

PYRENEES
— S H I R E —



MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00pm Tuesday 19 March 2019

**Council Chambers
BEAUFORT**

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PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Robert Vance

Councillors: Ron Eason, David Clark, Tanya Kehoe, Damian Ferrari

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive Officer: Jim Nolan

Director Asset and Development Services: Douglas Gowans

A/Director Corporate and Community Services: Martin Walmsley

EA to CEO and Councillors: Jane Bowker (Minute Taker)

Mayor Cr Robert Vance welcomed the gallery and press, read the opening prayer and indigenous acknowledgement.

APOLOGIES

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Nil

CR EASON / CR KEHOE

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 February 2019 and the Closed Meeting of Council held on 19 February 2019 (as previously circulated to Councillors) be confirmed as required under Section 93 (2) of the Local Government Act 1989.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Trevor Davey

Mr Davey asked how the erection of town entrance sign on the Western Hwy into Beaufort was progressing.

Jim Nolan thanked Mr Davey for his question and advised that he will take the question on notice. VicRoads made a commitment to erect the sign as part of the duplication project. Council needs to obtain an indication of the timeframe from VicRoads.

Mr Davey complimented Council staff on the improvement to roads in the last 3 months. He noted that for a small rural Council it is staggering the amount of work Council has undertaken and staff should be congratulated.

George Kirsanovs

Mr Kirsanovs complimented Council on being involved in organising the Walkfest this year and for making Council staff available to help develop is extremely appreciated.

Mr Kirsanovs raised that the grounds of the old Beaufort Primary School have been freshened up and surveyor pegs inserted. He asked whether Council knew why the pegs have been inserted.

Jim Nolan responded that Council staff have no knowledge of who is undertaking the survey work. It could possibly be work by the State Government in relation to preparing a survey plan with a view to finalising planning controls. The intent of the survey plan is to consolidate crown and freehold titles, and realigning boundaries to transfer portion of the land for “road” purposes where a physical road already exists. The intent of the plan is also to contain provision for an easement for drainage and access in the vicinity of the underground drainage assets.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development

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

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

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on activities within Planning, Development and Regulatory Services, during February 2019.

This report includes four parts:

- Part A: Planning
- Part B: Building
- Part C: Environmental Health
- Part D: Community Safety and Amenities

PART A: PLANNING

The planning activity statistics for January and February 2019 are summarised in the table below:-

Month	Applications received	Applications completed	Number of referrals	Requests for further information
January 2019	18	13	5	5
February 2019	5	5	2	4

Key projects

Highway Service Centre

At the time of writing this report, 36 submissions relating to the proposed highway service center had been received. The applicant has previously confirmed that they will not participate in formal mediation and as an alternative, would run a public consultation meeting. The public consultation meeting was held on the 13th of March and was attended by interested persons. Council staff attended this meeting in an observation capacity and did not contribute to any of the discussion.

Beaufort Bypass

Council continues to work with Regional Roads Victoria and the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning on a range of elements associated with the proposed bypass of Beaufort. This has included identifying a range of mitigations that maximise and enhance Beaufort's heritage, character and regional linkages, as well addressing the land use interface challenges.

Statutory planning

Development Enquiries

During February the Planning Department received 165 telephone and counter enquiries. Many of these related to pre-purchase questions such as “can I build” and “do I need a permit”. Of the planning permit applications made in February, the estimated cost of works totalled \$650,000.

Council officers have continued to meet with land owners within Beaufort’s Industrial areas to address a range of use and developments, including the unsightly storage of material.

The planning department has received three retrospective applications for works undertaken without a planning permit. These have included two illegal dwellings and infrastructure associated with a commercial enterprise.

Strategic issues

Pyrenees Futures

Final framework plans for Lexton, Snake Valley and Waubra are being presented for Council's consideration at tonight's meeting following a three-month public review period. The draft plans for Beaufort, Raglan and Avoca are being finalised and will be placed on public exhibition in the coming months. Following public exhibition and Council adoption of all six (6) plans, work will begin to have them incorporated into the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.

Planning summary

Council is observing a consistent level of development interest within the shire.

PART B: BUILDING

Activity

The building activity statistics as at 28/02/2019 are summarised in the table below:

CATEGORY	NUMBER	COMMENT
Permits issued by private Building Surveyor	15	\$2,207,903 (cost of works)
'Report and Consent' applications processed and issued in accordance with the Building Regulations 2018	3	
'Property Information Certificates' prepared and issued	7	

Key projects & compliance

Council continues to inspect and establish a record of all pools and spas within the municipality. Of the pools and spas inspected to date, 2 out of 3 are being observed as compliant.

Officers are following up on a range illegal dwelling complaints which include the fitting out of shipping containers and sheds as well as elaborate houses.

The Victorian Building Authority conducted a levy audit on Council issued Building Permits. This involved the random audit of 10 property files to determine whether the quoted cost of works and levy amounts paid were accurate and to assess Council’s processes in the management of such dealings. The findings confirmed that Council’s processes are satisfactory.

Council staff participated in an internal debrief following the 2019 Rainbow Serpent Festival. The session identified a range of matters that have informed Council’s internal approval process to ensure best practice and will be raised with event organisers in the coming weeks.

Council’s building surveyor attended the first building surveyors conference, which was ran by the State Building Authority. Over 350 surveyors attended and participated in a range of industry theme discussions including liability and council relationships with private surveying companies. It was beneficial for officers to be informed on such issues and network with other municipal building surveyors and industry representatives.

Council plan / legislative requirements

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

Financial / risk implications

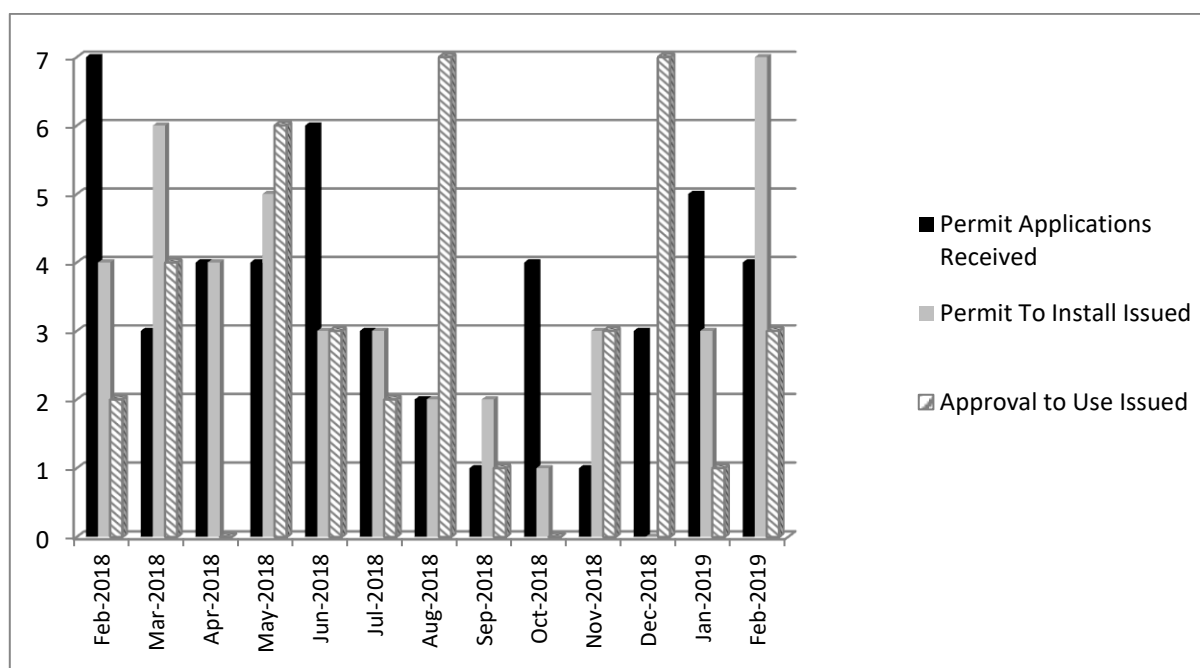
The Municipal Building Surveyor must have regard to any relevant guidelines under the *Building Act* 1993 or subordinate regulations. The building services department must ensure that a responsive service is provided that meets the demand of the building industry within the municipality.

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 – 28 th Feb 2019	4	7	3	\$760

Wastewater activity statistics for February 2019



Monthly wastewater activity (February 2018 to February 2019)

Wastewater related tasks for February 2019	
Septic Tank Inspections	10
Domestic Wastewater Management Plan Inspections	0
Domestic Waste Water Service Agent Reports	8

Activity: food, health & accommodation premises

Food Act 1984 and Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Premises activity statistics for February 2019 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–28th February 2019	16	19	0	0	0	\$1,397

Mobile and Temporary Food Premises in the Shire (Streatrader)

Period	New Mobile or Temporary Premises	New Class 4 Notifications	Routine Inspections and Assessments	New Statements of Trade (SOT)	Fees Paid
1st -28th February 2019	8	0	0	31	\$220

At 28th February 2019, Pyrenees Shire had 31 current registrations with 35 premises registered, 76 low risk notifications and 158 current Statements of Trade (SOT).

Activity: immunisations

Immunisation sessions in February 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	17	0	0
	Vaccines	41	0	0
Beaufort Sessions	Clients	4	0	0
	Vaccines	10	0	0
Avoca Session	Clients	3	0	0
	Vaccines	7	0	0

Immunisation activity statistics for February 2019

Key projects

Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) inspections will commence at Raglan properties. Raglan is listed in the DWMP as a High Risk Unsewered Township area and properties will be assessed to identify any problems with wastewater systems. Letters have been sent out to property owners advising them of the inspection schedule. Follow up letters will be sent to all properties informing them of the results and any further actions required.

An independent audit of the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan will be finalised later this month and consideration will be given to any recommendations that arise from the audit.

Planning for this year's Secondary School Vaccine Program has commenced and intends to provide Year 7 and Year 10 students with the opportunity to receive government funded vaccinations.

Compliance issues

Officers continue to work with registered premises to ensure compliance. EH received one complaint regarding a temporary food trader.

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.

PART D: LOCAL LAWS AND ANIMAL CONTROL

ACTIVITY

	January 2019	February 2019
Cats impounded	5	3
Dogs impounded	4	2
Stock impounded	2 sheep, 2 cows	8
Infringements issued	4	8
Prosecutions	0	0

Impoundment and infringement statistics

- As at 28th February, there were **625 cats** and **2,522 dogs** registered within the municipality.
- *General Local Law 2019* has been gazetted and is now in place.
- Council has commenced developing an Implementation Plan to support the role out of the General Local Law 2019.
- 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. New internal processes are being developed to strengthen Council's administration of its Local Laws
2. Council continues to investigate matters of non-compliance across the Shire

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

2. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS – FEBRUARY 2019

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 16/08/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on our Customer Action Request System (CARS) for the month of February 2019.

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

160 CARS were received in February 2019, a 10% decrease on the previous month. 172 requests were closed in January resulting in 160 outstanding, a 7% decrease in outstanding requests.

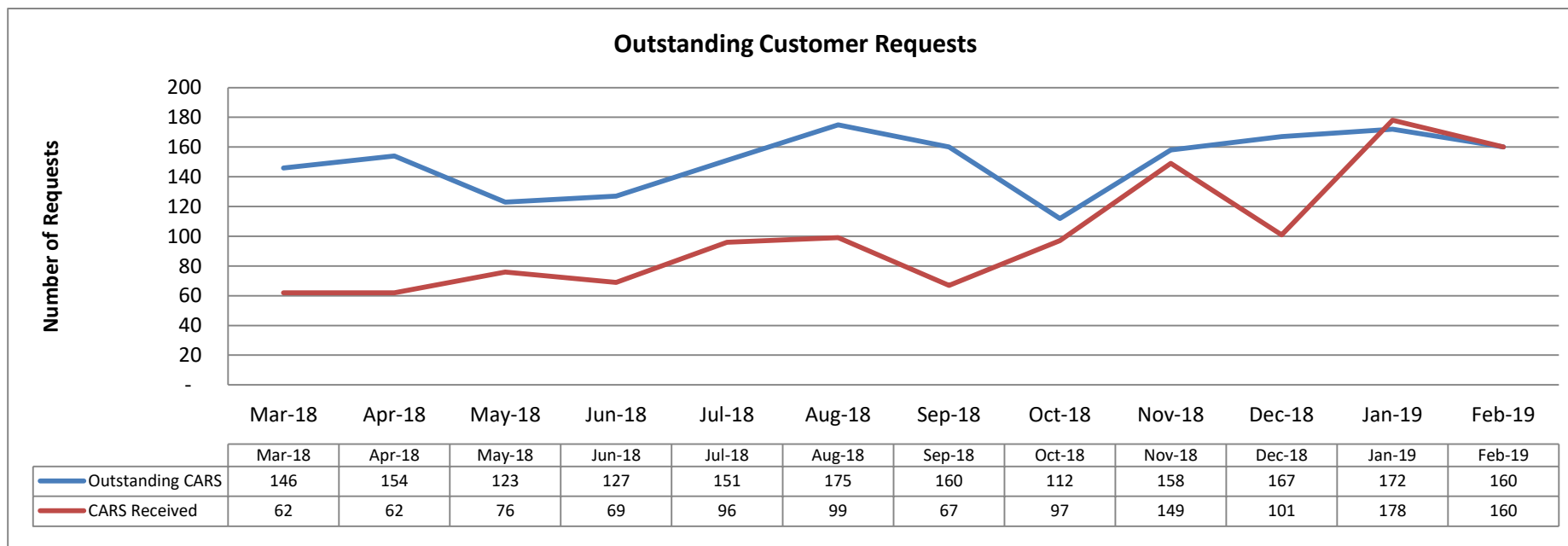
As at the 28th February 2019 the status of CARS was as follows:

- No change in 2016 outstanding CARS
- 33% decrease in 2017 outstanding CARS (a reduction from 6 to 4)
- 38% decrease in 2018 outstanding CARS (a reduction from 105 to 65)
- 7% decrease on total CARS outstanding
- Of the 160 outstanding CARS, 2 relate to natural disasters
- For the month of February 172 CARS were closed

The largest groupings of open CARS requests relate to: Roadside Vegetation (21), Roads (21); and Local Laws (21).

Reports detailing outstanding CARS are detailed below:

Total Outstanding Cars Requests													
Year	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	% Change
2016	29	29	29	24	24	23	21	3	3	2	1	1	0%
2017	49	44	38	32	31	30	29	18	12	10	6	4	-33%
2018	68	81	56	71	96	122	110	91	143	155	105	65	-38%
2019											60	90	50%
Total	146	154	123	127	151	175	160	112	158	167	172	160	-7%
Total Received	62	62	76	69	96	99	67	97	149	101	178	160	-10%



28 February 2019 - Open Requests - Type			
	Jan-19	Feb-19	Change
Roads	23	21	-2
Streetlights	1	0	-1
Drainage	17	13	-4
Footpaths	7	6	-1
Roadside Vegetation	25	21	-4
Environmental Health	0	0	0
Planning	0	0	0
Bld maintenance	14	18	4
Park & Reserves	10	9	-1
Local Laws	22	21	-1
Fire Hazard	2	2	0
Bld Compliance	2	3	1
Road Maintenance	23	11	-12
Waste Management	0	1	1
Roads Unsealed	3	4	1
Road Maintenance unsealed	2	5	3
Cats	4	4	0
Natural Disasters	2	2	0
Pools	0	0	0
Council Cleaning	0	1	1
Design & Assets	0	0	0
GIS	0	0	0
Dogs	9	10	1
Livestock Act	5	7	2
Parking	1	1	0
Total	171	160	-11

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 – February 2019

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

Ongoing focus and effort continues with regard to resolution of customer requests and to improve status and follow-up notes to create more transparency on actions undertaken prior to final closure.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Customer Action Request update for February 2019.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3. RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION LINES

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 66/22/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council information

BACKGROUND

The Minister for planning has written to Council advising that he has put in place planning mechanisms to require a planning permit to be obtained for transmission lines associated with new Renewable Energy projects.

In 2018, Council considered the matter and agreed to support the Moyne Shire Councils advocacy for an amendment to be made to require permits to be obtained for transmission lines.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

It is pleasing to see that the Minister has responded appropriately, and a letter acknowledging the fact has since been sent to the Minister.

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.

5.1 - Provide efficient and effective land use planning, ensuring local policies within the Pyrenees Planning Scheme remain relevant and forward looking.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Minister's actions.

4. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
February		
Wed 06	MAV Strategic Planning forums	Melbourne
Fri 08	MAV Strategic Planning forum	Castlemaine
Tue 12 - 14	MAV Presidential Forums	Benalla, Melbourne and Stawell
Fri 15	MAV Strategic planning forum	Portland
Mon 18	Waubra Community Hub meeting	Waubra
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Wed 20	MAV Board meeting	Melbourne
Fri 22	MAV Strategic planning forum	Sale
Mon 25	UMEC Landcare Network AGM	Beaufort
Tue 26	MAV Strategic Planning forum	Warracknabeal
Thu 28	MAV Strategic Planning forum	Wangaratta
March		
Fri 01	CHCV meeting	Ballarat

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
February		
Sun 3	15 th Anniversary Service – Australian Ex-Prisoners of War	Ballarat
Tue 5	Round Table meeting with Telstra CEO	Ballarat
Fri 8	Rural Councils Victoria Meeting	Melbourne
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Community Meeting	Redbank and Moonambel
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Wed 13	Meeting with Minister Local Government	Beaufort
Sat 16	Glenpatrick Rec Res Committee of Management AGM	Glenpatrick
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
March		
Fri 01	Re-opening of Ballarat Civic Hall	Ballarat
Fri 01	Central Highlands Councils Victoria Mayors and CEOs meeting	Ballarat
Thu 07	RCV Strategic Planning Workshop	Melbourne
Fri 08	RCV Meeting	Melbourne

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
February		
Tue 12	Sunraysia Highway Meeting	St Arnaud
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Wed 13	Meeting with Minister Local Government	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Tanya Kehoe - Mount Emu Ward		
February		
Tue 5	Community Consultation Meeting	Snake Valley
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Community Meeting	Redbank and Moonambel
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Wed 13	Meeting with Minister Local Government	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Damian Ferrari - Beaufort Ward		
February		
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

5. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	12 February 2019 commenced at 3.00pm and closed at 6.30pm		
Meeting Location	Avoca Information Centre – RTC Room, 122 High Street, Avoca		
Matters Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forward Capital Works Program – Roads and Bridges Priorities 2. Project Proposal Overview – Front Line Services Review 3. 2018/19 Forecast Briefing and Budget 2019/20 4. Rainbow Serpent Festival 5. Council Meeting (February) Agenda Review 6. Other Issues – Water Supply 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Robert Vance Cr Ron Eason Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari		
Apologies	Cr David Clark		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) – Items 4, 5 and 6 Douglas Gowans (Director Asset and Development Services) – Item 4 Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) – Item 2 Shana Johnny (Manager Finance) – Item 3 Robert Rowe (Manager Assets and Engineering) – Item 1		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Matter No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	19 February 2019 commenced at 1.04pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Beaufort Council Chambers - 5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort		
Matters Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Law Review 2. Visit by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GMMW) 3. Road Condition Assessment 4. Quarterly Briefing by Visit Ballarat 5. Visit by Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) 6. Annual Review – Council’s Audit & Risk Committee 7. Council Meeting (February) Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Robert Vance Cr David Clark Cr Ron Eason Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari (from 2.40pm)		
Apologies	Nil		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) – Item 7 Douglas Gowans (Director Asset and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) – Item 6 Katie Gleisner (Manager Planning and Development) – Item 1 Susanne Boord (Administrative Support Officer - Environmental Health) – Item 1 Dennis Nikoltsis (Community Safety and Amenity Officer) – Item 1 Robert Rowe (Manager Assets and Engineering) – Item 3 Ray Davies (Manager Economic Development and Tourism) – Item 4		
Visitors	Mark Williams and Peter Vogel (GMMW) – Item 2 Peter Moloney – Item 3 Lucy Ibrahim and Selma Kajan (Visit Ballarat) – Item 4 Niluksha Herth, Ronch Willner and Sandra Neillsen (AEMO) – Item 5		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Matter No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
1	Cr Ron Eason	Interest in common relating to Item 1 - Local Law. Cr Eason is a business owner which may be affected by the Local Law.	Cr Eason is exempt from the disclosure as the interest is held in common with others therefore he did not leave the meeting

CR CLARK / CR EASON

That the items for noting be received.

CARRIED

ITEMS FOR DECISION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

6. INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 30/22/03

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek council's endorsement of two priority Integrated Water Management (IWM) projects.

BACKGROUND

The State Government introduced regional Integrated Water Management Forums in 2017 comprising a collaboration of state government with water authorities, catchment management authorities, registered aboriginal parties and local governments.

The (IWM) Framework for Victoria (September 2017) is designed to help regional stakeholders to work together, ensuring the water cycle contributes to the liveability of towns and cities in Victoria, with communities at the centre of decision making.

The framework has been developed to acknowledge and address the challenges of the pressures climate change and increasing populations are placing on water resources.

The aims of the IWM are:-

- To provide safe, secure and affordable supplies in an uncertain future
- Effective and affordable wastewater systems
- Avoided or minimised existing and future flood risks and
- Healthy and valued waterways, wetlands and water bodies

The Central Highlands IWM that subsequently developed in this region is led by Central Highlands Water and includes a range of stakeholder members including the Central Highland's councils and relevant Catchment Management Authorities, Registered Aboriginal Parties and Water Authorities.

The IWM identified a range of water projects last year that were then prioritised and short listed in a Strategic Directions Strategy (SDS) that was completed in August 2018. This document is being used to now progress those projects identified as high priority.

The SDS touched on two projects of direct interest to Pyrenees Shire Council:-

1. The development of the "Central Highlands Green-Blue Infrastructure Plan"; and
2. Beaufort Closed Loop Recycled Water Scheme

Green-Blue Infrastructure Plan

The first project is currently being scoped out by Golden Plains Shire Council acting as the lead organisation on behalf of Central Highlands LGA representatives. The scope is in draft at the time of writing this report and provides an outline of the intent of the project.

Project Scope

This project will form guidelines for standard practice and a plan that will identify, review and prioritise opportunities for green-blue infrastructure in small towns across the region. This project is not looking to initiate any on ground works although it is envisioned that it will directly shape future projects that will. This project will be highly collaborative and relies on the partner organisations sharing knowledge and experience.

Objectives

- To form a steering group of councils committed to building capacity and knowledge sharing around green-blue infrastructure.
- To explore synergistic opportunities for integrated greening and water management outcomes in small towns in the Central Highlands region
- Develop guidelines for systematically incorporating green-blue infrastructure into existing Infrastructure Design Manuals (IDM).
- To create a plan which identifies, reviews and prioritises green-blue infrastructure opportunities against a consistent set of criteria. This plan will align with recommendations from the 'Planning a Green-Blue City' guide released by DELWP in 2017. The Planning a Green Blue City guide encourages plans to be integrative documents that draw on documents and evidence already developed by Councils. These plans can then be embedded in current council plans, strategic resource plans and budgets to enable integrated delivery of initiatives.

Note that while all four project objectives can leverage off the others, it is envisioned that each objective will have standalone value.

The Problem that this project addresses

There are many small towns in the Central Highlands Region that are not covered by a dedicated IWM but which would still benefit from appropriate green-blue infrastructure. Currently, councils are not able to work independently to scope, plan and roll out these projects. There's a barrier to green-blue infrastructure projects being implemented as they're seen as too difficult or complex to roll out on a small scale ad-hoc manner. By recognizing that multiple councils are often trying to tackle the same problems, we can pool resources (knowledge, time and funding) to develop guidelines and plans that everyone in the region can use to more easily implement works that will align with IWM principles. This will benefit both small communities and the environment.

Environmental Contribution

This project will directly promote the sustainable management of water in small towns within the Central Highlands region through:

- Guidelines for incorporating green-blue infrastructure into existing IDM
- A green-blue infrastructure plan which identifies, reviews and prioritises green-blue infrastructure opportunities against a consistent set of criteria for councils.

As it's not feasible for every town or municipality to have a full integrated water management plan, this project will create guidelines and a plan for green-blue infrastructure in the region's smaller settlements. These will describe practical steps councils can take to sustainably manage the water in small towns and can be used to promote the sustainable use of water within council and to the residents within each community. Both the guidelines and the plan will describe a number of options for efficient and effective use of water which will likely include infrastructure such as water tanks, street trees, raingardens and wetlands.

This project will address water related environmental impacts through setting out a guideline and plan for using a range of built infrastructure, vegetation, soils and natural processes in towns to deliver landscape and water management benefits. These benefits will likely include water treatment (using natural process to filter stormwater to reduce pollutants entering waterways), water detainment (using soil or above ground space to slow the release of water into waterways) and water storage (using infrastructure like water tanks and ponds to store water which may be used for other purposes, thus reducing reliance on potable water) The guideline and plan will directly lead to projects will be of benefit to the waterways near small towns which may not have previously received investment in contemporary, innovative water management infrastructure.

Benefit and Need

This is a collaborative project across councils in the Central Highlands region. As such, it's not within the scope or capacity for a single council to undertake this work, nor is it efficient for all councils to take the work on independently. The project won't work if it's done without collaboration between local and state government as it's the shared effort and collective value that will make the project viable. If left up to individual councils it's likely that this may fall into the 'too hard basket'. However, this project has the potential to provide real benefit to residents within small towns in the region and their surrounding waterways.

Beaufort Closed Loop Recycled Water Scheme

This second project was the subject of a feasibility study undertaken in partnership by council with Central Highlands Water (CHW) in 2017. It sought to address the impacts of a changing climate on the availability of water for recreational spaces in Beaufort, and more specifically the traditional reliance of water from Lake Beaufort to provide (under a licencing agreement) eight megalitres of water per year from the lake for irrigation purposes at Goldfields Recreation Reserve and the golf club.

The impact of climate change on this water source is two-fold:-

1. Unreliable rainfall patterns directly affect the surface of green spaces and sporting facilities and
2. Higher evaporation rates occur as a result of higher temperatures and longer periods between rainfall events that are significant enough to increase the water levels of the lake. This is compounded by the fact that the Lake has a small water catchment area and its shallow depth make it prone to higher water temperatures and evaporation, therefore compromising this source of water for green spaces.

The recycled water project involves accessing treated waste water from the Beaufort waste water treatment plant to provide irrigation water for green spaces in Beaufort including but not exclusive to sporting facilities at the golf club, Goldfields Recreation Reserve, and Croquet Club, with the project estimated to cost \$2.1M.

The project was agreed as a priority project of the Central Highlands IWM and an opportunity for funding arose in November 2018 through the Commonwealth Governments Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF). A submission has been lodged by council for \$1.M in funding from the Commonwealth, with CHW to provide the balance of cash funds and council providing in kind support to the value of \$100,000-.

The application is currently under consideration by the Commonwealth Government.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Green-Blue Infrastructure project seeks to provide an efficient means of delivering a plan for the benefit of the small towns across the Central Highlands Region.

The project won't work if it's done without collaboration between local and state government as it's the shared effort and collective value that will make the project viable. If left up to individual councils it's likely that this may fall into the 'too hard basket'. However, this project has the potential to provide real benefit to residents within small towns in the region and their surrounding waterways.

The Beaufort Closed Loop Recycled Water Scheme is a shovel ready project that carries strong support from the Central Highlands IWM stakeholders including Central Highlands Water, and will be a significant benefit to the Beaufort community.

The project has strong economic and social merits with the following details informing the social wellbeing aspects of the project proceeding.

The SEIFA index of disadvantage places the Beaufort community at a Victorian decile ranking of 3 and Australian decile ranking of 4.

Council 2017-21 Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan reflects that the percentage of the Shire's population for "people doing enough exercise" is 28.6% compared to Victoria's 41.3%. The plan also states that the Pyrenees Shire populations' obesity rates of 30.1% are significantly higher than Victorian figures of 18.8%.

The Pyrenees Recreation Strategy 2017-21 also refers to the higher rates of physical inactivity, obesity, stress, anxiety and depression that exist in the Shire, and provides further compelling reasons why sporting facilities are vital in the Shires communities for both physical and mental wellbeing reasons. Page 19 of this strategy cites the specific social, health, environmental and economic benefits of recreation and open space all of which are relevant to this project.

It also states that participation in sport and recreation increases productivity of workers and reduces the number of sick days (approximately 1.8 sick days per employee per year are lost to physical inactivity or the equivalent of \$458 per employee).

The strategy also references the impacts of drought (P42) and the impacts on Beaufort Lake which is the primary source of water for the football ground and acts as a reserve supply for the golf club. The strategy identifies the need for Council to work in partnership with Central Highlands Water to "access a secure source of water" and that "Consideration could also be given to planting drought tolerant warm season grasses, establishing a recycled water system..." .

Sporting facilities tend to provide the social glue of rural towns like Beaufort and contribute to the integral fabric of the farming community while encouraging the local population to lead active lifestyles.

Improved liveability of the community and improved connectedness through recreational activity has a range of benefits to enhance physical and mental wellbeing.

This project will sustain those important activities and enhance social cohesion which is often placed under pressure during prolonged periods of dry weather as identified in the Recreation Strategy.

The project also has the potential to educate local school students about the value of water in the landscape and of recycled water in terms of the recreational activities they will continue to enjoy through delivery of this project.

Providing recycled water for green spaces in Beaufort will also enable social events and activities to occur which assist people living in remote locations to connect. This is critical for mental health during periods of stress such as drought and natural disasters.

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

1. The Green- Blue Infrastructure project requires a \$2,000- cash contribution and \$2,500- in kind contribution by each LGA partner.
2. The Beaufort Closed Loop Recycled Water Scheme involves a \$100,000- in kind contribution involving engineering and technical elements of the project in addition to grant administration.

CONCLUSION

Both projects will make significant contributions to the socio economic wellbeing of the local community and are closely aligned to council's strategic vision for community connection and wellbeing.

Council will benefit from working collaboratively with IWM partners on both of these projects which, without this support, they are unlikely to proceed.

CR EASON / CR FERRARI

That Council:

1. Endorses its commitment as a partner with the Central Highlands Councils in the Small Towns Green Blue Infrastructure plan
2. Confirms a commitment of \$2,000- in cash and \$2,500 in kind contributions to support the completion of the Green-Blue Infrastructure Plan
3. Notes the BBRF funding application for the Beaufort Recycle Water Project.

CARRIED

ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – PLANNING

7. RAINBOW SERPENT FESTIVAL

Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development

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

File No: 62/54/13

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the upcoming planning approvals process that will be commenced by organisers of the Rainbow Serpent Festival, seeking further approval to use the current site (Jack Smith's Lane) from 2021.

BACKGROUND

The Rainbow Serpent Festival currently takes place on a site on Jack Smiths Lane, west of Lexton. The use of the current site is enabled through an incorporated document in the Pyrenees Planning Scheme listed under *Specific Sites and Exclusions*. This document is scheduled to expire in 2020. For the festival to continue on its current site after 2020, organisers will need to apply for amendments to planning policy that will require final endorsement from the Minister for Planning.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Since 2008, the Pyrenees Planning Scheme has included an Incorporated Document (*Site Specific Control under the Schedule to 52.03 of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme, Jack Smiths Lane Lexton*) that enables the current festival site to be used for one event a year at the end of January, providing a series of conditions and management requirements are met. The document was updated in 2013, and is scheduled to expire in 2020.

The document is required because events (described as a *Place of Assembly* in the Pyrenees Planning Scheme) would ordinarily be prohibited on the site, which is zoned Rural Conservation. The document sets in place a site-specific planning policy that allows the event to occur, subject to a series of conditions which include management and environmental requirements.

The current document remains in effect for the 2020 festival, but will expire thereafter. There is no capacity for this to be extended.

Should organisers wish to use the site for future events, a site specific policy or a rezoning would need to be introduced to the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. This would have to be done through a Planning Scheme Amendment, instigated by festival organisers and supported by Council.

Planning scheme amendments go through statutory public exhibition processes under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and require endorsement from Council. Council has a statutory role in considering amendments. However, a planning scheme amendment requires initial authorisation from the Minister for Planning to start the exhibition process, and final endorsement from the Minister for Planning to be successful.

Typically, if the Minister for Planning authorises the exhibition of an amendment, the process will include a public consultation period, an independent planning panel hearing if submissions are received, a requirement for Council to consider the findings of the panel report and provision for the Minister for Planning to make a final decision.

Because of the timelines involved, Council staff have encouraged festival organisers over the last 18 months to move to develop the required documentation and engage appropriate expertise for the process. It is standard practice for private organisations seeking to amend Planning Schemes to fund their own planning scheme amendments.

Following the 2019 event, Council staff have again asked festival organisers to progress their application for a planning scheme amendment to ensure adequate time for the process to run over 2019-2020.

The planning scheme amendment does provide organisers with the opportunity to work with stakeholders to develop a new planning control that reflects the changing nature of the festival and various evolving site and environmental management requirements.

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.

5.1 - Provide efficient and effective land use planning, ensuring local policies within the Pyrenees Planning Scheme remain relevant and forward looking.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council has a statutory role regarding planning scheme amendment processes. Should the organisers not submit a planning scheme amendment, or should an amendment not receive all necessary approvals, the RSF would not be able to occur on its current site from 2021. It is standard process for private organisations seeking to amend planning schemes to fund the complete cost of these applications.

Should there be a planning panel hearing; Council may wish to fund its own expert or legal representation.

CONCLUSION

Current planning policies that allow the Rainbow Serpent Festival to use the Jack Smiths Lane site in Lexton are due to expire after the 2020 event. A Planning Scheme Amendment process needs to be instigated should the festival organisers wish to use the site into the future. This process needs final assent from the Minister for Planning.

CR CLARK / CR FERRARI

That Council:

1. Council notes that the Rainbow Serpent Festival organisers need to commence a Planning Scheme Amendment process should they wish to continue using the current site beyond 2020.
2. Council notes that final assent for the further use of the site, as a place of assembly, would need to be provided by the Minister for Planning.

CARRIED

8. PYRENEES FUTURES – LEXTON, SNAKE VALLEY AND WAUBRA

Matthew Novacevski – Senior Planner, Strategy and Place

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

File No: 66/22/28

PURPOSE

This report presents final framework plans developed as part of the Pyrenees Futures project for Lexton, Waubra and Snake Valley for Council's consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND

The framework plans for Lexton, Waubra and Snake Valley are the first three to be finalised as part of the Pyrenees Futures project. The plans were presented as drafts to Council in October 2018 and have been placed on public exhibition for three months, receiving a positive response. The plans use a place-based philosophy that aims to draw on and foster local character and identity as a platform for sustainable growth. The plans focus on planning policy reform, delivering new and contemporary planning policies to guide future development, and place activation via short-term and efficient urban design improvements that aim to provide more vibrant, people-friendly town centres.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Pyrenees Futures is a settlement planning project that focuses on drawing on the distinctive assets and character of the shire's major towns to help foster positive development. The project uses a place-based model which represents cutting-edge planning practice and provides scope for planning to address a range of issues including health and wellbeing, economic development, housing provision, social inclusion and environmental factors.

The plans focus on:

- Short term (0-2 year), low cost improvements to urban design and place activation work that is mostly focused on making town centres more people-friendly and pleasant places to visit and enjoy.
- Planning policy reform (1-5 years) that will set directions for development that are responsive to local conditions, place character and opportunities and provide long overdue reform to the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.

These three framework plans have been developed using internal staff resources, with graphic design support.

Plans for Lexton, Snake Valley and Waubra present the first three to be finalised through the Pyrenees Futures project. Each plan is based around a distinct set of themes developed as a result of community engagement conducted in each town, which are then used as a foundation for an action and implementation plan. The action and implementation plans set a five-year program for planning policy reform, urban design improvements, advocacy and place activation work in each town with timelines and anticipated resource requirements.

The three framework plans also respond to other Council and community strategies (including the aspirations of Community Action Plans), local demographic data, land use patterns, climate forecasts, biodiversity, economic factors, regional influences and statewide planning policies.

Significant community engagement was conducted during the development of each draft framework plan, including public drop-in sessions, town walks conducted with small groups of local residents, meetings with community groups and hard copy/online surveys. Draft plans were subsequently placed on public exhibition for three months.

The public exhibition period resulted in three written submissions and a number of discussions with Council staff. Feedback on the plans was overwhelmingly positive, endorsing the optimistic tone and place-based approach of the plans. Issues raised in submissions can be summarised as follows:

- Endorsement of town centre design approaches, wayfinding improvements and climate change adaptation/mitigation approaches for each town.
- Particular endorsement of actions aimed at improving road safety and slow traffic in Snake Valley, protect and increase tree planting in Waubra and consolidation of the town centre in Snake Valley.
- A request to consider using planning policies to protect significant landscapes in and around towns. This has been accommodated by considering more detailed landscape assessments as part of future heritage study reviews.
- Requests to promote better walkability for rural living areas south of Snake Valley, including connections to the primary school. This has been included as part of the terms of reference for a future walkability plan, that will provide Council with more detailed support in seeking grant funding opportunities for pathway and road safety improvements.

Should Council adopt the plans, work would begin to incorporate their policy directions into the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. Business cases and grant applications would also start to be developed to support urban design and place activation activities.

Work is also continuing to finalise draft framework plans for Avoca, Beaufort and Raglan for public exhibition.

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.

5.2 - Prepare and implement township framework plans to guide future development in Beaufort, Avoca, Snake Valley, Lexton, Waubra/Evansford, Landsborough, Moonambel, Amphitheatre and Raglan and then consider extending the planning to include other towns.

ATTACHMENTS

- 8.1 Lexton Township Framework Plan – *circulated separately*
- 8.2 Snake Valley Township Framework Plan – *circulated separately*
- 8.3 Waubra Framework Plan – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The framework plans for these three towns have been produced with internal staff resourcing covering community engagement work, research and writing. This approach has minimised costs to Council while drawing on local knowledge and achieving a high-quality product. Graphic design was provided by a local supplier.

Completing these framework plans mitigates risks to Council and the community posed by outdated planning frameworks that are no longer fit for purpose.

Should Council adopt the plans, a planning scheme amendment would be required to incorporate their policy recommendations into the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. Council may need to fund an independent planning panel to review any submissions received as part of that process, in line with standard Victorian planning legislation and practice.

CONCLUSION

The Lexton, Snake Valley and Waubra Framework Plans represent an important step in the Pyrenees Futures project. They set the scene for important public realm improvements that will strengthen town centres, foster distinctive local assets and character, and set a direction for responsible growth that will contribute to quality of life.

Feedback on the plans has been overwhelmingly positive. Submissions to the plans have been received, and feedback from those has been incorporated into the final plans. It is recommended that Council adopts the plans, so that formal implementation work can begin.

CR KEHOE / CR CLARK

That Council:

1. Adopts the final Pyrenees Futures framework plans for Lexton, Snake Valley and Waubra.
2. Notes implementation of these three plans will now begin with planning policy reform, urban design projects and place activation activity.

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

9. VISION SUPER'S VESTED BENEFITS INDEX (VBI) FOR DEFINED BENEFITS

Shana Johnny – Manager Finance

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

File No: 48/08/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund Defined Benefits Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (LASF) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1947 to provide superannuation to Victorian local government and the water industry. The defined benefit scheme was set up by the Victorian Government in 1982 and was compulsory for all councils until it was closed to new members in 1993.

Defined benefit schemes provide a prescribed benefit based on how long an employee has been a scheme member and their salary at retirement. Employers, rather than employees, must shoulder investment risks.

Accumulation schemes, which are the norm today, reverse this model and when investment market returns are down, the total accumulated super funds in an employee's account will also decline. Since 1 January 1994 new local government employees have only been able to join a standard accumulation plan.

Although the scheme was closed in 1993, Victorian Councils including Pyrenees Shire Council are obligated to continue to make payments in respect to staff who were members of the scheme at the time of closing. The LASF Defined Benefit Plan became a 'regulated fund' under Commonwealth legislation on 1 July 1998, which required it to be fully funded. Prior to this date it was exempt from being fully funded. Other public sector (state and federal government) defined benefit super schemes continue to be exempt up to this day.

In accordance with Commonwealth regulations, Vision Super must complete an actuarial review at least every three years to ensure that assets are adequate to meet the benefits previously promised to members now and into the future. If a shortfall arises that cannot be addressed through an investment plan, then employers may be required to make top-up contributions.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

As the superannuation fund regulator, APRA monitors the financial condition of all Defined Benefit (DB) arrangements and has set a number of requirements that DB trustees must adhere to. These requirements include:

- Appointing a Fund Actuary to undertake, and report on, regular actuarial investigations into the financial position of the DB plan
- Arranging for an interim actuarial investigation in circumstances where required under the superannuation legislation
- Implement a funding plan where the financial position of the DB plan is not satisfactory; and
- Arranging for regular actuarial oversight of any self-insurance arrangements in the DB plan.

APRA has issued a prudential standard (Prudential Standard SPS 160 – Defined Benefit Matters (SPS 160)) which sets out the funding requirements for a DB plan. Under this standard:

- The vested benefits index (VBI) is the measure to determine whether there is an unfunded liability, and
- Any unfunded liability that arises must be rectified within three years.
- Under SPS 160, DB plans are generally required to be in a ‘satisfactory financial position’. For these purposes, the value of the assets of the DB plan must be sufficient to cover the vested benefit liability of the DB plan.
- The vested benefit liability of a DB plan is equal to the value of the total benefits that would be payable by the DB plan if all the members voluntarily terminated their service with their employer at that time. Any lifetime pension benefits in a DB plan are also included in the vested benefit calculations.

Under SPS 160, the VBI is used to determine if a DB plan is in a satisfactory or unsatisfactory financial position.

The VBI is calculated as follows:

- $VBI = (\text{Market value of assets} / \text{Total of vested benefits})$
- A VBI of 100% or greater means that the value of the assets supporting the DB plan are more than sufficient to cover the vested benefit liabilities of the plan at that date.

As a result, the DB plan is in a satisfactory financial position.

A VBI less than 100% means that the value of the assets supporting the DB plan are not sufficient to cover the vested benefit liabilities of the plan at a particular date.

As a result, the DB plan is in an unsatisfactory financial position.

Vision Super reviews the VBI position of the LASF DB plan at regular intervals.

While the LASF DB plan’s VBI is above 100%, the VBI position is reviewed on a quarterly basis using the same methodology used by the Fund Actuary during the Fund Actuary’s investigations/reviews.

The usual timetable for the quarterly measurement of the VBI and the relevant shortfall; thresholds are as follows:

QUARTER ENDING VBI THRESHOLD

- 30 September 2018 106.9%
- 30 June 2018 106.0%

As at the 31st December 2018 the VBI was 101.9% which satisfies APRA’s Superannuation Standard 160.

The reasons provided by Vision Super as an explanation for this decrease are –

- *Negative investment returns of -3.3% for the quarter having decreased the asset pool supporting the defined benefit liabilities of the sub-plan*
- *Final average salary increases of 0.8% for the quarter which increased the defined benefit liabilities of the sub-plan, and*
- *The half-yearly life-time pension increases of 0.8% during the quarter which increased the defined liabilities of the sub-plan.*

Vision Super’s further explanation on market volatility and its impact on the VBI as below –

“Over the last few years, Vision Super has actively de-risked, where possible, the assets underlying the sub-plan. This reduction in exposure to growth assets reduces the long-term return expected from the portfolio, but also reduces the downside impact of volatile equity markets. For comparison purposes, we note that the ASX 200 index decreased over 9% during the quarter to 31 December 2018.

*The negative returns realised in the December 2018 quarter continued into early 2019. However, the early negative market sentiments gave way to positive returns across all investment options in January 2019. **The estimated VBI for the sub-plan at 31 January 2019 was 103.4%.***

Vision Super will continue to monitor the sub-plan’s VBI at least quarterly and daily during periods of high market volatility.”

As the LASF DB plan is a closed plan, the VBI is very sensitive to the performance of investment markets. When the investment market is more volatile and trending downwards, the VBI position is monitored more regularly.

- 30 June 2015 – 105.8%
- 30 June 2016 – 102.0%
- 30 June 2017 – 103.1%
- 30 June 2018 – 106.0%

At this stage no action is required. However, the VBI will need to be monitored because the VBI shortfall limit is set at 97%. When an actuarial review/investigation is in progress the VBI must be at least 100%.

In the event the VBI falls below the shortfall threshold, Council is required under the superannuation prudential standards (SPS 160) to formulate a restoration plan to restore the VBI to 100% within three years.

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

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The monitoring of the Vested Benefit Index provides Council with guidance on the performance of the Defined Benefits Fund.

Any future shortfalls will be managed based on the size of the shortfall.

CONCLUSION

The 31st December 2018 Vested Benefit Index was 101.9%. At present there is no action required.

CR KEHOE / CR EASON

1. That Council receives the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund update report and requests that any significant movements be reported to Council.
2. That Council retain part of the working capital surplus at 30 June 2018 to fund a shortfall in the event of a call.

CARRIED

10. REVISED BUDGET TIMETABLE INCLUDING PUBLIC FORUMS

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 32/08/25

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on changes to the budget timetable, confirm community consultation dates and request Council to call for a special meeting to approve the budget in June 2019.

BACKGROUND

Council is required by State legislation to prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year. In order to achieve the legislated deadlines for this action a timetable was prepared and adopted by Council in January 2019.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council must adopt a budget in respect of each financial year by the 30th June. The draft budget must be available for inspection by the public before being adopted by Council.

Community consultation

Two community sessions have been confirmed on the date stated on the original budget timetable. Two consultation sessions will be held on Thursday, 11 April 2019:

- Beaufort Council Chamber – 1.00pm to 2.30pm
- Avoca Resource Centre – 3.00pm to 4.30pm

Community consultation during the 28 day mandated period (commencing 15 May 2019) will be conducted through the OurSay electronic consultation system, used last year. Copies of the draft budget will be available on Council's website and in hard copy at all front counters.

Special Council meeting

The Council meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, 18 June 2019, has been brought forward to the week earlier. As the timeframe for budget preparation and approval is extremely tight, the revised Council meeting date does not allow sufficient time to adequately prepare for final Council approval.

It is requested, therefore, that a special meeting be called for 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 in the Beaufort Council Chamber to allow for:

1. Council to receive and consider a report on s223 submissions on the proposed 2019/20 budget;
and
2. Council to formal adopt the proposed 2019/20 budget

Council consideration of s223 submissions

The closing date for s223 submissions, and timeframe for Council briefing and consideration of s223 submissions, have not changed from the original budget timetable:

- Closing date for s223 submissions on the proposed 2019/20 budget – Wednesday 12 June 2019; and
- Briefing of Councillors on submissions received – Tuesday 11 June 2019

All other dates remain unchanged

Other dates on the budget timetable remain unchanged.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 requires a council to prepare a budget for each financial year and adopt by 30 June of each year.

ATTACHMENTS

10.1 Updated 2019/20 budget development timetable – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications are associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

The development and revision of the budget timetable will ensure the 2019/20 budget is prepared in accordance with legislated timeframes.

CR KEHOE / CR CLARK

That Council:

1. Calls a special meeting of Council for Tuesday 25 June 2019 to:
 - a. Receive and consider a report on S223 submissions with regard to the proposed 2019/20 budget; and
 - b. Consider and adopt the draft 2019/20 budget.
2. Adopts the revised timetable for the preparation of the 2019/20 budget; and
3. Notes the date, times and locations for the community consultation forums in Beaufort and Avoca.

CARRIED

11. REVIEW OF S11 INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION

Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate & Community Services

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

File No: 16/20/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a review of the S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act (1989) (Section 98)* requires Council to regularly review all delegations, appointments and authorisations that are in force or have been made by Council under this section.

Council is advised by Maddocks Lawyers in preparation of Instruments of Delegation. Advice is received after each sitting of Parliament on the changes to legislation affecting local government.

In addition, reviews are undertaken when changes in personnel occupying Authorised Officer roles occur.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

The S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation has been revised and updated to reflect the following changes in roles:

- Officer appointments / changes:
 - Following his retirement, Matthew Blow was removed as Environmental Health Officer
 - Dane Gade and Mary Galea were added as contracted Environmental Health Officers
 - April Ure was added as Manager Governance Risk & Compliance in preparation for her acting position due to commence in May 2019

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Under Section 98 of the *Local Government Act (1989)* Council is required to regularly review all delegations, appointments and authorisations that are in force or have been made by Council.

ATTACHMENTS

11.1 S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation – March 2019 – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is a requirement under the *Local Government Act (1989)* for Council to regularly review all delegations, appointments and authorisations that are in force or have been made by Council.

CONCLUSION

In order to legally allow staff other than the Chief Executive Officer to enforce provisions of legislation, Council must review its Delegations at regular intervals throughout the year, or when significant changes occur.

Amended Delegations once approved by Council will remain in force until further reviews are conducted following ongoing legislation changes.

CR EASON / CR KEHOE

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 224 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and other legislation referred to in the attached S11 Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (the instruments), Pyrenees Shire Council (Council), resolves that :-

- The members of Council staff referred to in the Instrument be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instrument.
- The Instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the Instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
- Council affixes the Common Seal to the Instrument.

CARRIED

12. ANNUAL REPORT ON 2018 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE

Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate & Community Services

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

File No: 32/04/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the performance of Council's Audit & Risk Advisory Committee for the past twelve months. A report has been received from the Chair of the Committee on its operations during 2017/18.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Audit & Risk Committee Charter, an annual review of the Committee is conducted after receiving the annual report from the Committee Chair.

The 2019 review was conducted at the 19th February 2019 briefing session.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A key objective of Council is to ensure effective corporate governance through the implementation and application of strong and appropriate internal policies, procedures and controls which encompass all areas of risk management; Council's control framework, its external accountability responsibilities, Council's compliance with legislation and its internal and external audit activities, and in particular the implementation of audit recommendations.

To assist in the ongoing achievement of this objective Council established an Audit & Risk Advisory Committee, in accordance with the provisions of section 139 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The key objective of the Audit & Risk Committee is to provide independent assurance and support to the Chief Executive Office and Council on the Shire's risk, control and compliance framework, and its external accountability responsibilities.

The Audit & Risk Committee Charter requires the Committee to report regularly, and at least once per year, to the Council on its operation and activities during the year.

The Charter requires Council, after receiving and considering the Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report, to review the performance of the Committee. To facilitate this review an assessment form was created to guide Councillors and the CEO through the process.

A form detailing Council's performance assessment scores is attached to this report. Council assessed the performance of the Audit & Risk Committee as a score of 83/100.

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.

4.1 - Continue to build and develop an engaged, responsive, accountable and capable workforce.

Legislative compliance - Under section 139 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Council is required to maintain an audit committee.

ATTACHMENTS

- 12.1 Annual Report from the Chair of Council's Audit & Risk Committee – *circulated separately*
- 12.2 Audit & Risk Committee Performance Assessment Form February 2019 – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

The Annual Report of Council's Audit & Risk Committee is attached for Councillors' information.

The Council, at its briefing session on Tuesday 19th February 2019, reviewed the performance of the Audit & Risk Committee for the previous twelve months. The review included the completion of the Audit & Risk Committee Performance Assessment Form. The assessment result was 83/100.

The review also included a discussion on the overall performance of the Committee and how it is discharging its responsibilities. Council expressed its confidence in the Committee and the way in which it is currently functioning.

CR FERRARI / CR KEHOE

That Council receive the information provided by the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee in his annual report and, having reviewed the performance of the Committee for the past twelve months, endorses the actions of the Committee in the way it has discharged its responsibilities during 2017/2018.

CARRIED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

13. ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2019

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 36/28/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the Engagement Plan for 2019.

BACKGROUND

Council's Engagement Strategy provides for annual consideration be given to the engagement it intends to do both internally and externally over the coming year and to develop an annual engagement plan that incorporates the key intended engagement activities.

The Strategy is based on the IAP2 principles which are outlined in the discussion below.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The engagement principles of IAP2 are outlined below:

IAP2 developed the Core Values for the practice of public participation for use in developing and implementing public participation processes to help inform better decisions that reflect the interests and concerns of potentially affected people and entities. The Core Values were developed with broad international input to identify those aspects of public participation that cross national, cultural and religious boundaries.

- 1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.*
- 2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.*
- 3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.*
- 4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.*
- 5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.*
- 6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.*
- 7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.*

The different levels of engagement reflected in Council's engagement Strategy include:

Inform 1	Providing information of a general nature to the community, fulfilling legal requirements (e.g. Community Noticeboard)
Inform 2	Providing information and asking for feedback on a specific project (e.g. Community Satisfaction Survey by the state government contractor)
Consult 1	Holding public information sessions, providing information, feeding responses into decisions (e.g. Council Budget)

Consult 2 Seeking the public's input which will drive a particular project, working with the community to build on the project (e.g. Community Action Plans)

Some of the key engagement activities planned for 2019 include:

- Annual budget
- Pyrenees Futures Framework plans
- Procurement service review
- Frontline Services Review
- Activate Avoca project delivery
- Waste and recycling

In addition to these, it is intended that Council engage with the community through a number of routine practices including:

- Monthly community cuppa and chat events held in various communities
- Quarterly newsletters
- Weekly noticeboard

It is not intended that the activities contained in the Engagement Plan be an exhaustive list but rather capture the key engagement activities, and this in no way limits Council's engagement to these activities.

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.

2.1 - Develop and implement a Community Engagement Strategy incorporating an annual engagement plan.

ATTACHMENTS

13.1 Engagement Plan 2019 – *circulated separately*

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the implementation of the Engagement Plan are incorporated into the annual operating budget.

CONCLUSION

A review of proposed engagement for 2019 has been undertaken and an annual engagement plan prepared for 2019 which is attached for council consideration and endorsement.

CR KEHOE / CR EASON

That Council endorses the Engagement Plan 2019.

CARRIED

14. REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 32/13/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support to advocate to the state government for commitment to ongoing infrastructure funding for local government.

BACKGROUND

The Andrews Labor Government introduced the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) after the 2014 state election. Prior to that, the Victorian Coalition government established the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) valued at \$1b over eight years.

Both the RJIF and RGF have been programs that have enabled local government to bid for funding to deliver key infrastructure projects in rural and regional communities.

Pyrenees has benefited from these programs with funding for infrastructure projects such as the Living Landsborough project, and the three halls (Barkly, Redbank, and Raglan) project.

There are a number of other projects such as the Activate Avoca project which have recently been committed to and to be delivered during 2019 and 2020.

It is understood however that the RJIF ends in June 2019, and there is currently no known commitment beyond that to continue or to replace the state program to enable new infrastructure projects of this type to be funded.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The importance of community infrastructure such as community halls, streetscapes and public spaces cannot be overstated. These community assets enable communities to thrive and to grow, and provide stimulus for investment and jobs growth.

The responsibility to deliver this infrastructure should reasonably be considered to be a shared responsibility between all tiers of government.

Local government has been subjected to rate capping which has had the effect of limiting Council's ability to raise revenue to undertake works such as these, and the capacity of many rural councils is insufficient to meet the needs of growing communities and their changing needs and expectations.

It is vital that the state government commits to provide a base level of infrastructure funding to local councils which are best placed to understand the needs of their communities and to plan and deliver the projects that are needed.

The Pyrenees Shire Council has over a long period of time advocated for a fairer share of funding from both the state and federal governments. While there are several funding mechanisms and programs in place, the loss of a funding stream for community infrastructure projects such as streetscapes, community halls and the like will leave a significant funding gap.

While the method of providing the funding to councils is also a matter for consideration, the initial commitment to make provision in the state budget would be a primary objective of any council advocacy on the matter.

It is suggested that Council seeks to meet with the Minister for Regional Development to advocate on this important issue, and to continue to seek the support of Rural Councils Victoria to assist in the advocacy effort.

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

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that Council will not be able to meet the needs of communities if infrastructure funding support is not provided by the state government.

CONCLUSION

State funding for community infrastructure projects is vital if Council is to meet the needs of our growing communities. It is suggested that Council continues to advocate for a fairer share of funding needed to enable communities to grow and thrive.

CR EASON / CR CLARK

That Council:

1. Seeks to meet with the Minister for Regional Development to advocate for state government commitment to provide an appropriate funding stream for local government to deliver community infrastructure projects.
2. Continues to work with Rural Councils Victoria to assist in advocating to government for a fairer share of funding for rural councils.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Eason

- Recently attended a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition Michael O'Brien MP, and separately with Bev McArthur. It was a great opportunity to get an insight from the opposition and to also pass on issues Council is facing.
- Attended a planning workshop which was designed for councillors and council staff to gain an understanding of the practice involved in planning and building matters. It was a good workshop which has provided a bit more understanding around planning / building matters. On a regular basis delegations are updated due to staff changes etc. Cr Eason requested that Council staff provide some information at a future Briefing session around delegations and planning.

Cr Clark

- It was great to see around 20 residents from the Barkly area come along to our last Councillor Cuppa and Chat.
- Attended a CVGA board meeting which Lighting the Regions was discussed.
- Had the opportunity to meet with the new Local Government Minister the Hon Adem Somyurek. It was really good to have honest earnest conversations with the Minister.
- Next weekend all roads lead to Waubra for the school's 150yr celebrations. Expecting a really big turnout and everyone is invited on Saturday afternoon to join in the celebrations.

Cr Kehoe

- The wind turbines going up very quickly in Snake Valley.
- The Community Resilience Project is progressing really well. Last month David Tepper from DHHS spoke about the Vulnerable Persons Register which is a register of vulnerable community members who have no support during times of emergencies. This list enables emergency service personnel the ability to make contact with the vulnerable person to provide any necessary support during an emergency.
- The community BBQ will be held tomorrow night from 6pm at the hall. The CFA will be displaying the new mapping system which depicts how a fire can behave taking into consideration wind change, topography etc. The system provides community members with knowledge on how a fire can behave in their local area and where it is safe.
- The Pyrenees Futures Project is fantastic and is eagerly awaited.
- The upgrade of the halls in Redbank, Barkly and Raglan are fantastic and it is extremely important to preserve the history of halls such as these. The Redbank Hall's honour board shows connections with families still in the area today, as do most halls within the municipality. There is amazing book on early settlers in Trawalla area and all involved did a fantastic effort putting the book together.

Cr Ferrari

- Attended a number of community meetings recently.
- Met with Minister of Local Government the Hon Adem Somyurek and Leader of the Opposition Michael O'Brien MP. There were some really good discussions.
- Attended the local CFA championships which was a fantastic day. Everyone involved did a really good job. We, as a community, rely on the CFA and it is terrific to see some young people coming through.

- Attended the MAV planning workshop which was informative. When making planning decisions there is a lot to consider and will now be able to make more informed decisions as Councillor.
- Attended a CWA evening on 7 March to discuss personal safety. It was a terrific evening with really good interaction with those who attended.
- It is terrific to see a great roll up of community members to the Councillor Cuppa and Chats in particular the sessions held recently in Redbank, Moonambel and Barkly. It is really encouraging to see the resilience of smaller communities.

Cr Vance

- Have been receiving quite a few phone calls from farmers in the northern part of our municipality regarding the situation with the drought. It is time to approach the State Government to have the Pyrenees municipality drought declared. Northern Grampians Shire been declared for quite some time.

Cr Vance / Cr Eason

That Council approach the State Government to request that the Pyrenees municipality be drought declared.

CARRIED

- Attended the CFA Championships on Sunday which was a fantastic event. It was great to see an event such as this held in our municipality with many brigades attending from across the state.
- It was a great privilege to attend an evening with Sir Bob Geldof at the Civic Hall in Ballarat. Bob is a fantastic speaker who told his life story. He is an avid campaigner for numerous causes throughout the world such as global poverty and humanitarian crises.
- Attended the Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) strategic planning day.
- Attended the Barkly Unplugged event which was a great night's entertainment.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

15. CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

That pursuant to the provisions of Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, the meeting be closed to the public in order to consider personnel matters that may prejudice the Council.

CR EASON / CR CLARK

That the meeting be closed to members of the public under Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, to consider reports on the:-

16. Debt Recovery Action for Non-Payment of Rates – March 2019
17. Update on Debt Recovery Action for Long Outstanding Unpaid Rates

CARRIED



18. RE-OPENING OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

CR EASON / CR FERRARI

That Council, having considered the confidential item, re-opens the meeting to members of the public.

CARRIED

A member of the gallery returned to the Council meeting and the Mayor chose to report on the matter discussed in Closed Council and is noted below:

That Council proceeds with the recovery action for unpaid rates and charges for a number of properties within the Pyrenees municipality.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 7.17pm

Minutes of the meeting confirmed

2019

Mayor