

PYRENEES
— S H I R E —



AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00pm Tuesday 16 October 2018

**Council Chambers
BEAUFORT**

Public Copy

ORDER OF BUSINESS

OPENING PRAYER	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	3
APOLOGIES	3
NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS	3
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	3
BUSINESS ARISING	3
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS	3
ITEMS FOR NOTING	4
ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	4
1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT	4
CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	11
2. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS – AUGUST 2018	11
3. EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL	16
4. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS	19
5. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS	22
ITEMS FOR DECISION	24
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	24
6. STRAW TO ENERGY PROJECT	24
ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	27
7. FIXING COUNTRY ROADS PROGRAM AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BLACK SPOT FUNDING	27
CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	29
8. ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018	29
9. MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN	31
10. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT REPORT	33
11. FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM – CLAIMS UPDATE	35
12. ACT@WORK	40
13. RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN	45
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	47
14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM	47
15. LOCAL TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS	50
16. MOBILE BLACKSPOT PROGRAM	52
17. PICK MY PROJECT	54
COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS	56
CLOSE OF MEETING	57

WELCOME MEMBERS OF PUBLIC

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we ask you to give your blessing to this Council, direct and prosper its deliberations to the advancement of your glory, and the true welfare of the people of the Pyrenees Shire.

Amen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, and Djab Wurrung tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire.

We pay our respect to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these tribes, on whose land we meet today.

APOLOGIES

NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 September 2018

Closed Meeting of Council held on 18 September 2018

BUSINESS ARISING

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS FOR NOTING

ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development

File No: 66/02/02 – 08/02/02 – 50/24/02 – 46/02/02

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on activities within Planning, Development and Regulatory Services, during September 2018.

This report includes four parts:

- Part A: Planning
- Part B: Building
- Part C: Environmental Health
- Part D: Local Laws (Community Safety and Amenities)

PART A: PLANNING

The planning activity statistics for August and September 2018 are summarised in the table below:-

Month	Applications received	Applications completed	Number of referrals	Requests for further information
August 2018	16	12		
September 2018	9	9	2	3

Key projects

In early September, Council staff presented at the *Government Land Sales Standing Advisory Committee* (the committee) hearing regarding the Victorian Government's proposal to rezone and sell the former Beaufort Primary School site. Council's position was to request the application of a planning policy that reflects the significance of the sites heritage values, requirement for flooding management and potential for integration into the surrounding township.

Following the hearing, it is understood that a report was submitted to the Minister for Planning on the 12th of September.

Council is also awaiting a decision from the Minister regarding the rezoning of former DELWP depots at 6 Lawrence Street and 31 Camp Hill Road in Beaufort.

Statutory planning

The planning permit application for the Optus Telecommunications Facility in Lexton is currently on hold as access to the site is confirmed. Access will be provided through a Crown land section of the Recreation Reserve which is owned by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning

(DELWP). Council is awaiting advice from DELWP that supports use of the site for access (via a licence). The planning application is exempt from any public notice requirements or third party review rights in the Pyrenees Planning Scheme as the proposed facility will be funded under the *Commonwealth Black Spot program*.

Planning staff, in conjunctions with Council's Environment and Sustainability Officer, the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning and the Department of Economic Development Jobs Transport and Resources, are currently investigating several *Planning and Environment Act* breaches, including the unauthorised removal of Native Vegetation and failing to comply with the conditions of a planning permit.

By collaborating with other agencies, Council intends to improve the communities understanding of planning requirements whilst increasing our capacity to respond to issues of non-compliance.

Planning are experiencing a high number of general enquiries (approximately 30/week) and formal requests for advice including *Certificates of Compliance*. This work requires a similar level of assessment time and expertise to that involved in considering planning permit applications.

To ensure that Council continue to provide a high level of service to our stakeholders with the resources currently available, the planning team are looking to adopt an appointment system for planning related enquiries and a fee for service model where appropriate. In addition, the planning team are working to identify a range of system improvements and process efficiencies which will support our ability to provide timely and accurate advice.

Strategic issues

Pyrenees Futures Project is progressing with 3 of the township plans (Lexton, Waubra and Snake Valley). Detailed streetscape plans are being drafted for Avoca's town centre in response to community engagement where the need for shade, seating and consistent character were identified as key themes. The streetscape plans will be placed on exhibition along with the first series of Pyrenees Futures framework plans in coming months.

Planning summary

1. Council continues to perform above the state regional local government average for permit application turn-around times.
2. Council are collaborating with other agencies to respond to issues of non-compliance.
3. Council is finalising framework plans for six towns, to be exhibited as part of the Pyrenees Futures Project.
4. Council is reviewing the effectiveness of its planning services and identifying opportunities for improvement.

PART B: BUILDING

Activity

The building activity statistics as at 30/09/2018 are summarised in the table below:

CATEGORY	NUMBER	COMMENT
Permits issued by private Building Surveyor	20	Total value unavailable at present
Council permits in progress	2	Close to issue

Key projects & compliance

Council's Solicitor and Municipal Building Surveyor attended Court following a property owner's failure to comply with an order to remove a shed that had been developed and occupied as a dwelling. The property owner pleaded guilty to the Court, and a fine of \$1,000 was issued against them. In addition, Court costs of \$5,000 were awarded to Council.

Building works have commenced on several Neill Street properties in Beaufort, whose verandas have been identified as being structurally compromised and requiring replacement/repair. It is expected that the remainder of these works will be completed by mid-November.

Two Avoca buildings that were severely damaged by fire have been inspected by Council's Municipal Building Surveyor and Building Inspector. *Emergency Orders* have been issued to cease use and evacuate both premises with a subsequent *Building Order* issued for clean-up works. Council will work with both property owners to facilitate recovery.

Following Council's resolution to declare the Municipality as likely being subject to attack by termites, correspondence has been provided to the Victorian Building Authority. Relevant websites will be updated in due course, informing potential builders and renovators of the new requirements.

Council plan / legislative requirements

- Council Plan 2013-2017
- *Building Act* 1993
- Building Regulations 2018

Financial / risk implications

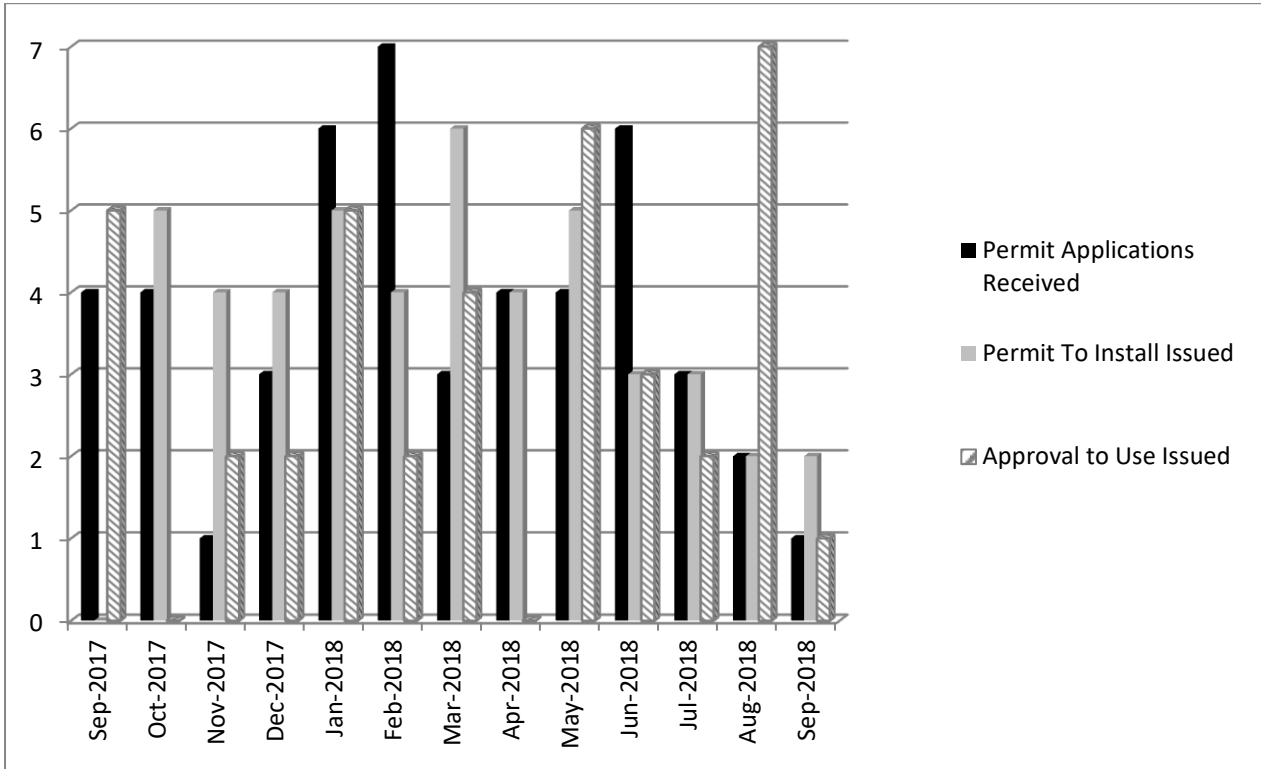
The Municipal Building Surveyor must have regard to any relevant guidelines under the *Building Act* 1993 or subordinate regulations. The building services department must ensure that a responsive service is provided that meets the demand of the building industry within the municipality.

PART C: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Activity: wastewater

Period	Applications to Install New or Alter Existing Septic Tanks Received	Permits to Install Issued	Approval to Use Issued	Fees Paid
1st – 30th September 2018	1	2	1	\$380

Wastewater activity statistics for September 2018



Monthly wastewater activity (September 2017 to September 2018)

Period	Septic Tank Inspections	Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) Inspections
1st - 30th September 2018	9	10

Wastewater related Inspections September 2018

Period	Service Reports Received
1st – 30th September 2018	0

Domestic Wastewater Service Agent Report September 2018

Activity: food, health & accommodation premises

Food Act 1984 and *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* Premises activity statistics for August 2018 are summarised in the table below.

Period	New Premises	Routine Inspections and Assessments	Follow Up Inspections	Complaints Received about Registered Premises	Food Recalls	Fees Paid
1st – 30th September 2018	0	6	0	0	1	\$0

1. Food Sampling

Food Sampling was conducted in September, where samples of sandwiches and wraps were taken from 6 food premises. All the food samples returned satisfactory results.

2. Tobacco Inspections There were 6 Routine Tobacco Education Visit Inspections conducted at food premises during September. Education visits ensure that food premises have appropriate no smoking signage and that they are complying with the *Tobacco Act 1987*.

3. Mobile and Temporary Food Premises in the Shire (Streatrader) At 30th September 2018 Pyrenees Shire had 33 premises registered, 69 low risk notifications and 186 current Statements of Trade (SOT). An additional compliance assessment was completed at one registered mobile food premises during September.

Activity: immunisations

Immunisation sessions in September were conducted as normal in Beaufort and Avoca as well as opportunistic services performed by the Shire’s Maternal Child Health Nurses (MCHN) throughout the month.

Session Type	Number of Clients & Vaccines	2 Month - 4+ Yr Old	Secondary School	Adult
MCHN Opportunistic	Clients	23	36	0
	Vaccines	44	36	0
Beaufort Sessions	Clients	4	0	0
	Vaccines	10	0	0
Avoca Session	Clients	3	0	0
	Vaccines	5	0	0

Immunisation activity statistics for August 2018

Key projects

The implementation of the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan continues with letters and surveys being sent out to properties in some of the high risk, unsewered township areas, to assist with organising inspections of their properties. Work continues on the review of existing records and the setup of electronic records for all properties within declared potable water catchment areas.

The installation of No Smoking signs at playgrounds, sports areas and other outdoor areas used by children is being implemented over the next few months.

Compliance issues

Minor issues are being monitored with registered food premises with current non-compliance. This includes regular temperature records, ongoing cleaning issues and accredited Food Safety Supervisor requirements.

Council plan / legislative requirements

- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2015-2018
- Food Act 1984
- Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008
- Tobacco Act 1987
- Environment Protection Act 1970
- Code of Practice for Septic Tanks

Financial / risk implications

The Environmental Health Officer (EHO) must work with regard to various legislative requirements with respect to Food Safety (*Food Act 1984*), Public Health (*Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008*, *Environment Protection Act 1970*), Tobacco (*Tobacco Act 1987*) and Wastewater (*Environment Protection Act 1970*, *Domestic Wastewater Management Plan*, *Code of Practice for Septic Tanks*).

It is necessary for the EHO to adapt to any changes in regulations whilst still providing a service that meets the demands of residents within the municipality and complies with legislation.

Environmental health summary

1. EH received one Public Health and Well Being (PHWB) Act Nuisance complaint in September.

PART D: LOCAL LAWS AND ANIMAL CONTROL

ACTIVITY

	August 2018	September 2018
Cats impounded	1	2
Dogs impounded	0	1
Stock impounded	0	16
Infringements issued	1	0
Prosecutions	0	0

Impoundment and infringement statistics

As at 30th September, there were **582 cats** and **2,369 dogs** registered within the municipality. Records show that a further **50 cats** and **147 dogs** have not had their registrations renewed. Council's Safety and Amenities Officer will proceed to contact owners of unregistered pets by undertaking property inspections and making phone calls to confirm continued ownership and remind owners of the requirement to renew registrations.

The pet registration amnesty period closed on the 30th of September. Staff are now working to reconcile figures to determine the program's effectiveness in achieving pet registration compliance.

Key projects

- Council's Local Law Review project team has sought internal feedback from the varying departments and are now finalising the *Draft General Local Law*. A community drop in session will be held in Snake Valley on the 13th of September.
- Business improvement opportunities are being identified to improve local law administration.
- Officers continue to investigate a range of complex animal keeping matters.

Council plan / legislative requirements

- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Domestic Animal Management Plan 2012-2016
- Council Local Laws No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4

Local laws and animal control summary

1. The Draft General Local Law and Draft Procedure Manual is progressing
2. New internal processes are being developed to strengthen Council's administration of its Local Laws
3. Council continues to investigate matters of non-compliance across the Shire

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

2. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS – AUGUST 2018

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

File No: 16/08/04

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on our Customer Action Request System (CARS) for the month of September 2018.

BACKGROUND

Council has operated an electronic Customer Action Service Request system (CARS) for a number of years enabling residents to lodge service requests. Requests can be lodged in person, via telephone, via Council's website or by using a smartphone "Snap Send Solve" application.

Since December 2012, CARS has been promoted on a regular basis in Council's Public Notices published in the Pyrenees Advocate.

Service requests are received for maintenance issues – potholes, road conditions, drainage, signage, slashing and overhanging branches. Additional services were recently added to the CARS system including – pools, local laws, building maintenance and compliance.

Council receives between 400 and 1000 customer action requests per annum.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

67 CARS were received in September 2018, a 32% increase on the previous month. 82 requests were closed in September (more than those received) resulting in 160 outstanding. As at the 30th September 2018 the status of CARS was as follows:

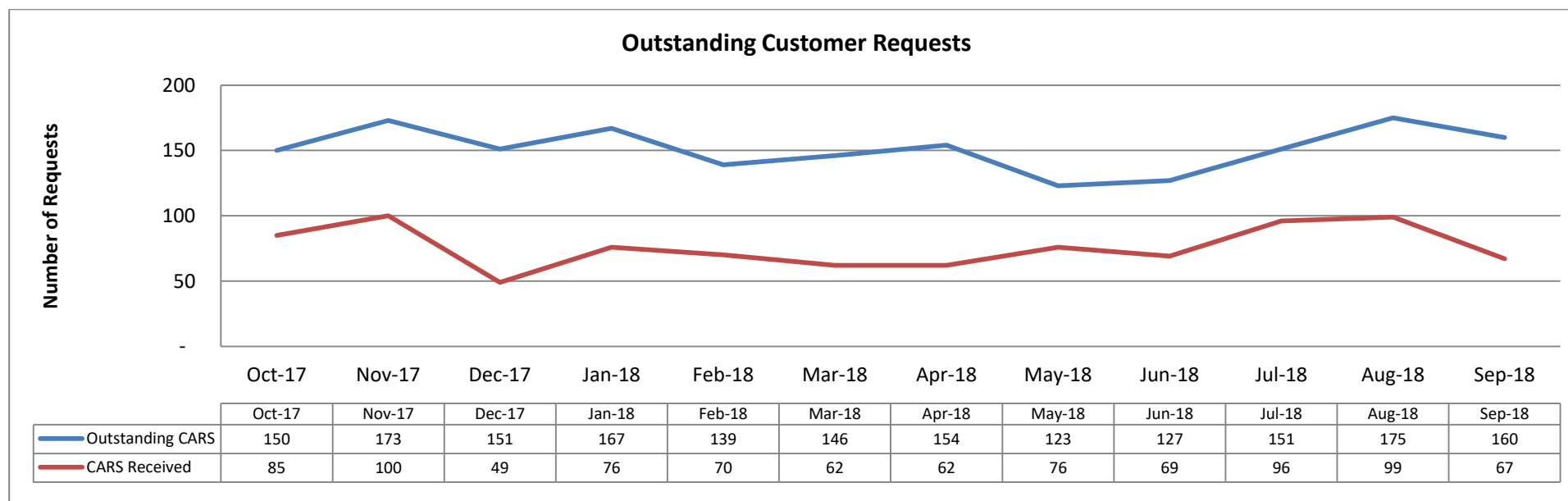
- 9% decrease in 2016 outstanding CARS
- 3% decrease in 2017 outstanding CARS
- 10% increase in 2018 outstanding CARS
- 9% increase on total CARS outstanding
- Of the 160 outstanding CARS 37 relate to natural disasters, a reduction of 2 from the previous month.
- For the month of September 82 CARS were closed

The largest groupings of open CARS requests relate to: Building Maintenance (36); Roadside Vegetation (22) and Natural Disasters (37).

The review of the CARS system is currently on hold due to leave commitments and will recommence in the near future. The process for following-up on outstanding requests, to reduce the number of outstanding requests, has commenced and should enable improved statistical reporting in the following months.

Reports detailing outstanding CARS are detailed below:

Year	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	% Change
2016	53	53	38	38	31	29	29	29	24	24	23	21	-9%
2017	97	120	113	90	56	49	44	38	32	31	30	29	-3%
2018	0	0	0	39	52	68	81	56	71	96	122	110	-10%
Total	150	173	151	167	139	146	154	123	127	151	175	160	-9%
Total Received	85	100	49	76	70	62	62	76	69	96	99	67	-32%



Open Requests - Type			
	Jul-18	Aug-18	Change
Roads	16	15	-1
Streetlights	1	3	2
Drainage	10	12	2
Footpaths	4	7	3
Roadside	12	16	4
Environmental	1	0	-1
Planning	0	0	0
Bld maintenance	22	29	7
Park & Reserves	3	4	1
Local Laws	3	1	-2
Fire Hazard	1	1	0
Bld Compliance	3	3	0
Road Maintenance	23	31	8
Waste	0	1	1
Roads Unsealed	4	5	1
Road Maintenance	7	8	1
Natural Disasters	41	39	-2
Pools	0	0	0
Design & Assets	0	0	0
GIS	0	0	0
Dogs	0	0	0
Livestock Act	0	0	0
Total	151	175	24

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 1 - Leadership

1.1 - Communicate the Council's decisions, policies and activities and the reasons behind them, in a form relevant to ratepayer needs and expectations in accordance to Council's communication strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

2.1 - CARS Analysis – September 2018

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report

CONCLUSION

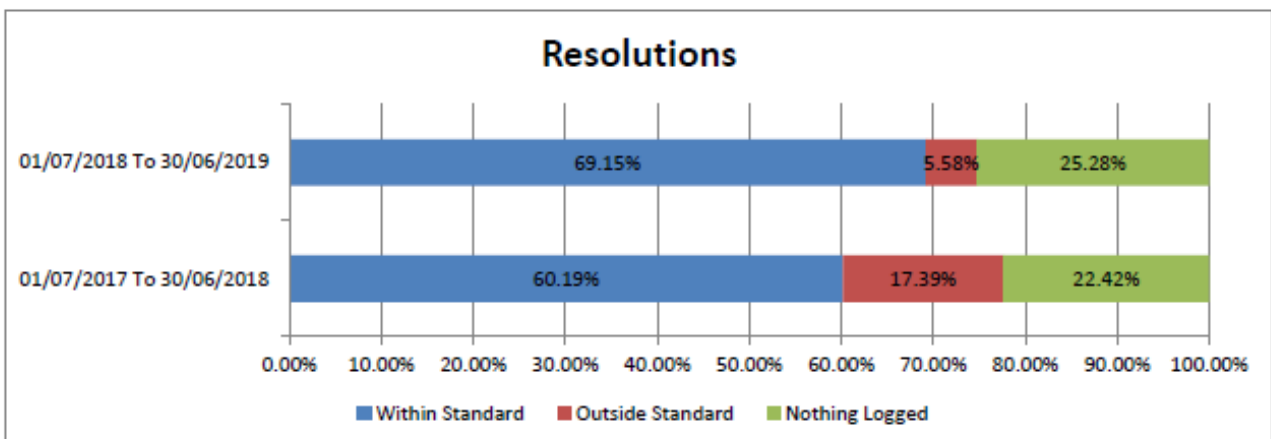
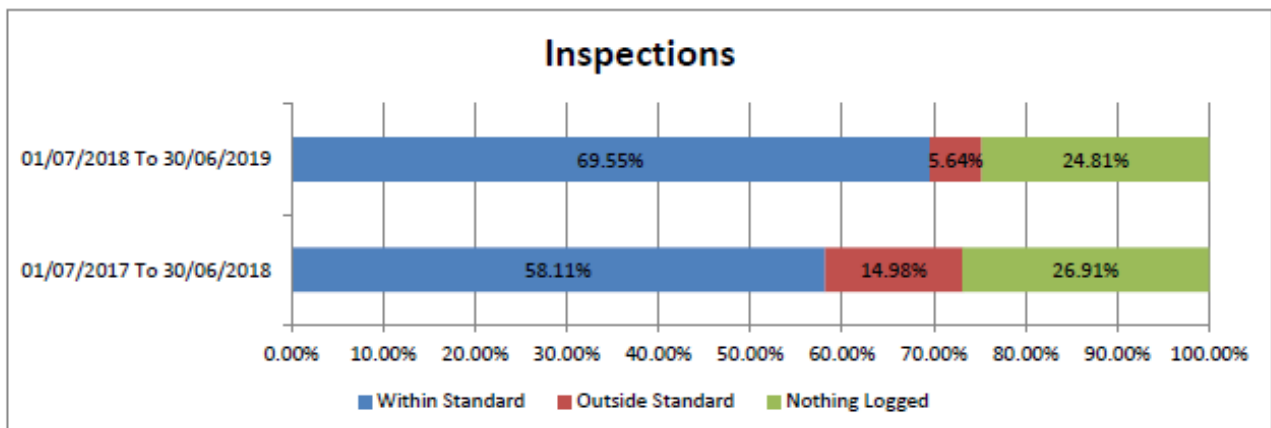
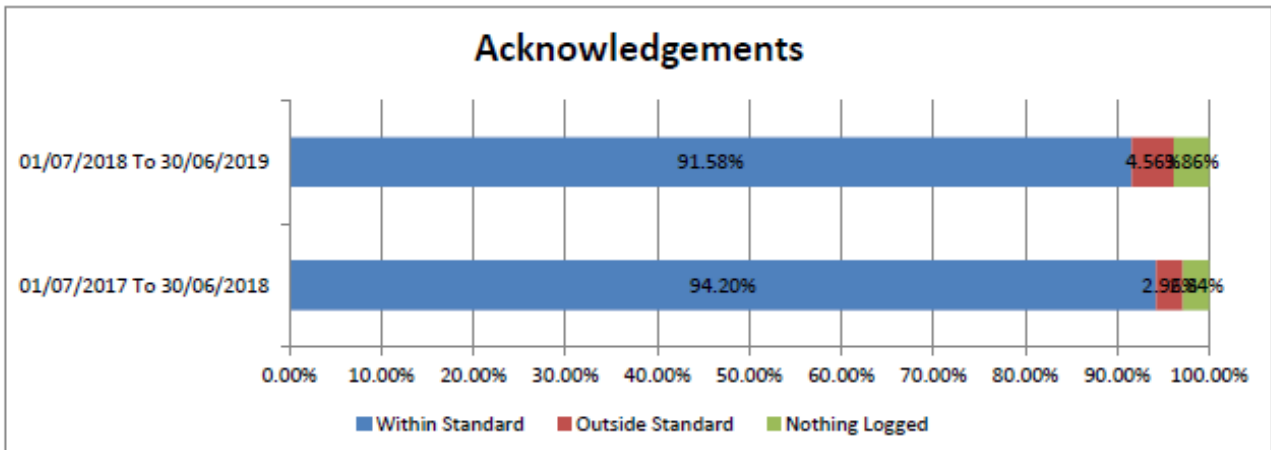
Attention to resolution, inspection and acknowledgement of customer requests continues, however the recent upward trend in outstanding CARS continues.

Ongoing focus and effort is required to reduce the level of outstanding requests and processes to improve status follow-ups and awareness programs are being implemented.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Customer Action Request update for September 2018

Acknowledgement:	Within Standard	Outside Standard	Nothing Logged
01/07/2017 To 30/06/2018	94.20%	2.96%	2.84%
01/07/2018 To 30/06/2019	91.58%	4.56%	3.86%
Inspection:			
01/07/2017 To 30/06/2018	58.11%	14.98%	26.91%
01/07/2018 To 30/06/2019	69.55%	5.64%	24.81%
Resolution:			
01/07/2017 To 30/06/2018	60.19%	17.39%	22.42%
01/07/2018 To 30/06/2019	69.15%	5.58%	25.28%



3. EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL

Sean Leyland – Risk and OHS Advisor

File No: 16/24/06

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a report on the effectiveness of a building evacuation drill conducted at the Beaufort Council Offices.

BACKGROUND

Australian Standard AS3745-2010 section 2 provides for Council to ensure that the emergency response procedures remain viable and effective by reviewing and testing emergency response procedures at least annually and identifying and rectifying deficiencies and opportunities for improvement in the emergency plan and emergency response procedures.

This Standard relates to emergency management procedures applied to internal emergencies, not municipal emergencies.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

An emergency evacuation drill was held at the Beaufort Council Offices on 27 September 2018. Following this drill a debrief was conducted with all emergency personnel which identified some issues requiring corrective action.

Overall the drill went well. Staff took it seriously and exited the building in an orderly manner, meeting at the designated assembly point.

Issues identified and corrective actions required include:

	Issues identified	Corrective actions	Target timeframe	Responsibility
1.	Alarms cannot be heard outside of the building or in the basement of the Shire Hall.	Investigate extension or change of alarms to enable audibility outside and in the associated buildings – i.e. Shire Hall and Berripmo.	December 2018	Chief Warden
2.	Staff member entered through rear door during drill.	See action 1 above. Train staff not to enter during drills. Allocate wardens to rear of building during a drill / evacuation to stop entry.	Prior to next drill.	Deputy Chief Wardens
3.	Current alarm very loud for wardens checking buildings / rooms.	Make earmuffs / earplugs available to wardens.	December 2018	Risk & OHS Advisor

4.	Difficulties using 2-way radios.	Provide basic training on use of 2-way radios to all wardens at next meeting.	December 2018	Risk & OHS Advisor
		Include communication instructions in evacuation protocol.	December 2018	Risk & OHS Advisor
5.	Uncertainty about roles of wardens.	Develop step by step evacuation protocol for wardens to more clearly define their roles.	December 2018	Risk & OHS Advisor

Additional comments made at the evacuation debrief, for consideration by the Emergency Planning Committee included:

- An intercom system where a verbal evacuation command, along with approved sirens for emergencies needs to be investigated as a preferred alternative to the current alarm methods. The Chief Warden could then direct everyone immediately to the appropriate exit points and this system could also be used in day-to-day office communications.
- The area designation of wardens needs to be reviewed and additional wardens may need to be engaged to provide appropriate coverage in the event of varying emergency scenarios.
- When desk-top phones are replaced, investigate models with emergency alert buttons (e.g. red flashing lights) which will indicate to staff that there is an emergency and they need to evacuate.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 4 - Financially Sustainable, High-performing Organisation. Our organisation will respond to community needs, attend to our core business, and strive for excellence in service delivery in an ethical and financially responsible manner.

4.3 - Provide a safe working environment through the provision of an integrated risk and OH&S management system.

Under AS3745-2010 *Planning for emergencies in facilities* there are minimum requirement for the establishment, validation and implementation of an emergency plan for a facility to provide for the safety of occupants of that facility and its visitors leading up to and during an evacuation.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Whilst most corrective actions will be easily implemented and cost-effective, some will need costing and included within budget requests / allocations. The risks of not following up these actions could be moderate to high as implementation would eliminate any confusion as to what an evacuation alarm sounds like and whether staff are aware of an evacuation underway that means they should not enter the building.

CONCLUSION

An evacuation drill was conducted at the Beaufort Council Offices in September 2018. The drill was successful and everyone evacuated safely and in an orderly manner. A subsequent debrief identified some corrective actions that will be implemented in accordance with the table above.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the report

4. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
September		
Mon 03	Landsborough Mobile Tower Launch	Landsborough
Thu 06	Constituent Meeting	Waterloo
Thu 06	Stronger Communities Program	Teleconference
Fri 07	Meeting with Cr Damian Ferrari	Beaufort
Sun 09	Casablanca Club Old Time Dance	Avoca
Mon 10	Court matter for MAV	Melbourne
Tue 11	Councillor Briefing Session	Lake Goldsmith
Wed 12	VEAC drop in Session	Beaufort
Wed 12	Western Bulldogs Supergroup Graduation	Redan
Thu 13	MAV Board and CEO Workshop and Dinner	Melbourne
Fri 14	MAV Board meeting	Melbourne
Sun 16	Victorian Prospectors Association AGM	Beaufort
Sun 16	150yr Anniversary of Uniting Church	Avoca
Mon 17	MAV Rural South Central MAV Reps, Mayors and CEO's session	Ballarat
Tue 18	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 18	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Wed 19 – Fri 20	ALGA Board Meeting	Canberra
Sun 30	Opening of Junior Forum of Green SuperCamp	Beaufort
October		
Mon 01	Activate Avoca Funding Announcement	Avoca
Wed 03	MAV Special Financial Meeting	Melbourne
Thu 04	Launch of Little Free Libraries	Beaufort
Fri 05	MAV Board Meeting	Melbourne
Mon 08	Highlands LLen Committee of Management Meeting	Ballarat
Mon 08	Meeting with Matt Novacevski re Pyrenees Futures Plans for Waubra and Lexton	Waubra
Tue 09	Councillor Cuppa and Planning Session	Landsborough
Tue 09	Beaufort Skipton Health Service AGM & Dinner	Beaufort
Wed 10	Social Energy Procurement Project Meeting	Ballarat
Wed 10	Welcome to New Residents Evening	Avoca
Thu 11	CHCV Mayors & CEOs meeting	Ballan
Tue 15	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 15	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Wed 17	RCV Forum and AGM	Melbourne
Thu 18	MAV Annual Conference and Dinner	Melbourne
Fri 19	MAV State Council Meeting	Melbourne

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
September		
Mon 03	Landsborough Mobile Tower Launch	Landsborough
Tue 11	Councillor Briefing Session	Lake Goldsmith
Fri 14	RCV Meeting	Melbourne
Mon 17	MAV Rural South Central MAV Reps, Mayors and CEO's session	Ballarat
Tue 18	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 18	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Mon 24	Meeting with Paul Northey of VicRoads	Ararat
October		
Mon 01	Activate Avoca Funding Announcement	Avoca
Wed 03	Landsborough Memorial Park Committee of Management Meeting	Landsborough
Tue 09	Councillor Cuppa and Planning Session	Landsborough
Tue 15	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 15	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Wed 17	RCV - AGM and Mayors, Councillors and CEOs Forum	Melbourne
Thu 18	MAV Annual Conference and Dinner	Melbourne
Fri 19	MAV State Council Meeting	Melbourne

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
September		
Tue 11	Councillor Briefing Session	Lake Goldsmith
Sun 16	150yr Anniversary of Uniting Church	Avoca
Tue 18	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 18	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Sun 23	Special Country Music Show	Avoca
October		
Mon 01	Activate Avoca Funding Announcement	Avoca
Tue 09	Councillor Cuppa and Planning Session	Landsborough
Wed 10	Welcome to New Residents Evening	Avoca
Tue 15	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 15	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Tanya Kehoe - Mount Emu Ward		
September		
Tue 11	Councillor Briefing Session	Lake Goldsmith
Tue 18	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 18	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Tue 25	Beaufort Fire Shed Funding Announcement	Beaufort
Thu 27	Mr Wotherspoon Statue Unveiling	Beaufort
October		
Mon 01	Activate Avoca Funding Announcement	Avoca
Tue 09	Defibrillator Training	Snake Valley
Tue 09	Councillor Cuppa and Planning Session	Landsborough
Sat 13	Local Law Drop-In Session	Snake Valley
Tue 15	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 15	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thu 18	MAV Annual Conference and Dinner	Melbourne

Cr Damian Ferrari - Beaufort Ward		
September		
Tue 04	Meeting with Pyrenees Shire Council CEO, Jim Nolan	Beaufort
Fri 07	Meeting with Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor, David Clark	Beaufort
Tue 18	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 18	Council Meeting	Beaufort
October		
Mon 01	Activate Avoca Funding Announcement	Avoca
Fri 05	Session with Maddocks	Melbourne
Tue 09	Councillor Cuppa and Planning Session	Landsborough
Tue 15	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 15	Council Meeting	Beaufort

5. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	11 September 2018 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Lake Goldsmith Hall		
Matters Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit by Victorian Association of Forest Industries 2. Annual Financials 3. Local Government Performance Reporting 4. Rating Strategy 5. Raglan Hall 6. Administrative Matters 7. Council Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr David Clark Cr Ron Eason Cr Robert Vance Cr Tanya Kehoe		
Apologies	Cr Damian Ferrari		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Asset and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Shana Johnny (Manager Finance) – Item 2		
Visitors	Tim Johnston (VAFI) – Item 1 April Ure (Property Revenue Officer) – Item 4		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Matter No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
N/A			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	18 September 2018 commenced at 2.00pm and closed at 5.43pm		
Meeting Location	Beaufort Council Chambers		
Matters Discussed	1. Local Government Transformation Program 2. VEAC Investigation 3. Wind Farms 4. Aged Care Service Update 5. Council Agenda Review		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr David Clark Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Ron Eason Cr Robert Vance Cr Damian Ferrari		
Apologies			
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Douglas Gowans (Director Asset and Development Services)		
Visitors	Martin Walmsley (Manager Community Wellbeing) – Item 4 Marina Veal (Community Care Coordinator) – Item 4 Soren Ryan (Engineering Services Officer) Dennis Nikoltsis (Community Safety and Amenity Officer) Katie Gleisner (Manager Planning and Development) Claire-Marie Hodgkinson (Community Wellbeing Administrative Support Officer)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Matter No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
N/A			

RECOMMENDATION

That the items for noting be received.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

6. STRAW TO ENERGY PROJECT

Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

File No: 22/28/04 Part 1

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek council's endorsement of a grant application for the Skipton Hospital Straw Heating Project.

BACKGROUND

In late 2016 Council commenced a project to assist a consortium of local farmers to explore ways to add value to agricultural straw generated predominantly from wheat crops. The partnership for this project has included nine local farmers, City of Ballarat and Cultivate Agribusiness Central Highlands and has been commonly known as the straw alliance.

The nine farmers collectively crop around 14,000 hectares annually, producing approximately 50,000 tonnes of straw, of which a significant amount is burned in autumn, a common crop husbandry practice throughout the high rainfall zone.

The project investigated options for farmers to value add to straw from cereal crop stubble rather than burn stubble paddocks in the autumn. The options investigated included livestock feed products, animal bedding and converting straw into energy, a practice which is common throughout Europe.

The business case that eventuated from the project and was finalised twelve months ago made a recommendation that the group seek to establish some pilot projects for proof of concept of combined heat and power bioenergy systems (CHP). These systems are able to generate electricity while using the heat produced by the system to reduce energy costs for the likes of manufacturers and utilities where large amounts of both heat and power are required.

Two business cases have eventuated from this work to date which illustrate that both the costs of energy and greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced in each case. The first is for a heat only system at the Skipton Hospital and the second is a CHP system for AME Systems, a manufacturer based at Ararat. Both organisations have indicated their willingness to progress proposals for the respective bioenergy systems outlined in the business cases.

Council will be familiar with the success of the wood chip facility that was project managed by council and commissioned at the Beaufort hospital in 2014. This system, which largely replaces the demand for LPG supplies, continues to operate effectively and provide costs savings and reduced emissions to BSHS.

Should these pilot projects prove successful, then they would be replicable at rural hospitals and manufacturing operations throughout the wheat belt areas of the State, particularly where there is no access to natural gas supplies and evidence of increasing energy costs in general.

The State Government recently announced the “Renewable Communities Fund” which has enabled council to develop and submit an application for funding of the “Skipton Hospital Straw Heating Project”. The project has an overall project value of \$315,262- under which council will be required to commit to project management of the initiative at an in kind cost of up to \$10,000-.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Councils Growth Strategy includes action 7.2 which states that council will “*Investigate opportunities for biomass/bioenergy in conjunction with regional partners*”.

The benefits of initiating straw fired bioenergy projects including Skipton Hospital are summarised as:-

- Competitively priced and stable renewable energy costs to BSHS
- Energy expenditure that remains in the local community
- Support the resilience of rural health services, manufacturers and the agricultural sector
- Improved air quality for communities and the Visitor Economy
- Reduce the risk of wildfire through escaped stubble burn offs which impacts firefighters and local communities
- Lower the risks of smoke taint in the wine industry
- Development of new products, industries, markets, economic growth and jobs
- Contribute to reducing emissions and meeting the State Governments renewable energy targets

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 5 - Development and Environment. We will undertake forward planning, and facilitate growth in our local economy while protecting key natural and built environmental values.

5.3 - Grow the economy by implementing the Pyrenees Shire Council Growth Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Should council proceed with the proposal then it will be required to commit to in kind Project Management costs of up to \$10,000-.

CONCLUSION

The Skipton Hospital Straw Heating Project is consistent with the objectives of council’s growth strategy and has the potential to make a significant contribution in demonstrating that bioenergy can:-

- Contribute to lowering and stabilising energy costs for rural health services.
- Reduce emissions at Skipton hospital
- Support the resilience of farmers by adding another income stream while keeping the costs of the hospitals energy consumption within the local community
- Improve local air quality by reducing the need for stubble burns
- Lower the risk of wildfire from stubble burn practices
- Lead to development of new products, industries, markets, economic growth and jobs

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the application for funding of the Skipton Hospital Straw Heating Project made through the Renewable Communities Program.

ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

7. FIXING COUNTRY ROADS PROGRAM AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BLACK SPOT FUNDING

Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development Services

File No: 32/13/02

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Council for a funding application to rehabilitate Eurambeen Streatham Road under the Fixing Country Roads Program and to seek endorsement of two applications for the Federal Government Black Spot Funding Program.

BACKGROUND

Fixing Country Roads Program funding is a \$100 million State Government project will provide grants to rural and regional councils to undertake local road projects beyond regular road maintenance. Grants will be distributed across two funding rounds, encompassing the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. The first round allows for full funding allocations of up to \$500,000 per eligible council and 2:1 funding for amounts above \$500,000. Submissions were due on 15th October 2018.

The Australian Government has allocated \$744.5 million to the Black Spot Program from the 2013/14 financial year to the 2021/22 financial year. Road crashes are a major cost to Australians every year. Black Spot projects target those road locations where crashes are occurring. The program aims to reduce the risk of crashes through improvements to road infrastructure.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council officers have identified Eurambeen Streatham Road between the Western Highway and the railway line (2.7km) as the project that would be best suited for the grant opportunity under the Fixing Country Roads Program. Eurambeen Streatham Road is a road of significance as it is a key strategic link with the Pyrenees Shire and the Port of Portland. It is rated highest in Council's hierarchy of road categories being a link road with significant traffic volumes. The proposed pavement improvements and safety upgrades will bring this section of road in line with other upgraded sections.

Council officers have identified two projects within the Pyrenees Shire that meet the eligibility criteria for funding under the Black Spot Program. The first is a section of the Beaufort-Carngham Rd between Trawalla Road and north of Nerring Trawalla Road over a 12.5 km distance. The proposed project is estimated to cost \$426,000 and would be fully funded by the program if successful. The second is a section of the Raglan-Elmhurst Rd between Beaufort Amphitheatre Road and Lower Wimmera Road over a distance of 20km. The proposed project is estimated to cost \$1,450,000 and would be fully funded by the program if successful.

Both proposals include pavement widening and shoulder sealing on curves and over crests, sealing of intersection bellmouths, the installation of tactile edge lines around curves and edgelines, safety barrier installation where required, improved delineation such as repainting the centreline, installation of raised reflective pavement markers, curve alignment markers, signage and additional guideposts.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 1 - Roads and Townships. We will plan, manage, maintain and renew infrastructure in a sustainable way that responds to the needs of the community.

1.1 - Ensure local roads are maintained and renewed in line with adopted plans and strategy to provide a safe transport network and meet community needs.

ATTACHMENTS

- 7.1 Application Guidelines – *circulated separately*
- 7.2 Map of extent of works for Beaufort-Carngham Rd – *circulated separately*
- 7.3 Map of extent of works for Raglan-Elmhurst Rd – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All the black spot applications in this round would be fully funded and do not require a Council contribution. The Fixing Country Roads application has utilised part of the 20187/19 Roads to Recovery allocation (approx. \$50,000) to allow the total project cost for the Eurambeen Streatham Road 2.7km section to be completed for \$650,000. The proposed works will improve the safety of roads where Council has responsibility.

CONCLUSION

The opportunities for funding to rehabilitate a section of Eurambeen Streatham Road under the Fixing Country Road Program and the projects applied for under the Federal Black Spot Funding Program will lead to improvements to assets and reduce risks to road users.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approves the funding application for rehabilitation of Eurambeen Streatham Road, Eurambeen under the Fixing Country Roads Program.
2. Endorses funding applications for Federal Black Spot funding.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

8. ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

File No: 16/20/04

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the Annual Report for 2017/18.

BACKGROUND

The 2017/18 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 131 of the *Local Government Act (1989)* and details the operational and financial activities of Council throughout the year. The Report was forwarded to the Minister for Local Government by the 30th September 2018 as required.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Annual Report provides useful information to the community on Council's operations for the 2017/18 financial year, including its achievements and challenges.

Some of the highlights in the Report are:

- \$32m funding announced towards the East Grampians rural water pipeline to secure water for farming properties in Northern Grampians, Ararat and Pyrenees Shire.
- \$581,000 government funding announced for the Trawalla Road pavement strengthening under the Local Roads to Mark program
- Council partnered with Langi Kal Kal Prison to expand the Koorie Art Trail to Beaufort Lake.
- \$149,650 government funding received through the Building Better Regions Fund for the Beaufort Walkability Project
- Following the Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement, indigenous acknowledgement was incorporated into Council's email tag and the Aboriginal flag is flown daily.
- Community groups across the Shire shared in more than \$50,000 of community grants awarded by Council.
- \$230,000 government funding received for the three halls project.
- Pacific Hydro launched construction of the windfarm at Crowlands, and Goldwind Australia secured funding for the construction of Stockyard Hill.

The community has been advised by public notice that the Annual Report has been prepared and copies are available from Council's website. Hard copies will be available from Council's Customer Service and Resource Centres as soon as they are received from the publishers.

An electronic copy of the Annual report was provided to the Minister prior to the 30 June 2018 as required by the Local Government Act, and a hard copy of the Annual Report will be provided to the Minister as soon as it is available.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 1 - Leadership

1.1 - Communicate the Council's decisions, policies and activities and the reasons behind them, in a form relevant to ratepayer needs and expectations in accordance to Council's communication strategy.

Under Section 134 of the Local Government Act (1989), a Council must consider the Annual Report at a meeting of the Council.

ATTACHMENTS

8.1 2017/18 Annual Report – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

N/A

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Annual Report for 2017/18.

9. MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Laura Buchanan – Emergency Management Coordinator

File No: 28/08/04

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the updated Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) for adoption.

BACKGROUND

This integrated Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) is risk based, has regard to the social, economic, built and natural environment aspects of fire and guides participants involved in fire management activities. It is consistent with the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) to ensure that linkages across fire Preparedness, Prevention, Response and Recovery (PPRR) programs are consistent and holistic. The plan also contains appropriate reference to other uses of fire, including agricultural, ecological and cultural applications and replaces the existing Municipal Fire Management Plan (2015-2018).

Authority for this plan is derived from the Emergency Management Act 1986 (the Emergency Management Act), which provides that a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) must give effect to any direction or guideline issued by the Co-ordinator in Chief (Section 21 (5)). In the country area of Victoria, a MFMP prepared and endorsed in compliance with guidelines contained within Part 6A of the Emergency Management Manual Victoria, will be deemed to fulfil Section 55A of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (the CFA Act).

The purpose of this integrated MFMP is to chart the planned and coordinated implementation of measures designed to minimise the occurrence and mitigate the effect of bushfire, grass fire, residential and industrial fires in the community. The plan is based on the Integrated Fire Management Planning (IFMP) framework.

The IFMP framework is designed to operate under existing fire and emergency management legislation and therefore does not replace existing statutory roles and responsibilities. The framework aims to support and enhance statutory requirements through government and agencies working together.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The MFMP has already been endorsed by the Pyrenees Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMP) and the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC).

The MFMP needs to be adopted by Council in order to meet legislative requirements and enable it to be endorsed by the Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee (RSFMPC) administered by Emergency Management Victoria (EMV).

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.3 - Community Development - Supporting communities to build connections, capacity and resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

9.1 - Pyrenees Shire Municipal Fire Management Plan 2018-2021 – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONCLUSION

The Pyrenees MFMP has been reviewed by the appropriate personnel and endorsed by the appropriate committees (MFMPCC and MEMPC). In order for Council to remain compliant with Section 55A of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, Council must adopt the MFMP by October 2018.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Pyrenees Shire Municipal Fire Management Plan 2018-2021.

10. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT REPORT

Laura Buchanan – Emergency Management Coordinator

File No: 36/28/05

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the outcomes of the Community Resilience project and the development of the Community Resilience Report.

BACKGROUND

In August 2017, Pyrenees Shire Council obtained funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS) to conduct a project entitled 'Building Pyrenees Shire Community Resilience.'

The Community Resilience Report collates the findings of this project, conducted over the 12 months to August 2018.

Pyrenees Shire Council has a strong history of enhancing community resilience within the municipality. Council's focus on enhancing community resilience was sharpened after the Carngham fire in January 2013 which indicated that many community members endangered their lives because they did not have a household emergency plan or did not understand broadcasted messages regarding the fire.

This led to the community-led project 'Emergencies Happen: Think Ahead, Know What to Do,' which was implemented from May 2015 to December 2016 and was compounded by the development of a Community Resilience Sub-Plan, a sub-plan to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) at the end of 2016.

The initial aim of the 2017-18 'Building Pyrenees Shire Community Resilience' was to enhance community resilience in the Pyrenees municipality by implementing and reviewing the Community Resilience Sub-Plan. However, the direction of the project shifted early on to attempt to broaden the scope of resilience to ensure that resilience thinking was embedded in Council processes (both internal and external), rather than being a function or outcome of Emergency Management. The Pyrenees Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee has endorsed this decision.

The project explored community resilience using Emergency Management Victoria's Community Resilience Framework and by engaging the community in a number of ways, including through a community survey, workshops and through Council's established Community Action Planning groups.

The results indicate that actual and perceived resilience varies significantly within the Shire, depending on the township, history of the township and current circumstances. There are also several themes identified across the Shire, including the importance of youth engagement, improving transport and phone and internet connectivity and the natural beauty of the Shire. As such, the report makes 21 recommendations for the Pyrenees Shire Council to implement over the next three years (detailed in a three-year action plan) to ensure a sustainable approach to building community resilience in the communities of the Pyrenees.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Community Resilience Report required the input of many members of the Pyrenees communities. It is important that community members can: 1) observe that their input has been acknowledged; 2) understand that their inputs have been translated into actions (where possible/appropriate); 3) that the Council as a whole (not just particular Council officers) are committed to resilience building and taking on board community feedback.

The public release of the report and opportunity for community members to engage further in a collaborative process of community resilience building. It also signals to the community the multifaceted nature of resilience, rather than it only being viewed as emergency/disaster related.

Further, the actions outlined in the Community Resilience Report require that Council staff also work together collaboratively and demonstrate to the community Council's commitment to resilience building and the strength of internal processes and partnerships.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.3 - Community Development - Supporting communities to build connections, capacity and resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

10.1 PSC Community Resilience Report Final DRAFT 2018 – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONCLUSION

The Community Resilience Report highlights the complexity of community resilience and the holistic approach that agencies such as local government need to take in order to build resilience in communities. There is clearly no one-size-fits-all approach for communities and the unique attributes of townships have to be considered when working to enhance resilience. Resilience building has a much broader scope than emergency management and must be embedded into rather than separated from agencies' business as usual in order to be effective and sustainable. It is hoped that with the endorsement of Council, the implementation of the three-year Community Resilience Action Plan will, over time, result in more connected, inclusive and engaged communities and ensure the communities of the Pyrenees only grow more resilient.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the actions outlined in the Pyrenees Community Resilience Report; and
2. Supports the release of the Community Resilience Report as a publicly available document for further feedback.

11. FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM – CLAIMS UPDATE

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

File No: 28/06/31, 28/06/32 and 28/06/34

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update in relation to progress with the September/October 2016, April 2017 and November 2017 flood/storm events claim recovery process.

BACKGROUND

A short description of the status of each event including the estimated reinstatement costs, claims submitted to date and funds outstanding is detailed below;

AGRN 777 - Pyrenees Storms commencing 26 November 2017

On 26 November 2017 an isolated storm cell dumped heavy rain on a pocket of the Shire around the Avoca/Rathscar/Homebush area causing damage to the local road network, particularly gravel and sealed road surfaces and culverts.

<u>Pyrenees November 2017 Flood Event (AGRN 777)</u>											
Council Claim #	For Month Ended	Date Lodged	DTF Claim #	Total Estimated Costs			Allowable Completion Deadline		Date Approved	Date Received	Amount Received
				Amount Claimed	Emergency Works	Asset Repairs	Payable	June 2020			
1B	Jun-18	25-Jul-2018	MC-81D8BA	\$47,385	\$0.00	\$47,385	\$47,385			\$0	
TOTAL				\$47,385	\$0.00	\$47,385	\$47,385			\$0	
Outstanding										\$47,385	

AGRN 765 - Central Victoria Floods and Storms commencing 24 April 2017

A severe weather event caused flash flooding across parts of the Shire, resulting in significant damage to local road infrastructure

<u>Pyrenees April 2017 Flood Event (AGRN 765)</u>											
Council Claim #	For Month Ended	Date Lodged	DTF Claim #	Total Estimated Costs			Allowable Completion Deadline		Date Approved	Date Received	Amount Received
				Amount Claimed	Emergency Works	Asset Repairs	Payable	June 2019			
1	Apr-17	21-Jun-2018	MC-81B962	\$1,008,152	\$0	\$1,008,152	\$1,008,152			\$0	
2	Jun-18	25-Jul-2018	MC-81D882	\$156,239	\$0	\$156,239	\$156,239			\$0	
TOTAL				\$1,164,391	\$0	\$1,164,391	\$1,164,391			\$0	
Outstanding										\$1,164,391	

AGRN 728 – September/October 2016 Floods and Storms

Widespread flooding and storms impacted many parts of Victoria during September and October with Pyrenees Shire and 48 other municipalities incurring significant damage to road networks and road infrastructure, community facilities and council infrastructure.

16 OCTOBER 2018 – PYRENEES SHIRE COUNCIL – ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
 AGENDA – ITEMS FOR DECISION



Pyrenees September/October 2016 Flood Event (AGRN 728)												
Council Claim #	For Month Ended	Date Lodged	DTF Claim #	Total Estimated Cost \$12,108,951			Asset Repair Excess	Emerg Works Disallowed	Payable	Allowable Completion Deadline		June 2019 Amount Received
				Amount Claimed	Emergency Works	Asset Repairs				Date Approved	Date Received	
3	Nov-16	07-Dec-2016	MC-8C372	\$233,417	\$38,985	\$194,431	-\$35,000		\$198,416.82	15-Feb-2017	02-Mar-2017	\$198,417
1	Sep-16	10-Nov-2016	MC-8A086	\$27,154	\$14,548	\$12,607			\$27,154.45	15-Feb-2017	02-Mar-2017	\$27,154
2	Oct-16	25-Nov-2016	MC-9B616	\$141,158	\$88,709	\$52,448		-\$13,158	\$127,999.55	23-Feb-2017	28-Mar-2017	\$128,000
4	Dec-16	06-Feb-2017	MC-9DA82	\$394,894	\$0	\$394,894			\$394,894.22	16-Nov-2017	21-Apr-2017	\$394,894
5	Jan-17	10-Feb-2017	MC-8DEA2	\$317,023	\$0	\$317,023			\$317,023.34	16-Nov-2017	21-Apr-2017	\$317,023
6	Feb-17	14-Mar-2017	MC-9F4C2	\$226,023	\$0	\$226,023			\$226,022.96	16-Nov-2017	21-Apr-2017	\$226,023
7	Mar-17	07-Apr-2017	MC-910A02	\$414,756	\$0	\$414,756			\$414,755.90	16-Nov-2017	21-Apr-2017	\$62,059
7	Mar-17	07-Apr-2017	MC-910A02							16-Nov-2017	16-Jun-2017	\$352,696
8	Apr-17	03-May-2017	MC-910E76	\$551,899	\$0	\$551,899			\$551,899	16-Nov-2017	16-Jun-2017	\$551,899
9	May-17	19-Jun-2017	MC-912BE2	\$441,096	\$0	\$441,096			\$441,096	16-Nov-2017	16-Jun-2017	\$441,096
10	Jun-17	04-Aug-2017	MC-813BC6	\$934,265	\$0	\$934,265			\$934,265	16-Nov-2017	16-Jun-2017	\$904,309
10	Jun-17	04-Aug-2017	MC-813BC6							16-Nov-2017	01-Dec-2017	\$29,956
11	Jul-17	11-Sep-2017	MC-914AB6	\$163,291	\$0	\$163,291			\$163,291	16-Nov-2017	01-Dec-2017	\$163,291
12	Aug-17	12-Dec-2017	MC-9179BA	\$398,880	\$0	\$398,880			\$398,880	28-Aug-2018	24-Nov-2017	\$398,880
13	Sep-17	18-Dec-2017	MC-817AAA	\$368,335	\$0	\$368,335			\$368,335	28-Aug-2018	24-Nov-2017	\$368,335
14	Oct-17	19-Dec-2017	MC-817AEA	\$437,976	\$0	\$437,976			\$437,976	28-Aug-2018	24-Nov-2017	\$437,976
15	Nov-17	20-Dec-2017	MC-817B4E	\$336,858	\$0	\$336,858			\$336,858	28-Aug-2018	24-Nov-2017	\$336,858
16	Dec-17	10-Jan-2018	MC-817C66	\$424,583	\$0	\$424,583			\$424,583	28-Aug-2018	24-Nov-2017	\$424,583
17	Jan-18	14-Mar-2018	MC-818B8A	\$455,515	\$0	\$455,515			\$455,515	28-Aug-2018	24-Nov-2017	\$455,515
18	Feb-18	27-Mar-2018	MC-919AEA	\$474,681	\$0	\$474,681			\$474,681	28-Aug-2018	24-Nov-2017	\$77,854
18	Feb-18	27-Mar-2018	MC-919AEA							28-Aug-2018	28-Aug-2018	\$396,827
19	Mar-18	30-Apr-2018	MC-819F9E	\$437,953	\$0	\$437,953			\$437,953	28-Aug-2018	28-Aug-2018	\$437,953
20	Apr-18	04-Jun-2018	MC-91B5A6	\$280,599	\$0	\$280,599			\$280,599	28-Aug-2018	28-Aug-2018	\$280,599
21	May-18	07-Jun-2018	MC-91B622	\$176,051	\$0	\$176,051			\$176,051	28-Aug-2018	28-Aug-2018	\$176,051
22	Jun-18	04-Jul-2018	MC-81C602	\$183,073	\$0	\$183,073			\$183,073			
23	Jul-18	17-Sep-2018	MC-82058E	\$430,011	\$0	\$430,011			\$430,011			
TOTAL				\$8,249,490	\$142,243	\$8,107,247	-\$35,000	-\$13,158	\$8,201,332			\$7,588,248
											Outstanding	\$613,083

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council applied for advance funding of \$4,000,000 in June, 2008 however this application was refused. Council is currently owed \$1,824,859. A further \$132,528 in claims is pending as per below;

- **November 2017 Flood Event** - Claim 2 – July 2018 - \$47,351
- **April 2017 Flood Event** - Claim 3 – July 2018 - \$18,420 Claim in Draft
- **September 2016 Flood Event** - Claim 24 - August 2018 - \$66,757 Claim in Draft

Council continues to incur interest costs whilst its application for an advance remains outstanding.

Note: On 7 September, 2018 Council sent a further letter to the DTF as per attached seeking a resolution of the issue of the outstanding advance and agreement on a process to resolve some operational issues that continue to impact on claims management processes.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 1 - Roads and Townships. We will plan, manage, maintain and renew infrastructure in a sustainable way that responds to the needs of the community.

1.1 - Ensure local roads are maintained and renewed in line with adopted plans and strategy to provide a safe transport network and meet community needs.

Note: Natural Disaster Financial Assistance for local councils is provided to assist in the recovery process and to alleviate some of the financial burden that may be experienced following a natural disaster, in accordance with Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). *Eligible natural disasters are 'any one of, or a combination of, the following natural hazards: bushfire; earthquake; flood; storm; cyclone; storm surge; landslide; tsunami; meteorite strike; or tornado. These arrangements do not apply to disasters where human activity is a significant contributing cause.*

ATTACHMENTS

11.1 Council letter to DTF dated 7 September 2018

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council is not in a position to provide bridging finance for natural disasters due to its low unrestricted cash reserves, small rate base and rate capping.

CONCLUSION

The DTF's continued refusal to provide advance funding impacts on the ability of Council to deliver services.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes this report and the status of its application for advance funding from the Department of Treasury and Finance; and
2. Seeks a further report to be provided at the December Council meeting on the Flood Recovery Program.



Our Ref: JN:jb
Your Ref: ADV-9AB9D6
File No: 28/06/31

7 September 2018

Tania Reaburn
Chief Financial Officer
Department of Treasury and Finance
1 Treasury Place
MELBOURNE VIC 3002

**Re: NATURAL DISASTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (NDFA) - ADVANCE REQUEST -
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016 FLOODS AND STORMS**

I am writing in response to your comments regarding our application for an advance of \$4,000,000, as contained in your letter to Council dated 18 July 2018.

I would firstly like to acknowledge that there have been delays in regard to Council providing supporting documentation. However, given that Council encountered some difficult circumstances in regard to the flood recovery claims process around the time of submitting the application for advance I believe that there is a need to respond in some detail to the concerns that you have raised.

In regard to the three dot point issues raised in your letter, Council acknowledges Department of Treasury and Finance advice that VicRoads has endorsed 10 flood claims totalling \$3,791,430.93. Council continues to progress the flood recovery works program and in this regard we welcome further advice that the Department of Treasury and Finance final assessment has been completed and that the amount of \$3,791,431 eligible for reimbursement less the \$2,500,000 advance, i.e. Pyrenees Shire Council invoices totalling \$1,291,431, was paid to Council on Tuesday, 28 August 2018.

One of our concerns is that transferring the large amounts of data required by the NDRRA guidelines remains a time consuming and frustrating experience. The Department of Treasury and Finances' share file environment does not support the latest security standards, as tested by Council onsite on 25 July 2018. As a result, Council was forced into establishing an older version of internet explorer on one of its desk top computers in an attempt to facilitate data transfer. Unfortunately, with the maximum size data file that can be downloaded into the ADMS system sitting at 20 Meg. Council had no option but to upload its asset condition and other verification data onto a USB for dispatching to the Department via express post. These problems have contributed to the delays.

- 2 -

In regard to your advice in your letter that expenditure incurred during the 2017/18 financial year must be lodged on the ACMS system by no later than 31 July, 2018 I believe that your letter was the first time that Council was formally advised of this deadline. I acknowledge that the Department web site advises that all claims are to be lodged by 31 July but this date could be interpreted as applying only to the main deadlines in the Table and in the case of the Pyrenees Shire Council only the 30 June 2019 deadline is relevant. I acknowledge that in an email to Donna Kennedy from the former Director Corporate and Community Services, Evan King dated 28 June, 2018 reference is made to the 31 July deadline. However, in either case, the short formal notice period has made it difficult for Council to plan ahead and put in place its claims administration processes to comply with a deadline that was unknown until as late as the second last working day of the financial year.

A further aspect impacting on Council during 2017/18 is the manner in which the definition for repair and reinstatement of essential public assets has been applied. The lack of clarity around this definition has acted against Council because it was required to organise works for the September 2016 and April 2017 floods well in advance of receiving clarification of the definition via the August 2017 Natural Disaster Financial Assistance for Local Councils Circular. Pyrenees Shire Council, like most other small rural councils, can suffer from the lack of contactor availability, especially in circumstances where floods spread across regions. Consequently, the uncertainty with the definition for repair and reinstatement made it more difficult than would otherwise be the case for Council to scope and plan essential works.

Council remains committed to working with the Department of Treasury and Finance to ensure that the process of flood claims management runs as smoothly as possible. Unfortunately, lingering shortfalls such as the \$1,291,431 and the current \$1,394,849 translate into interest foregone leading to reductions in service levels over and above those experienced directly from the major floods. In an environment of rate capping it is unlikely that any allowance for amounts foregone will be acceptable to the Essential Services Commission and this will only put more pressure on the ability of Council to deliver its services.

In conclusion I wish to advise that Council is expecting to complete the remaining works before June 2019 but we wish to give notice that we are requesting an extension to this deadline to safeguard Council against circumstances that are beyond its control. In this regard, we invite further discussions regarding future deadlines and the status of the application for the \$4,000,000 advance as a priority. I invite your contact with Kathy Bramwell, Director Corporate and Community Services on 03 5349 1105 or Peter Smith, Project Manager Flood Recovery on 03 5349 1116 in this regard.

Yours sincerely



Jim Nolan
Chief Executive Officer

12. ACT@WORK

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

File No: 48/14/12

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the Act@Work project which is aimed at improving gender equity and increasing staff knowledge on sexism, discrimination and violence against women; and to gain Council adoption of the Act@Work Leadership Statement.

BACKGROUND

Act@Work is a workplace culture change program designed to:

- Increase knowledge of sexism, discrimination and violence against women
- Increase awareness of the impacts of these behaviours and the costs of not taking action
- Develop skills for individuals within the workplace
- Develop workplace action

The Act@Work project is in line with CoRE (Communities of Respect and Equity) – an Alliance of which the Pyrenees Shire Council is a member:

- Improved systems, structures, policies and practices that address gender equality
- Increased ability to challenge the drivers of gender inequality and violence in social and professional settings
- Stronger partnerships
- Better shared information about what works and what doesn't

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A Leadership briefing was completed in 2017 to inform the Pyrenees Shire Council's Senior Leadership Team about the Act@Work project, and an agreement to participate was signed in late 2017. An internal Action Group was established comprising nine staff.

In 2018 an Action Plan was established with a program of activities due to be completed over a three-year period focusing on the following themes:

1. Culture – *The workplace actively encourages an environment of gender equity and respect, recognising the current social and structural inequities for women in our communities;*
2. Physical Environment – *The workplace's physical environment is safe and accessible for all employees and reflects the specific gendered needs and requirements of all staff;*
3. Community Connections – *The workplace takes a leadership role in the community on the issue of violence against women and both raises awareness of the issue within the community and promotes gender equality and respect as a prevention measure; and*
4. Health and Wellbeing Opportunities – *Health and wellbeing initiatives within the organisation consider the specific gendered experiences of female and male employees as well as the prevalence of violence against women within our community.*

Of the actions scheduled for 2018, the majority have been achieved including:

- Internal staff survey completed with 58 responses – to gauge the pre-project attitudes towards violence against women and gender equity;
- Intensive bystander training was delivered to the Senior Leadership Team and internal champions;
- Introduction to Prevention of Violence against Women training was delivered to 76 members of staff;
- The Leave Policy was revised to include Family Violence Leave;
- Promotion of professional development opportunities focused on female staff;
- Appointment of female Gender Equity Officers (Kathy Bramwell, April Ure, Heather Millar) through the Staff Consultative Committee;
- A gender audit was undertaken of Council's recruitment processes with the inclusion of flexible work arrangements in recruitment advertisements as a way to attract a broader range of applicants to Council advertised positions; and
- Development of a Pyrenees Shire Council Leadership Statement that outlines Council's commitment to Prevention of Violence against women and gender equality.

Actions still to be undertaken in 2018 include the 16 days of activism for White Ribbon Day starting on 23 November 2018. This will include information and activities focused on the prevention of violence against women. In addition, a further survey of staff will be conducted to measure changes in attitude towards violence against women and gender equity.

Council's adoption of the Pyrenees Shire Council Act@Work Leadership Statement is now recommended.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 4 - Financially Sustainable, High-performing Organisation. Our organisation will respond to community needs, attend to our core business, and strive for excellence in service delivery in an ethical and financially responsible manner.

4.3 - Provide a safe working environment through the provision of an integrated risk and OH&S management system.

ATTACHMENTS

12.1 Act@Work Pyrenees Shire Council Leadership Statement

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONCLUSION

Council is participating in an Act@Work project to change the workplace culture with regard to discrimination, violence against women and gender equity. This project is aligned with the goals set by the Communities of Respect and Equity Alliance (CoRE) of which Council is a member.

The majority of actions scheduled for 2018 have been achieved and it is recommended that Council adopt the Act@Work Leadership Statement which articulates its commitment to the prevention of violence against women.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the progress of actions taken with regard to the Act@Work project; and
2. Adopts the Pyrenees Shire Council Leadership Statement.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Pyrenees Shire Council Leadership Statement



PYRENEES SHIRE COUNCIL LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT TO THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- In Australia, 1 woman a week is killed as a result of violence from a current or ex-partner.ⁱ
- In Australia, 1 in 3 women aged 15 years or over have experienced physical violence and 1 in 5 women aged 15 years and over have experienced sexual violence.ⁱⁱ
- The health, social and economic costs of violence against women are profound. Intimate partner violence is the leading contributor to death, disability and disease among Victorian women aged 15-45 years.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In Victoria, the cost of violence against women to the economy was \$3.4 billion in 2008/09.^{iv}

Research shows that the key determinant of violence against women is the persisting inequities between men and women

Violence against women is defined as 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women'.^v It can also include spiritual and financial abuse, using intimidation, threats and isolation.

VISION

The Pyrenees Shire Council shares the vision set out in the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children^{vi}.

Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities

The achievement of the vision outlined in the National Plan requires commitment and contribution from all levels of government, businesses, the media, schools, sporting groups and other community organisations, and community members.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Pyrenees Shire Council provides leadership in the prevention of violence against women by making a commitment to:

Addressing the causes of violence

- Promoting gender equity between women and men, girls and boys
- Challenging rigid gender roles and stereotypes

Being involved

- In community events that support the prevention of violence against women, such as:
 - White Ribbon Day events
 - International Women's Day activities
 - Week without violence

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Pyrenees Shire Council Leadership Statement



Building capacity

- Establishing and supporting a prevention of violence against women workplace based action group and action plan
- Training and information for employees to recognise sexism, discrimination and inequity and skills to intervene as active bystanders

Developing a culture of respect and equity

- Having policies and procedures that:
 - Address sexism, discrimination and violence against women
 - Promote gender equality
- Providing family violence leave provisions
- Providing family friendly flexible working options

Sustaining action

- Embed prevention of violence against women activities in work plans, job descriptions and duties
- Building a gender equitable workplace and workforce that promotes women and men in leadership

ⁱ Chan&Payne, 2013, *Homicide in Australia: 2009/10 National Homicide Monitoring Program Annual Report*, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra.

ⁱⁱ ABS, 2013, *Personal Safety Survey*, Cat. No. 4906.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ⁱⁱⁱ VicHealth, 2004, *The Health Costs of Violence: Measuring the Burden of Disease Caused by Intimate Partner Violence: A Summary of Findings*, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Melbourne.

^{iv} Office of Women's Policy, 2012, *Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence against women and children*, Victorian Government, Melbourne.

^v United Nations General Assembly, 1993, *United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, UN General Assembly, Geneva.

^{vi} Council of Australian Governments, 2011, *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

13. RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Laura Buchanan – Emergency Management Coordinator

File No: 16/20/06

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the progress of the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan and to allow an opportunity for public feedback.

BACKGROUND

Pyrenees Shire Council is required to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to be officially endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, as per the Recognition and Settlement Agreement between the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the State of Victoria (RSA).

Whilst there is a directive from the abovementioned RSA for Council to develop a RAP, the impetus for Council is multifaceted. According to the 2016 census, 1.9% (135 individuals) of people living in the Pyrenees were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, more than double the state average of 0.8%. The Council already has strong connections to local partners on which it can build, including Langi Kal Kal prison (with which we collaborated to install the Beaufort Lake Koori Art Trail) and offers programs for residents that promote reconciliation (such as Aboriginal Storytime at the Beaufort Community Resource Centre). Furthermore, according to community members, there are many undocumented culturally significant sites throughout the Shire.

The RAP has already been to Reconciliation Australia for its first round of feedback and it is expected that we should receive the second round of feedback in the near future.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In order to meet the requirements of the Recognition and Settlement Agreement, the Reconciliation Action Plan has to: 1) adhere to the template and process outlined by Reconciliation Australia; and 2) be endorsed by Reconciliation Australia.

The initial RAP (Reflect) is a 12 month action plan that requires the formation of a working group (consisting of Traditional Owners, community members and other relevant parties) to implement a number of specific actions that focuses on the three pillars of 'Relationships', 'Respect' and 'Opportunities.' The action plan will commence from when the RAP is endorsed by Reconciliation Australia.

After the Reflect RAP is completed, the Council will be required to progress to a three year 'Innovate' RAP, which will deepen Council's commitment to reconciliation. In the longer term, Council will hopefully progress onto three year 'Stretch' RAPs which will result in reconciliation initiatives being incorporated into business as usual.

In order to ensure that the RAP is reflective of the community's expectations and that it complies with Reconciliation Australia's expectations, the draft RAP (attached) must be made available for public comment. This will be promoted on the Council's website, Social Media and at the Council Offices, and the Beaufort and Avoca Resource Centres. After public feedback and all feedback from Reconciliation Australia have been incorporated, the RAP will be endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and can be adopted by Council, allowing the implementation of actions to begin. It is anticipated that this will be in December of this year.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 2 - Relationships and Advocacy. We will build and maintain effective relationships with community, government and strategic partners, and advocate on key issues.

2.3 - Maintain strategic partnerships, and participate with peak bodies for support and to enhance advocacy.

ATTACHMENTS

13.1 Pyrenees Shire Council Reflect RAP 2019-2021 v 2.0 Sept 2019 – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council will have to allocate some funds to allow the implementation of the RAP, in the first 12 months and ongoing.

CONCLUSION

Pyrenees Shire Council is close to completing the development of its first RAP. With Council's consent, the RAP will be made available for public comment for two weeks from today. After public feedback and all feedback from Reconciliation Australia has been incorporated, the RAP will be endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and can be adopted by Council, allowing the implementation of actions to begin. It is anticipated that this will be in December of this year.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Provides continuing support to the development of the RAP;
2. Allows the opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the RAP; and
3. Provides in principle support of the adoption of the RAP in the future.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

File No: 32/20/12

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support to collaborate with other councils in submitting one or more expressions of interest in the State Government Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP).

BACKGROUND

The RCTP provides funding for groups of Councils to develop partnership initiatives that progress the transformation of local government. The RCTP may include initiatives such as shared delivery of Council functions and services, along with the ability to purchase new plant, equipment or software platforms. The program aims to improve the efficiency and financial sustainability of rural and regional councils, and signals LGV's direction of transforming the sector through collaboration and sharing amongst Councils.

Attached are some of the publicly available LGV materials that describe the details of the program and a link to their website <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants/rural-regional-councils-sustainability-reform>

Groups of Councils from across the state are encouraged to apply for funding to develop a business case and to implement their nominated initiatives. The program has a total of \$20M to be allocated towards a small number of transformational projects across the State each valued at \$2M-\$5M. Expressions of Interest are due by mid-November.

“Applications by council groups will be subject to assessment against the Program criteria and councils will be offered additional support within the RCTP to develop a project business case. Key milestones:

- 1. RCTP Expressions of Interest period commences on 14 August 2018 with the release of Program guidelines and accompanying information by the Minister for Local Government.*
- 2. Regional information sessions for rural and regional councils across Victoria (see communication and engagement below).*
- 3. Expressions of Interest proposals for RCTP funding close on 15 November 2018. Applications must include a commitment from the applicant councils' CEOs in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding.*
- 4. Final applications, including a detailed business case close on 31 March 2019. Council resolutions of commitment from each participating council must accompany the application.*
- 5. Assessment of applications from April-May 2019.*
- 6. Final project funding allocation decisions and announcements in May 2019.”*

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In the current environment of rate capping, all Councils, regardless of their size or scale, will need to consider changes to their operations in order to ensure that they continue to deliver the services and functions expected by their communities. Regional cooperation is one way to address this and the opportunity to consider transformational changes through such a funding program will enable this to occur with minimal risk.

Currently Pyrenees is participating in a collaborative effort to prepare EOIs with two groups of councils.

Group 1

The 7 Central Highlands Group of Councils (Ballarat, Moorabool, Pyrenees, Central Goldfields, Ararat, Northern Grampians and Golden Plains) is currently working on a joint submission. Initial discussions have suggested that consideration be given to opportunities for a number of Customer Facing, Back Office and Strategic areas. The City of Ballarat has allocated resources to assist in the preparation of the EOI.

Group 2

Nine rural councils based in western and north western Victoria under the lead of Horsham Rural City Council have engaged consultant firm KPMG to prepare an EOI for a project which seeks to investigate and implement common ICT to generate efficiencies in a range of functions including back office functions of finance, rates, payroll, asset management and some regulatory services. Local Government Victoria has agreed to contribute \$15,000 towards the EOI preparation and participating councils have agreed to share the remaining EOI costs.

If either of the EOIs is successful, groups will then be invited to develop a much more detailed and formal business case. The preparation of such a business case could be upwards of \$250k and would be fully funded under this program. Those business cases would need to be completed by the end of March 2019 and funding expected to be announced in May 2019.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 4 - Financially Sustainable, High-performing Organisation. Our organisation will respond to community needs, attend to our core business, and strive for excellence in service delivery in an ethical and financially responsible manner.

4.4 - Develop our systems to support and enable our people to deliver efficient and quality services which are cost effective.

4.2 - Promote learning and growth that will facilitate change, continuous improvement, innovation and efficiency.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are financial risks for councils that do not participate in the program as a result of not embracing innovation and new technology.

CONCLUSION

That Council acknowledges the collaborative efforts of the two groups of councils in their endeavour to secure funding for shared service models across the region.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Provides support for participation with the groups of councils in submitting expressions of interest in the Rural Councils Transformation Program.
2. A further report be brought to a future meeting of Council in the event that one or both of the expressions of interest are successful and full applications are invited to be submitted.

15. LOCAL TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

File No: 64/02/02

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support for a grant to progress the development of local transport solutions

BACKGROUND

In February 2018 Council ran a forum on the subject of local transport connectivity. This was initiated by the fact that residents of the Pyrenees expressed concerns about local transport connectivity at the Regional Partnership regional assembly.

The forum was supported by officers from Transport for Victoria and Public Transport Victoria.

The forum identified a number of issues at a local level where a lack of transport connectivity is preventing residents from accessing services necessary to maintain healthy lifestyles and for employment. Further work is needed to better understand the current transport options, the gaps and to develop solutions.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Central Highlands Regional Partnerships formally supported the project and an application is being prepared through regional Development Victoria for a part time project coordinator to undertake the work and develop a plan which may then be used as evidence to support future grant applications.

The project, along with a similar project in the Hepburn shire is being seen as a pilot project for the partnership, and the findings able to inform future regional priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.2 - Physical activity - Ensure our residents have access to facilities and programs that allow them to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The grant application is seeking \$20,000 and will require \$5,000 in kind contribution from Council.

CONCLUSION

This project is an opportunity for Council to secure funding to undertake work needed to understand the current transport connectivity gaps and opportunities and to develop solutions to benefit our residents.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council supports the local transport project grant application.

16. MOBILE BLACKSPOT PROGRAM

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

File No: 60/10/04

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider its support for sites under the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spots Program Round 4.

BACKGROUND

Council has advocated for improved mobile phone coverage as a high priority for the Pyrenes shire to improve digital connectivity and grow the economy.

Council previously also provided a co-contribution towards mobile phone base stations at Moonambel and Landsborough which were funded to Telstra under round 1 of the program. Landsborough West base station was also funded to Telstra under round 1. Under round 2 Lexton, Waubra, and Amphitheatre were funded through Optus.

On 13 September 2018, the Government re-opened the National Mobile Black Spot Database for a four week period to support Round 4. Local and state governments and Federal representative have been invited to nominate black spot locations.

From the draft guidelines released, the program will also invite Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to nominate sites that address areas where we do not currently have handheld coverage. While the Federal Government is assembling a Database of Reported Mobile Black Spot Locations to provide MNOs with suggested locations, this list is not exhaustive and MNOs are invited to propose locations outside of this database.

In discussions with MNOs previously, the following sites have been identified as blackspots and possible priority areas.

- Mena Park
- Natte-Yallock
- Yalla-Y-Poora

On the basis of that discussion, these sites have been included in the advocacy program of the Central Highlands Councils Victoria (CHCV) and the three sites have previously been listed in the federal database.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The round 4 program has a key focus on Public Interest Premises and intends to divide funding between solutions that provide new handheld coverage and sites that resolve voice and data issues at Public Interest Areas. Details of Public Interest areas are those described below and which are further detailed in the guidelines.

In addition, the program strongly encourages applicants to seek third party co-contributions for nominated locations. Council may wish to consider a co-contribution as it has done in the past and which has been a contributing factor in having the projects at Landsborough and Moonambel funded.

A **Public Interest Premises** is defined as a premises or location that the Program considers is used on a continuing basis for a public interest purpose, and which may include:

- (a) an economic centre;
- (b) an emergency services facility*;
- (c) a health facility*;
- (d) an educational facility;
- (e) an indigenous community organisation;
- (f) a local government facility*; or
- (g) a not-for-profit organisation.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.3 - Community Development - Supporting communities to build connections, capacity and resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial risk in supporting priority sites for funding under round 4 of the program. Council may choose to make a co-contribution and \$50,000 has previously been budgeted for this purpose if Council should choose to do so.

CONCLUSION

Council may wish to consider supporting any number of priority sites including those listed in this report.

Council may also wish to consider a co-contribution towards any round 4 sites.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Supports the three sites listed in this report as priority sites for funding under the Federal Mobile Blackspot Program.
2. Considers nomination of any other priority sites as public interest premises under the program.
3. Considers whether to make a co-contribution for any of the sites.

17. PICK MY PROJECT

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

File No: 36/28/02

Declaration of Interest: As author of this report I have no disclosable interest in this item.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the outcome of the Pick My Project program

BACKGROUND

The Victorian Government initiated a program titled “Pick My Project”, and invited community members to nominate eligible projects in their communities, and invited people to vote for projects on line.

Voting has closed and 237 successful projects were recently announced to share the \$30M program pool.

In the Central Highlands Region 14 projects were successful sharing \$1,818,528 with 14,235 votes registered across the population of 195,964.

The successful projects in our region can be viewed at <https://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au/regions/central-highlands>

There were no successful projects in the Pyrenees shire despite a number of projects being nominated.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Members of the Pyrenees communities worked hard to see projects developed and submitted, and this effort was supported by Council officers, and it is disappointing that no projects were successful in the Pyrenees Shire. The shires low population was a limiting factor in attracting the number of votes necessary to make a project successful.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.3 - Community Development - Supporting communities to build connections, capacity and resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The Pick My Project program has resulted in no projects being funded in the Pyrenees Shire Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council expresses its disappointment to the Victorian Government about the outcome of the Pick My Project program, and seeks further consideration be given by the government to projects in the Pyrenees Shire.



COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS



CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at

Minutes of the meeting confirmed

2018

Mayor