



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 16 August 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 July 2022; and
- Closed Meeting of Council held 19 July 2022,
as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising (items taken on notice) from the previous meeting held 19 July 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 must register by midday on the day of the meeting to ensure Council adheres to the number of attendees permitted under its COVID-Safe Plan. 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 must register by midday on the day of the meeting to ensure Council adheres to the number of attendees permitted under its COVID-Safe Plan. 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 JULY 2022 UPDATE

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 July 2022.

BACKGROUND

The 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.

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

335 CARs were logged in July 2022, 11 less than the previous month. Of these requests 143 related to telephone messages.

309 CARs were closed in the month, leaving a total of 280 outstanding, of which 70 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:

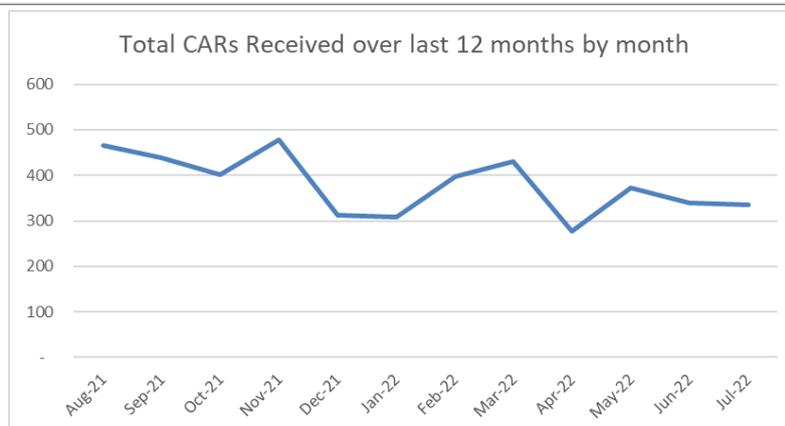
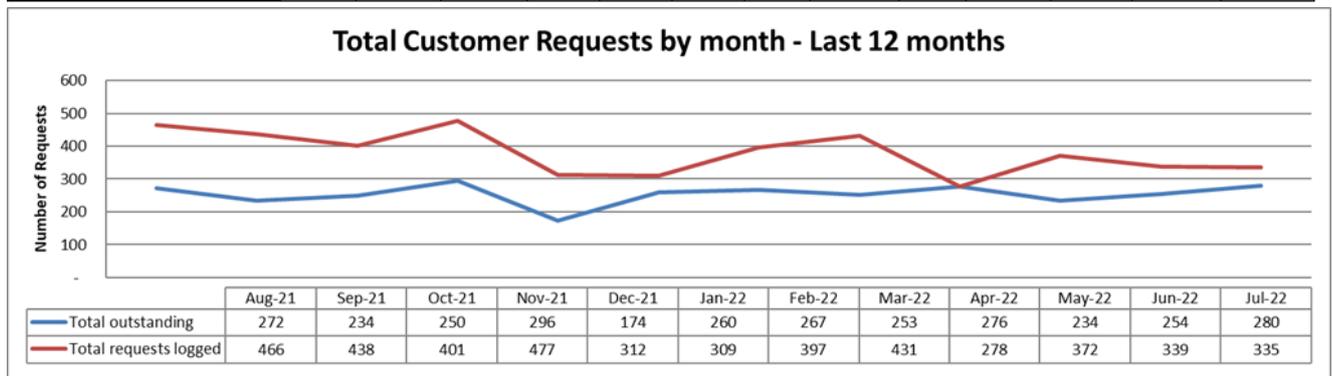
	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	DeCameron Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mt Emu Ward
Number of requests received in July 2022 (previous month).	56 (55)	74 (64)	34 (34)	37 (34)	46 (49)
Requests received in July and closed in the same month (% of total received).	39 (70%)	39 (53%)	22 (65%)	21 (57%)	19 (41%)
Requests received in July outstanding.	17	35	12	16	27
Outstanding requests from 2020.	0	1	0	0	0
Total outstanding requests as at the end of July 2022 (previous month).	49 (47)	62 (47)	22 (20)	37 (31)	40 (32)

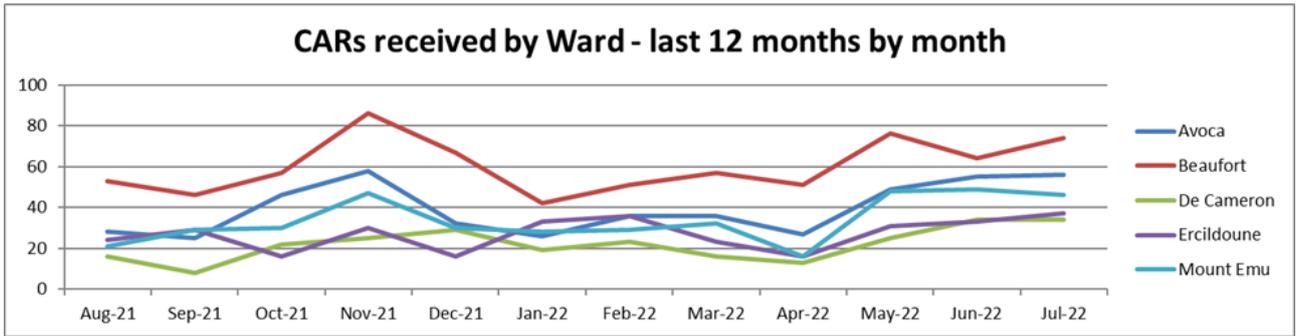
Analysis:

- At 280, outstanding CARs numbers remained below the target to maintain the total number of outstanding CARs below 300. However, this is starting to edge towards the maximum target and a focus is being placed on resolution and closure.
- The number of outstanding CARs increased by 26 from the previous month. Outstanding Ward related CARs increased by 23 and outstanding telephone calls by 3; notwithstanding a small reduction in CARs logged for the month (from 339 the previous month to 335 in July).
- 1 request remains outstanding from 2020, relating to long-term drainage issues.
- Workload stresses continue regarding staff absences due to COVID, flu and other viruses, impacting on addressing of outstanding CARs.
- Checks of requests made during July identified no matters that need to be registered and monitored as service complaints.

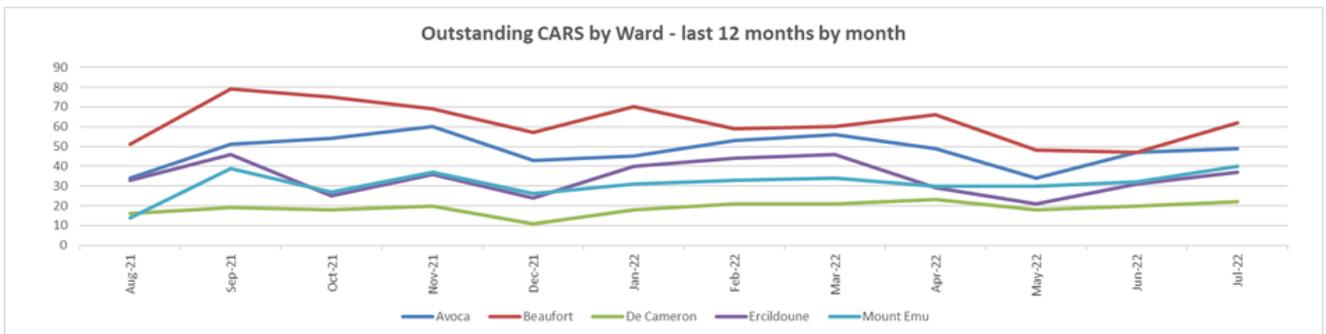
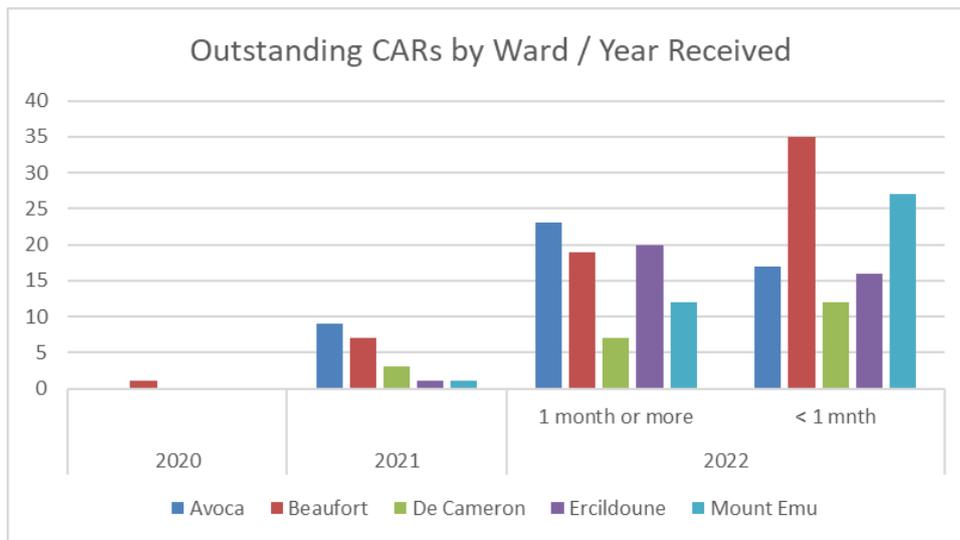
The following graphs display requests received by Ward/month and totals received for the last 12 months.

Outstanding requests by age													
Year	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	% Change
2019	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	0%
2020	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0%
2021	266	231	247	293	171	148	124	115	82	25	24	21	-13%
2022	-	-	-	-	-	109	140	135	191	208	229	258	13%
Total outstanding	272	234	250	296	174	260	267	253	276	234	254	280	10%
Total requests logged	466	438	401	477	312	309	397	431	278	372	339	335	-1%





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 July 2022.

Open Requests Type			
	Jun-22	Jul-22	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	52	65	13
Streetlights	2	2	0
Drainage	19	19	0
Footpaths / Kerb&Channel	6	4	-2
Park & Reserves	3	3	0
Roadside Veg	16	20	4
Environmental Health	2	4	2
Planning	16	29	13
Bld maint	11	17	6
Local Laws	15	10	-5
Cats	0	0	0
Dogs	9	9	0
Livestock	2	2	0
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	1	1	0
Bld Compliance	3	3	0
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	0	0	0
Rates	18	9	-9
Natural Disasters	0	0	0
Pools	0	0	0
Council cleaning	1	2	1
Litter	2	3	1
Design & Assets	3	2	-1
GIS	4	0	-4
Community Wellbeing	0	4	4
Rural Addressing	0	2	2
Road Naming	0	0	0
Telephone messages	69	70	1
Total	254	280	26

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 July 2022.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - JULY 2022

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Fri 22	MAV - Interface Meeting	Virtual
Tue 26	MAV - Advocacy Update	Virtual
Thu 28	MAV - Special Board Meeting	Virtual

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thu 21	Timber Towns Victoria General Meeting	Virtual

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
Tue 12	Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee	Virtual
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

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

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	12 July 2022 commenced at 2.00pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	RTC Room, Avoca Information and Community Centre		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action Items 2. Planning Matter 3. Rating Issue 4. Community Satisfaction Survey 5. Krupps Gun Location 6. Potential for future rail link connections between Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo 7. Aged Care Service Provision 8. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Nil		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Katie Gleisner (Manager Planning and Development Services) Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance)		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	19 July 2022 commenced at 1.30pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	Beeripmo Centre, 1-3 Lawrence St, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	9. External Relationships 10. Annual Communications and Engagement Plan 11. Service Gaps 12. Aged Care Reform 13. Action Items 14. 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) Martin Walmsley (A/Director Corporate and Community Services)		
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. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN - 2022-2026

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: 02/06/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022 – 2026, for consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND

Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (The Act), Council must prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan, which is renewed every four (4) years.

Council's previous Domestic Animal Management Plan expired in 2021, however an extension of time was granted by the Minister in accordance with section 68A(1B) of the Act.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (the Plan) outlines Council's services, programs and policies, whilst providing high level strategic direction to the management of dog and cat issues in the community.

Council is responsible for developing a plan which:

- promotes responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats in the community
- protects the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats
- identifies a method to evaluate whether the animal management services provided by them are adequate
- outlines the training programs for their Authorised Officers to ensure these Officers are capable in administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act.

The Plan provides information on the daily operation of the Council, the current programs Council has in place and the policies the Council has adopted for the following standards of animal management to:

- promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats;
- ensure that people comply with the Act, the regulations and any related legislation;
- minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
- address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
- encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;
- minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and

- effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the Act and the Regulations.

The Plan identifies the current local laws and orders made under the Act and reviews them for effectiveness.

Community consultation will be undertaken during elements of implementation of any initiatives or actions identified that have the potential to impact the broader community. An example of such an activity would be the creation of an updated 'off-leash' Order that controls where dogs can be exercised off leash.

Feedback on the Plan is collected by officers on an ongoing basis which is used to inform Council's annual review of the Plan.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1d. Promote health, wellbeing, engagement and connection.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2022-2025 Pyrenees DAM P- Final Draft [**13.1.1.1** - 34 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is not expected to be any financial implications associated with this decision.

CONCLUSION

Adopting the attached draft plan will satisfy Council's legislative obligations, whilst ensuring that the management of domestic animals in the Shire promotes and encourages responsible pet ownership and ensures community safety.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the proposed 'Pyrenees Shire Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026'.

13.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.2.1. RISK MANAGEMENT

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: 16/24/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the updated Enterprise Risk Register as at the end of the financial year 2022.

BACKGROUND

Effective risk identification and management is an integral part of business management and good governance. Risk management comprises of several elements, including business continuity, enterprise or business risk management, and occupational health and safety (OHS).

Council maintains an Enterprise Risk Register, reconfigured in 2021 to focus on the whole of organisation risks. Under the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework, risk management reports must be provided to Council at least every six months. This report forms part of that compliance obligation. The last report to Council on risk management was provided in March 2022.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A comprehensive review was undertaken of the Pyrenees Shire Council Enterprise Risk Register in June 2022. This review built upon the work started in 2021 to build an Enterprise Risk Register that fully reflects the high-level risks of the organisation including both strategic and operational risks and included workshops with Councillors and members of the senior leadership team.

This report provides details of the Enterprise Risk Register that comprise Strategic Risks and Operational Risks rated as Extreme or High that are provided for the Council's oversight. A copy of the register is attached for Council consideration.

The register includes:

- 17 risks that are rated as High, with no risks assessed as Extreme.
- 5 risks are considered effectively controlled, with further control being limited through external factors. Although these risks are still rated as High, it is assessed that the associated residual risks should be accepted and monitored.
- 12 risks are assessed as requiring further treatment and control. Appropriate controls have been input into the register.

Progress against these planned treatments will be reported in the next risk report to Council.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

1d. Promote health, wellbeing, engagement and connection.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

1. PSC Council Risk Register 20220805 [**13.2.1.1** - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risk implications are included in the risk register attached.

CONCLUSION

The risk report has been provided to the Council as part of its regular risk management reporting regime. This report follows the full annual review of Council's Enterprise Risk Register and seeks Council adoption of the updated register.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the submitted Enterprise Risk Register for 2022, representing those risks that are rated as Extreme or High.

13.2.2. UPDATE TO GOVERNANCE RULES

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: 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: 16/24/12

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and endorse the updated Governance Rules following the mid-term review conducted in August 2022.

BACKGROUND

The original Governance Rules commenced on 1 September 2020 and replaced the former Local Law No.1 which was rescinded in 2020. Following this mid-term review, these Governance Rules 2022 commence on 16 August 2022 and replace the original Governance Rules dated 1 September 2020.

The objectives of these Governance Rules are:

1. To provide for the orderly conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees and provide procedures for fair and open decision-making, and
2. To detail the proceedings for the election of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and the Chairperson of any delegated committees.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

When online Council meetings became a necessity during the Pandemic, the Victorian Government approved temporary changes to the legislation to allow Council meetings to take place online.

With the making of the Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022, the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires a council to update its Governance Rules to provide for participation by councillors in council meetings by electronic means of communication. The legislation also makes permanent the need to live stream any meeting that is held solely by electronic means. The Minister for Local Government issued Good Practice Guidelines to support Council in making these changes.

Version 1.1 of the Governance Rules has been amended in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Minister in Section 10.1.

The Council can also make other changes considering experience since the adoption of the Governance Rules in August 2020. Legal advice received regarding not influencing discussions when a conflict of interest is declared has resulted in additions being made in this regard in the Governance Rules sections 8.2(d), 8.3(d), and 8.4(d).

A copy of the V1.1 Governance Rules 2022 is attached for Council consideration, with amended sections highlighted in yellow for ease of identification. Adoption of this document is now requested.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT POLICY Governance Rules 2022 V1 1 (1) [13.2.2.1 - 45 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

With these temporary rules expiring at the end of August it is a Victorian Government requirement that all councils across Victoria review and update their governance rules by 1 September 2022. This change will give councils the flexibility to hold meetings in a way that best supports good decision-making.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the updated Governance Rules 2022.

13.3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.3.1. NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES ASSOCIATION FUNDING

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Martin Walmsley – Manager Community Wellbeing and Development

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

File No: 36/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for council to consider advocating for a permanent funding arrangement by the Victorian government for Neighbourhood Houses.

BACKGROUND

Council has recently received a letter from Jane Grimwood, Network Manager, Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses expressing concern about the long-term sustainability of Neighbourhood Houses and seeking Council support for advocacy to the Victorian government to ensure funding of Neighbourhood Houses be made permanent. Neighbourhood Houses operates their services from Beaufort from the council managed Resource Centre.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The letter is attached and in part copied below:

“Across Victoria, there are 16 Networks that support over 400 Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria.

The role of a Neighbourhood House Network is to facilitate regional collaboration, provide individualised support to staff and volunteer committees of management, and advocate on regional issues and needs.

As well as Pyrenees Shire, the Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses also covers the Hepburn Shire, City of Ballarat, Moorabool Shire, and the Golden Plains Shire local government areas.

I am writing to you, five months out from the Victorian State Election, to make you aware of the serious threat to funding experienced by 194 Neighbourhood Houses and 16 Neighbourhood House Networks.

In just two years, we could see a dramatic cut to local support services and community development, and significant job losses across our sector. As a Network organisation, Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses is directly under threat. As you may or may not be aware, almost all Victorian Neighbourhood Houses and Networks receive core funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), known as Neighbourhood Houses Coordination Program (NHCP) funding.

In 2018, after a massive advocacy campaign supported by constituents in your local government area, the State Government made a \$21.8 million investment across four years in recognition of

the inadequacy of funding for many Neighbourhood Houses and the need for additional Neighbourhood Houses to support local communities. This additional funding supported:

- *167 Neighbourhood Houses to increase their coordination hours to 25 hours a week*
- *(there are 16 Networks which provide tailored support to the Houses within their regions); and*
- *27 Neighbourhood Houses started receiving NHCP funding for the very first time*

At the time of this announcement, it was not made clear by the State Government that, unlike existing Neighbourhood House funding, this new funding would be non-recurring and would indeed lapse in four years time.

*In the recent May budget, the sector was relieved to see that the funding had been extended – however we have now learnt that this is **only secure for two years**, up until June 2024. We are very concerned by the State Government’s apparent lack of commitment to securing this funding on a permanent basis. Failure to do so risks:*

- *closure of up to 27 Neighbourhood Houses including four Aboriginal run Neighbourhood Houses and 12 in rural Victoria*
- *reduction of over 77,000 hours annually of paid employment almost entirely impacting women*
- *loss of 154,000 hours of Neighbourhood House activity annually impacting 189 communities*

All data collected has demonstrated what a solid return on investment this additional funding has provided for local communities in the last four years. A recent report prepared for DFFH found that the return on each dollar of the lapsing funding, under pandemic affected conditions, was between \$2.47 and \$3.42. Further, under projected normal conditions, it is anticipated these Neighbourhood Houses would generate a return of between \$5.43 and \$8.72 for each dollar of lapsing funding invested in these Neighbourhood Houses.

The report also found that, despite the third wave of COVID-19 and interruptions with lockdowns, there were over 33,000 visits and 3,278 activities run at these Neighbourhood Houses in just four days. In this same time period, they managed 13 tonnes of food relief and despite density limits, over 4,750 people undertook health and physical activity classes.

They substantially exceeded every performance measure including coordination hours, activity hours and open hours.

More broadly speaking, Neighbourhood Houses provide hundreds of services to local communities right across metro, regional and rural Victoria, despite an already shoe-string budget and limited resources. Across the sector:

- *We employ over 5,000 Victorians, the vast majority of which are women*
- *Around 200,000 Victorians access a Neighbourhood House in an average week; equating to 10 million visits a year*
- *We are one of the biggest providers of early childhood services, particularly childcare, and adult community education in the state*
- *In 2020, for every \$1 of NHCP funding we received, we generated \$22.05 in community value; and*

- *During COVID-19 restrictions in August last year, despite operating at a reduced capacity, Neighbourhood Houses were still able to deliver \$1.1 million a day in community value*

The work of Neighbourhood Houses contributes to the objectives of Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan, with significant impact on the quality of life for Victorians. This includes combatting loneliness and social isolation, mental and physical health and wellbeing, and poverty and disadvantage. They support people from a diverse range of backgrounds including disability, migrant and refugee communities, people experiencing family violence, and help people gain core skills for employment. Importantly, they strengthen community pride and belonging

We would appreciate Council writing a letter to the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Colin Brooks MP urging him to intervene to make this non-recurring funding permanent."

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1d. Promote health, wellbeing, engagement and connection.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter - Neighbourhood House Funding - PSC - 18-07-2022 [13.3.1.1 - 3 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk to the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Houses Association which in turn risks the ongoing provision of services provided through the Beaufort Neighbourhood House.

CONCLUSION

A commitment to on-going funding by the Victorian government for Neighbourhood Houses is necessary for them to plan for the delivery of services in the Pyrenees shire and the region.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. writes to the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Colin Brooks MP urging him to intervene to make the non-recurring funding for Neighbourhood Houses permanent.

13.3.2. SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR SERVICE

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: 58/12/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction in respect of advocacy regarding the School Crossing Supervisor program.

BACKGROUND

The Victorian government, through Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) provides funding support to Victorian councils to provide a school crossing supervisor service at approved locations based on a 50/50 funding model. The aim of the program is to provide safe crossing points for children going to school in high traffic locations.

Pyrenees Shire Council provides supervision at two crossings, both located in Beaufort.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The City of Monash wrote to Victorian councils seeking support for a statewide advocacy campaign due to the current funding subsidy not keeping up with the cost of the delivery of the service and falling well below 50% of the actual cost of the service. Many of the Victorian metropolitan councils manage several hundred crossings each and heavily subsidise the program. While rural councils manage fewer crossings, rural councils' financial contributions generally exceed 50% of the cost based on survey responses received from councils (refer attached presentation).

The general focus of the Monash lead campaign is based on the following:

- Victorian Government financial support for councils to provide the service has gradually, but significantly, decreased over time making it unsustainable to continue in its current form
- costs to councils are increasing each year
- The program is no longer fit for purpose and needs to change
- There is a need to reform the way road safety around schools is managed

Monash has advised that the costs for participating in the campaign will be around \$1,500 for rural/peri-urban Councils and \$3,700 for others.

The direct costs for Pyrenees to provide the service in 2020/21 was \$25,897.

Hidden costs associated with the service, including administration, management recruitment HR payroll etc. as reported are estimated in the order of \$11,500.

The amount received from the Victorian government for the service in 2020/21 was \$12,340.

Monash is seeking a response from councils to the following question:

Will your council commit, in principle, to a campaign highlighting local government's concern about the sustainability of the program and seeking reform to the way road safety around schools is managed?

In principle support has been provided to date subject to formal direction from Council.

Council may wish to consider, in the first instance, advising the Department of Transport that it is considering the matter to provide an opportunity for the department to respond to the situation.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

1. SXS presentation to local government (3) [13.3.2.1 - 15 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The net cost to Council is outlined in the report above.

CONCLUSION

The City of Monash has sought Victorian councils to support an advocacy campaign to address the current funding model for the school crossing subsidy program because of the increasing costs to councils.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Writes to the Department of Transport advising that it is considering the matter of the School Crossing Subsidy Program, seeking to be engaged in dialogue on the matter.
2. Provides in principle support to Monash City Council for an advocacy campaign, but that Council does not provide a financial contribution to the campaign due to Council managing just a small number of crossings relative to larger metropolitan councils.

13.3.3. FUNDING APPLICATION - BEAUFORT CARAVAN PARK

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: 23046200

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a funding application for works at the Beaufort Caravan Park.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 February 2022, Council considered a report on the Beaufort Caravan Park. The report tabled the Operational Review undertaken by Innoviv and which was completed in January 2022 and made a case for infrastructure upgrades to the facilities which was the subject of an application under the Building Better Regions Fund seeking \$1M for a \$2M project and requiring \$1M in funding to be sourced from Council or other funding partners.

Council resolved as follows:

That Council:

- 1. Endorses in principle the Beaufort Caravan Park Operation Review undertaken by Innoviv and its recommendations.*
- 2. Endorses the application for funding under the Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 for infrastructure improvements to the Beaufort Caravan Park and commits to meet the co-contribution of \$1M.*
- 3. Investigates other funding partners including the state government to assist in meeting the co-contribution amount.*
- 4. Gives further consideration to the management options recommended in the Operational Review once the outcome of the BBRF funding application is known.*

At the time of preparing this report, Council has not been advised of the outcome of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) application from the Commonwealth.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Another application has now been prepared seeking \$500,000 funding through the Victorian Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF). Applications are due on 17 August 2022. Funding is available on a 4:1 (state : local) basis. The application is sought to undertake a portion of the infrastructure works identified in the Operational Review that can reasonably be deemed to be “shovel ready” which is a requirement of the fund.

Should this application be successful, it will reduce the amount that Council is required to commit as a co-contribution for the BBRF application (should the BBRF application be successful).

Should the BBRF application be unsuccessful then the RIF application will stand alone but for the reduced scope of works.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council is required to meet a co-contribution for the application based on a \$4: \$1 (\$state: \$local) ratio.

CONCLUSION

Council endorsement of the RIF application is sought.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the application for funding for the Beaufort Caravan Park under the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

13.3.4. FUNDING APPLICATION - RURAL WATER PIPELINE FEASIBILITY STUDY

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: 32/13/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement for a funding application for a feasibility study and business case for a rural water pipeline in the Northeast Pyrenees region.

BACKGROUND

In 2021 an application was lodged by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMW) under the Victorian government Investment Fast Track Fund. The application sought \$300,000 for a \$445,000 project for a feasibility study and business case for a rural water pipeline in the Northeast Pyrenees region, leveraging \$145,000 in kind and cash contributions from several partners to the project including Pyrenees Shire Council.

The application was unsuccessful in part due to the fund being significantly over subscribed.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Following discussions with the funding body, Regional Development Victoria, and the other project partners, it was considered appropriate that an application from Pyrenees Shire Council for the project be considered.

At the time of preparing this report, an application under a new round of the Investment Fast Track Fund was being prepared for submission by 17 August 2022.

The application is for a feasibility study and business case similar to the earlier application but for a larger project area including an expansion to the west towards Glenorchy, Beasleys Bridge and Elmhurst.

While Council is the applicant on this occasion, GWMW will provide the technical input and support for the engagement of suitable contractors to undertake the work, and eventually, should an infrastructure project be feasible and delivered, GWMW would be the asset owner and manager of the pipeline.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 3 - Environment

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

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

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council has previously committed cash and in-kind towards the project.

As the applicant, council will have the added responsibility for delivery and acquittal of the grant should it be successful.

CONCLUSION

Council endorsement of the application is sought.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the submission of an application for funding through the Investment Fast Track program for a feasibility study and business case for the expanded Northeast rural pipeline project.

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