Avenel Crossing, once again the Mayor has touched on that. The community turned out in droves. It was just fabulous. So I really hope that together we can get something constructive out of this.

The Road Safety Committee Goulburn Valley, I went to that last Friday with Director McNulty. I had the pleasure of introducing our new Director to them. The advantage of that particular committee is apart from the fact that it deals with road safety and has fabulous representation from other Councils such as Moira and Shepparton and our Shire, it also has representatives of the Department of Transport and other partners that are brilliant to be able to network with and build relationships with. So that's a fabulous committee to be on.

The Nagambie Carols were held last weekend. The turnout was just absolutely amazing. I don't know what the numbers were, but there were hundreds and hundreds and hundreds. So once again, congratulations to those who organised that.

It was the PCCC, which I'm calling it. It's the Police Community Consultative Committee is what I refer to it as, which is starting up again. This is another committee that is representative of all things Police. They call it the Mitchell PSA which is the Mitchell Police Service Area, but it actually services Mitchell Shire and Strathboogie Shire, and all the statistics and issues are related to both. I look forward to seeing that advance further.

Just one very quick thing going back to Violet Town. Thanks to Katherine who comes to these events with us to Cuppa with a Councillor. She's just absolutely amazing, the work she does

and the note taking - shes just brilliant. I didn't get out of Violet Town until about 3:00 pm even though officially we finished at 1:00-ish. I got out at three with my wallet a little lighter, but I continued to speak with the community while I had the opportunity. I had a wonderful day, so thank you.

Cr Binks

I was also at Violet Town Cuppa with a Councillor which was really great. I shan't speak too much more because it's been spoken about quite extensively by my colleagues.

I think the highlight events for me last week, which was a pretty busy week, was the Leadership Graduation night. It was so inspiring to see these eleven diverse leaders from right across the Shire share with us what they had learned over the course of their fairly intensive leadership program, which just seemed to really inspire them.

I think that it's really rewarding and encouraging to see that kind of energy come from community members. I think what I really loved about it was they were just so genuine and really leading with their heart. It was a really amazing evening and I want to thank the Council for assisting in making that happen.

I know that Annette, one of the staff here did put a lot into it to make it successful. I know that our Directors were also heavily involved, and I really thank them for doing that because I think we've really created a really great community of people that understand Council better and everything that we have to do but also are really interested in working within the community broadly.

That sort of connection between the Council organisation, the group of Councillors and all the different community that they work in representing our emergency service roles in those communities. It was really inspiring.

On Saturday morning I joined the Mayor in Nagambie at the Park Run, which we walked! I'm a happy walker, not a happy runner. We partnered with the Nagambie Park Run for the 16 Days of Activism against family based violence, and it was an incredible turnout. I was at it last year with Cr Ewart-Kennedy when she was the Mayor. I'd say we've doubled numbers for our second year in terms of getting people turn up, and some really great feedback from the community that turned up to that.

I think it's really important thing to remember that, you know, family based violence happens in our communities. We are not immune to it and we need to be working in our communities to support them. I just really thank the community that came out and supported that. It was a really well attended event, and great to be a part of. Thank you.

Cr Carlson

Just briefly Mayor, once again like three other Councillors, I went to the Avenel Rail Crossing which was interesting in the sense the community is very united, focused and determined as they should be for what is an obvious problem which hasn't been addressed for literally years and years.

In terms of the Goulburn Valley Libraries, which continues to go on. We've gone through a short listing, interviewing and appointment process for a Chief Executive Officer who will commence in January, as well as nominating this evening a community representative to be sitting on the Board which will be happening later on.

I would like to thank yourself and the Officers that have been conspiring to raise the awards. Just a few short words. I stared on 1990 when mobile phones could only make phone calls

and the internet didn't really exist, with a few vehicles running around with "www" on the side of their doors. No one really knew what that meant.

My observations are that it's a more challenging job now. The amount of information you have to digest is vastly more than what was done in my heyday. There's less crazy people in the Council Chambers now I find which is pleasing, and I can cast an eye in the gallery there and I'm sure there's a few people be able to identify with my comments.

Nevertheless, it's a very challenging position because we are a creature of State Government. That's the reality. That's where we live and that's a challenging relationship we have in terms of financial support programs, things of that nature. It's much more complicated and complex than what it used to be.

But thank you for the honour - what maybe it just shows you is I'm a glutton for punishment, it is really appreciated.

10 Public Question Time

Our reference - RW 115/2025 and 116/2025

Question One

Will Council draft the new budget now under consideration in a way that delivers improvement in value for ratepayers dollars expended?

Strathbogie Shire ratepayers appreciate our councils commitment to sustainability when drafting our annual budget

Response

Thank you Robin for your question. The short answer is yes, fiscal responsibility is always at the front of mind when developing a Council budget.

With costs continuing to rise, it is increasingly challenging for our Council to balance service delivery with community expectations within the available budget. That's why we are currently asking the community to provide their input on what they would like to see included in the Council's 2026–27 budget.

If you have any feedback, please visit Council's website, via the Share Strathbogie portal. Be quick, submissions close tomorrow.

Question Two

Noted Councils improvements to the current state of the art truck wash in Euroa.

Will council address the angle of attack the ramp angle that allows waste product to be efficiently washed out of the trucks using facility in a time efficient manner?

Will the new motor have sufficient power to wash waste downhill out of trucks and also at the same time pump waste from the pit uphill to processing area without spillage and overflow into adjacent property?

What testing has the new high Power pump undergone to prove its capacity to handle the job?

Response

Council currently have contractors working to make the Truck wash operational.

This includes replacing and upgrading the pump house, the rising main, as well as a new three phase pump. The ramps as constructed are fit for purpose and will not be amended.

The new pump will be more powerful than the pumps replaced and will be sufficient to pump all material into the holding tank.

The pump selected has been built specifically for this project taking into consideration the material from the truck wash and the distance required to pump.

Our reference - TM 120/2025 and 121/2025**Question Three****1. HARRYS CREEK ROAD**

What is the up to date works procedure on the above road and the Costs to Date on this project ?

Response

Thank you for your question Tom.

Officers have been working with the Department of Transport and Emergency Recovery Victoria to develop an eligible design response to the road damage that occurred on Harrys Creek Road as a result of the Storm event in October 2022.

This eligible design is close to sign off by the relevant authority and will progress in early 2026. To date approximately \$320,000 has been spent on design, temporary works and traffic control. These costs are covered by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and the approved design will be included in Council Capital works Program for delivery.

Question Four**COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT**

Please list the Committees of Management in the Shire ?

Response

Council works with a number of committees of management, who support the management of our community facilities.

They include:

- Avenel Memorial Hall Committee
- Boho South Hall Committee
- Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve Committee
- Euroa Friendlies Reserve Committee
- Gooram Soldiers Memorial Hall
- Graytown Community Inc
- Longwood Community Centre
- Miepoll Public Hall Committee
- Moglonemby Hall Committee
- Nagambie Recreation Reserve
- Ruffy Recreation Reserve Committee
- Tableland Community Centre
- Strathbogie Memorial Hall
- Strathbogie Recreation Reserve Committee
- Shadforth Reserve Committee
- Violet Town Hall Committee
- Boho South Hall

Each Committee is an incorporated association and is required to enter into a Lease or license with Council to manage these facilities.

Before we conclude question time, Maree are you in the gallery?

I note that you have submitted two questions for today's meeting. As Chair, I have determined under section 35.8 of the Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rules that both questions are disallowed.

I understand that you have been in contact with Council Officers previously about the topics you've raised. Please contact the Chief Executive Officer if you wish to discuss further, and you will receive an email from the Director People and Governance.

11 Officer Reports

11.1 Strategic and Statutory Planning

Nil

11.2 Community

11.2.1 Aquatic Facility Management and Operations- Procurement Authorisation

AUTHOR Manager Community and Culture

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strathbogie Shire has four (4) seasonal aquatic facilities located in Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town. These facilities have been managed by an external contractor for the past six seasons.

An analysis and assessment of the contract management, resourcing and operating models in place across the local government aquatic industry, including benchmarking against other regional and rural Council's with seasonal pools has been completed.

Community engagement on the importance of seasonal pools has also been used to inform the structure and requirements of the operating model and any associated contract. The purpose of the engagement was to listen and understand what was important for our community when it comes to the management and operation of these important community assets, informing Council's future management model.

Based on cost, risk and the quality of service required, external management of the pools through an experienced aquatic facility manager is proposed. A Public Open Tender Process is recommended in line with Council's Procurement Policy.

This report seeks authorisation of Officers to commence the procurement process for *Contract 25-26-34: Aquatic management and operations services* for Council's four Seasonal Aquatic facilities in line with Council's Procurement Policy.

MOVED: Cr Vicki Halsall
SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

1. Authorise Officers to commence the procurement process to engage a Contractor for the management and operations of Council's four (4) aquatic facilities.
2. Receive a further report for consideration at a future Council meeting following the outcomes of the procurement process.

25/26-17

CARRIED

11.2.2 Strategic Funding Agreement - APS Heads of the River

AUTHOR Manager Community and Culture

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nagambie has hosted the Associated Public Schools of Victoria (APS) Heads of the River Rowing Regatta since 2001. This prestigious event brings together over 1,500 student athletes from eleven leading private schools across Melbourne and Geelong, reinforcing Nagambie's reputation as a premier rowing destination, often attracting up to 10,000 visitors to the town.

In 2019, Strathbogie Shire Council (Council) entered into a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with APS Sport (APS). This agreement outlined the roles and responsibilities of both parties and saw Strathbogie Shire providing full event management services along with a discounted rate for use of the Nagambie Regatta Centre. The MoU has now expired.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to enter into a Strategic Partnership Funding Agreement between Strathbogie Shire Council and APS to support the delivery of the APS Heads of the River Event in 2026 in Nagambie.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway

SECONDED: Cr Vicki Halsall

That Council:

- 1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute a one year Strategic Partnership Funding Agreement with the Associated Public Schools (APS), to support the delivery of the Heads of the River 2026 rowing event up to a value of \$13,000 (excluding GST)**
- 2. Note that this may comprise in-kind contributions through the waiver of associated hire fees and/or event staffing**

An amendment was put forward.

MOVED: Cr Greg Carlson

SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens

That Council:

- 1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute a one year Strategic Partnership Funding Agreement with the Associated Public Schools (APS), to support the delivery of the Heads of the River 2026 rowing event up to a value of \$10,000 (excluding GST)**
- 2. Note that this may comprise in-kind contributions through the waiver of associated hire fees and/or event staffing**

The amendment was carried.

Division

For
Cr Jeffery (casting vote)
Cr Stevens
Cr Carlson

Against
Cr Holloway
Cr Halsall
Cr Binks

25/26-18

CARRIED

The amendment became the substantive motion.

MOVED: Cr Greg Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens

That Council:

- 1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute a one year Strategic Partnership Funding Agreement with the Associated Public Schools (APS), to support the delivery of the Heads of the River 2026 rowing event up to a value of \$10,000 (excluding GST)**
- 2. Note that this may comprise in-kind contributions through the waiver of associated hire fees and/or event staffing**

Division

For
Cr Jeffery
Cr Stevens
Cr Carlson
Cr Holloway

Against
Cr Halsall
Cr Binks

25/26-19

CARRIED

11.2.3 Goulburn Region Tourism Incorporated Memorandum of Understanding

AUTHOR Manager Community and Culture

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Goulburn Region Tourism Incorporated was formally established as a legal entity in February 2024. Goulburn Region Tourism Incorporated is recognised by the Victorian government as a Visitor Economy Partnership and receives financial support from the State Government under the Visitor Economy Partnership Program, overseen by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

The Visitor Economy Partnership program requires a minimum of three (3) local government areas to partner and financially contribute to the partnership to be eligible for ongoing State Government funding. The partnership, between the tourism industry, local government and state government, aims to support and grow tourism and visitation across the municipalities of Greater Shepparton, Mitchell, and Strathbogie.

Council endorsed a one-year agreement to make a financial contribution to the entity in 2023, for the 2024-2025 financial year.

A new four-year Memorandum of Understanding, along with a schedule of annual financial contributions has been negotiated by the three Councils and Goulburn Region Tourism Incorporated.

Council's commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding will support Goulburn Region Tourism Incorporated to strengthen and grow the visitor economy of the region and provide increased opportunities to our region, supporting Council to deliver on its Council Plan 2025-29, and the Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2023-27.

The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation from Council for the continued commitment to Goulburn Region Tourism Incorporated through a formalised Memorandum of Understanding for the period of 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2029.

MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That the Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor amendments and to sign the Memorandum of Understanding to support Goulburn Region Tourism as Council's Visitor Economy Partnership for the period 1 July 2025- 30 June 2029.

25/26-20

CARRIED

11.2.4 Euroa Railway Precinct Masterplan

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.

Council endorsed public consultation on the draft Masterplan for a period of four weeks from 16 July 2025 until 13 August 2025. Two public information sessions were held on Monday 28 July 2025, attended by approximately sixty community members. Council received a total of 56 contributions were received providing valuable feedback which has been used to further inform the Masterplan.

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.

Further planning, engagement, detailed design and delivery of works and projects identified in the draft masterplan is subject to grant funding, and/or allocations considered as part of Council's annual capital budget process.

MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson

SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Euroa Railway Precinct Masterplan October 2025**
- 2. Note that the implementation of the Euroa Railway Precinct Masterplan 2025 is dependent on external grant funding and is subject to Council budgetary processes.**

25/26-21

CARRIED

11.2.5 Community Flag Flying Policy and Procedures

AUTHOR Manager Community and Culture

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flying community flags provides an opportunity for communities within Strathbogie Shire to express and symbolise identity, pride and belonging celebrated on significant days, weeks and/or at cultural or community events. Flags are a highly visible symbol of respect and can be used to promote a sense of community and create a welcoming environment.

The Policy aligns with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* where every person has the right to freedom of expression, and to our Council Values, we are inclusive and value the opinions of all.

The Community Flag Flying Policy and Procedures has been reviewed and is presented to Council for adoption.

MOVED: Cr Fiona Stevens
SECONDED: Cr Clark Holloway

That the item be deferred to a future date.

25/26-22

CARRIED

11.2.6 Variations and Grants Approved Under CEO Delegation November 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 community grants or variations approved under delegation by the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director, as per Council's Community Funding Model, for the period 1 November to 30 November 2025.

The 2025-2026 Community Funding Model and associated Grant Guidelines 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 Vicki Halsall
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

1. Note that there was one quick response grant awarded to the total value of \$973 by the Chief Executive Officer between 1 November to 30 November 2025.

25/26-23

CARRIED

11.3 Infrastructure

11.3.1 Firewood Risk Report

AUTHOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the October 2025 Council meeting, Council considered a report relating to the provision of firewood for vulnerable community members. At the meeting, Council resolved to:

1. Note that a Strategic Risk in relation to firewood, as included in the urgent business resolution at the May 2025 Council meeting has been included on Council's updated Strategic Risk Register
2. Note that Council Officers will manage and pursue avenues of mitigating risk associated with firewood.
3. Receive a report from Council Officers no later than February 2026 discussing all risks associated with firewood, including but not limited to risk to the community (both with and without roadside collection), reputational risk to Council, legislative risks, and liability risks.

The purpose of this report is to provide a report in response to the above resolution.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council note the report.

25/26-24

CARRIED

11.4 Corporate

11.4.1 Determine 2026 Council Meeting Dates

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strathbogie Shire Council Governance Rule (22) states that the Council must annually fix the date, time and place of all Council meetings for the next twelve months. These dates and times can be altered under Rule (23) and additional meetings held under Rule (24).

Strathbogie Shire Council has historically held it's Council meetings on the third Tuesday of the month.

MOVED: Cr Fiona Stevens
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

1. Adopt the schedule of Council meetings for 2026 as contained within this report
2. Publish the details of the Council meeting schedule on Council's website.

25/26-25

CARRIED

11.4.2 Information Communication and Technology Strategy 2026-2028

AUTHOR Manager Digital Innovation and Technology

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Developing an Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Strategy has been an action on the Management Letter for some time. Following the adoption of the 2025-29 Council Plan in June 2025, an action in line with Objective Three: Deliver, was to develop a strategy by 31 December 2025.

An ICT Strategy ensures that:

- Technology supports business objectives
- Investment is directed to the highest-value areas
- Digital projects are prioritised based on strategic need
- It stops technology being implemented in a piecemeal or reactive way.

The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the ICT Strategy on 21 November 2025 and noted the Strategy with no amendments suggested.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Vicki Halsall

That Council adopt the Information Communication and Technology Strategy 2026-2028.

25/26-26

CARRIED

11.4.3 Appointment of Community Representative to Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation

AUTHOR Director People and Governance

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation provides library services for Greater Shepparton City Council, Moira Shire Council and Strathbogie Shire Council.

It is governed by a Board of nine (9) members comprising a Councillor and officer from each Council, and a community representative.

Council's current representatives are Cr Greg Carlson and Council's Director People and Governance, Amanda Tingay. With the recent resignation of Ms Kym Bailey, there was a need to recruit a new community representative.

The position was advertised, and two very strong applications were received. Interviews were conducted with all applicants and it is recommended that Stephen Mahon be appointed as the community representative for Strathbogie Shire Council on the Board of Goulburn Valley Libraries.

MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Clark Holloway

That Council endorse the appointment of Stephen Mahon as the community representative for Strathbogie Shire Council on the Board of Goulburn Valley Libraries.

25/26-27

CARRIED

11.4.4 Councillor Staff Interaction Policy

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy provides guidance and support for Council Staff and Councillors in the performance of their duties as established by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act).

A Councillor Staff Interaction Policy is important for several reasons. It helps ensure good governance, clear roles and responsibilities, and positive working relationships between elected representatives and staff.

MOVED: Cr Laura Binks

SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Councillor Staff Interaction Policy**
- 2. Authorise Council Officers to place the Councillor Staff Interaction Policy on Council's website, along with the publication of a notice in Council's weekly newspaper column and social media pages informing the community of the policy.**

25/26-28

CARRIED

11.4.5 Councillor Professional Development Policy

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councils benefit from ensuring councillors are well trained in their legislative obligations, principles of good governance, compliance with codes of conduct, conflicts of interest and other transparency disclosures and accountabilities.

Councillor professional development commences prior to nomination and continues throughout the four-year term as an elected representative, with a combination of mandatory training prescribed by legislation and discretionary training identified as necessary to the council or councillor.

This is a new policy and sets the parameters for supporting councillor professional development.

MOVED: Cr Gregory Carlson
SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Councillor Professional Development Policy**
- 2. Authorise Council Officers to place the Councillor Professional Development Policy on Council's website, along with the publication of a notice in Council's weekly newspaper column and social media pages informing the community of the policy.**

25/26-29

CARRIED

11.4.6 Civic Flag Flying Policy

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The flying of flags is a visible symbol of respect and acknowledgement, and Council is committed to ensuring appropriate national respect and acknowledgement is demonstrated through the flying of flags on Council's primary civic buildings.

This policy identifies the basis upon which the Council will fly flags in Civic areas. Official flags are flown as an expression of Council's governance responsibilities and will be flown permanently outside on designated flagpoles at 109a Binney Street, Euroa, and 352 High Street Nagambie.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway

SECONDED: Cr Fiona Stevens

That Council defer adoption of the Civic Flag Flying Policy until a future date.

25/26-30

CARRIED

11.4.7 Audit and Risk Committee Charter

AUTHOR Governance Officer

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Director People and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section 54 (1) of *the Local Government Act 2020* Council must prepare and approve an Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

The Audit and Risk Committee last reviewed and endorsed the Charter at the meeting held on 6 October 2023, and the Charter was adopted by Council in October 2023.

The annual review of the Charter suggests only minor changes to the existing document.

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway

SECONDED: Cr Laura Binks

That Council adopt the Audit and Risk Charter, as attached to this report, with Officers to make minor administration changes as required.

25/26-31

CARRIED

11.4.8 Confirmation of Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 5 September 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 5 September 2025 and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting held 21 November 2025.

The Audit and Risk Committee considered the following items at the meeting held on 5 September 2025 :

- Draft 2024-25 Annual Financial Statement Report
- Draft 2024-25 Performance Statement and Governance Management Checklist
- Draft Final Management Letter
- Draft Closing Report to Audit and Risk Committee
- Fair Value Assessment at 30 June 2025
- CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy
- For Information - Climate Change Action Plan Update
- For Information - Parliamentary Inquiry into Fraud and Corruption Control in Local Government
- For Information - Facility Management Report
- Internal Audit Updates - RSD Audit
- External Audit Updates - Crowe Australasia
- Outstanding Internal Audit Action Items
- Policy Review
- Risk Management
- Audit and Risk Committee 2025-2026 Work Program
- Human Resources Update - Including Business Continuity Plan, Staff Engagement and Alignment Survey and Culture at Council
- Councillor Expenses and Reimbursements
- CEO Purchasing Card and Other Expenses/Reimbursements
- Fraud and Risk Management
- Investment and Borrowings
- Confirmation of Minutes Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 4 July 2025

MOVED: Cr Clark Holloway
SECONDED: Cr Greg Carlson

That Council receive and note the confirmed minutes of the Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2025.

25/26-32

CARRIED

11.4.9 Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors November 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 November 2025 to 30 November 2025 were noted.

MOVED: Cr Fiona Stevens
SECONDED: Cr Gregory Carlson

That Council note the Record of Informal Meetings of Councillors from 1 November 2025 to 30 November 2025.

25/26-33

CARRIED

11.5 Communications, Advocacy and Customer Service

11.5.1 Biannual Community Report - Incorporating 2025-29 Council Plan Action Plan Update

AUTHOR Executive Manager Communication, Advocacy and Customer Service

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR Executive Manager Communication, Advocacy and Customer Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is committed to transparency, accountability and open communication with its communities and is pleased to provide its first Biannual Community Report.

The Biannual Community Report 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025 provides residents and stakeholders with a clear overview of Council's progress, performance, and priorities over the previous six months.

The Biannual Community Report 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025 incorporating the 2025-26 Council Plan Action Plan 1 July to 31 December 2025 was noted.

MOVED: Cr Laura Binks

SECONDED: Cr Clark Holloway

That Council note the Biannual Community Report from 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025.

25/26-34

CARRIED

12 Notice of Motion

Nil

13 Notice of Rescission

Nil

14 Confidential Business

Nil

15 Urgent Business

Nil

16 Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on 17 February 2026 at the Euroa Community Conference Cent

17 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6:11 pm.

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

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Chair

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Date