



**Pyrenees**  
Shire Council

# Minutes

## Ordinary Meeting of Council

**6:00pm Tuesday 21 July 2020**  
**Beaufort Council Chambers**  
**BEAUFORT**

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**1. WELCOME / ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe welcomed all to the meeting.

**PRESENT**

**Mayor:** Cr Tanya Kehoe

**Councillors:** Ron Eason, David Clark, Robert Vance, Damian Ferrari

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Chief Executive Officer:** Jim Nolan

**Director Asset and Development Services:** Douglas Gowans

**Communications Officer:** Kate Deppeler

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

**2. STREAMING PREAMBLE**

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe read the livestream preamble.

**3. OPENING PRAYER**

The Mayor read the opening prayer.

**4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor acknowledged the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Djab Wurrung and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire.

**5. APOLOGIES**

**Director Corporate and Community Services:** Kathy Bramwell

**6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS**

Nil

**7. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**CR EASON / CR CLARK**

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 9 June 2020; and
- Closed Meeting of Council held 9 June 2020

as previously circulated to Councillors be confirmed as required under Section 93 (2) of the Local Government Act 1989..

**CARRIED**

**8. BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising from the previous meeting held 9 June 2020.

**9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No questions were asked of the public.

## 10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

#### 10.1. FORESTRY BUSINESS TRANSITION PROGRAM

**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:** 22/10/02

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the Victorian Governments Forestry Business Transition Voucher Program

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Victorian Government has announced that access to harvest hardwood timber from native forests is due to be phased out by 2030 and a \$120M Victorian Forestry Plan was established in 2019 to assist with the transition of the industry over the next ten years.

The plan is aimed at supporting timber industry businesses, their employees and local communities that benefit from the industry.

A copy of the plan is attached for further reference.

To assist the transition of businesses the Victorian Government has more recently announced the \$1.1M Forestry Business Transition Voucher Program to assist directly impacted businesses to plan for their future.

The FBTV program is aimed at providing eligible businesses with support to better understand their business capabilities, options and strategies for transition.

The FBTV program offers access to tailored support through specialist business services to equip affected businesses with a better understanding of their business capabilities, options and strategies for transition.

Funding of up to \$25,000 (exclusive of GST) per business is available to engage appropriate professional services to undertake a Business Diagnostic and / or develop a Business Transition Plan.

The Program is administered by the Rural & Regional Victoria Group (RRV) within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the Department).

Applications are due to close on 31 March 2021.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

The decision by the Victorian Government to discontinue harvesting of native forests will directly impact availability of hardwood timber to local sawmill Pyrenees Timber located at Chute and have flow on effects to associated supply chain operators.

Pyrenees Timber is a family owned hardwood sawmill business that has operated in the Shire for over sixty years.

The transition out of harvesting native timber forests will cause flow on effects for those associated with the industry and potentially limit access to hardwood products used by local businesses and customers of Pyrenees Timber.

Details of the FBTV program have recently been made available to Pyrenees Timber.

Pyrenees Shire Council is a member of Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) which monitors and advocates for a sustainable timber industry and the economic opportunities it provides. The group has taken an active interest in the recent Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) work and the recent investigation into the public forests in Central West Victoria.

Cr Vance has been Council's representative on TTV and recently appointed as Deputy Chair.

#### **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**

10.1.1 Victorian Forestry Plan (*circulated separately*)

#### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

The Forest Business Transition Voucher Program is administered by the Rural & Regional Victoria Group (RRV) within the Department of Jobs, Precincts.

There is no direct cost to council.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the report
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## ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### 10.2. 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 June 2020 and to provide a snap -shot of the past 12 months.

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 May and June 2020 are summarised in the table below:-

Activity	May 2020	June 2020	Financial Year to date
Applications received	4	16	89
Applications completed	7	4	109
Number of referrals	2	2	30
Requests for further information	6	4	53
Estimated cost of works	\$344,000	\$3,109,819	\$12,619,703

General Enquiries			
Enquiry Type	May 2020	June 2020	Financial Year to date
Pre-purchase enquiry	38	42	417
Pre-application enquiry	53	78	667
Existing permit enquiry	12	12	221
Current application enquiry	23	18	278
All other enquiries	24	31	339
<b>Total Enquiries</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>1922</b>

#### STATUTORY PLANNING

During the month of June, the Statutory Planning department continued to observe an increase in the number of general enquiries and the greatest number of phone enquiries received since October 2019. These primarily related to prospective property purchases and pre-permit applications and is a strong indication that the Pyrenees Shire remains an attractive area to live and invest.

There was a significant increase in the number of applications received with 16 new applications in the final month of the financial year. This is the highest number of applications received within the past 18 months and almost double the monthly average. Active planning permit applications consist of a range of use and development activities including a residential hotel, liquor licenses, single dwellings, subdivisions, mineral extractive industries, agricultural infrastructure and animal keeping/training facilities.

On review of the financial year, the Statutory Planning team have:

- Received 1922 phone enquiries (an average of 7.64 phone enquiries per business day),
- Reviewed and approved 26 Secondary Consent Applications,
- Processed 16 Time extensions for existing planning permits,
- Administered 44 Information on Planning Controls Certificates,
- Successfully upheld a decision to refuse an application at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal,
- Successfully obtained an Enforcement Order and awarded associated cost at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal,
- Received 128 planning permit applications, of which:
  - Six (6) applications were lapsed due to insufficient information,
  - 16 were withdrawn by the applicant,
  - Four (4) were determined by Council,
  - 68 were Delegate Approved,
  - 33 remain currently active.
- 92.5% of applications were determined in less than sixty (60) days,
- 63 (49%) applications required further information prior to progressing,
- 42 (33%) applications were placed on public exhibition.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

The Strategic Planning department has had a busy year developing and progressing a range of complex projects throughout the shire. This has involved preparing explanatory reports for the proposed planning scheme amendments, including the Lexton, Snake Valley and Waubra township framework plans and three (3) flood studies.

Efforts to support the delivery of significant projects, including Avoca Streetscape Plan, Drought Communities Funding and the Beaufort Lake Foreshore Masterplan has involved high levels of community engagement. Through the recent appointment of a Place Making Facilitator, we intend to increase the quantity and improve the quality of our engagement and collaboration for the coming financial year.

Officers have continued to represent Council in forums that include the Beaufort Bypass Technical Reference Group, the Austnet Western Victoria Transmission Line Project reference group and the Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Project group. Significant time has also been spent working with other local government organisations, DELWP and EPA to establish consistency and clarify agency responsibilities in the management of challenges associated with renewable energy projects.

A review of the shires rurally zoned land will commence in the coming months and will likely result in a range of planning scheme amendments that support and enhance appropriate land use and development within the shire.

## **PART B: BUILDING**

### **Activity**

The building activity statistics as at 30/06/2020 are summarised in the table below:

CATEGORY	MAY 2020	JUNE 2020	COMMENT
Permits issued by private Building Surveyor	1	13	
'Property Information Certificates' prepared and issued	17	16	
'Report and Consent' issued	0	3	
Building Notices	0	0	
Building Order	0	0	
Resolved Building Notices	1	0	
Resolved Building Orders	0	0	
Direction to Fix Building Work	0	0	
Building permit inspections undertaken	0	2	
Council issued permits finalised	0	1	** Council have not issued building permits since June 2018.

## KEY PROJECTS & COMPLIANCE

### Swimming Pool Registrations

Following the release of legislation in December 2019, requiring that all private pool and spas be registered with council, the Building Department has received and inspected 43 Pool registrations. A further 52 registrations require further information and or payment. It is anticipated that there is a number of pools within the shire that have not yet been brought to council's attention. Those property owners are urged to register with council prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of November to avoid penalties.

The ability to pay for pool registrations has been made easier with the implementation of online payments within the Building portal of council's website.

### Upgrade of Software

The Building Department has been working with software provider 'Greenlight' to implement a new program that allows for the improved processing of building related matters and the communication between property owners, private building surveyors and council. The program provides a case management system for officers whilst empowering developers and surveyors to login and monitor progress. It also allows for the electronic submission of applications for service and the provision of accompanying information, the online payment of fees and charges and the real time tracking of progress.

\*\*Greenlight is currently being configured to support the delivery of statutory planning functions in the same way.

### 'Do I need a Permit?' - interactive house

A new interactive program is now live on council's website. It provides property owners, developers, and potential investors with 'self-help' permit requirement information for building and planning related activities. The program will allow stakeholders to be informed around their obligation to obtain permits for specific activities.

The program has the capacity to include further permit/regulation requirements and will be expanded over time to provide a holistic education and information tool. It is available to the public by following the links to 'Do I need a Permit' on Councils website.



### Other

In addition to the extensive system and process improvements described above, the past 12 months have seen the building department undertake the following:

- Finalise 19 outstanding council issued building permits
- Administer 138 privately issued building permits
- Prepare 183 *Property Information Certificates*,
- Respond to a number of house and structure fires,
- Investigate a range of illegal, unauthorised or unsafe developments (40 notices/orders issued)
- Issue 33 *Report and Consents*
- Represent Pyrenees Shire Council through the making of submissions and attending regional and state-wide forums.
- Respond to a range of building related enquiries

### **Council plan / legislative requirements**

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

### **Financial / risk implications**

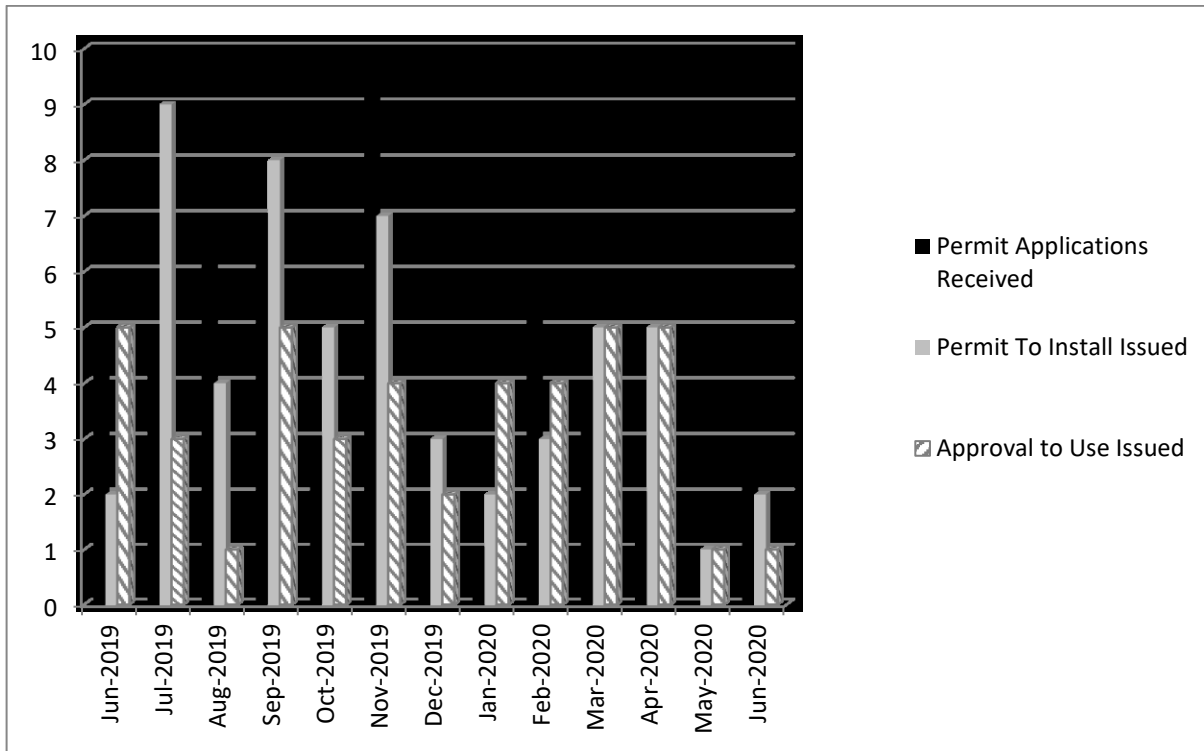
The Municipal Building Surveyor must have regard to any relevant guidelines under the *Building Act 1993* or subordinate regulations. The building services department must ensure that a responsive service is provided that meets the demand of the building industry within the municipality.

### PART C: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

#### **Activity: Wastewater**

Period	Applications to Install or Alter Septic Tanks Received	Permits to Install or Alter Issued	Approval to Use Issued	Fees Paid
1st – 30th June 2020	3	2	1	\$1,170

Wastewater activity statistics for June 2020



Monthly wastewater activity (June 2020)

Wastewater related tasks for June 2020	
Septic Tank Inspections	6
Domestic Wastewater Management Plan Inspections	28
Domestic Waste Water Service Agent Reports	3

**Activity: Food, Health & Accommodation Premises**

*Food Act 1984 and Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Premises activity*

Period	New Premises, Transfers and Renewals	Routine Inspection, Assessments and Follow Ups	Complaints Received about Registered Premises	Food Recalls	Fees Paid
1st – 30th June 2020	0	12	0	5	\$0

**Mobile and Temporary Food Premises in the Shire (Streatrader)**

Due to the continued cancellation of most events and markets across the Shire, Streatrader activity has been minimal during June.

**Activity: Immunisations**

Immunisation sessions in Beaufort and Avoca are not being conducted due to COVID-19 and individual appointments continue to be arranged through Council’s Maternal Child Health nurse.

Session Type	Number of Clients & Vaccines	2 Month - 4+ Yr Old	Secondary School	Adult
June 2020	Clients	37	1	22
	Vaccines	72	1	22

Immunisation activity statistics for June 2020

### Key achievements/projects for 2019-2020

- Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) system inspections are well ahead of schedule and continue to be a focus.
- The team has been working closely with the Economic Development department to provide support and information throughout the COVID-19 restrictions to registered premises. This has included facilitating a pro-rata registration fee waiver to eligible premises and distributing equipment and advice as it becomes available.
- Compulsory food sampling and tobacco test purchasing obligations have been met.
- A number of complaints have been investigated including noise, nuisance and gastro outbreaks.
- Officers have continued to work with unregistered food, health and accommodation premises to ensure improved levels of public safety and legislative compliance.

### Council plan / legislative requirements

- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2015-2018
- Food Act 1984
- Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008
- Public Health & Wellbeing Regulations 2019
- Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2010
- Tobacco Act 1987
- Environment Protection Act 1970
- EPA Code of practice – onsite wastewater management

### 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 - Animals**

	May 2020	June 2020	Total Year to date
Cats Registered	513	548	
Dogs registered	2083	2217	
Cats impounded	6	5	<b>94</b>
Cats reclaimed	1	1	<b>9</b>
Cats Euthanised	2	1	<b>73</b>
Dogs impounded	0	0	<b>35</b>
Dogs Reclaimed	0	0	<b>24</b>
Dogs Euthanised/surrendered	0	0	<b>4</b>
Stock impounded	0	15	<b>141</b>

Registration and impoundment statistics

**ACTIVITY - Infringements**

Infringement Type	May 2020	June 2020	Total YTD (2019/20)
Domestic Animals Act	2	1	<b>71</b>
Local Laws	0	1	<b>18</b>
Road Safety Act	2	0	<b>61</b>
Environment Protection Act	0	0	<b>0</b>
Impounding of Livestock Act	0	0	<b>0</b>
Other	65	0	<b>68</b>
<b>Total Infringements Issues</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>149</b>
Prosecutions	0	0	<b>8</b>

Infringement statistics

The Community Safety and Amenity department has continued to contribute to the shire's appeal by making it an enjoyable, safe and pleasant place to live, visit and invest. This has been achieved through the fair and consistent application of the General Local Law and other legislation and strategies that guide council's function.

The team's actions have resulted in the following outcomes:

- Unsightly/hazardous property owners have continued to be engaged through a proactive program to improve property and township amenity. This work has been highly successful and resulted in a significant number of unsightly/hazardous properties within the shire being tidied up.
- Enforcement and education activities have resulted in a number of shipping containers on private property being removed or authorised.
- Serious dog attack matters have been investigated and brought before the courts with successful prosecutions.
- Parking related offences have been enforced in disabled parking zones, ensuring that these spaces remain available for members of the community who require them.

- Support provided by officers to council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer has resulted in an increase in the number of fire prevention inspections undertaken prior to the 2019/2020 fire season. This increase in activity has also resulted in an increase in the number of fire prevention notices issued and subsequent infringements for matters of non-compliance.
- A number of unpaid fines have been withdrawn and lodged in the Magistrates Court.
- The team has continued to work on a range of system and website improvements to support the community in obtaining information and interacting with officers.
- Officers have continued to respond to daily enquiries, collect and process stray animals, investigate a range of animal keeping and property amenity complaints and develop relationships within the community.

#### **Council plan / legislative requirements**

- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021
- Environment Protection Act 1970
- Infringements Act 2006
- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994
- Road Safety Act 1986 / Road Safety Road Rules 2017
- Council General Local Law 2019

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 10.3. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS (CARS) – JUNE 2020

**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 requests made through the Customer Action Request System (CARS) for the month of June 2020.

#### BACKGROUND

Council has operated an electronic Customer Action Request System (CARS) for several years enabling residents to lodge service requests. Requests can be lodged in person, via telephone, via Council’s website or by using a smart phone “Snap Send Solve” application.

Service requests are received for operational issues regarding maintenance, pools, local laws, building maintenance and compliance matters. The system is also used for internal telephone messaging and case management of some matters (primarily local laws, dogs, and cats).

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

300 customer action requests were received in June 2020, of which 180 related to telephone messages. This represents an increase of 24% in total requests, and an increase of 227% in telephone messages received – not unexpected with many staff working from home due to COVID-19.

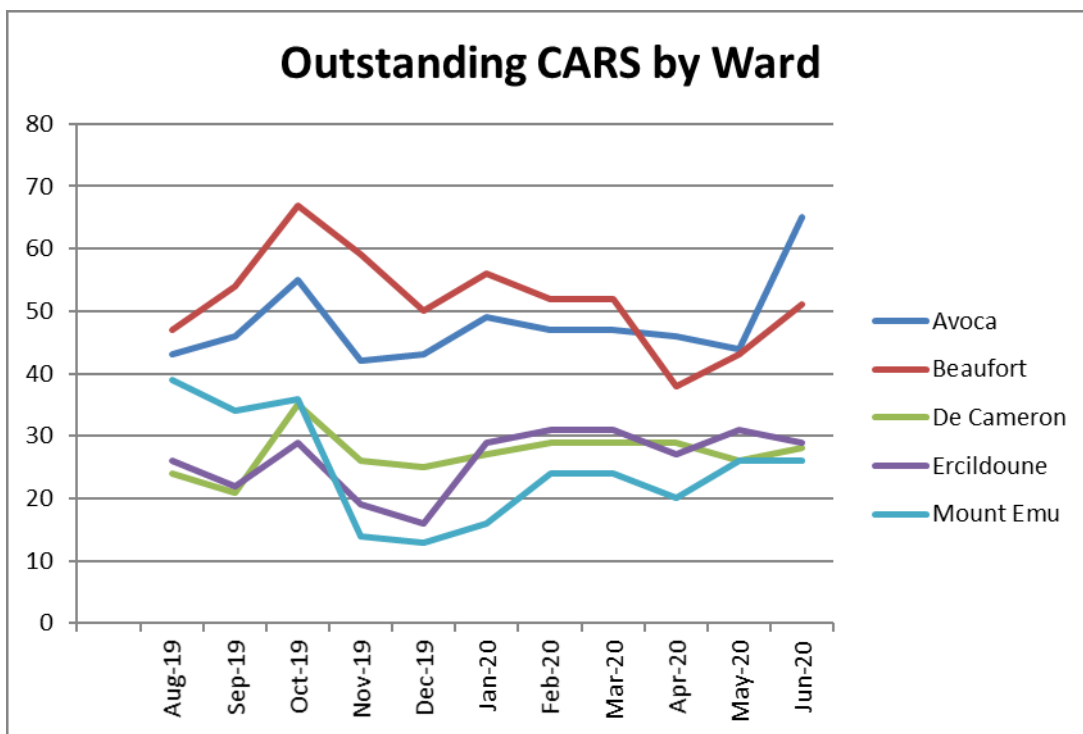
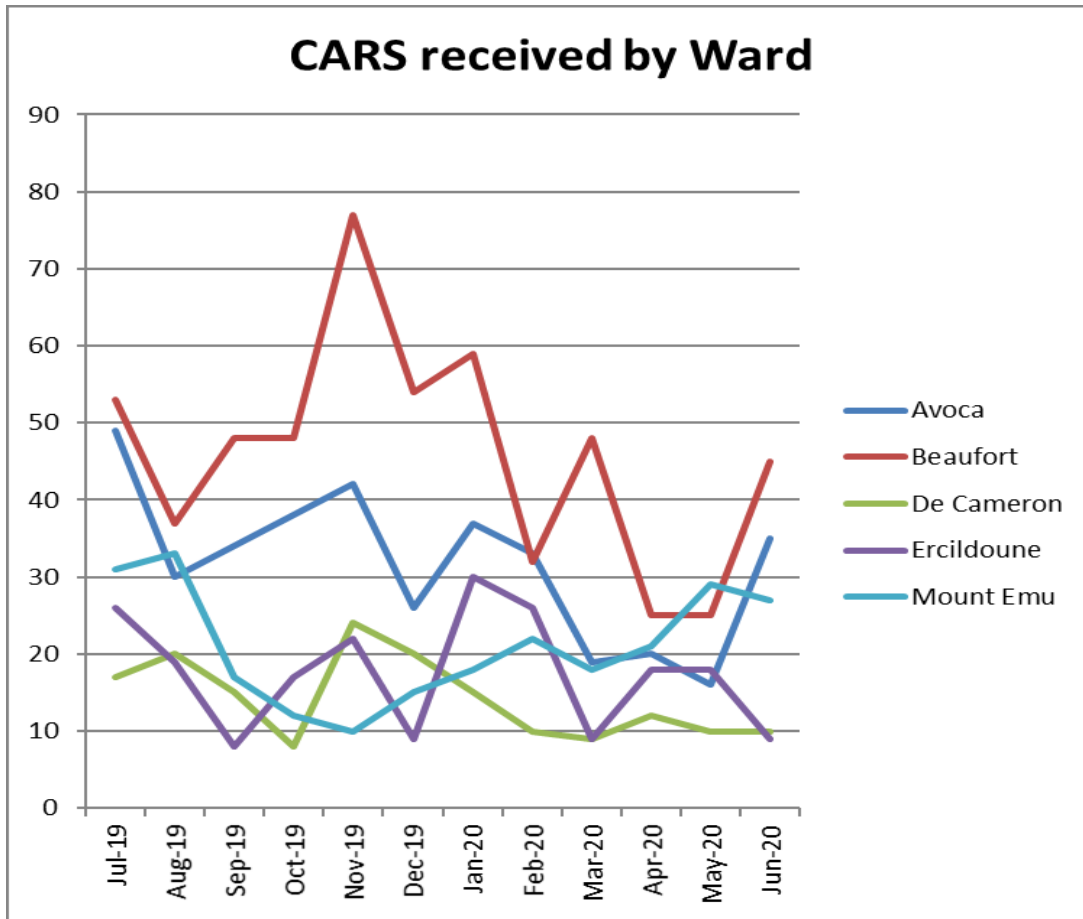
Most of the increase in non-telephone message requests were received in Avoca and Beaufort. Increases were seen in requests relating to Local Laws, dog and livestock issues, drainage, roads, and parks & reserves.

230 requests were closed during the month resulting in 305 outstanding. 70 telephone messages remain outstanding.

#### Requests by Ward:

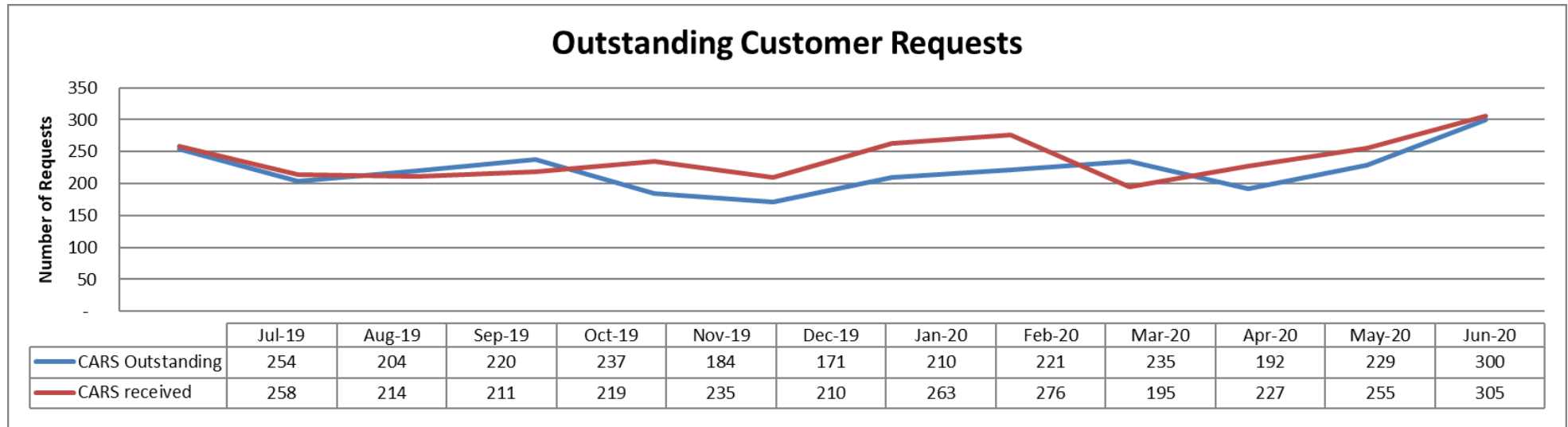
The following table shows an overview of requests received and outstanding by Ward. Requests received over and above these numbers relate to telephone messages which are not allocated by Ward.

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	De Cameron Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mount Emu Ward
Number of Requests received in June 2020 (last month)	35 (16)	45 (25)	10 (10)	9 (18)	27 (29)
Requests received in June still outstanding	27	20	6	5	15
Outstanding requests older than 1 month	38	31	25	24	11
Total outstanding requests (last month)	65 (44)	51 (43)	28 (26)	29 (31)	26 (26)



**Total Customer Action Requests:**

Outstanding requests by age													
Year	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	% Change
2016	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-		
2017	2	2	2	2	1	5	5	2	2	1	1	1	0%
2018	16	14	13	13	6	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	0%
2019	236	188	205	222	177	157	107	80	75	57	50	48	-4%
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	134	153	130	174	247	30%
<b>Total outstanding</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Total requests logged</b>	258	214	211	219	235	210	263	276	195	227	255	305	16%





30 June 2020 - Open Requests - Type			
	May	June	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	52	58	6
Streetlights	0	0	0
Drainage	27	34	7
Footpaths	5	6	1
Park & Reserves	7	13	6
Roadside Veg	24	24	0
Environmental Health	0	0	0
Planning	0	0	0
Bld maint	11	15	4
Local Laws	25	39	14
Cats	3	4	1
Dogs	16	22	6
Livestock Act	1	3	2
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	2	1	-1
Bld Compliance	0	0	0
Waste Management	0	0	0
Natural Disasters	0	0	0
Pools	0	0	0
Council cleaning	0	0	0
EPA - Litter	1	2	1
Design & Assets	0	0	0
GIS	0	0	0
Community Care	0	0	0
Telephone messages	55	79	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>71</b>

**Note:**

The item 'Roads' now represents an amalgamation of Roads, Road Maintenance, Roads Unsealed and Road Maintenance Unsealed.

**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**

Nil

**FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**CONCLUSION**

The Customer Action Request System remains an integral part of Council's reactive identification of issues that need attention, as well as case management of more complex matters. Ongoing focus and efforts continue regarding resolution of customer requests in a timely and effective manner. COVID-19 has impacted upon the numbers of telephone messages received, increasing by 227% in June.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the above report.

#### 10.4. DROUGHT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM UPDATE

##### Martin Walmsley – Manager Community Wellbeing

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

**File No:** 32/13/08

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council in relation to the Pyrenees Drought Communities Program implementation.

#### BACKGROUND

On 27 September 2019, the Prime Minister announced that the Australian Government had committed to provide an extension to the Drought Communities Programme which is designed to provide an immediate economic stimulus to drought-affected communities. This was confirmed as an eligibility for Pyrenees Shire Council to apply for up to \$1M in funding for eligible projects.

In November 2019, a further announcement advised that Pyrenees was eligible for an additional \$1M under the same program.

The Program documentation states that:

*“Funding will target infrastructure and other projects that:*

- *provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought*
- *stimulate local community spending*
- *use local resources, businesses and suppliers*
- *provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.”*

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

On the 10 December 2019, Council considered a report from the Chief Executive Officer on projects eligible for the Drought Communities Program and resolved to allocate the \$2 million to the following projects:

Location	Project	Description	Total Project Cost x\$1000
Shirewide	Water Supply Infrastructure	Renew and improve pumps, bores, standpipes and related assets for emergency and stock and domestic supply including Beaufort Golf Club.	\$375
Shirewide	Footpaths	Construct new and upgrade existing paths to a higher standard.	\$250
Shirewide	Hall Improvements	Renewal of community hall infrastructure and minor improvements incentive scheme.	\$250
Shirewide	Tree Planting Program	Street tree planting in various townships	\$50
Shirewide	Recreation Facilities Improvement Program	Upgrade and renew recreation and sporting assets.	\$520
Beaufort, Avoca and Landsborough	Caravan Parks and RV Facilities	New cabins and improved access and amenity.	\$270

Table cont.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Project Cost x\$1000</b>
Snake Valley, Waubra and Lexton	Place Making in Small towns	Landscaping, tree planting, public seating, signage and other minor amenity improvements to implement priority works identified in Pyrenees Futures Plans.	\$100
Snake Valley	Linear Park	Landscaping, paths	\$60
Beaufort	Lake and Linear Parklands	Paths, tree planting, landscaping, and amenity improvements	\$125
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

Projects are being implemented across the municipality in accordance with the Program Guidelines.

### **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**

10.4.1 Pyrenees Drought Communities Program Update Report

### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **CONCLUSION**

The projects approved by Council as part of the drought stimulus funding are underway and a report is attached providing a status update.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the progress of the implementation of the Pyrenees Drought Communities Program.

## **10.5. PYRENEES SHIRE COUNCIL INSURANCE PROGRAM**

**Michelle Richards – Manager Governance, Risk and Compliance**

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

**File No:** 30/02/04

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive an update on the insurance program placed for the 2020/21 financial year

### **BACKGROUND**

As part of good governance, Council annually purchases and maintains insurance as part of sharing risk for various lines including public liability, professional indemnity, property, travel, and workers compensation.

In line with previous years, the Pyrenees Shire Council has maintained its relationship with the MAV and its broker, JLT. However, the Local Government Act 2020 no longer gives an exemption for councils to continue utilising the MAV for its public liability and professional indemnity insurance giving an indication of an expectation that all councils will go to market for insurance coverage in future years. An exemption was provided by the Minister for the 2020-21 financial year.

### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

#### **Insurance placement 2020/21 financial year**

In the past twelve months both Australia and the globe has experienced several generation-defining events. The Australian summer saw a mixture of catastrophic bushfires, closely followed by severe storms, floods and hailstorms and of course, COVID-19 which presented the world with a set of challenges not previously experienced in our lifetimes.

COVID-19 has had a severe impact on the operations and ability for all sections of the community to go about 'normal life'. Like Council, the insurance industry is no different from the impact of the pandemic and it is already being heralded as the single largest insurance event in history with Lloyds of London estimating the lost investment income and underwriting losses at \$203 billion, some 7.5 times larger than September 11.

The impact of these events has had a rapid and severe impact on the already hardening insurance Market (resulting in increasing premiums). The lack of investment returns has focussed insurers' minds specifically on the underwriting profit as almost the only revenue source. This means that individual accounts are being analysed more rigorously than in the past, and not only are premiums and deductibles being re-negotiated, coverage is now a key negotiable as insurers seek to limit their ultimate exposure.

#### **Placement and cost comments:**

- Initial estimates forecasted a significant increase in premiums due to the recent bushfire and pandemic events affecting the insurance sector and were reflected in the increase in overall costs by 12.71%.
- The bar chart clearly shows the policies with the greatest associated cost: Public Liability/Professional Indemnity; Property (JMAPP) and Motor Vehicle.
- Of the three largest cost premiums, MAV's Liability (LMI Scheme) saw the largest increase at 16% followed by Motor Vehicle at a 10.89% increase and property insurance (JMAPP) increasing by 4.94%.
- Councillors and Officer Liability increased by 68.63%.

#### **Councillors and Officers Liability premium increases**

Councillors and Officers Liability (called directors & officers (D&O) in the private sector) premium have surged for 2020/21 by up to 600%, making Council's increase of 68.63% conservative. [An article](#) by insurance broker Marsh called the increases 'unprecedented' and 'unsustainable' and showed no sign of slowing, pinning much of the blame on the rapid rise of shareholder class actions bankrolled by litigation funders.

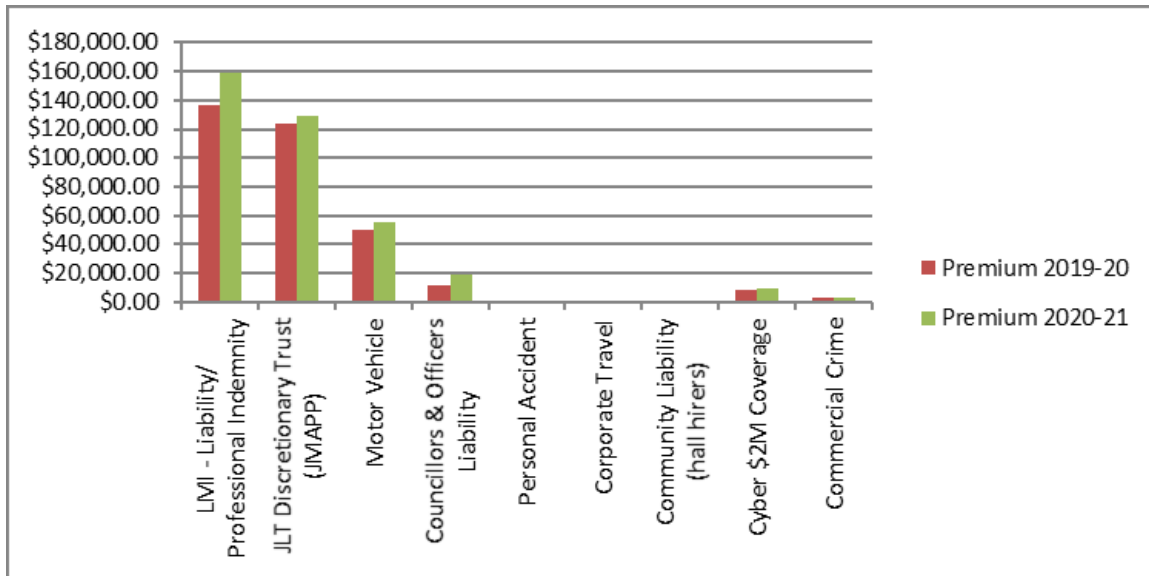
Marsh is warning that corporate Australia could face a future in which D&O insurance is no longer available or affordable, or provides the coverage expected or required. Some insurers are no longer providing cover, including Allianz, Vero, Talbot Australia and six Lloyds syndicates. Other insurers are becoming more discriminating, adding that in some cases the restrictions imposed are so onerous that they amount to a de facto withdrawal from the market.

This will be monitored over the coming 12 months but may result in Council having to self-insure for this line in future years.

### Premium 2020/21 details

Insurance has been finalised and placed for the 2020/21 financial year. Policy and premium costs are summarised below.

INSURANCE COST SUMMARY - FINAL 2020-2021					
Class of insurance	Premium		Insurer	Variance 19-20 to 20-21	
	2019-20	2020-21		%	\$
LMI - Liability/ Professional Indemnity	\$136,822.00	\$158,714.00	MAV LMI scheme	16.00%	\$21,892.00
JLT Discretionary Trust (JMAPP)	\$123,463.82	\$129,560.34	JLT	4.94%	\$6,096.52
Motor Vehicle	\$49,966.68	\$55,408.47	Vero Insurance	10.89%	\$5,441.79
Councillors & Officers Liability	\$11,245.95	\$18,964.11	XL Insurance	68.63%	\$7,718.16
Personal Accident	\$1,462.05	\$1,462.05	Chubb	9.92%	\$149.50
Corporate Travel	\$149.50	\$145.03	Chubb		
Community Liability (hall hirers)	\$855.25	\$1,236.40	QBE Insurance	44.57%	\$381.15
Cyber \$2M Coverage	\$8,448.00	\$9,270.80	Chubb	9.74%	\$822.80
Commercial Crime	\$3,013.96	\$3,300.33	Chubb	9.50%	\$286.37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$335,427.21</b>	<b>\$378,061.53</b>		12.71%	\$42,634.32



### 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.

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

Section 76A of the Local Government Act 1989 required Council to take out and maintain insurance coverage for public liability and professional indemnity (provided for by the MAV LMI scheme). This is not included in the 2020 Act, but an exemption was provided by the Minister for 2020/21.

Section 10CB of the Municipal Association Act 1907 requires the MAV to establish and manage a mutual liability insurance scheme for the purpose of providing public liability and professional indemnity insurance for the benefit of Councils.

### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

### FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Significant financial and risk implications are inherent with a poorly procured insurance program. Risks include insufficient coverage in the event of a significant disruptive event, inability to obtain appropriate insurance, and exposure to an extremely variable cost impost year on year.

### CONCLUSION

Insurance has been procured for the 2020/21 financial year through MAV/JLT with 2020/21 premiums set as above. Doubt exists for the future regarding D&O coverage, which will be monitored over the next 12-months. Council are asked to endorse payment of the 2020/21 insurance premiums, which reflect a significant hardening of the market resulting in an average increase of 12.71% over the previous year.

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the MAV/JLT procurement processes and schemes for the 2020/21 financial year and payment of the 2020/21 premiums.

## 11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

<b>Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward</b>		
<b>June</b>		
Mon 01	CEO / Mayor Meeting	Phone
Tue 02	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual
Fri 05	CHCV Meeting	Virtual
Mon 08	CEO / Mayor Meeting	Phone
Tue 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 09	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Wed 10	Telstra Mobile Cell Media Opportunity	Lexton
Mon 15	CEO / Mayor Meeting	Phone
Mon 22	GWMWater Meeting	Beaufort
Mon 29	CEO / Mayor Meeting	Phone

<b>Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward</b>		
<b>June</b>		
Tue 02	CVGA Strategic Forum	Virtual
Tue 02	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual
Tue 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 09	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Mon 22	Highlands LLEN, Committee of Management Meeting	Virtual
Sun 28	Constituent Matter	Waterloo
Mon 29	Raglan Flood Study	Virtual

<b>Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward</b>		
<b>June</b>		
Tue 02	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual
Tue 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 09	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Fri 12	RCV Meeting	Virtual
Mon 15	National Timber Councils Association Meeting	Virtual
Mon 22	GWMWater Meeting	Beaufort
Fri 26	RCV Strategic Planning Workshop	Virtual

<b>Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward</b>		
<b>June</b>		
Tue 02	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual
Thu 04	Activate Avoca Community Reference Committee Meeting	Virtual
Tue 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 09	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Mon 15	Advance Avoca Meeting	Avoca
Mon 22	GWMWater Meeting	Beaufort

<b>Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward</b>		
<b>June</b>		
Tue 02	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual
Tue 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 09	Council Meeting	Beaufort



## 12. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING INFORMATION</b>			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	2 June 2020 commenced at 3.00pm and closed at 6.30pm		
Meeting Location	Via Zoom		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Planning Application PA2946/20</b></li> <li>2. <b>Planning Application PA2946/20</b></li> <li>3. <b>Gradual Relaxation of COVID19 Restrictions – Public Venues</b></li> <li>4. <b>Community Grants</b></li> <li>5. <b>Budget Submissions and Proposed Changes to Draft Budget</b></li> <li>6. <b>Rates Analysis</b></li> <li>7. <b>Agenda Review (June Council Meeting)</b></li> </ol>		
<b>ATTENDEES</b>			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Ron Eason (4.05pm) Cr Robert Vance Cr Damian Ferrari Cr David Clark (3.19pm)		
Apologies	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer)		
Staff	Douglas Gowans (A/CEO) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Katie Gleisner (A/Director Assets and Development Services) Claire Pepin (Planning Officer) – Items 1 and 2 Martin Walmsley (Manager Community Wellbeing) – Item 4 Carmel Pethick (Community Wellbeing and Grants Coordinator) – Item 4 James Hogan (Manager Finance) – Items 5 and 6 April Ure (Property Revenue Officer) – Items 5 and 6		
Visitors	James Iles (iPlanning Services) – Item 1		
<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES</b>			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
4: Community Grants	Cr David Clark	Has an association with the Lexton Landcare Group and the Waubra Recreation Reserve	Logged out of the virtual meeting at 4.24pm and re-joined at 4.39pm

<b>MEETING INFORMATION</b>			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	9 June 2020 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	Onsite visit in Beaufort at 1.00pm Beaufort Council Chambers at 1.30pm		
Item Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Avoca Streetscape</b></li> <li>2. <b>Implementation of Local Government Act (virtual)</b></li> <li>3. <b>Draft Budget Discussion</b></li> <li>4. <b>Agenda Review (June Council Meeting)</b></li> </ol>		
<b>ATTENDEES</b>			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Ron Eason Cr Robert Vance	Cr Damian Ferrari Cr David Clark	
Apologies	Nil		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Asset and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Katie Gleisner (Manager Planning and Development Services) – Item 1 James Hogan (Manager Finance) – Item 3 April Ure (Property Revenue Officer) – Item 3		
Visitors	Kate Oliver (Maddocks) – Item 2		
<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES</b>			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

**CR CLARK / CR VANCE**

That the items for noting be received.

**CARRIED**

## 13. ITEMS FOR DECISION

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

#### 13.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**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:** 22/02/02

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform council about responses to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on small businesses and seek endorsement of future recovery activities by the Economic Development Unit.

#### BACKGROUND

A state of emergency was announced by the Victorian Government on 16 March in response to impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Stage three restrictions were announced on 28 March and consequently there was closure of school camps, cafes, hotels, and cellar doors and Victorian residents were limited to four reasons that they could leave their homes. These were to:-

- Buy food
- Access medical support and supplies
- Exercise
- Go to work where it was not possible to work from home. Where people can work from home they must continue to do so at the time of drafting this report

A relaxation of stage three restrictions came into effect on 1 June.

On 14 June it was announced that from 22 June a further easing of restrictions was planned for social events, ceremonies, community services, sport and exercise, cafes and restaurants, travel, and entertainment.

Subsequent to this announcement the level of infections has increased in Melbourne and at the time of developing this report stage three restrictions are in place again for metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire. Interstate travel to and from Victoria is banned to all states and territories with exceptions for communities along border areas which require people to hold permits to cross the border.

The impacts on the tourism sector, local cafes and hotels has been significant to date and although June was a buoyant month for many of these businesses and recovery appeared to be in sight, the recent lock down of the metropolitan area has seen many cancelled accommodation bookings with Pyrenees operators.

Figures released by the Australian Taxation Office advise that between 30 March and up to 26 April between four and six percent of employees (80 to 120 people) with jobs in the Shire were on the Commonwealth Governments Jobkeeper program.

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census data there were 2,843 Pyrenees residents in the workforce whether working within or outside of the Shire boundaries. ABS payroll data as at 5/5/ 2020 indicates there are 256 less Pyrenees residents currently employed representing a 9% decline in employment since the Census. These movements are consistent with other municipalities in the Central Highlands. The major employment sectors in the Shire are agriculture, manufacturing (predominantly wine making), Construction and Tourism.

The table below has been developed from Remplan data which is based on ABS sources. It summarises the estimated movement in job numbers within the Shire between the 2016 census/pre COVID period and May 2020.

Table 1 Pyrenees Shire Jobs, Pre and Post Covid-19

Industry Sector	2016 jobs	May 2020 jobs	Variation	%
Agriculture	589	562	27	4.6
Manufacturing	163	148	15	9.2
Construction	134	122	12	8.9
Retail	126	97	29	23.0
Accommodation and Food	128	84	44	34.4
Other industries (including education, health, public administration and safety and various private sector industries)	861	782	79	9.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>1795</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>10.3%</b>

In response to the pandemic emergency the Economic Development Team initiated a number of actions from the first phase of the lock down as outlined below.

#### Contacts with Businesses and Event Organisations

Individual phone contacts with businesses commenced at the beginning of April and continued until early June when restrictions began to relax and there was evidence of growing business confidence.

These contacts were made to establish what impacts there were on jobs and turnover at a local level and to ensure businesses were receiving professional advice from their accountant or business adviser on the various government support initiatives such as Jobkeeper and the Victorian Governments Business Support Fund. The support of the Small Business Mentoring Service has also been promoted during this time.

Recent contacts have been maintained with tourism and hospitality operators whose operating hours are being updated and promoted on the tourism website [www.visitpyrenees.com.au](http://www.visitpyrenees.com.au).

Total business contacts to 8/7/2020 were 111. While these have predominantly been focused on those within the tourism industry it has also included small scale food producers who depend on local farmers markets and hospitality venues to sell their products, most of which were forced to close. On line marketing options have become an alternative for some of these businesses while many local hospitality venues starting to sell take away meals.

The response to these contacts has been positive. While most businesses have experienced a downturn some have had some pleasant surprises with solid demand for take away meals. Many have been in survival mode and were looking forward to the further relaxation of restrictions at the end of June which was generating a sense of optimism by mid-June.

Job Keeper payments have been used to retain a number of staff at local businesses as mentioned earlier in this report. This was contributing to a positive outlook until the increased level of infections arose in Melbourne in late June and early July causing Stage Three restrictions to be imposed on the Melbourne metropolitan councils and Mitchell Shire.

Contacts have been made with seventeen event organisations to learn of the impact of restrictions on their financial status and on members of these groups, and to offer Councils support where possible. There are a number of event organisations who are dependent on income from their events and who are suffering financially. Recent announcements of funding to the arts sector are being investigated at the time of this report.

With limits on mass gatherings at present, the ability to hold events may be some time away yet and investigations are being made by staff into hosting events using digital formats to see whether this is a viable option.

### Business Communications

Fortnightly Enews newsletters have been forwarded since early April to all Pyrenees businesses where an email address is available from the Australian Business Registrar.

The newsletters have carried information about government support programs, announcements about changes to restrictions and details of support from other agencies such as Commerce Ballarat, Small Business Mentoring Service and peak tourism bodies. Fortnightly mail outs continued until early June and have subsequently been scheduled for monthly distribution.

A tourism Enews has been in place for some time and now includes Covid19 updates specific to tourism operators and the visitor economy. These are to be sent fortnightly from the end of June rather than six weekly as was the case before the pandemic.

A Covid-19 Business Support page on the Council website was established at the beginning of the medical emergency to provide details of government and other support available to small business as mentioned in newsletters.

These have also been promoted through Facebook, public notices in local papers and via telephone contacts.

### Promoting Local Businesses

The [www.visitpyrenees.com.au](http://www.visitpyrenees.com.au) tourism website has been used to promote hours that tourism businesses have been operating.

A Buy Local Campaign was held during April in which 13 businesses participated.

On line wine sales by local wineries have also been promoted through council's tourism unit using electronic media.

The team has continued working with City of Ballarat under the tourism MOU to garner support for promotion of Pyrenees tourism.

A tourism marketing strategy has recently been developed which also encompasses a Covid-19 recovery focus. This strategy will assist guide the marketing and tourism promotional activities moving forward.

### Central Highlands Regional Response

The Economic Development unit Initiated a Central Highlands economic development Covid-19 forum that started to meet every nine to ten days from 18 March. This forum consists of economic development professionals from eight local governments across the region, includes Commerce Ballarat and State Government representatives, so that information can gathered and shared. A number of initiatives have been developed by LGA's including this council as a result of this forum and Regional Development Victoria are using these meetings to gather data and to brief LGA staff on the Victorian Governments economic

response such as the \$1.7B economic survival and jobs package and other measures as they have become available.

### Infrastructure Initiatives

Council has submitted details of twelve priority infrastructure projects valued at approximately \$19M to the State Government for consideration of funding under its infrastructure program.

In addition to the above the local economy will benefit from the flow on effects of a range of infrastructure initiatives that are currently being delivered as follows:-

- \$2M drought program projects funded by the Commonwealth Government
- \$1.3M from the Commonwealth Government stimulus package
- Completion of the final stages of the Correa Park residential development of forty residential blocks. Approximately \$1M has been allocated by council for this work.

### Working for Victoria

This program is a Victorian Government initiative to support people who have lost jobs due to the impacts on organisations of Covid-19.

Council is currently seeking the support of this program to engage up to 15 temporary staff to assist with council's recovery response to Covid-19. These positions will comprise a combination of indoor and outdoor staff as reported in the Covid-19 update agenda item.

### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

The most significant impacts for small business are those on the tourism sector whether they be in hospitality, accommodation, cellar doors or event organisations.

Moving forward from early July 2020 it is planned to establish a Covid-19 Economic Task Force consisting of two council and up to eight industry representatives. The purpose of the task force is to coordinate economic recovery activities, and support businesses of the Pyrenees Shire to manage their own recovery following the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Specifically this includes:-

- Coordinating activities to meet economic development needs
- Providing ongoing opportunities for participation and consultation with the business community.
- Identifying and acting upon immediate priorities and emerging issues.
- Gathering and dissemination of information to the whole community.
- Advocating for the businesses community in their recovery efforts at a local, regional and state level.
- Providing specific and targeted feedback on a range of related issues to Council and other government bodies
- Provide an additional mechanism for communicating information to the business community
- Provide knowledge on local issues and initiatives and generate creative ideas and solutions to assist economic recovery

The task force will be supported by Councils' Economic Development and Tourism Manager and Tourism Officer for administrative purposes with an independent industry based chair to be appointed.

Small business phone contacts will be increased again to monitor economic conditions. This information and that from the Economic Task Force will assist inform council and representatives of higher levels of government of the support that may be required.

Communications will be developed to build on the business database and expand the mailing lists for ENews distribution. This will be combined with regular updates of the council website, Facebook page, print mediums and other communications as necessary.

The Tourism Marketing Strategy identifies a number of actions for council to focus on and will form an important foundation for tourism promotion into the future.

There will also be a focus on delivering the priority actions listed in the recently adopted Towards 10,000-Economic Development Strategy as the demand for economic development responses to the pandemic allows.

### **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**

13.1.1 Tourism Marketing Strategy (*circulated separately*)

### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

The Covid-19 Economic Task Force will be administered within existing staff resources (two staff proposed) and the 2020/21 budget for Economic Development.

Activities identified in the tourism marketing strategy will likewise be accommodated within budget allocations for tourism promotion for 2020/21.

### **CONCLUSION**

While local businesses were seeing signs of economic revival towards the end of June, the imposition of Stage Three Lock Down conditions on the Melbourne metropolitan area and the Mitchell shire has caused the recovery to stall at the time of drafting this report.

The duration and extent of restrictions moving forward is unknown due to the rapid changes being experienced with infections in Victoria at present.

The guidance of an Economic Task Force provides a mechanism to collaborate with industry stakeholders impacted by the pandemic and formulate actions which respond to the economic downturn.

The Tourism Marketing Strategy will provide a foundation for promotional activity for the benefit of local tourism businesses.

### **CR VANCE / CR CLARK**

That Council:

1. Endorses the establishment of an Economic Task Force; and
2. Endorses the Tourism Marketing Strategy

**CARRIED**

## ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### 13.2 BENDIGO BANK FOOTPATH ALTERATIONS

**Ed Riley – Strategic Planning Officer**

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

**File No:** 66/19/06

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of a proposed change to the footpath outside of 125 High Street, Avoca in order to provide an all-abilities access to the property.

#### BACKGROUND

The Avoca District Co-operative (also known as the Avoca Community Bank and the Bendigo Bank) is the current tenant of 125 High Street, Avoca, which is a building situated in Avoca's Heritage Precinct as defined in the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. 125 High Street is not individually listed in the Heritage Overlay, but it has distinctive architectural details and has been in continuous use as a Bank since its construction. The property is also within Schedule 1 to our Planning Scheme's Design and Development Overlay, which provides protection for potentially flood-prone areas. There is also a private dwelling within the property.

The building does not comply with current access guidelines, particularly those of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*: the two front steps limit access for people with mobility issues. **(See Attachments 13.2.1 and 13.2.2.)** The owner of the building has appointed an architect experienced in access compliance issues. The architect awaited Council's adoption of the Avoca Streetscape Plan before engaging with officers to enable the works to be undertaken in line with the adopted Plan. The works will not be funded by Council, and will go ahead only if supported by Council and finished to Council specifications.

Discussions have been ongoing between the architect, officers, and Council's retained structural engineer to address the access issue. Four options have been considered:

1. the provision of an access ramp and railings on the footpath at the building frontage;
2. the provision of an access ramp and railings external within the property at the right-hand side (north) of the building;
3. remove the stepped access and create internal ramps, and
4. the raising of the footpath across the full length of the building frontage, to include a new grassed area parallel to the Highway.

The preferred approach of the building owner, the Bank, and the architect is Option 4. **(See Attachments 13.2.3 and 13.2.4.)**

Drawings and a supporting explanation for the proposed works have been on display in the Bank since 1 July 2020. Although not subject of a formal planning application, the process has been treated similarly: community members with comments have been asked to submit those to the Planning team. A notification was placed in the Pyrenees Advocate and the project was advertised on Council's website and Facebook page. At the date of writing this report, no submissions have been received.

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council is the public land manager for Avoca's footpaths. Although officers have delegated decision-making capacity to manage works on the footpaths, the works proposed will (if undertaken) represent a private sector organisation investment in the public realm. As such, officers are seeking a Council decision on how to proceed with the works.



Normally, it is expected that access improvements be undertaken on privately owned land. Officers - together with Council's retained structural engineer - pressed the architect for such a solution, which resulted in the four Options described above. The issues arising from those Options are set out below:

Option 1 – access ramp on footpath

This was dismissed by all parties. The architect believes that such detailing is inappropriate for this building because it has been designed with a clear entry point. He also states: *“Access should be natural, simple and unobtrusive in practice. The DDA requires equality, dignity and independence”*. Officers agree this approach is inappropriate – it would introduce street furniture incompatible with the heritage values of the area, and would also create an additional hazard and maintenance costs.

Option 2 – access ramp at side entrance

The architect has stated that this is not practicable for various reasons. First, the current internal arrangement of the building would need to be rearranged. Second, external alterations would include the removal of air conditioning units, modifications to the gate, and the creation of a ramp with compliant safety features (handrails; ramps; tactile surfaces), presenting similar design concerns to those of Option 1. Third, the side access provides a private area for the residents of the dwelling within the property, and external modifications to provide the access here would reduce residents' privacy and provide a security concern for the Bank.

Option 3 – internal alterations

The architect has stated that this would require substantial modifications to the existing internal floor structure. With compliant safety features, it is estimated this Option would take up about 15% of the Banking Hall, which the architect considers *“a considerable intrusion...in an already small room”*.

Option 4 – raising footpath (see Attachments 3 and 4)

This could be seen to set a precedent for the streetscene, and could raise possible flood management issues. Raising the footpath as proposed could present inconsistencies in appearance and ease of movement. There are 30 commercial premises in the High Street and there may be expectations that this will be an acceptable way to approach all access issues, which will not be the case.

This has been presented as the preferred approach by the landlord, architect, and the Bank. The increase in footpath height would produce a maximum slope grade 1:22 across the frontage (and in some areas as low as 1:29), well within acceptable accessibility standards. The architect is clear that this alteration would not comprise a ramp and moreover would not require any other modifications to the public realm. Floodwater can be directed into a legal point of discharge through appropriate design.

The Executive Officer of the tenant has expressed their full support for the proposed works, noting that the current access presents issues for those customers who are elderly, have disabilities, or are with prams.

Option 1 is considered unacceptable for the reasons stated. Options 2 and 3 are more favourable, but also present practical difficulties that, it is considered, outweigh the benefits of each. Option 4 represents an acceptable outcome given the specific circumstances of this site. Those circumstances include the heritage value of the building and its current fit-out, which, given the security requirements of a commercial bank, need to be considered in any renovation work.

## **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.

1.2 - Maintain and renew Council's facilities and built assets in line with community service needs.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 13.2.1 Works Description (*circulated separately*)
- 13.2.2 Current footpath from above
- 13.2.3 Proposed design of frontage
- 13.2.4 Proposed footpath from above

## **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Council will be responsible for maintaining the footpath should the proposed works go ahead. The footpath is already on Council's register. The works will not be financed by Council.

The works will result in a change to the footpath topography that would be unusual in Avoca's High Street. However, the grade change is within acceptable tolerances and should not result in an unduly adverse outcome for pedestrians.

## **CONCLUSION**

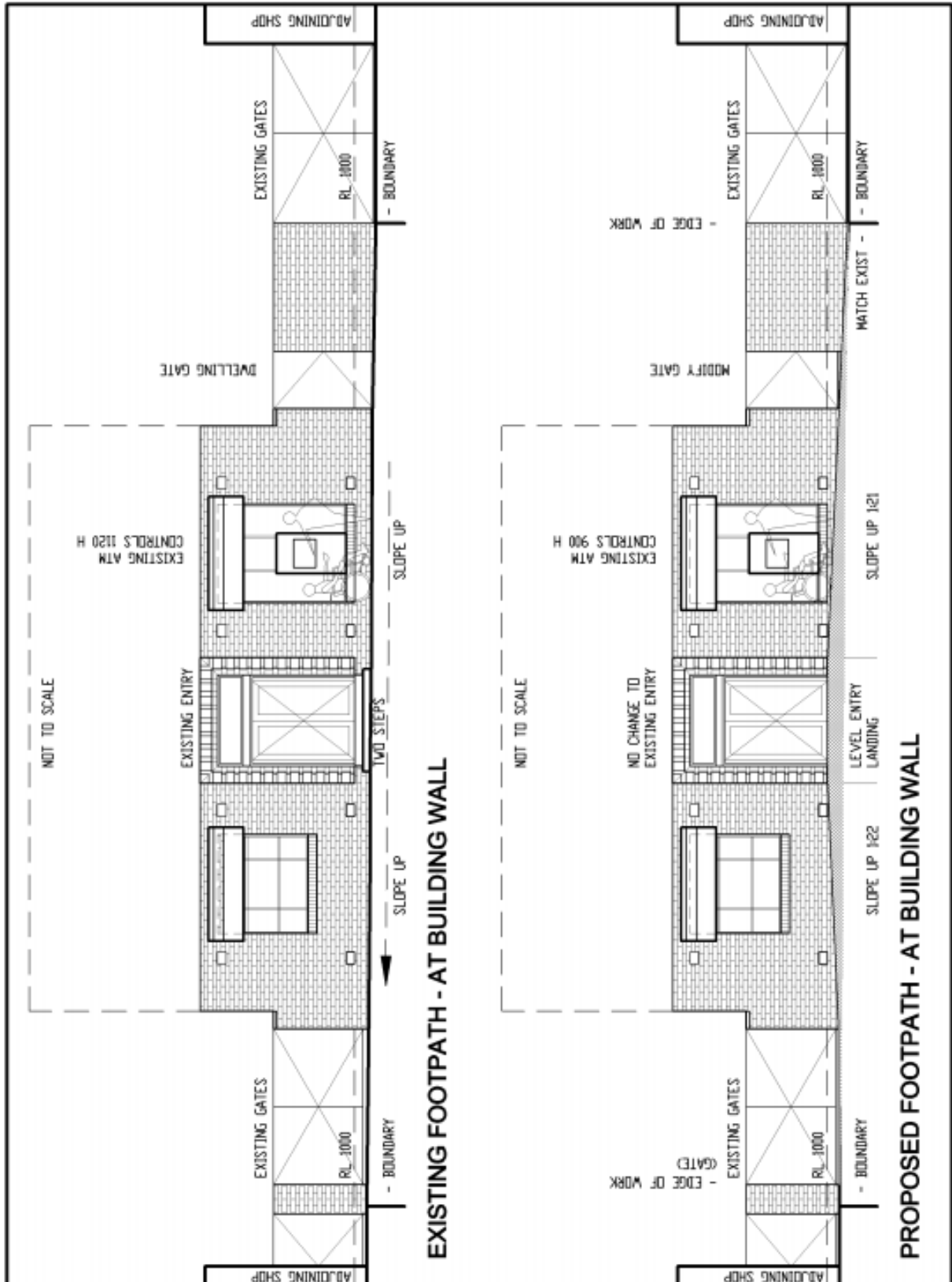
Council has discretion to support works on land it manages where it can be demonstrated that those works will not harm the streetscene and will not set an undesirable precedent. It is concluded that the unique circumstances of this situation provide Council with the opportunity to reasonably exercise that discretion by endorsing Option 4, and by supporting officers' continued involvement in the project to ensure construction works are undertaken in line with Council specifications.

## **CR EASON / CR FERRARI**

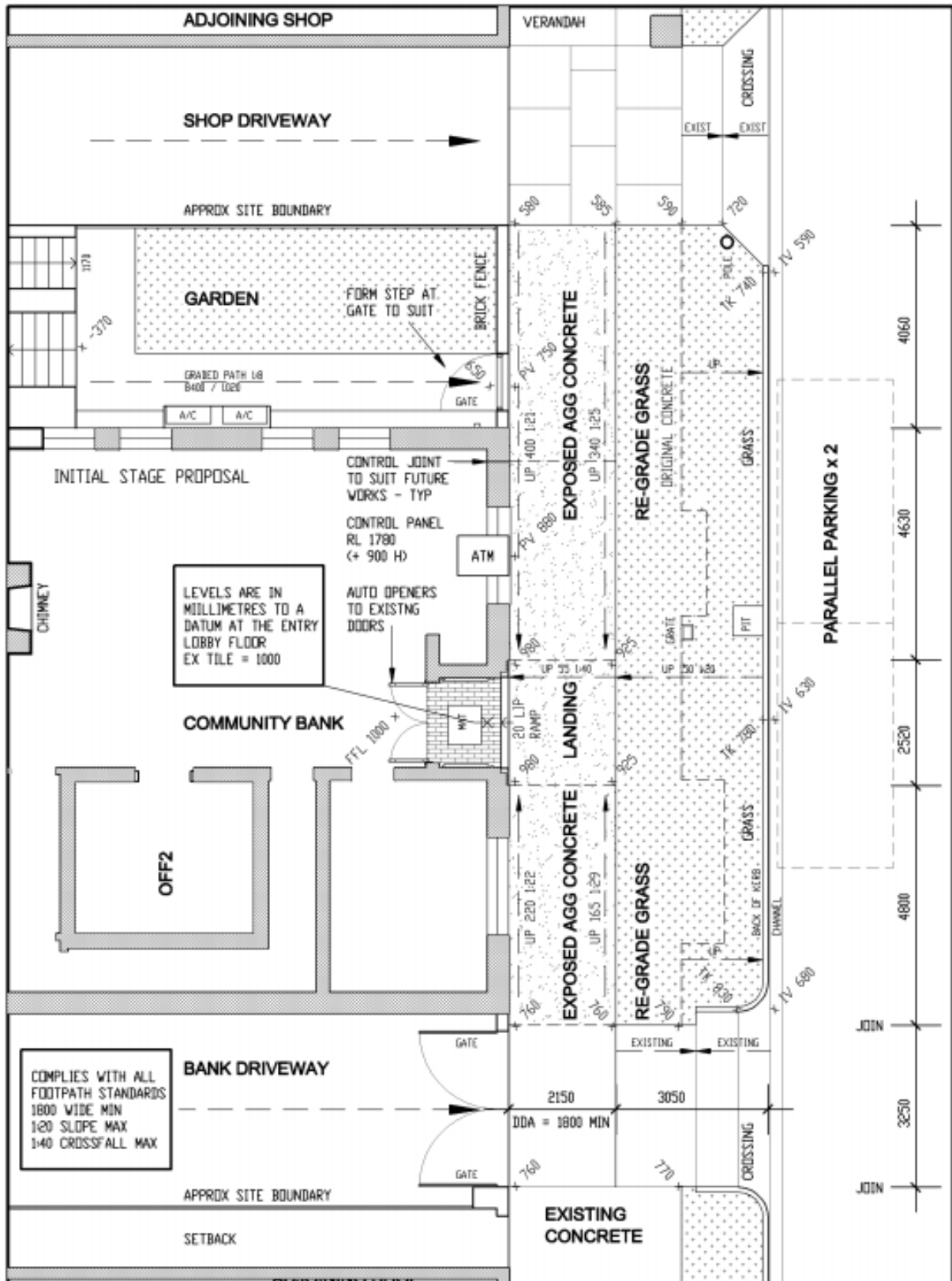
That Council:

1. Endorses the proposed changes to the footpath as shown in the Attachments in this Report; and
2. Authorises officers to ensure the project is delivered as per those Attachments and to ensure any construction works are undertaken in line with Council specifications.

**CARRIED**



<b>FOOTPATH ALTERATIONS COMMUNITY BANK 123 HIGH STREET AVOCA</b>	<b>ELEVATIONS</b>		<p><b>VINCENT McDONALD</b> <b>ARCHITECT</b> ABN 24 375 939 287 33 BLACKFELLOWS LANE HILLCREST VIC 3351 03 5344 9542</p>
		<p>0      1:100 @ A4      5m</p> <p>20 JUNE 2020</p> <p><b>AFA 081</b>      <b>F03</b></p>	



**FOOTPATH ALTERATIONS**  
**COMMUNITY BANK**  
123 HIGH STREET  
AVOCA



**PROPOSED PLAN**  
0 1:100 @ A4 5m  
20 JUNE 2020  
AFA 081 F02



**VINCENT McDONALD**  
**ARCHITECT**  
ABN 24 375 939 287  
33 BLACKFELLOWS LANE  
HILLCREST VIC 3351  
03 5344 9542

### **13.3 WASTE TRANSITION PLAN**

**Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development Services**

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

**File No:** 68/10/08

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support for undertaking a transition plan for waste and recycling services due to proposed state-wide changes in the sector.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In February 2020, the Victorian Government announced significant reforms to household recycling to ensure Victoria is well placed to transition to a circular economy. The reforms are proposed to ensure a viable and sustainable waste and recycling sector.

The first stage of reforms will require councils to participate in transition planning. This is an important step where council will need to describe their current service model and the actions that will need to be implemented to deliver household recycling reforms.

The reforms require councils to provide a four 'bin' model or access to an equivalent service for:

- The separate collection of glass, with a purple lid by 2027;
- Comingled recycling for paper, plastic and metals, with a yellow lid;
- Collection services for food organics and garden organics, with a light green lid by 2030; and
- Residual garbage collection, with a red lid.

The Victorian Government has committed \$129 million to reform household recycling which will support councils to develop transition plans, implement the reform to collection systems and support the reform with behaviour change programs. There will also be the introduction of a container deposit scheme.

To access funding council will need to:

- Register their intent to develop transition plans and transition current council services to comply with Victorian Government reforms by the end of July 2020;
- Prepare and submit 'draft' transition plans by the end of September 2020;
- Work with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (WRRG) to identify models of procurement to support reform and create a viable and sustainable recycling system; and
- Undertake community engagement on the final transition plan in line with the council's community engagement policy (as adopted under the Local Government Act 2020 by 1 March 2021) and seek appropriate council approval of the proposed service changes prior to the submission of final plans.

Transition plans are required to assist DELWP develop a comprehensive statewide transition plan to inform the orderly and timely transition to new service arrangements.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

The waste and recycling reform program has four main elements

- Developing a comprehensive Transition Plan
- Transition to standardised household recycling service (new bins and lids)
- Upgrades to regional and rural transfer stations to manage additional collection infrastructure; and
- Associated education and behaviour change to facilitate the transition.

For kerbside collections, Council will not be required as part of this reform to standardise the colour of the bin body, size of the bin provided, or collection frequency.

Timing will be informed by the needs of the local community and is envisaged to align with existing council contracts.

Council will need to have a new separate glass service fully in place by 2027, and services for food organics and garden organics by 2030. However, it is envisaged that Pyrenees Shire Council will progress towards implementation of a household glass collection as part of the next kerbside contract which at this stage is scheduled for implementation from 1 July 2021. It is officers view that food organics needs further investigation and may need to be implemented beyond the next waste contract.

## **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Strategic Objective 5 - Environment

5.1 - Implement the municipal waste management plan to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and to encourage recycling.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

13.3.1 Transition Planning Guidance (*circulated separately*)

## **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Funding is available to assist council to roll out these new services to residents within the municipality. Funding will be provided toward the costs for:

- Development of the transition plan
- Provision of bins for glass and food organics and garden organics, either kerbside or other collection points
- Minor works to reconfigure rural/regional transfer stations to accommodate the new collection service
- Implementation of local education programs to support the new services

Funding will not be provided for:

- Existing collection services
- Upgrades to collection systems not associated with kerbside reform, e.g. eWaste, infrastructure upgrades, addressing existing compliance requirements, street sweeping etc.

## **CONCLUSION**

Waste and Recycling services are a core service of Council and are reliant on the region and the State to ensure that there are markets for recycled material and standardised service arrangements.

## **CR FERRARI / CR CLARK**

That Council supports Council officers to prepare a transition plan for waste and recycling services.

**CARRIED**

## **CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **13.4 ADOPTION OF REVISED DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21 AND RATING STRATEGY ADDENDUM 2020**

**James Hogan – Manager Finance**

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

**File No:** 32/08/18

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the revised draft Budget 2020/21 and Rating Strategy Addendum 2020 for adoption, in accordance with obligations in the *Local Government Acts 1989 and 2020*.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Local Government Acts of 1989 and 2020 require Council to prepare a budget for each financial year and provide opportunity to the community to provide feedback and make a submission under section 223 of the 1989 Act on any proposal contained in the budget.

The budget is the tool that guides Council operations throughout a 12-month period and articulates the reasoning behind the many decisions Council has made to arrive at the point in its budget deliberations.

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Council endorsed a draft budget to be exhibited for community consultation and feedback. Feedback on the draft budget highlighted a significant shift in the rate burden from the residential sector to the farming sector. In response to this feedback, Council proposed deviating from the existing 2019 Rating Strategy regarding its differential levels between rating categories.

The rating strategy was revised in May 2020, adding an Addendum to the 2019 document adjusting rating differentials to redistribute the rating burden more evenly across all assessments. It was considered that the change to the original draft budget, and changes to the rating strategy, were deemed significant and, in the interests of public transparency, at its meeting in June 2020 Council resolved to republish the revised draft and budget and draft rating strategy addendum 2020 for further public consultation.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

##### **Further community consultation**

The revised Draft Budget 2020/21 and Draft Rating Strategy Addendum 2020 were re-exhibited for further public consultation and feedback from 10<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The draft documents were published on Council's website, provided in hard copy for inspection at Council's front public counters, and available for provision upon request. The community was advised that submissions could be submitted up to 5pm Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020, and that upon request submissions could be presented to Council on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

No public submissions were received during the additional community consultation during June/July 2020.

##### **Budget overview**

The budget 2020/21 includes a rate increase of 2.00%, being the rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government under the Fair Go Rates System. Council resolved in late 2019 not to apply for a rate cap increase for the 2020/21 financial year.

Rate revenue from rate increases above the rate cap in previous years are reserved for capital expenditure on road infrastructure asset renewal. To balance the remaining budget, Council continues to pursue operational savings and efficiencies to enable delivery of high quality, responsive and accessible services to our community.

Responding to the rapid 2020 valuation increases in the farming sector of the Pyrenees Shire, Councillors proposed a deviation from the rating strategy adopted by Council in January 2019. The alteration of rating

differentials allows Council to redistribute the increased rating burden more evenly across all rating assessments. The revised draft budget 2020/21 has been prepared in line with the draft Rating Strategy Addendum 2020.

Council's waste management service is fully funded by waste service and user charges. The 2020/21 charge includes additional costs related to glass collection and disposal, e-waste collection and disposal, and an increase in the EPA Levy. Residents with kerbside collections will experience a 16% increase in their garbage charges, residents on improved properties without kerbside collections will experience a 27% increase in their garbage charges, and unimproved properties will have no increase in garbage charges.

The revised draft budget 2020/21 includes Capital Works of \$7.042 million. Highlights of the 2020/21 Capital Program include:

- Gravel roads \$953,000
- Reseals at various locations \$846,000
- Council-funded bridge and drainage works of \$708,000
- Road to Recovery funded works of \$2.09 million
- Swimming pool upgrades of \$60,000

The revised draft budget also includes \$1 million in projects to be delivered under the second round of economic stimulus funding for drought effected communities. Projects to be delivered with the assistance of this funding include:

- Round 1 funding:
  - Improved water infrastructure \$280,000
  - Footpath improvements \$150,000
  - Sewer extension at Carngham recreation reserve \$90,000
  - Caravan park improvements \$270,000
  - Car park at Natte Yallock recreation reserve \$110,000
  - Future Building in Small Towns \$100,000
- Round 2 funding:
  - Avoca Bowls Club facility upgrade \$275,000
  - Footpath improvements \$100,000
  - Hall improvements \$250,000
  - Beaufort Lake foreshore amenity improvements \$125,000
  - Tree planting \$50,000
  - Improved water infrastructure \$95,000
  - Snake Valley Linear Park – paths \$60,000
  - Waubra recreation reserve – tennis facility upgrade \$45,000

The focus for 2020/21 is to continue delivering on projects and services that make the Pyrenees Shire a great place to live, work and invest in, and respond to the challenges we are current facing, including:

- Ongoing rate capping environment
- State government cost shifting
- Maintaining our road infrastructure
- Climate change impacts
- COVID-19 impacts

The revised draft Budget 2020/21 and the Rating Strategy 2020 Addendum are attached for Council consideration and adoption is now requested.



## 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.

## ATTACHMENTS

13.4.1 Revised draft Budget 2020/21 (*circulated separately*)

13.4.2 Draft Rating Strategy 2020 Addendum (*circulated separately*)

## FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications associated with this report have been accounted for within the associated revised draft Budget 2020/21.

## CONCLUSION

The revised draft Budget 2020/21 has been developed in alignment with the Revised Council Plan 2017-2021, and the draft Rating Strategy 2020 Addendum. The proposed budget as tabled provides guidance on how Council intends to deliver its strategic objectives over the next 12 months.

## CR CLARK / CR VANCE

That Council:

1. Having considered submissions to the revised draft Budget 2020/21 and the draft Rating Strategy 2020 Addendum, resolves:
  - a. To adopt the Budget 2020/21, being the budget prepared for the 2020/21 financial year in accordance with s.127 of the Local Government Act 1989.
  - b. To adopt the Rating Strategy 2020 Addendum.
  - c. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer to give notice of the decision to adopt such budget in accordance with s.130(2) of the Local Government Act 1989.
  - d. To acknowledge the contribution of submitters to the budget process and thank them for their contribution.
  - e. To authorise officers to provide a formal response to each submitter.
  - f. That the following details are provided in relation to the 2020/21 budget:
    - i. Disclosure that as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the total amount borrowed by the Pyrenees Shire council will be \$nil.
    - ii. There will be no new borrowings proposed for the 2020/21 financial year.
    - iii. Having considered the final valuations certified by the Minister, the proposed rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be as follows:

Type of Rate	Cents/\$CIV
--------------	-------------

Vacant Land under 2 Hectares	1.0535
Vacant Land between 2 and 40 Hectares	0.8343
Vacant Land greater than 40 Hectares	0.5562
Houses, Flats etc.	0.3559
Commercial	0.3915
Industrial	0.3915
Undevelopable land	0.3559
Farms	0.2634
Recreational and Cultural	0.1780

- g. To apply a rebate to all properties classified as Cultural and Recreational Land.
  - h. Not to raise a Municipal Charge.
  - i. Proposes to levy a Waste Facilities/Disposal Charge of \$276.00 for the period 1st July, 2020 to 30th June, 2021 on improved properties, and a Waste Facilities Levy of \$61.00 for the period 1st July, 2020 to 30th June, 2021 on unimproved properties. Owners of “farm rated” properties will pay a maximum of three “unimproved charges” for farm rate properties upon application.
  - j. To levy a Kerbside Garbage, Recycling and Green Waste collection service of \$436 on those properties receiving a service in the Beaufort and Avoca kerbside collection districts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
  - k. To levy a Kerbside Garbage and Recycling collection service of \$436 in the other urban townships and rural areas for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
2. That the general rates and service charges referred to in this recommendation shall be levied by the service of a notice on each person liable to pay such rate or charge in accordance with s.158 of the Local Government Act 1989.
  3. That the rates and charges declared by the Council for 2020/21 financial year must be paid as follows:
    - a. By four instalments made on or before the following dates:
      - i. Instalment 1 – 30 September 2020
      - ii. Instalment 2 – 30 November 2020
      - iii. Instalment 3 – 28 February 2021
      - iv. Instalment 4 – 31 May 2021

OR

    - b. By a lump sum payment made on or before 15 February 2021.
  4. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and annual service charges in accordance with the Local Government Acts 1989 and 2020.

**CARRIED**

### **13.5 ROAD RENAMING NP36 – MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD, MOONAMBEL**

**April Ure – Property Revenue Officer**

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

**File No:** 58/02/08

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is for Council to give notice of its intent to rename a section of Mountain View Road, north of Moonambel to remove confusion and allow for the recent extension of Mountain View Road.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The recent extension of Mountain View Road to the north has resulted in the need to rename an existing west bound portion of Mountain View Road to remove confusion with property addresses.

Emergency services, postal services and other public service providers rely on roads names being officially registered and signed, therefore it is important that the extension of Mountain View Road be clarified and a section of the existing road that heads west be renamed to reduce confusion with property addresses.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

In accordance with Pyrenees Shire Council Policy 'Principles on Road Naming', Clause 4.1(a), it is proposed to rename a section of Mountain View Road, north of Moonambel. This section of road heads west from the north bound portion of Mountain View Road that has recently been extended further north beyond the turn. The northern extension of Mountain View Road provides access to two properties and the west bound portion of the road provides access to three properties that will now need to be re-addressed.

To commence the naming of this road the following road name is suggested:

#### **GODDARD LANE**

The name, Goddard Lane, honours an early settler, E. Goddard, who in 1875 purchased a parcel of land near the southern end of Mountain View Road and meets category 1 of the 'Principles on Road Naming' Policy. The road type Lane meets the standard in describing a cul-de-sac and the name is unique in the 30-kilometre buffer zone around this location.

An alternative name, Breame Lane, has been considered as it too honours an early settler who in 1892 purchased a parcel of land that is close to Mountain View Road, however it will require 'in-principle support' from the Registrar of Geographic Names as the VicNames search identified Browne Track as a potential duplicate of similar sound. Alternative historic names shown on the Parish Plan were also considered, however Bonsor, Tormey, Greene and Adams were all duplicate names of existing roads within a 30km radius.

Goddard Lane is the preferred name due to the ease of spelling and pronunciation and the uniqueness within the 30-kilometre radius.

Consideration has also been given to providing an alternate name to the recent extension of Mountain View Road to the north, rather than renaming the westbound portion of Mountain View Road, however this approach will also require readdressing of three existing properties and may cause confusion for emergency services as Mountain View Road would have a change of direction.

To commence the naming process a resolution is required from council to consult with the community on renaming a section of Mountain View Road and an initial suggested road name, Goddard Lane.

## **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.

This proposal complies with:

- Pyrenees Shire Council – Principles on Road Naming policy.
- Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features, and localities 2016.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

13.5.1 Plan - NP36 Proposal to rename a section of Mountain View Road

## **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Costs for the naming of the road can be accommodated within the limits of Council's operating budget.

## **CONCLUSION**

The naming of new roads and accurate addressing is important to ensure that residents can be located by emergency services and to receive mail. To mitigate the risk of errors, Council needs to comply with the 'Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities, 2016,' and the Australian Standards for Signing and Rural and Urban Addressing.

To remove confusion with the property addresses, Council are asked to consider the proposed renaming of an existing west bound portion of Mountain View Road.

## **CR VANCE / CR EASON**

That Council:

1. Commences the process to rename a section of Mountain View Road as Goddard Lane.
2. Seeks approval from GeoNames to proceed with the use of the name Goddard Lane.
3. Gives public notice of the proposed renaming and ask for public submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
4. Writes to affected landowners advising of the road naming proposal and the invitation for public submissions.

**CARRIED**

### 13.6 OUTSTANDING RATES AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

**April Ure – Property Revenue Officer**

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

**File No:** 52/04/02

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update of Rates and Charges currently outstanding as at 30 June 2020.

#### BACKGROUND

This report on rate arrears is to provide Council further information. Listed below is a comparison of rate arrears outstanding at the end of the financial year for the past six years.

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The table below compares the rate arrears for the past 6 years:

Year	Amount	% Outstanding Against Rates Raised with Arrears
Current year ending 30/06/2020	\$548,706.07	4.86
Year ending 30/06/2019	\$500,186.57	4.51
Year ending 30/06/2018	\$592,972.21	5.39
Year ending 30/06/2017	\$489,450.22	4.66
Year ending 30/06/2016	\$532,113.42	5.36
Year ending 30/06/2015	\$391,465.74	4.19

(Note: For the purpose of this report, all properties with a credit balance (totalling \$176,577.76) have been excluded from the calculation, and the amount of Fire Service Property Levy that is outstanding has been included. As at the 30 June 2020, an amount of \$67,277.34 remains outstanding for Fire Services Property Levy which is included in the figure mentioned above.)

The Property Revenue team are currently working to reduce the level of outstanding Rates and Charges, with following breakdown of accounts:

	Total Outstanding	Number of Assessments	% of Raised (\$11296240.65)	% of Outstanding (\$548706.07)
<b>Instalments Payments Outstanding</b>	\$48,167.07	129	0.43%	8.78%
<b>Council Arrangement</b>	\$75,925.14	89	0.67%	13.84%
<b>Hardship</b>	\$41,362.63	11	0.37%	7.54%
<b>Debt Collection (Existing)</b>	\$83,537.63	18	0.74%	15.22%
<b>Debt Collection (New Lodgement)</b>	\$239,868.54	150	2.12%	43.72%
<b>Minor Balance</b>	\$24,577.50	124	0.22%	4.48%
<b>Unassigned (Closed Debt Collection)</b>	\$35,267.56	13	0.31%	6.43%

In line with Council's response to COVID-19, legal action has been suspended on all accounts with the Debt Collection Agencies. Hardship status has been assigned to 11 assessments (8 relating to the Lexton-Ben Major bushfires that occurred in December 2019, and 3 in response to COVID-19). Together, these instances have resulted in higher balance outstanding compared to previous reports.

### **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**

Costs associated with the collection of outstanding rates and charges are incurred by the ratepayer.

### **CONCLUSION**

Outstanding rates and charges as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 is \$548,706.07, representing 4.86% of the amounts due in the 2019/20 financial year.

### **CR CLARK / CR EASON**

That Council receives the Rate Arrears Report as at 30 June 2020 and requests that regular reports be provided to Council with details of the rate arrears.

**CARRIED**

### 13.7 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

**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:** 44/10/04

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the 2020 Community Satisfaction Survey report, and to consider the key findings.

#### BACKGROUND

Each year Local Government Victoria (LGV) coordinates and auspices a State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey throughout Victorian local government areas.

Participation in the survey is optional and participating councils have a range of choices as to the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial, and other considerations. In 2020, 62 of the 79 Victorian councils participated in the survey.

The main objectives of the survey are to assess the performance of Pyrenees Shire council across a range of measures and to seek insight into ways to provide improved or more effective service delivery. The survey also provides councils with a means to fulfil some of their statutory reporting requirements as well as acting as a feedback mechanism to LGV.

The survey was conducted by JWS Research using a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years in the Pyrenees Shire. A total of 400 interviews were achieved in the Shire during the period from 30<sup>th</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.

Pyrenees Shire is listed in the Small Rural Councils group which includes the following 16 other councils:

Golden Plains	Buloke	Central Goldfields	Gannawarra
Loddon	Mansfield	Mt Alexander	Queenscliffe
West Wimmera	Yarriambiack	Hepburn	Hindmarsh
Benalla	Indigo	Strathbogie	Murrindindi

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Copies of the full report, plus the State-Wide report, have been circulated to Councillors separately. While the Pyrenees Shire Council report contains the detailed findings, following is a summary of core measures and individual service areas.

**Summary of Council performance:**

	<b>Pyrenees 2020</b>	<b>Pyrenees 2019</b>	<b>Small Rural 2020</b>	<b>State-wide 2020</b>
Overall performance	59	60	56	58
Overall Council Direction	48	48	50	51
Customer Service	67	68	70	70
Emergency & disaster management	72	72	70	68
Appearance of public areas	69	69	72	72
Elderly support services	68	69	71	68
Recreational facilities	68	69	68	70
Family support services	65	68	66	66
Bus/community dev./tourism	60	61	58	59
Waste management	58	65	64	65
Informing the community	56	58	58	59
Consultation & engagement	55	57	54	55
Local streets & footpaths	55	53	57	58
Community decisions	54	56	53	53
Lobbying	51	54	52	53
Sealed local roads	51	54	51	54
Building & planning permits	43	47	46	51
Unsealed roads	43	43	43	44

**2020 Individual service area performance (index scores):**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Emergency & disaster management	72	72	73	74	73	69	71	73	69
Appearance of public areas	69	69	69	73	70	71	72	70	73
Elderly support services	68	69	70	74	69	70	70	71	72
Recreational facilities	68	69	68	72	65	69	72	72	70
Family support services	65	68	68	70	68	68	67	66	n/a
Bus/community dev./tourism	60	61	62	67	60	62	n/a	66	64
Waste management	58	65	69	75	70	71	73	71	72
Informing the community	56	58	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local streets & footpaths	55	53	56	57	58	56	58	n/a	57
Consultation & engagement	55	57	55	60	56	58	58	59	59
Community decisions	54	56	57	62	56	57	57	n/a	n/a
Lobbying	51	54	56	59	55	57	56	58	58
Sealed local roads	51	54	54	55	54	55	56	n/a	n/a
Planning & building permits	43	47	55	54	54	54	51	58	57
Unsealed roads	43	43	44	44	45	43	46	44	47



### **Report recommended focus areas for 2020-2021:**

**Overview** Perceptions of Pyrenees Shire council's performance have been maintained over the past year across most individual service areas. Council's overall performance index is only one point lower than last year (not a statistically significant change), however overall ratings have been steadily declining since 2017. Just one individual service area – waste management – suffered a significant decline in perceptions over the past year.

**Key influences on perceptions of overall performance** Council should focus on improving performance in individual service areas that most influence ratings of overall performance. These include decisions made in the community interest and informing the community, as well as Councils lower performing areas of planning & building permits, sealed local roads, and waste management, where perceptions declined for the third year in a row.

**Comparison to state and area grouping** Council is rated in line with the small rural group average across most individual service areas and significantly higher on overall performance. However, it performs below the group average on the appearance of public areas, elderly support services and waste management. Council also performs in line with the State-wide average on the majority of service areas evaluated and significantly higher on emergency management.

**Regain and drive positive perceptions** Council should look to consolidate its strong performance on emergency management which has a significant positive influence on overall performance ratings. Attending to dissatisfaction with waste management should also be a focus to arrest any further decline in this area, as should improving Council's approach to building & planning permits and road maintenance. More broadly, good communication and transparency with residents provides significant opportunity to drive up overall opinion of Council.

### **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.

3.4 - Community Services - Increasing the liveability of our communities through the provision of efficient and responsive services.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

13.7.1 Pyrenees Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Report 2020 (*circulated separately*)

13.7.2 State-Wide Victorian Councils Community Satisfaction Survey Report 2020 (*circulated separately*)

### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **CONCLUSION**

The 2020 Community Satisfaction Survey provides an assessment of the performance of Pyrenees Shire Council, as perceived by its community, across a range of measures and seeks to provide insights into ways to provide improved or more effective service delivery. The survey also provides Council with the means to fulfil some of its statutory reporting requirements as well as acting as a feedback mechanism to Local Government Victoria.

**CR FERRARI / CR EASON**

That Council:

1. Receives the 2020 Community Satisfaction Survey Report;
2. Uses relevant data in the report when considering alterations and future improvement to services;  
and
3. Places the 2020 Community Satisfaction Survey Report on Council's website.

**CARRIED**

### **13.8 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN – UPDATE ON REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTIES**

**Laura Buchanan – Emergency Management Coordinator**

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

**File No:** 16/20/06

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to note the inclusion of the Eastern Maar People and the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations in Council publications and acknowledgements to country. It is an update of a report submitted at the June 2020 Council meeting.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In February 2019, Council adopted the Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Pyrenees Shire Council was required to develop a RAP as per the Recognition and Settlement Agreement between the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the State of Victoria (RSA).

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 commenced from when the RAP was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and is due for completion in October 2020, upon which a new 12-month RAP will be developed.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

The region of Pyrenees falls within the boundaries of four Aboriginal Traditional Custodians including the Wadawurrung People (towards the South and East of the Shire), Dja Dja Wurrung People (towards the Northeast of the Shire), Eastern Maar People (over the Western boundary of the Shire) and Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations (in the Northwest corner).

An action in the RAP is to 'Ensure Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners on Council's website, Council email signatures and public documents (e.g. Community Newsletter and Annual Report)' which is being undertaken. Council is undertaking an investigation in the RAP on how Traditional Owners are best wish to be acknowledged. In order to correctly pay respect to all of the Traditional Custodians land in which Pyrenees Shire Council operates, the Eastern Maar People and Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations will be subject of further research by Council officers with the view to including these names in all future relevant documents and publications including Council's website, where appropriate.

A further report will be presented to Council on the progress of the RAP prior to its completion.

#### **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**

13.8.1 - Registered Aboriginal Parties Map overlaid on Pyrenees municipal boundaries.

#### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **CONCLUSION**

Council has sought to develop and foster strategic partnerships by actively engaging with Traditional Owner groups to increase awareness of cultural heritage matters. An outcome from that initiative has been the development of this RAP. The RAP is evidence of Council's commitment to build internal and external relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations in connection with our reconciliation journey by raising awareness and undertaking actions detailed in the RAP.

## **CR EASON / CR CLARK**

That Council notes the inclusion of Eastern Maar People and undertakes further research in respect of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations with the view to including these in future Council publications where appropriate.

**CARRIED**

### **13.9 COVID-19 COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY**

**Laura Buchanan – Emergency Management Coordinator**

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

**File No:** 28/06/38

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the results of the Pyrenees COVID-19 Community Survey.

#### **BACKGROUND**

COVID-19 was first detected in Australia in January 2020 and a State of Emergency was declared in Victoria on 16 March 2020. From this date, the Federal and State governments introduced containment measures in stages including social distancing, closure of schools and non-essential businesses and 'Stay at Home' requirements.

Whilst we have had no COVID-19 cases to date within municipality, the measures to contain the pandemic have had a profound impact on Pyrenees communities. To better understand the impact that the pandemic has had on Pyrenees communities, to inform the development of a Relief and Recovery Plan and to provide evidence in sourcing of funding, the Pyrenees Shire Council conducted an online survey for all residents from 1 June to 22 June this year.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

There were 81 respondents in total, with most (70%) being eligible for the prize, meaning that they were not staff members, Councilors or contractors, most respondents (85%) were female and almost a third of respondents (31%) were 55-64 years of age. An overview of the responses:

- According to the survey respondents, there has been a small but noticeable impact on the employment of respondents. Official numbers from the ABS (2020) indicate there have been 256 jobs lost due to COVID-19 in the municipality.
- The top five responses to 'how were you mainly feeling at the height of COVID-19 restrictions?' were: Worried (34%), Understanding (21%), Relaxed (9%), Angry (6%), Frustrated (6%). The top five responses to 'have you mainly been feeling as COVID-19 restrictions have eased?' were: Worried (31%), Understanding (19%), Prepared (11%), Relaxed (9%), Happy (5%) tied with Frustrated (5%).
- The top three responses to 'what has been your biggest concern since COVID-19 restrictions have been in place?': welfare of older/more vulnerable members of the community (19%); Uncertainty about the future (17%), Contracting COVID-19 15%.
- The top three 'what has been your biggest concern since COVID-19 restrictions have been in place?' were: welfare of older/more vulnerable members of the community (22%); Contracting COVID-19 (19%), Uncertainty about the future (15%). There were also nine responses (11%) in 'Other' indicating respondents were concerned about a 'second wave of infections.'
- The top three labelled responses to 'What are you most looking forward to as COVID-19 restrictions are eased?' were: Visiting family and friends (36%), Outdoor recreational activities resuming (17%), Attending local businesses (14%). Of the 'Other' responses most were in relation to resuming other community activities.
- The top three labelled responses to 'Have you experienced any benefits resulting from the introduction to COVID-19 restrictions?' were Completing home/garden improvements (32%), Spending time with family (28%), Working from home (10%). Of the response in 'Other', nine (11%) were indicating no benefits.

For more detail please refer to the attached report.

### **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**

13.9.1 Pyrenees COVID-19 Community Survey Summary Report (*circulated separately*)

### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **CONCLUSION**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on Pyrenees communities. Council has a key role in supporting the relief and recovery of communities which should be evidence-based. The Pyrenees COVID-19 Community Survey Summary Report provides relevant data in the development of an effective and meaningful Relief and Recovery Plan for the municipality.

### **CR VANCE / CR EASON**

That Council notes the Pyrenees COVID-19 Community Survey Summary Report and uses this feedback to inform future relief and recovery planning for the municipality.

**CARRIED**

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### 13.10 CORREA PARK, BEAUFORT

**Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer**

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

**File No:** 502003690

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council in respect of public open space provision in Correa Park residential estate.

#### BACKGROUND

Council considered a report on Correa Park at the Ordinary Council Meeting in May 2019 and resolved to seek a further report on the matter come to council for consideration once the cost of development for stages 4 and 5 are known.

A copy of the relevant section of the officer's report is copied below:

*Council received a petition on 15 April 2019 that was accepted as a late report at the April Council meeting. Council resolved to receive the petition for Lot 5 (7) Acacia Court, Beaufort (in Correa Park) to be retained as the Michael O'Connor Memorial Park; and request a report be presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in May.*

*7 Acacia Court is a lot that was subdivided as part of stage 3 of the Correa Park development. The lot is 1275 sqm in size and was developed in the subdivision as a residential allotment. The lot encompasses a number of trees including a large gum tree in the middle of the lot that would need to be removed by any future owner to meet the pattern of development. Screening trees have been planted on the west boundary of lot 5, it is assumed that this was by the neighbour immediately to the west. No formal approval was requested of Council for these plantings.*

*In marketing of stage 3 of Correa Park lot 5 was marked as 'not currently for sale'. The reasoning for this was that Council in applying for the Planning Permit for Stages 3, 4 and 5 did not have additional offsets for tree removal and it was understood by Council officers that removing the large tree on lot 5 would require a further planning permit. Council met its obligations of retaining large trees on the subdivision however it should be noted that once the subdivision was approved the protection of trees becomes an as of right removal by any future owner for the development of a dwelling due to the lot size being under 4000sqm.*

*Council's cost structure for developing land in Correa Park is based on a cost neutral model, therefore a large component of the market price is determined by the number of lots divided by the entire cost of purchase and development. Even though Council retained lot 5 at the initial sale of stage 3, the anticipated sale price has been factored into the overall expected sales. Therefore if Council was to consider not selling lot 5 the loss of sales would need to be recovered from future sales of stage 4 and 5 lots in order to break even.*

*Council met its obligations under the planning permit to meet the public open space requirements through both onsite and offsite reserves. Onsite reserves in stages 2 and 4 have the dual purpose of storm water retention and the ability for non-formal recreation. The other area that Council met its requirements to provide for public open space was a commitment to future investment in public recreation facilities within the Beaufort township. One specific example was Council's recent investment at the Beaufort pool site.*

*If Council were to consider making lot 5 a public reserve, consideration would need to be given to the ongoing maintenance costs and whether Council might invest in playground and recreation infrastructure at this site. The service level would need to be considered such as the interval at which grass was mowed, whether watering systems and turf needed to be installed and asset management inspections including tree inspections.*

*Council have recently budgeted to invest in improving pedestrian access to Correa Park and this will have the added benefit of Correa Park residents having easier access to existing reserves and recreation infrastructure that is provided for all residents of Beaufort.*

*The estimated cost for maintaining a reserve of this size is \$2000 annually for a base level of service. The base level of service would include 4 mows per year and a tree inspection. This could increase if additional infrastructure is provided on the site.*

*A recent valuation at October 2018 for lot 5 was \$68,000. This is likely to have increased since that valuation due to market demand. If Council were to forgo this income, consideration would need to be given to adding the loss of development costs onto allotments within stages 4 and 5.*

Council resolved as follows:

*That Council:*

- 1. Delays the decision for Council to consider the status and possible naming of lot 5 Acacia Court, Beaufort until stages 4 and 5 development costs are confirmed following a formal tender process for construction.*
- 2. Requests a further report on this matter from Council officers once development costs are known.*

At the Special Council Meeting in April 2020, Council awarded a contract for the civil works for Stages 4 and 5. Works are well advanced and civil works are anticipated to be completed in Q4 2020.

The civil works and land purchase costs are the major cost items for the development project, and whilst there is potential for variations to be considered within the civil works contract due to unforeseen matters such as weather, these major cost items have been generally confirmed. Other cost items include fencing, survey, design, project management, legal, marketing, fees, and other miscellaneous items. These items are either generally known or able to be estimated.

The total estimated cost of the development, notwithstanding the above is in the order of \$2.75M or approximately \$70,000 per lot.

Marketing and sale of lots are anticipated to commence in H2 2020 subject to progress on civil works construction.

Demand for residential land is currently strong which has in part been driven by the commonwealth financial incentive announced in mid-2020. Valuations for the 39 lots has not yet been obtained, however, given the demand, it is anticipated that the cost of the development will be able to be fully recovered.

## **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Given that the full cost of the development of stages 4 and 5 is anticipated to be fully recovered, Council may wish to consider the merits of the request from the community that the subject land in stage 3 (Lot 5 (7) Acacia Court) be considered for future public open space provision.

Relevant factors to consider include:

- The loss of sale revenue (now anticipated to be more than \$68,000)



- Ongoing cost of management and maintenance of the area including mowing, tree management, fencing renewal.
- Anticipated other future recreation cost expectations (playground, equipment).
- Loss of suitable residential development on the lot.
- Potential loss of native vegetation on the lot if sold for housing construction.
- Whether there is a need for additional open space within Correa Park estate, given that Council previously approved the subdivision design and planning application.
- When undertaking a subdivision, the proponent (in this case Council) is required to comply with a range of design criteria, including the provision of public open space. This is a requirement of the *Pyrenees Planning Scheme* and the *Subdivision Act of 1988* (the Act) collectively. The Act provides Council with the discretion to determine whether the contribution of public open space be provided as land, the financial value of that land or a combination of the two. In the matter of Correa Park, Council determined to invest the financial value of the land into existing public open space in Beaufort. This decision was made to encourage Correa Park residents to not become detached from the broader Beaufort community and that by investing the financial equivalent in existing infrastructure, the benefit would be felt by all.
- The subdivision design of the estate provides generous lot sizes thereby providing more garden space within private allotments.
- Provision of connectivity by road and walking paths of the estate to public spaces in Beaufort.

If Council decides to support the request by the residents for the lot to be made into a public open space reserve, Council may wish to consider the second part of the request being the naming of the area. The residents have suggested it be named in honour of former Beaufort Ward Councillor Michael O'Connor who was an advocate for the Correa Park development. It is customary for Council to consider a range of names for public assets and to seek public comment as part of the process.

#### **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.

3.4 - Community Services - Increasing the liveability of our communities through the provision of efficient and responsive services.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

#### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Refer above

#### **CONCLUSION**

Having considered the construction and other costs associated with the development of Correa Park, and the merits of the request by the residents seeking to establish Lot 5 (7) Acacia Court as a public open space reserve, the following recommendation is provided.

**CR CLARK / CR EASON**

That Council having regard for the demand for suitable residential land in Beaufort, determines that the need for additional public open space in Correa Park has not been established, and agrees that lot 5 (7) Acacia Court be offered for sale in conjunction with the sale of land in stages 4 and 5.

**LOST**

**AN ALTERNATIVE MOTION WAS PUT FORWARD**

**CR EASON / CR FERRARI**

1. That Council retain lot 5 (7) Acacia Court as public open space and monitor its use for future discussion.
2. Taking into account the petition, that the land be named in recognition of Cr Michael O'Connor.

**A FORMAL MOTION WAS PUT FORWARD**

**CR CLARK**

That Council lay the decision on the table

**LOST**

**THE ALTERNATIVE MOTION WAS THEN VOTED ON AND CARRIED**

**CR EASON / CR FERRARI**

1. That Council retain lot 5 (7) Acacia Court as public open space and monitor its use for future discussion.
2. Taking into account the petition, that the land be named in recognition of Cr O'Connor.

**CARRIED**

### 13.11 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

**Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer**

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

**File No:** 32/13/08

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council about the projects to be funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

#### BACKGROUND

Council considered a report at the June 2020 Council Meeting regarding the allocation of \$ 1,394,921 through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) which has been designed by the commonwealth government as part of its economic stimulus package.

Council resolved to endorse the following principles to guide the selection of eligible projects to be nominated for funding under the program:

1. Projects that have previously been identified in a forward works program.
2. Projects that renew existing infrastructure.
3. Projects create local employment.
4. Projects that are relatively easy to deliver and generally shovel ready.
5. Projects that help to deliver identified community needs or plans that have been endorsed by Council.
6. Projects that reduce Council's long-term financial burden.

Funding is available for local road and community infrastructure projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public.

Projects will need to deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity and safety benefits.

Eligible local road projects could include works involving any of the following associated with a road:

- *traffic signs;*
- *traffic control equipment;*
- *street lighting equipment;*
- *a bridge or tunnel;*
- *a facility off the road used by heavy vehicles in connection with travel on the road (for example, a rest area or weigh station);*
- *facilities off the road that support the visitor economy; and*
- *road and sidewalk maintenance, where additional to normal capital works schedules.*
- *Eligible community infrastructure projects could include works involving:*
- *Closed Circuit TV (CCTV);*
- *bicycle and walking paths;*
- *painting or improvements to community facilities;*
- *repairing and replacing fencing;*
- *improved accessibility of community facilities and areas;*
- *landscaping improvements, such as tree planting and beautification of roundabouts;*
- *picnic shelters or barbecue facilities at community parks;*
- *playgrounds and skateparks (including all ability playgrounds);*
- *noise and vibration mitigation measures; and*
- *off-road car parks (such as those at sporting grounds or parks). When will funding be available?*

*Funding will be available from 1 July 2020.*

## ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The following list of projects have been nominated by officers for Council consideration and endorsement:

Project	Description	Reason for inclusion	Estimated Amount X\$1000
Lexton Community Hub	Contribution towards funding shortfall	Existing council committed project. Reduce financial burden on Council.	\$500
Public Lighting Project	Replacement of street lights with energy efficient lighting	Long term financial saving. Identified CVGA project supported by council.	\$110
Snake Valley Intersection Treatment	To improve traffic safety.	Part of forward works program and shovel ready.	\$90
Footpaths	Avoca	Provide improved pedestrian links. Need established through township planning	\$120
Footpaths	Beaufort	Provide improved pedestrian links. Need established through township planning	\$200
Footpaths	Snake Valley	Provide improved pedestrian links. Need established through township planning	\$100
Swimming Pools	Replace / renew fencing at	To replace ageing assets and meet current fencing standards.	\$100
Swimming Pools	Replace/renew various pool infrastructure assets at Avoca, Beaufort, and Landsborough pools.	To renew ageing assets. To increase reliability of assets to meet service needs.	\$50
Langi Kal Kal Road	Renew / upgrade southern section to improve access.	Part of forward works program and shovel ready.	\$350

The total value of the projects listed above (\$1,620,000) exceeds the funding available (\$1,394,921) by \$225,079 and the endorsed list of projects will need to be adjusted to align with the funding available.

## 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.

1.2 - Maintain and renew Council's facilities and built assets in line with community service needs.

1.4 - Maintain, develop and renew the public amenity of our townships in consultation with our communities.

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

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

#### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

There is an opportunity to reduce Council's financial burden through the renewal and improvement of Council managed assets funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Council direction is sought on projects to be funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council endorses the following projects to be nominated for funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program:

*list of recommended projects to be decided by Council*

#### **CR CLARK / CR EASON**

That Council endorses the following projects to be nominated for funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program:

Lexton Community Hub	Contribution towards funding shortfall	\$684,921
Snake Valley Intersection	To improve traffic safety	\$90,000
Footpaths	Avoca	\$120,000
Footpaths	Beaufort	\$200,000
Footpaths	Snake Valley	\$150,000
Swimming Pools	Replace / renew fencing at Avoca, Beaufort, and Landsborough pools.	\$100,000
Swimming Pools	Replace/renew various pool infrastructure assets at Avoca, Beaufort, and Landsborough pools.	\$50,000

**CARRIED**

## 14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

### Cr Ferrari

- Attended previous Council meetings and Briefing Sessions
- Had a meeting with stakeholders in relation to the fixed camera on the intersection of Neill and Lawrence Street in Beaufort. Hoping to get some traction for a camera to be installed.
- Had a meeting with the residents of Correa Park.
- Met with the BPS60 group regarding the old Beaufort Primary School.
- Also met with the hands-on learning students at Beaufort Secondary College.

### Cr Vance

- Joined the Timber Towns Victoria's AGM and again have been elected as Vice President. At the general meeting following the AGM, it was discussed that VicForest been told there will be no more harvesting after 2030. There is a \$25K transition fund for people in the industry to transition out. There are 2000 workers in timber industry in Gippsland alone and having to walk away, is catastrophic. There is a group supporting VicForest to challenge the decision that the State Government has made.
- Attended a meeting with GWMWater to discuss the water issue in Natte Yallock and Moonambel.
- Joined a strategic planning day for Rural Councils Victoria (RCV). Discussion was around rural councils and how they might go ahead without future funding for projects from RDV. RCV has appointed the agenda group to be secretariat for RCV meetings.
- Rural tourism is declining at a rapid rate at the moment and the future of the industry is unknown. Rural councils are struggling with the decline in tourism.

### Cr Eason

- Attended the meeting with GWMWater. Very pleased to hear about the possibility of water for Natte Yallock and Moonambel.
- Attended the Avoca Arts & Gardens Group AGM. It was pleasing to see new faces on the group.
- Also attended a Activate Avoca meeting. Unfortunately, COVID is slowing projects which is disappointing.

### Cr Clark

- Reiterate Cr Vance's comments in relation to the loss of native forests. Would fully support work to improve the industry.
- Joined Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) and Central Highlands LLEN meetings on behalf of Council.
- Had a number of constituent issues around planning and local laws. Appreciate the diligence of officers when working through some of these issues.
- Joined the final meeting of the Raglan Flood Study Group. There is nothing major that is required in Raglan at present however there is opportunity for consideration when future road works occur.
- Good outcome on the Budget and Rating Strategy from tonight's meeting.

### Cr Kehoe

- Dealing with COVID is a priority. Members of the community are still supporting the more vulnerable people in the community and also reaching out through social media to provide support.
- As Mayor, still continuing to get good messaging out around COVID.
- It's great to see some sport starting up again.
- Caring for the mental health of our community members is very important and top of agenda.

- The wind farm still moving ahead.
- A few weeks ago, attended the opening of Telstra mobile cell at Lexton. The Optus tower is starting up now.
- Thanks to everyone for their diligence in response to COVID restrictions and supporting each other.
- A craft group in Snake Valley is starting up.
- A group of community members, socially distanced, cleaned up rubbish along roadside recently. It showed that they take great pride in their area. Thank you to all that clean up on a day to day basis.

## **15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

### **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 contractual matters.

### **CR EASON / CR FERRARI**

That the meeting be closed to members of the public under Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, in order to discuss contractual matters considered in the reports on:-

- 15.1 Carngham Female Friendly Facility
- 15.2 C2017-002 Bitumen Resurfacing Contract – Extension
- 15.3 C2020-015 Snake Valley Skate Park
- 15.4 C2020-018 Bridge 38 Replacement
- 15.5 Avoca Land Purchase

**CARRIED**

**The livestream was stopped to consider the confidential items.**



## 16. RE-OPENING OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

### CR FERRARI / CR EASON

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

**The livestream recommenced and the Mayor chose to report on the matters discussed in Closed Council which are noted below:**

Item 15.1 – Carngham Female Friendly Facility – Council allocated additional funds for the project and awarded the contract to Q Constructions Pty Ltd.

Item 15.2 – Bituminous Resealing Contract extension was awarded to Victorian Surfacing Alliance Pty Ltd.

Item 15.3 – Snake Valley Skate Park contract was awarded to CONVIC Pty Ltd.

Item 15.4 – Bridge 38 Replacement: Chepstowe Pittong Road contract was awarded to Bridge & Marine Engineering Pty Ltd.

Item 15.4 – Avoca Land Purchase – the recommendation was accepted to purchase the GrainCorp land in Avoca.

## 17. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 8.37pm

Minutes of the meeting confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

2020

Mayor