



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00pm Tuesday 17 May 2022

Council Chambers

Beaufort Council Offices

5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort

Wadawurrung Country

Members of the public may view the meeting virtually via the livestream

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1. WELCOME

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

As the meeting Chair, I give my consent for this Open Council Meeting to be streamed live, recorded and published online. Anyone who is invited to read out a question or a presentation will be recorded and their voice, image and comments will form part of the livestream and recording.

The Chair and/or the CEO have the discretion and authority at any time to direct the termination or interruption of livestreaming. Such direction will only be given in exceptional circumstances where deemed relevant. Circumstances may include instances where the content of debate is considered misleading, defamatory or potentially inappropriate to be published.

The stream will stop prior to the closed section of the meeting and will recommence for the conclusion of the meeting.

The public is able to view this livestream via our website at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au. Should technical issues prevent the continuation of the stream, a recording will be made available on our website.

3. OPENING PRAYER

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

Amen

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

5. APOLOGIES

6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 April 2022; and
- Closed Meeting of Council held 19 April 2022,

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the previous meeting held 19 April 2022.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Question Time

- Members of the public are encouraged to ask questions of Council at Ordinary Council Meetings.
- Members of the public may attend the meeting in person to verbally ask a question. All attendees are asked to register by midday on the day of the meeting. To register either call 1300 797 363 or visit <https://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/About-Pyrenees-Shire-Council/Council-Meetings/Council-Meeting-Attendance>
- Members of the public who are unable to attend in person can participate in question time by submitting their questions in writing either online through Council's website, by mail or hand delivered.
- A person can ask a maximum of two questions at any one meeting on any topic and the question(s) and responses shall not exceed five minutes.
- Questions are to be received by 12noon on the day of the meeting.
- Questions are read by the Chairperson during Public Participation.
- The Chairperson or Councillor or Council officer to whom a question is referred may:
 - Immediately answer the question;
 - Take the question on notice for the next Ordinary meeting;

Public Submissions

- Members of the public may present a submission to Council in the period immediately following public question time.
- Members of the public may attend the meeting in person to verbally make a submission. All attendees are asked to register by midday on the day of the meeting. To register either call 1300 797 363 or visit <https://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/About-Pyrenees-Shire-Council/Council-Meetings/Council-Meeting-Attendance>
- Members of the public who are unable to attend in person to make a submission on an agenda item may do so in writing either online through Council's website, by mail or hand delivered.
- The Chair will allocate a maximum of five (5) minutes to each person who wishes to address Council.
- Submissions are to be received by 12noon on the day of the meeting.
- There will be no discussion or debate with the public attendees however Councillors may ask questions for clarification of the attendee.

10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1.1. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS APRIL 2022 UPDATE

Author: 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 the Council on requests made through the Customer Action Request System (CARS) for the month of April 2022.

BACKGROUND

Council has operated an electronic Customer Action Request System (CARS) for many 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), although efforts continue to reduce this use.

Work commenced in late 2021 to identify complaints that may have been input as a customer action request and process them accordingly, to ensure appropriate and timely responses to our community.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

278 CARs were logged in April 2022, 153 (35%) less than the previous month. Of these requests 155 related to telephone messages.

255 CARs were closed in the month, leaving a total of 191 outstanding, of which 76 related to telephone messages.

Of the non-telephone call requests received, the following represents those received and still outstanding at the end of the last month by Ward:

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	DeCameron Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mt Emu Ward
Number of requests received in April 2022 (previous month).	27 (36)	51 (57)	13 (16)	16 (23)	16 (32)
Requests received in April and closed in the same month (% of total received).	15 (69%)	28 (68%)	5 (69%)	10 (74%)	11 (78%)
Requests received in April outstanding.	12	23	8	6	6
Outstanding requests from 2020.	0	2	0	0	0

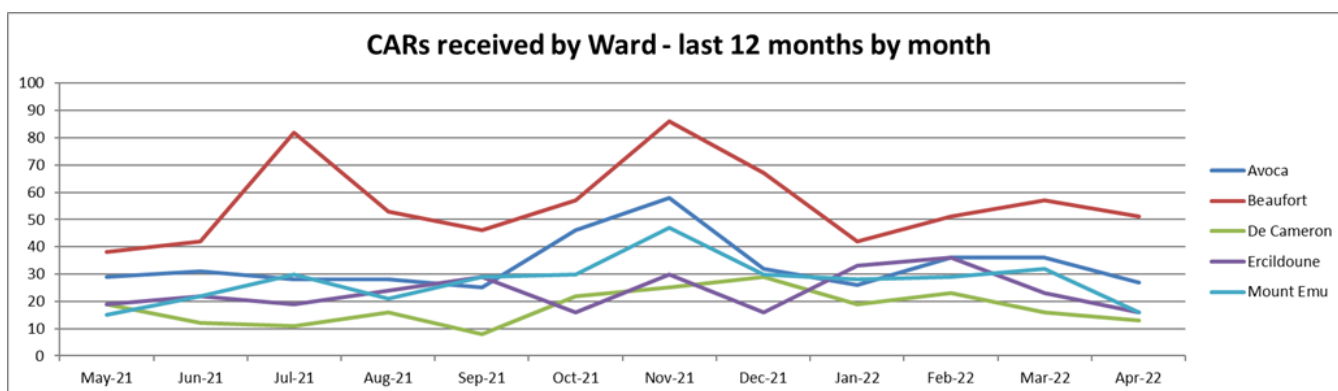
Outstanding requests from 2019.	1	0	0	0	0
Total outstanding requests as at the end of April 2022 (previous month).	49 (56)	66 (60)	23 (21)	29 (46)	30 (34)

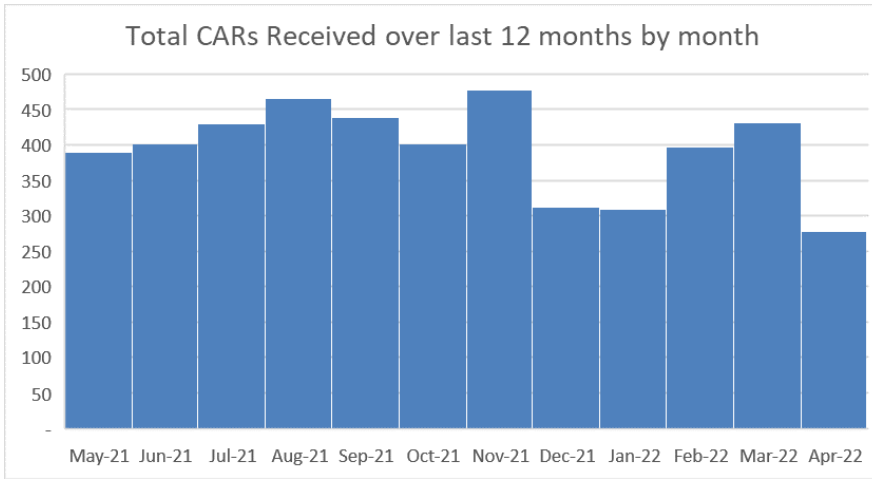
Analysis:

- Outstanding CARs – 176 – have risen by 9% from the previous month.
- At 276, outstanding CARs numbers remained below the target to maintain the total number of outstanding CARs below 300.
- The largest increases in CARs in April related to dog issues and building maintenance (mostly toilets).
- One new CAR lodged in April against Local Government Act related to an enquiry regarding local laws (cat curfew).
- 1 request remains outstanding from 2019 and 2 from 2020, all of which relate to long-term drainage issues.
- Checks of outstanding requests made during April identified the following that will be registered, and resolution monitored as service complaints -
 - Resident received a debtor collection letter whilst on a payment plan for rates – Beaufort.
 - Lack of response – resident unhappy with length of time to receive a letter re infringement notice payment plan – Beaufort.
 - Re-sheeting on road has resulted in slippery surface – Ercildoune.

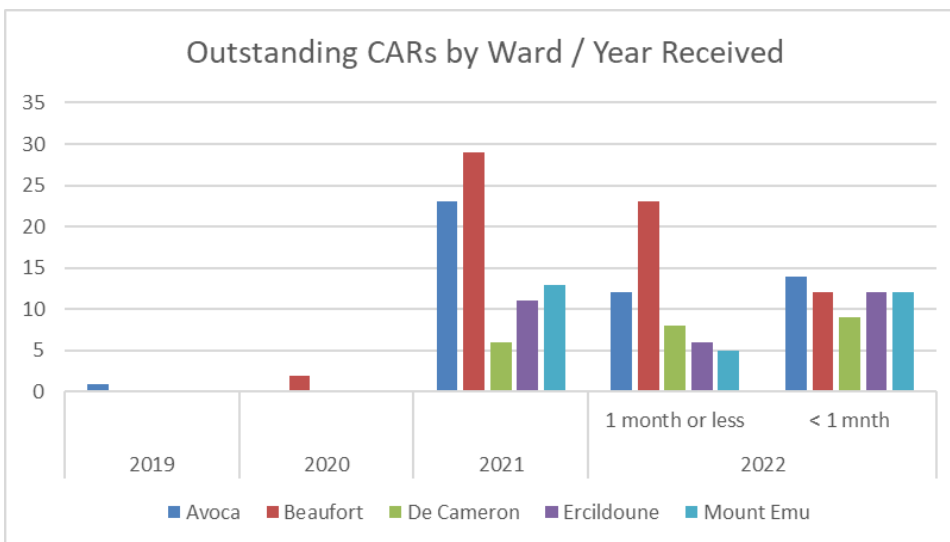
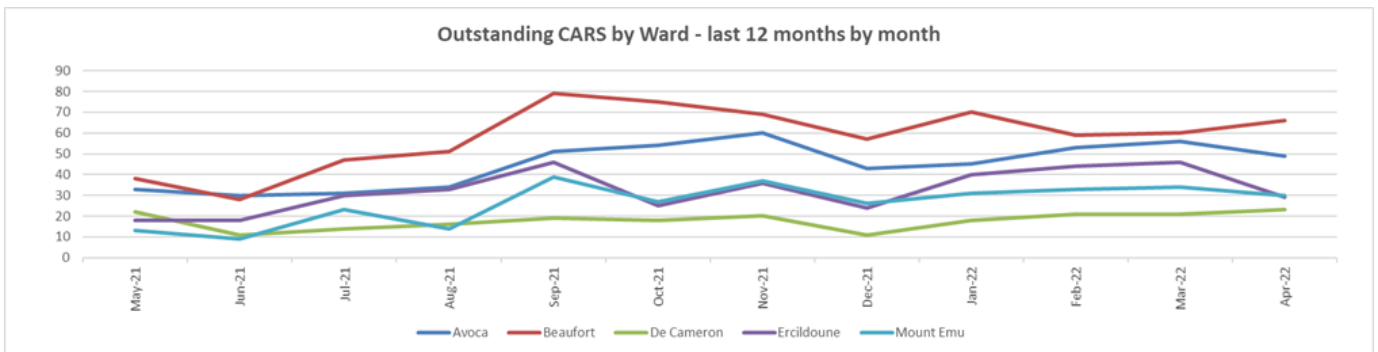
The following graphs display requests received by Ward/month and totals received for the last 12 months.

Outstanding requests by age												
Year	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22
2016												
2017	-	-										
2018	-	-										
2019	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2020	24	8	7	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2021	169	178	236	266	231	247	293	171	148	124	115	82
2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109	140	135	191
Total outstanding	194	187	244	272	234	250	296	174	260	267	253	276
Total requests logged	389	401	429	466	438	401	477	312	309	397	431	278





The following charts display outstanding cars by Ward/year received and the trend lines of outstanding CARs numbers over the last 12 months of requests received by Ward.



The following table provides greater detail of the areas where outstanding requests remain, showing the functional areas and numbers of requests still outstanding, as of end April 2022.

Open Requests Type			
	Mar-22	Apr-22	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	55	54	-1
Streetlights	2	2	0
Drainage	31	27	-4
Footpaths / Kerb&Channel	10	9	-1
Park & Reserves	7	6	-1
Roadside Veg	54	40	-14
Environmental Health	6	1	-5
Planning	9	7	-2
Bld maint	12	21	9
Local Laws	3	7	4
Cats	0	0	0
Dogs	1	10	9
Livestock Act	0	1	1
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	3	2	-1
Bld Compliance	1	3	2
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	0	1	1
Rates	0	4	4
Natural Disasters	0	0	0
Pools	0	0	0
Council cleaning	1	0	-1
EPA - Litter	3	3	0
Design & Assets	3	1	-2
GIS	0	0	0
Community Wellbeing	1	1	0
Rural Addressing	0	0	0
Road Naming	1	0	-1
Telephone messages	50	76	26
Total	253	276	23

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 – People

1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

Priority 2 - Place

2b. Enhance the liveability and resilience of our communities.

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

Priority 4 - Economy

4b. Invest in road infrastructure to improve connectivity for commerce and community.

4c. Encourage and invest in assets and infrastructure for commerce and community.

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial and reputation risks apply with the receipt and timely resolution of customer action requests. Financial because of the need to address requests from the community where resource and budget capacity allows, reputation because of the adverse reaction within the community when it is perceived that insufficient attention or priority is provided to such requests – e.g., where a timely response is not received or where a request is not recognised as a complaint.

CONCLUSION

The customer action request system remains an integral part of Council’s reactive identification of issues that need attention. 2022 sees ongoing review of how the system is used, including finding proactive ways to improve speedier resolution and reporting against progress. This report provides a statistical overview of requests received and actions during April 2022.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

10.2.1. COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON BEAUFORT BYPASS EES

Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 6731

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community that a copy of Council's submission to the Beaufort Bypass EES (Environment Effects Statement) can be accessed from Council's website.

BACKGROUND

The Vic Road website provides the following information about the Beaufort Bypass EES:

The Victorian Minister for Planning declared that an EES was required for the bypass planning project under the Environment Effects Act (EEA) 1978 on 22 July 2015.

We have prepared the EES and draft PSA C50pyrn, which the Minister for Planning has allowed to be exhibited for public comment/submissions.

The EES identifies how the project plans to avoid, reduce and manage environmental impacts and discusses how the primary approvals follow the EES process.

The EES process will inform decision-making on the bypass planning project under Victorian legislation.

The EES process will conclude with the Minister issuing an assessment of the project. We then intend to request an amendment to the Pyrenees Shire planning scheme (PSA C50pyrn). There is no funding for construction of a bypass.

Further information about the EES process can be found on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) website at planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/beaufort-bypass

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council considered a report on the matter at the Council meeting on 15 February and resolved:

That Council prepares a submission to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in response to the Environment Effects Statement (EES) investigation for a potential Western Highway bypass of Beaufort once the EES has been placed on public exhibition and to ensure that community impacts are mitigated.

Submissions on the Beaufort Bypass EES were invited up until Friday 13 May.

The EES documentation was on display at the shire offices and the resource centre in Beaufort.

Council officers considered the range of technical reports and the preferred alignment for the bypass and prepared a submission in accordance with the earlier Council resolution, and a copy of the submission is now publicly accessible on Council's website.

Council will look to present to a public panel to be appointed by the Minister to hear submissions.

Other community organisations were also encouraged to make submissions.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

4b. Invest in road infrastructure to improve connectivity for commerce and community.

4c. Encourage and invest in assets and infrastructure for commerce and community.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

A risk assessment of the impacts of the bypass is contained in the EES, and Council's submission has highlighted the need for funding and a range of measures to be supported to mitigate the impacts.

CONCLUSION

Council's submission to the EES is accessible on the Pyrenees Shire Council website.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - APRIL 2022

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa	Crowlands
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Avoca
Tue 26	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
Mon 4	Rural Councils Victoria – Federal Election Platform Launch	Virtual
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa	Crowlands
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Avoca
Thu 21	Timber Towns General Meeting	Melbourne
Thu 21	Timber Towns Dinner	Melbourne
Fri 22	Rural Councils Victoria Committee Meeting	Virtual
Tue 26	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
Fri 1	Beaufort Band Rotunda Meeting	Beaufort
Fri 8	Round Table with the Hon. Chris Bowen	Virtual
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa	Crowlands
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Avoca
Mon 25	Stockyard Hill Avenue of Honour Official Opening	Stockyard Hill
Tue 26	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa	Crowlands
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Avoca
Mon 25	Stockyard Hill Avenue of Honour Official Opening	Stockyard Hill
Tue 26	Councillor Briefing Session	Virtual

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
Fri 1	MAV Board Meeting	Virtual
Tue 5	MAV – Workcare Meeting	Virtual
Thu 7	MAV – Videos for Federal Election	Melbourne
Fri 8	MAV – Interface Regional Meeting	Virtual
Fri 8	MAV – North Central Regional Meeting	Virtual
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa	Crowlands
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Wed 13	MAV – Meeting with Michael Whelan Bass Coast Shire	Wonthaggi
Wed 13	MAV – Meeting at South Gippsland Shire Council	Leongatha
Wed 13	MAV – Meeting with Ian Bye Wellington Shire Council	Sale
Thu 14	MAV – Meeting with Arthur Allan East Gippsland Shire	Bairnsdale
Thu 14	MAV – Meeting with Kellie O’Callaghan Latrobe City Council	Traralgon
Thu 14	MAV – Meeting with Michael Leaney Baw Baw Shire	Traralgon
Sat 15	Site Visit – Planning	Snake Valley
Tue 19	MAV – Meeting with Opposition LG Spokesman Richard Riordan MP	Virtual
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Avoca
Wed 20	MAV – Meeting with Libro Mustica Moira Shire	Cobram
Wed 20	MAV – Meeting with Bernard Gaffney Indigo Shire	Beechworth
Wed 20	MAV – Meeting with Andrew Whitehead Towong Shire	Tallangatta
Thu 21	MAV – Meeting with Bernie Hearn Benalla Council	Benalla
Thu 21	MAV – Meeting with Dean Rees Wangaratta Rural City Council	Wangaratta
Fri 22	MAV – Rules Review Workshop	Virtual
Fri 22	ALGA Federal Election Briefing	Virtual
Mon 26	ANZAC Day Dawn Service	Beaufort
Tue 26	Councillor Briefing Session – 2022/23 Budget	Virtual
Wed 27	MAV – Councillor Development Program	Virtual
Wed 27	MAV – Alliances Meeting	Virtual
Wed 27	MAV – Audit Committee Appointments	Virtual
Wed 27	MAV – Board Performance Assessment Plan	Virtual
Thu 28	MAV – Rural South West Regional Meeting	Virtual
Thu 28	MAV – Rules Review Workshop	Virtual
Thu 28	Central Highlands LLEN Meeting	Ballarat
Fri 29	MAV – Rural North West Meeting	Yarriambiak

12. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - APRIL 2022**

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	12 April 2022 commenced at 2.00pm and closed at 6.06pm		
Meeting Location	RTC Room, Avoca Information and Community Centre		
Items Discussed	1. Planning Matters 2. Draft Budget 2022/23 3. Community Grants 4. Western Victorian Transmission Network Project 5. Agenda Review		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) - Virtually Katie Gleisner (Manager Planning and Development) – Item 1 Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance) – Item 2 Martin Walmsley (Manager Community Wellbeing and Development) – Item 3 Jerry van Delft (Project Management Facilitator) – Item 3		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
4	Cr Clark	Cr Clark declared an interest in common as being an affected landowner	No

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	19 April 2022 commenced at 1.55pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	RTC Room, Avoca Information and Community Centre		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Western Victorian Transmission Network Project 2. PA21094 Seven (7) Lot Subdivision – Snake Valley 3. Planning Matter 4. PA21094 Seven (7) Lot Subdivision – Snake Valley 5. Agenda Review 6. CEO Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services)		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Katie Gleisner (Manager Planning and Development) – Item 1 – 6 Eoghan McColl (Coordinator Planning Services) – Items 1 and 2 Martin Walmsley (Manager Community Wellbeing and Development) – Item 5		
Visitors	Emma Muir, Gavin Ronan, Katherine Myers and Steve Harper (Stop Ausnet Towers) – Item 1 Sue Whiteley – Item 2 Paul Connolly – Item 4		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
1	Cr Clark	Cr Clark declared an interest in common as being an affected landowner	No

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	Tuesday 26 April 2022 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 1.26pm		
Meeting Location	Virtual via MS Teams		
Items Discussed	1. Revenue and Rating Plan		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services)		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance)		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the items for noting in Sections 10, 11 and 12, be received.

13. ITEMS FOR DECISION

13.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.1.1. DRAFT ASSET PLAN

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Tim Day – Manager Assets

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

File No: 06/12/02

PURPOSE

This report is presented for Council to consider placing the draft Ten Year Asset Plan on public exhibition.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)* requires Council to develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan (Plan) in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. The Plan requires a scope of at least the next 10 financial years.

The Plan must include Information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council.

Council must develop and review the Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Plan by 1 July 2022. The requirement for deliberative engagement in relation to the first Plan has been waived.

Thereafter the Plan is to be reviewed and revised and be adopted by 31 October in the year following a general election.

This Plan has been prepared to meet these requirements of the Act.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Ten Year Asset Plan (TYAP) is prepared in consideration of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and supports the Visions, Enabling Principles and Priorities of the Council Plan. In particular, the TYAP supports the priorities associated with the Economy related to road infrastructure to support connectivity for community and commerce as well as supporting industry sustainability. The TYAP also addresses priorities associated with People, Place and the Environment through enabling Council to deliver a wide range of services to the community and broader general public. The TYAP sets out a range of asset management principles. It also presents one of the key objectives of asset management being the forward planning of asset renewal works to ensure service standards are maintained and that the cost of asset renewal is equitably distributed across the life of the plan.

The TYAP identifies Council's key asset classes and how works are undertaken across the categories of maintenance, renewal, upgrade, expansion and new. It also summarises the context and risks Council faces with regard to infrastructure assets.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

2b. Enhance the liveability and resilience of our communities.

Priority 4 - Economy

4b. Invest in road infrastructure to improve connectivity for commerce and community.

Local Government Act 2020 (Act) section 92

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2022 05 Draft Ten Year Asset Plan [**13.1.1.1** - 23 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of the Ten Year Asset Plan is to reduce Council's financial risk through linking the forward planning of asset renewal to Council's Ten Year Financial Plan. This will ensure expenditure on renewal works aligns with Council's resource allocation. The renewal of assets also manages and reduces risk associated with asset impairment and failure.

CONCLUSION

The Ten Year Asset Plan is a statutory requirement of Council required by the *Local Government Act 2020*. The draft Ten Year Asset Plan is provided for public exhibition.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council places the draft Ten Year Asset Plan on public exhibition.
2. That a report be presented to Council at the June 2022 Council Meeting to consider adoption of the Ten Year Asset Plan taking into account any submissions received.

13.1.2. PA22018 GARDNERS LANE SNAKE VALLEY - TWO LOT SUBDIVISION

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development Services

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

File No: 710033900

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the state and local planning policy that is relevant to making a determination on Planning Permit Application PA22018 for a two (2) Lot Subdivision of Lot 2 on plan of subdivision 830576P (Vol: 01509, Fol: 669), at Gardners Lane, Snake Valley.

BACKGROUND

Council has received a planning permit application, seeking permission for the subdivision of a 4ha lot into two 2ha lots, as per the diagram shown below:

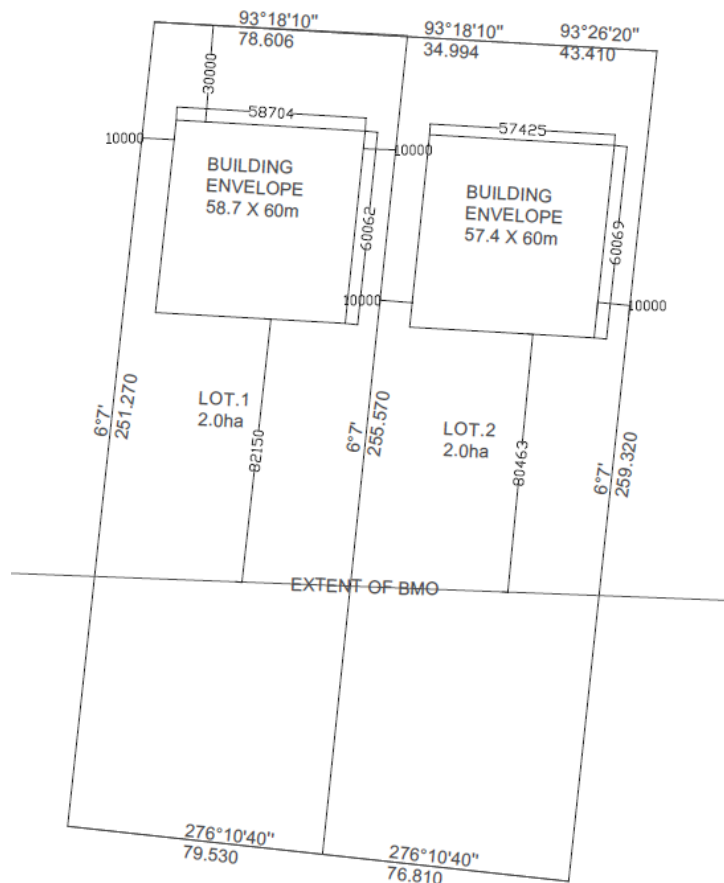


Image 1 – Proposed subdivision

Both proposed lots front Gardners Lane to the north which currently provides legal and physical access.

The proposed subdivision is subject to a planning permit under Clause 35.03-3 of the Rural Living Zone, and Clause 44.06-2 of the Bushfire Management Overlay.

Site and Surrounding Context

Location:	Lot 2 on plan of subdivision 830576P (Vol: 01509, Fol: 669), at Gardners Lane, Snake Valley
Area:	4 hectares
Current Use:	Vacant rural land (previously used for grazing of livestock)
Existing Structures:	A single dam, and perimeter and internal fencing
Other:	The property slopes north-east, with a watercourse forming in the north-east corner of the lot.

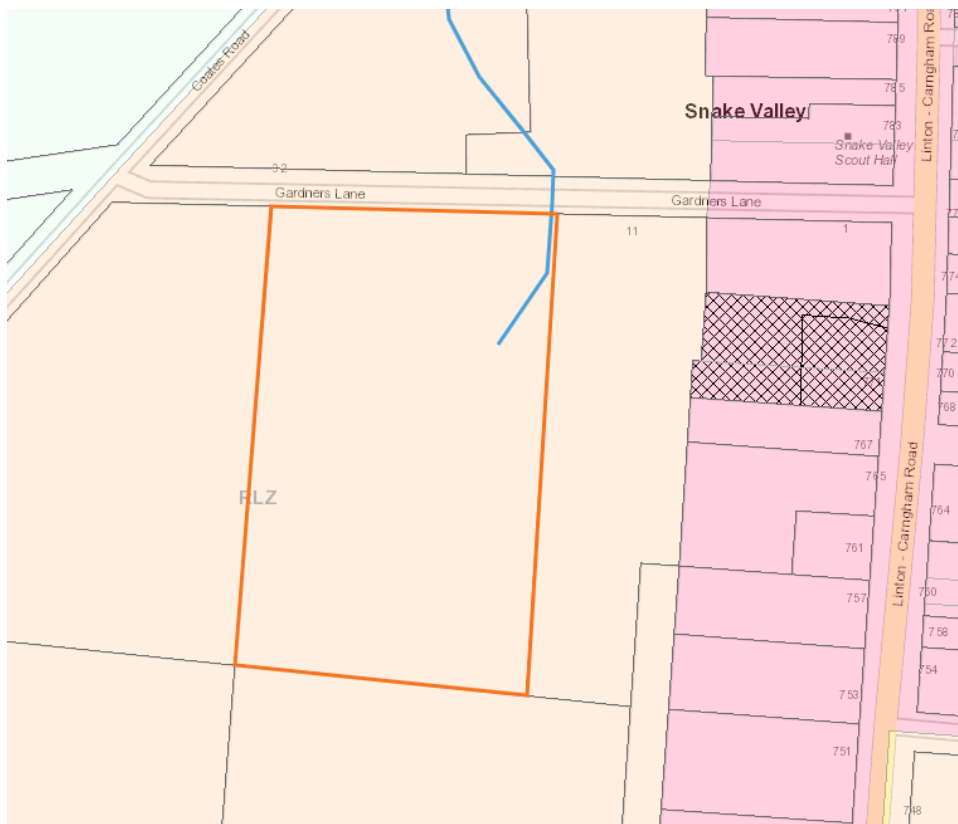


Image 2 – Site location and zoning

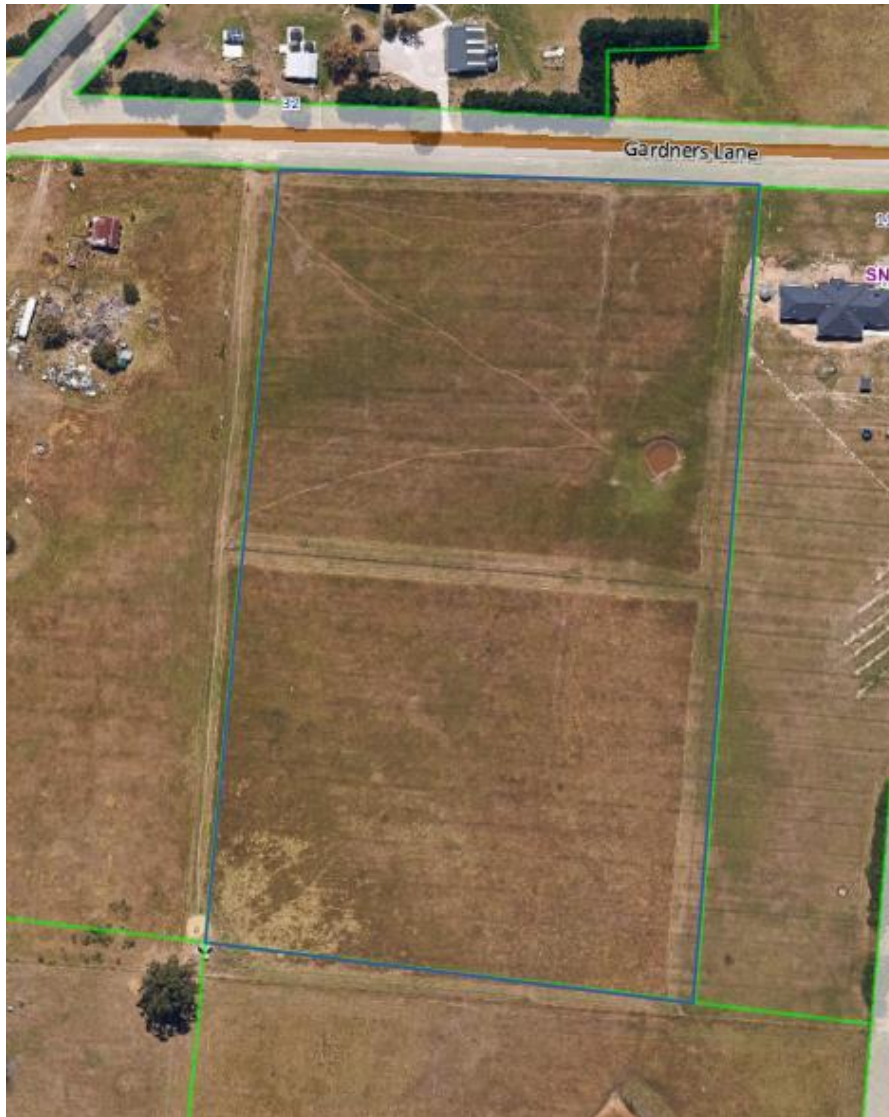


Image 3 – Aerial image of subject lot

REFERRALS AND NOTICE

Under Section 52 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 (The Act), notice was sent to 7 neighbouring landowners. Public notice was also provided through Council's website. Two submissions were received.

Notice was also provided to Council's Engineering and Environmental health departments, who did not object to the proposed subdivision, subject to conditions.

The application was referred to under section 55 of the Act to the Country Fire Authority and the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, who also do not object to the granting of a permit, subject to conditions or comments.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Clauses 35.03-3 and 44.06-2 of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme require a permit to subdivide land.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Responsible Authority is required, under Section 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, to consider a range of matters including:

- the Pyrenees Planning Scheme;
- the objectives of planning in Victoria;
- all objections and other submissions which it has received and which have not been withdrawn;
- any decision and comments of a referral authority it has received;
- any significant effects which the responsible authority considers the use or development may have on the environment or which the responsible authority considers the environment may have on the use or development; and
- any significant social effects and economic effects which the responsible authority considers the use or development may have.

Further, in considering an application, council must consider a range of values, including:

- The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development.
- Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.
- The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.

The application has been made in response to the relevant decision guidelines.

OBJECTIONS

Two submissions were received in relation to this application, which have been summarised below:

Submission One sought an administrative correction of the application details, which has now been undertaken and is no longer relevant to the assessment of this application. Further, the submitter has added “We have no issues with the possibility of having the land developed and possible new neighbours...”

Submission Two raises a range of concerns relating to the proposed subdivision including:

- The protection of a drainage line and surface water impacts on a neighbouring dam
- Ambiguous and inconsistent application and plans (slope, fencing, gates)
- Perceived misrepresentation of road (Gardners Lane) condition
- No Land Capability Assessment included in the application to demonstrate sites capacity to sustain potential developments
- A loss of productive agriculture
- Building envelope and environmental setbacks

In accordance with council practice, the submissions were provided to the applicant to respond to and action/alter the application if required. In reply to submission two, the applicant provided a written response to the concerns raised, however the following items remain unresolved:

- The classification of the watercourse/drainage line that is shown on *Image 2* above, and the subsequent protection of this drainage line

- The absence of a Land Capability Assessment which demonstrates the sites capacity to accommodate onsite wastewater treatment
- Lack of clarity as to the portion of land proposed to be subdivided and what the lot sizes will be
- Lack of clarity as to the direction of slope of the land
- Misrepresentation as to the quality of Gardners Lane and its capacity to accommodate additional usage [resulting from the proposed subdivision]
- Application doesn't show location of existing fencing and gates
- Details as to the location of a new vehicle crossover is unclear
- Concerned that the proposed subdivision will cause the loss of productive agricultural land
- Impacts on ground stored potable water supply; and concerns for any works which alter drainage

In consideration of the application and the submissions received, the assessing officer provides the following response:

- The status of the watercourse/drainage line remains as defined by the state as a *Minor Watercourse 10k*, and for the consideration of all future developments will be treated as a watercourse. This means that any setback requirements that relate to potential development, including the onsite treatment of wastewater, will apply. A landowner may choose to have the status of the watercourse reviewed by the relevant Catchment Management Authority and the state's mapping amended accordingly, however until this occurs, Council will continue to have regard to the existence of the watercourse.
- A land capability assessment has not been requested by Council to support the making of an application, as the proposed lots are of a size which will support the onsite treatment of wastewater (subject to further approval). Further, the site is not subject to an overlay which would ordinarily require the provision of an LCA to support assessment.
- Whilst officers accept that there are some administrative inconsistencies in the application, the plan of subdivision provides clarity as to the proposed plan of subdivision and lot sizes/dimensions.
- Officers have reviewed the topography of the site and can confirm that the property gradually slopes north-east, towards the identifies watercourse.
- Gardner Lane is recognised in Council's Road Management Plan as a gravel *Local Access* class, and as such, will be maintained as required to support the observed level of usage.
- Council does not require details as to the location of existing fencing and gates in order to assess the application for a planning permit.
- Any new vehicle crossovers that may be required will be subject to further approval by Council's Engineering Department. Consideration of the crossover request will include identifying any impacts on drainage, road pavement and other infrastructure, native vegetation and lines of site.
- The Rural Living Zone seeks to provide for residential use in a rural environment. The Zone's reference to agriculture is not necessarily intended to provide for agricultural land, but rather to ensure that any agricultural use of the land, does not impact nearby land uses, including residential use.
- Both the activity of undertaking earthworks which alter the rate of flow or point of discharge across a property boundary, and the construction of an onsite wastewater system, are subject to further approval. Further, the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Authority has required that a buffer width of 30 meters (minimum) is to be retained from the bank of

the waterway. It is on this basis that the assessing officer is satisfied that the proposed subdivision itself does not pose a risk to the water quality of the objector's dam.

General assessment of the application

The proposed subdivision allows for suitably located rural residential growth, particularly within the Rural Living Zone of Snake Valley. This zone is typically applied to the outskirts of settlements and township areas to allow for residential living in the rural environment without impacting on agricultural land uses. The zone provides for a primarily residential function with urban residential amenity expectations.

The proposed subdivision is a suitable planning outcome for the area and is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses. Whilst this application does not include any uses or developments, the application must be considered in this context as additional planning permissions for the future development of dwellings may not be required given the proposed lot sizes.

The proposed lots are serviced by an existing road network and are considered to be capable of accommodating future developments including the ability to treat and dispose of wastewater on site, maintain a potable water supply and accommodate electricity connectivity.

The proposed subdivision provides for an appropriate densification of residential use in accordance with the objectives of the Zone. The proposed lot sizes, whilst meeting the minimum lot size specified within the zone, are in keeping with the existing pattern of development within the area.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

2b. Enhance the liveability and resilience of our communities.

2c. Promote responsible development.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Application P A 22018 Redacted [**13.1.2.1** - 43 pages]
2. P A 22018 Submission Objection [**13.1.2.2** - 6 pages]
3. Response to objection [**13.1.2.3** - 8 pages]
4. Second objection following response [**13.1.2.4** - 10 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The area of settlement is currently serviced by Council in the form of road maintenance and rubbish collection. Council will not incur any further service delivery costs through the supporting of this application.

An application determined by council or under delegation of council and which is subject to appeal rights at VCAT, may incur costs in the form of representation (consultant) fees and staff resources.

CONCLUSION

The proposed subdivision accords with the objectives of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme, specifically the Rural Living Zone and applicable State and Local Planning Policies.

The matters raised in the objections generally relate to activities that are not regulated via the Scheme or the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and are not relevant to the application currently before Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having considered all matters required under Section 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the provisions of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme determines to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit under the provisions of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme for the Two (2) Lot Subdivision at Lot 2 on plan of subdivision 830576P (Vol: 01509, Fol: 669), Gardners Lane Snake Valley 3373 subject to the following conditions:

Amended Plans

1. Before the certification of the plan, amended plans to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show:
 - a. The location and specifications of the building envelopes.
 - b. A minimum buffer width of 30 metres from the bank of the waterway on proposed lot 2, to ensure the retention of the natural drainage corridor.

Mandatory Conditions

Provision of Services

2. The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity, gas and telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time.

Easements

1. All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.

Referral of Plan of Subdivision

2. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.

Engineering

3. Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance for the subdivision, each lot must be provided with a standard swale drain rural type vehicle crossing (IDM SD 255) on Gardners Lane to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Any redundant vehicle crossings must be removed, and nature strip reinstated to the satisfaction of the Responsible

Authority. A Road Excavation Permit must be taken out for the construction of the vehicle crossing.

4. Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance for the subdivision, the development must be provided with a drainage system constructed to a design approved by the Responsible Authority, and must ensure that:
 - I. The development as a whole must be self draining.
 - II. Volume of water discharging from the development in a 10% AEP storm shall not exceed the 20% AEP storm prior to development.
 - III. Each lot must be provided with a stormwater legal point of discharge at the low point of the lot, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
 - IV. Stormwater runoff must meet the "Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines (CSIRO 1999)".
5. Storm water drainage from the development must be directed to a legal point of discharge to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. A Stormwater Point of Discharge permit must be obtained from the responsible authority prior to the commencement of the works associated with the permit.
6. Sediment discharges must be restricted from any construction activities within the property in accordance with relevant Guidelines including Construction Techniques for Sediment Control (EPA 1991).

Environmental Health

7. Before the development is occupied, all sewage and sullage wastewater from the proposed development must be discharged into a new EPA approved on-site wastewater treatment system to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
8. Before the development is occupied, all sewage and sullage wastewater from the proposed development must be retained within the property boundaries of the subject land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Central Highlands Water

9. Any plan lodged for certification will be referred to the Central Highlands Region Water Corporation pursuant to Section 8(1)(a) of the Subdivision Act.

Powercor Conditions

10. The applicant shall provide an electricity supply to all lots in the subdivision in accordance with the Distributor's requirements and standards. Notes: Extension, augmentation or rearrangement of the Distributor's electrical assets may be required to make such supplies available, with the cost of such works generally borne by the applicant
11. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electric installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victoria with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR). Notes: Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.

Vehicle Access

12. Vehicle Access to each of the lots shall be constructed at an approved location to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
13. A Road Excavation Permit will be required for and works to install or upgrade a driveway.
14. All vehicle access works shall be completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prior to the Statement of Compliance being issued.

Note:

Please contact Council's Engineering Department as the construction or altering of a vehicle crossing, footpath and/or any other works or alterations within a road reserve or any other Council asset may require either a Road Excavation Permit (which includes a driveway and new crossover), or other approval to be obtained from the Pyrenees Shire Council. This Planning Permit does not constitute such approval. Failure to obtain an appropriate permit or damaging Council infrastructure, including footpaths, kerbs, drains, street trees, nature strips etc. or failing to remove redundant crossings and reinstate the kerb, drain, footpath, nature strip or other part of the road is a breach of the Pyrenees Shire Council development requirements.

Time for starting and completing

15. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
 - a. The plan of subdivision is not certified within two (2) years of the date of this permit.
 - b. The plan of subdivision if not registered at Land Registry within five (5) years of the certification of the subdivision

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires of within six months afterwards. There is no provision to grant an extension of time for a Certified Plan.

13.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.2.1. FEES AND CHARGES - HUBS IN AVOCA

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 32/26/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to set fees and charges for the lease/hire of the two new hubs in Avoca.

BACKGROUND

Council received government funding to develop two hubs in Avoca:

- a. The refurbishment of the former shire offices, next to the Avoca Shire Hall, with a view to using the facility as a community hub or for business; and
- b. The setting up of a digital hub at the rear of the Avoca Information & Community Centre, with a view to using the facility as a technology space including for small or start-up businesses.

A survey of the community was undertaken in 2021 to understand the needs in the Avoca and surrounds in relation to meeting/working spaces, and to determine the most popular requests to ensure the proposed hubs are functional and effective to serve local businesses, community groups and residents.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Both hubs will be available for use as soon as the projects are fully completed. In readiness to open the two new hubs, fees and charges need to be determined. It is intended that both facilities will provide fast speed WIFI, furniture and access to kitchen facilities.

Former Shire Offices

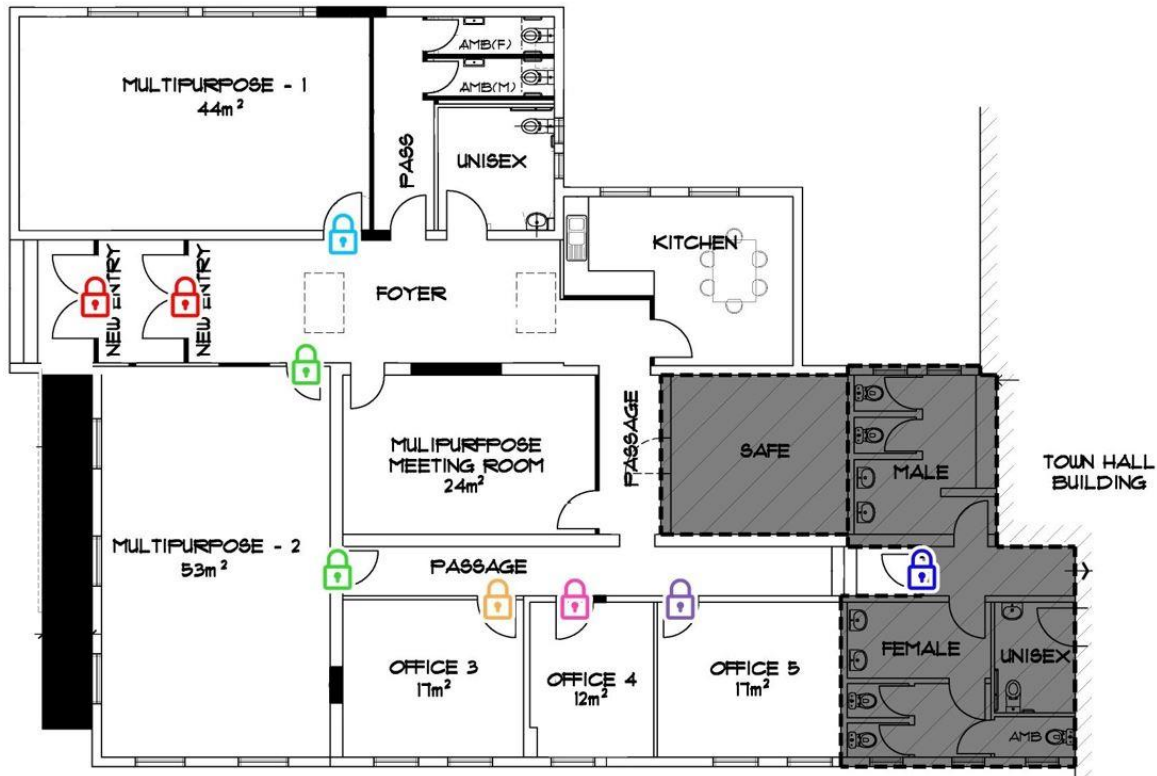
There are three multi-purpose rooms, three office spaces and kitchen/toilet facilities. Limited furniture will be supplied, and long-term hirers will be required to provide any additional furniture depending on their needs. Its purpose is to encourage new community groups or businesses and support existing groups by having a safe, flexible, more user-friendly space to use.

A commercial valuation, including cost comparison of other office premises in the region, was undertaken to assess the current market rent of the premises providing a basis for the hire fees. The valuation determined the annual market rental of the whole facility to be \$37,500 based on a total lettable area of 232m² (of which 167m² comprises office/meeting room space and 65m² of common area).

Additional provision has been made in the hire fees for wi-fi, cleaning and payment of utilities by Council.

While it is proposed that the facility be hired to multiple hirers concurrently, an anchor tenant would be considered for the old shire offices with capacity to negotiate arrangements to manage security / access and the like.

Below is a floor plan of the facility and suggested hire rates for short term and long-term hire of the various rooms.



Short Term Hire Rates

Room	m ²	Full Day Commercial Rate	Part Day Commercial Rate	Community Rate 50% of commercial (day rate)
Multipurpose Meeting Room 2	53m ²	\$140.00	\$80.00	\$70.00
Multipurpose Meeting Room 1	44m ²	\$120.00	\$70.00	\$60.00
Multipurpose Meeting Room	24m ²	\$80.00	\$50.00	\$40.00
Offices 3 and 5	17m ²	\$60.00	\$40.00	\$30.00

Part day times are morning (8am-12noon), afternoon (12noon–5pm) and evening (5pm– 9pm). Office 4 (12m²) has been reserved for Council staff use.

Long-Term Hire Rates (\$/week)

Room	m ²	Full Commercial Rate	Discounted Commercial Rate 50% 3 people or less	Community 25%
Multipurpose Meeting Room 2	53m ²	\$530.00	\$265.00	\$132.50
Multipurpose Meeting Room 1	44m ²	\$440.00	\$220.00	\$110.00
Office 3 and 5	17m ²	\$170.00	\$85.00	\$42.50

The multipurpose room (24m²) is considered for meetings on a daily or part daily basis only.

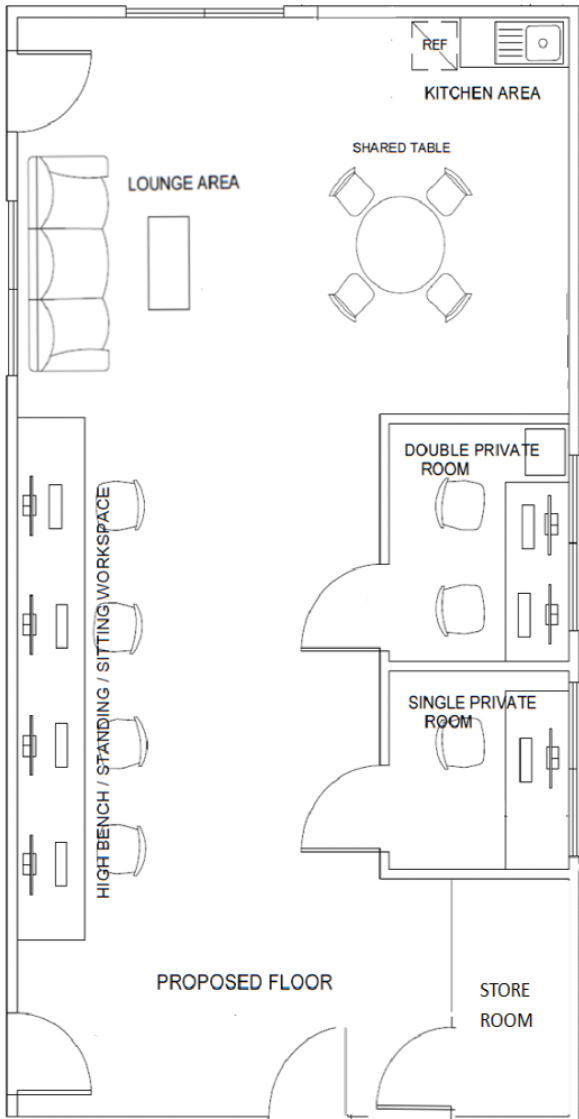
Discounted commercial rate may apply:

- for a business start-up incentive for the first six months of operation, or
- (In the case of meeting rooms 1 and 2) where the use of the room is for 3 or less employees/people.

Digital Hub

This hub will be a co-working space that offers fast and reliable NBN internet, offices and dedicated workspaces. This hub will focus on creating a central point for connecting people, information, and ideas as well as foster business start-ups and community development.

Below is a floor plan of the hub to give a visual idea of the set up as well as the suggested costs for hire.



Room	Full Day	Half Day
Office (double or single)	\$40.00	\$25.00
Desk space	\$25.00	\$15.00

A cost comparison was undertaken with other hubs in the region which offer a desk space for a cost of \$28p/d - \$33p/d. Office spaces in other hubs are charged on a monthly basis and equate to the proposed daily costs for the digital hub. It is to be noted that the Avoca Information & Community Centre does offer free use of computers in the library space however the hub has a different function in that it is aimed at small or start-up businesses or members of the community looking for private office space.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

Priority 4 - Economy

4a. Support our local businesses and help to strengthen key industries.

4c. Encourage and invest in assets and infrastructure for commerce and community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Valuation Report - Old Shire Offices, Avoca [13.2.1.1 - 64 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is important that Council considers the commercial market rates for rental in line with competitive neutrality policy and legislation having regard to other commercial rental premises in Avoca.

Fees and charges are necessary to recoup operational costs such as technology, cleaning, power, supplies, and maintenance associated with running the two facilities. The suggested costs are comparative with Council's current fees and user charges for other Council owned facility meeting rooms. A review of the current fees and charges for other council facilities are currently under review to ensure equity is across all facilities within the Pyrenees municipality.

CONCLUSION

Council staff are in the process of naming the two hubs to ensure clarity and differentiation between the two hubs. Approval was given at the March 2022 Council meeting to begin the process of officially naming the two facilities.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopts the hire rates for the workspaces and meeting rooms at the two Avoca Hub facilities, as detailed in the report.
2. That the fees be effective from 1 July 2022.
3. That the CEO be authorised to negotiate any other arrangements needed having regard to the adopted fees.

13.2.2. MAV MEMBERSHIP AND RURAL CHANGES

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 44/04/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to provide information about the activities of the MAV and in particular for Council to consider providing feedback to the MAV on the proposed rule changes outlined in a Directions Paper.

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is a membership association and the legislated peak body for Victoria's 79 local councils. The MAV was formed in 1879, with the [Municipal Association Act 1907](#).

The role of the MAV is to:

- Represent and advocate local government interests
- Promote the role of local government
- Build the capacity of councils
- Facilitate effective networks
- Provide policy and strategic advice
- Support Councillors
- Provide insurance and procurement services.

Rules Review

In November 2021, the MAV Board released a Discussion Paper signaling the start of the review of the MAV's [Rules of Association \(the Rules\)](#).

Local government expert Mr Phil Shanahan has been engaged to conduct the review which is being undertaken in phases. A Discussion Paper was released in November 2021, and following consultation with the sector, in April 2022 the Directions Paper was released. Councils are invited to provide feedback on the Directions Paper, and more information on the review can be found on the MAV website here: [MAV Rules Review](#)

Written submissions, in response to the Directions Paper, are requested by close of business on Monday 30 May 2022.

Any changes to the Rules will be determined by State Council at a meeting in September 2022. The Governor in Council must also approve the changes.

State Council Meeting

The next MAV State Council Meeting will be held on 24 June 2022, and motions are invited from Councils to be considered at the State Council Meeting. Motions must align with the identified strategic outcomes of the [MAV Strategy 2021-25](#), and can be submitted up until Friday 27 May 2022.

At the time of preparing this report there are no suggested motions proposed to be put forward by Pyrenees.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Rules Review

The Mayor and CEO have recently reviewed the proposed changes in the Directions Paper and there is an opportunity for the views of other Councillors to be considered or debated.

Options and proposals have been outlined in the paper relating to matters including:

- The President's term and tenure
- Election of the Board
- Term and tenure of members
- Board Performance and accountability
- State Council making policy
- Voting
- High standards of Ethical behavior
- Discontinuing MAV financial membership

Direction from Council is sought on the above and it is suggested that feedback be provided by the CEO through the online survey.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's annual membership with MAV is approximately \$21,000.

CONCLUSION

It is suggested that Council have input into the Rules Review with feedback to be provided through the online survey by the CEO, in consultation with the Mayor.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the CEO to provide feedback on the MAV Rules Review via the online survey following consultation with the Mayor.

13.2.3. AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jane Bowker – Executive Assistant to the CEO and Councillors

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

File No: 44/04/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Mayor and Director Corporate & Community Services to attend the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra 19–22 June 2022.

BACKGROUND

The 2022 National General Assembly and Conference will be held in Canberra 19-22 June 2022.

The theme for the 2022 Conference is 'Partners in Progress' focusing on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and local governments, can tackle the immediate challenges facing communities and help confidently prepare for the future.

The NGA is an important opportunity to address national issues at the local level, and new ways the Australia Government could partner to strengthen the local government sector to advance community well-being, local economic development, create jobs, address environmental challenge, climate change and complex social issues such as housing affordability.

The Assembly also provides an avenue for the sector to consider motions from member councils to provide input into ALGAs activity and strategic direction.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

With the exception of 2017 and 2020, it has been the practice for the Mayor and CEO to attend the NGA. In the past, Council has also used the opportunity to undertake a range of advocacy work.

Several councils that form Central Highlands Councils Victoria (CHCV) are proposing to attend and there is an opportunity to engage with MPs, ministers and ministerial office staff to advocate on Central Highlands regional projects.

The member Councils of CHCV are Ararat, Ballarat, Central Goldfields, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Moorabool, Northern Grampians, and Pyrenees councils.

The group has, in the past, been successful in advocating to state and federal governments for funding, policy change and support around key regional issues such as road and rail transport funding, employment, telecommunications, health and wellbeing, waste, sport and recreation, township development and the arts.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The delegation to Canberra will require Councils to meet their own participant costs associated with attendance at the NGA, flights, accommodation, cab fares and meals. These costs have been provided for within Council's 2021/2022 budget.

CONCLUSION

This event provides a unique opportunity for Local Government to engage directly with the Federal Government, to develop national policy, and to influence the future direction of our councils and our communities.

The visit to Canberra also provides an opportunity to partner with CHCV to advocate to government ministers and their offices on regional priorities, ensuring that the interests of the residents and ratepayers of the Pyrenees Shire and the region are well represented.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

<p>That Council supports the participation of the Mayor and Director Corporate & Community Services to attend the ALGA National General Assembly and conference from 19-22 June 2022.</p>

13.2.4. WESTERN VICTORIAN TRANSMISSION NETWORK PROJECT UPDATE

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 60/04/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for council to consider any further actions it wishes to take in respect of the Western Victorian Transmission Network Project.

BACKGROUND

Council has previously considered a report on the Western Victorian Transmission Network Project (WVTNP), and continued to engage with residents, AusNet Services and with Stop AusNet Towers, a community group against the construction parameters of the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project.

Ausnet describes the project as follows:

“The Western Victoria Transmission Network Project is a proposed new 190km high-voltage electricity transmission line that will carry renewable energy from Bulgana in western Victoria to Sydenham in Melbourne’s north-west.

The project is critical infrastructure required to unlock the renewable energy potential of western Victoria as a key Renewable Energy Zone and will help to deliver clean and affordable energy to Victorians. Once complete, the additional transmission line capacity will carry enough energy to power more than 500,000 homes.”

There is a considerable amount of information about the project on the project website here:

<https://www.westvictnp.com.au/>

There is also a range of information available on the Stop Ausnet Towers (SAT) website outlining the concerns of the group and their members which can be found here:

<https://www.stopausnetstowers.com.au/>

On 7 April 2022 a public notice was issued advising that,

“ AusNet Services has revised the EES submission date to enable more time to consult with landholders prior to submitting the EES on the proposed route and complete the field surveys and investigations required. The submission date for the EES to the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) has now been revised from mid-2022 to late-2022.”

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council and most of the community understand and support the need for the state to build energy generation capability and to transition to renewable energy for the supply of power. It is also understood that there is a need to build a transition network to transmit the power from where it is generated to where it is consumed.

However there continues to be considerable concern in the community about aspects of this transmission network project. These concerns include:

- The initial Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT T) process and the level of consultation and engagement associated with that process. The SAT group has advised that this process was flawed and is subject to legal challenge. *The RIT T is a public cost benefit analysis test that electricity transmission network service providers (TNSPs) must apply to potential prescribed (regulated) investments in the transmission network that exceed \$6 million.*
- The proposal to build an above ground transmission line. An independent report commissioned by Moorabool Shire Council identified that an underground DC option was feasible. AusNet considered the underground option and produced a report dismissing the option in the main due to cost. The U/G option was considered on the selected route which was primarily determined as suitable for servicing an above ground option. There is concern that there has not been a thorough consideration of underground options.
- The decision to revert the western section of the line to 220kV line rather than 500kV. Whilst reducing the visual impact over a smaller footprint, this reduces the overall capacity of the network, suggesting a further stage of the project will be needed in the near future. The impact of this has also required a terminal station to be sited within the Hepburn Shire causing significant angst among that community.
- Land access by AusNet contractors to undertake condition assessments has been met with resistance by landowners concerned about the methods used by AusNet to obtain access. This matter is currently the subject of an investigation by the Essential Services Commission.

Other impacts which are currently being investigated and remain of concern in the community include:

- Visual Impacts on the Landscape
- Agricultural Impacts
- Cultural Heritage
- Environmental and significant habitat risks
- Fire and Emergency risks
- Social and Economic impacts
- Bushfire and Emergency Risks

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

2a. Sustain and enhance unique character of our communities.

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

Enabling Principles

a. Motivate and inspire community involvement

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is a significant risk to the state if there is insufficient transmission capacity which could result in lack of power to the state for essential services.

There are a range of potential impacts on Pyrenees residents, farmers, and communities because of the proposed transmission line.

CONCLUSION

Having continued to engage with relevant parties and in light of ongoing concerns about the WVT project, the following recommendations are made.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Writes to the Minister for Planning highlighting the range of community concerns that have been raised with the project.
2. Continues to keep informed and share information with the community including by holding a public meeting at an appropriate time in Waubra.
3. Encourages ongoing discussion and consideration through the CEOs forum of the relevant issues including underground transmission.
4. Provides practical support to parties that may look to make a submission on the EES once it is placed on exhibition later in 2022.

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council closed at

Minutes of the meeting confirmed

2022

Mayor Cr Ron Eason