



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 20 September 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

Mayor Cr Ron Eason welcomed all to the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Ron Eason

Councillors: Tanya Kehoe, David Clark, Robert Vance, Damian Ferrari

Chief Executive Officer: Jim Nolan

Acting Director Asset and Development Services: Katie Gleisner

Director of Corporate and Community Services: Kathy Bramwell

EA to CEO and Councillors: Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

Senior Communications Officer: Noel McKeegan

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

Mayor Cr Ron Eason read the livestream preamble.

3. OPENING PRAYER

The Mayor read the Opening Prayer.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, 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

Douglas Gowans, Director Assets and Development Services

6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr David Clark / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 August 2022

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising (items taken on notice) from the previous meeting held 16 August 2022.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions submitted for public participation question time.

10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1.1. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS AUGUST 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 August 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

439 CARs were logged in August 2022, 104 more than the previous month. Of these requests 123 related to telephone messages.

384 CARs were closed in the month, leaving a total of 335 outstanding, of which 94 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 August 2022 (previous month).	63 (56)	107 (74)	50 (34)	38 (37)	58 (46)
Requests received in August and closed in the same month (% of total received).	34 (54%)	63 (59%)	25 (50%)	21 (55%)	29 (50%)
Requests received in August outstanding.	29	44	25	17	29
Outstanding requests from 2020.	0	1	0	0	0

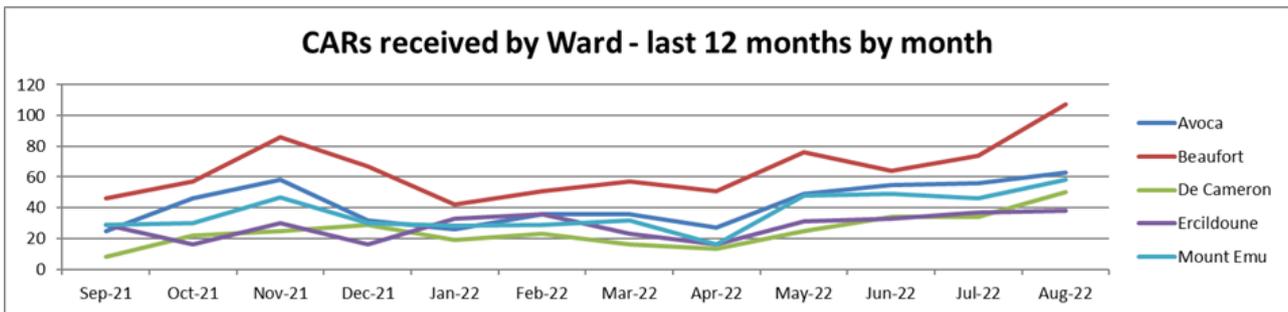
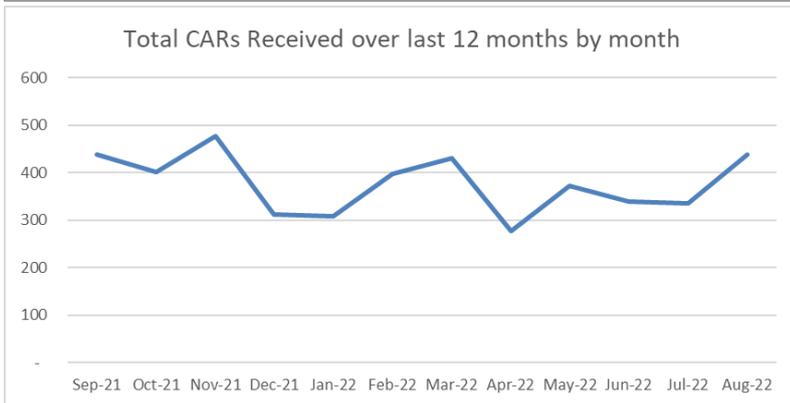
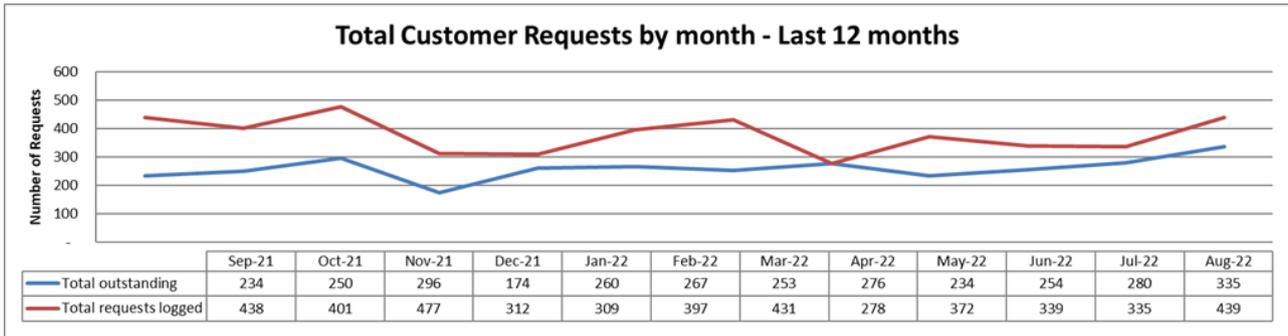
Total outstanding requests as at the end of August 2022 (previous month).	60 (49)	75 (62)	35 (22)	32 (37)	39 (40)
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Analysis:

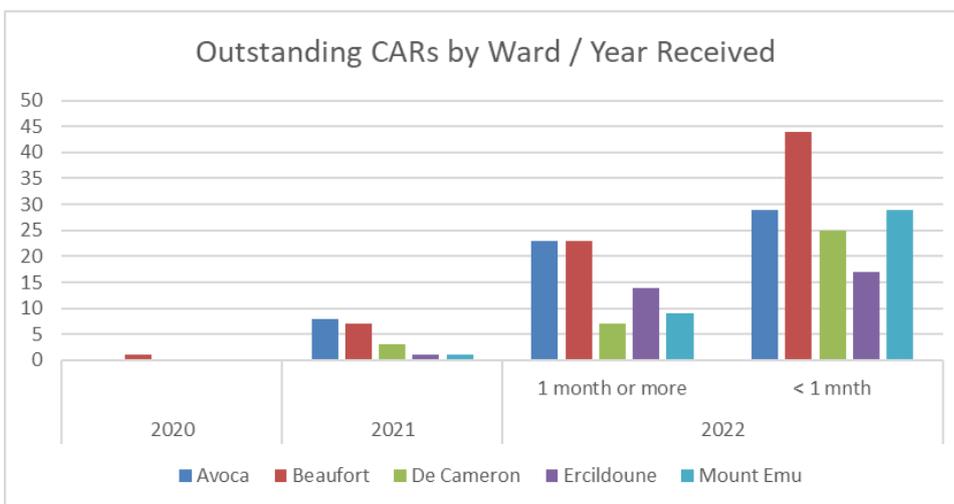
- 439 CARs were logged in August, 104 more than in July and the second highest in the previous 12 months. Even though 384 CARs were closed in the month, many enquiries are not able to be resolved and closed within a short space of time.
- At 335, outstanding CARs numbers rose above Council's target to maintain outstanding CARs to below 300 for the first time this measure was introduced.
 - The 335 outstanding CARs include 94 telephone calls and 241 of Ward related customer action requests.
 - The areas with the largest numbers of outstanding CARs include:
 - Roads & Road maintenance – 63 outstanding, 2 less than the previous month.
 - Drainage – 24 outstanding, 5 more than the previous month.
 - Roadside Vegetation (mostly trees) - 22 outstanding, 2 more than the previous month.
 - Planning – 50 outstanding, 21 more than the previous month.
 - Rates – 19 outstanding, 10 more than the previous month.
 - Telephone messages – 94 outstanding, 24 more than the previous month. Of these, 38 (40%) relate to planning / building / environmental health / permit enquiries.
 - Some service areas are receiving such a quantity of enquiries that these are proving difficult to manage – e.g., planning and building enquiries where around 30% of telephone calls and a large proportion of customer action requests relate. Discussion is underway on how to manage these more effectively. Many of these request information not easily provided in a short space of time or with the limited information provided and are related to potential residential growth. This problem is contributing to approximately 25% of the total outstanding CARs.
 - Rates enquiries have seen the normal rise at this time of year following the issuance of annual rates notices.
- 1 request remains outstanding from 2020, relating to long-term drainage issues.
- Checks of requests made during August identified no matters that need to be registered and monitored as service complaints.

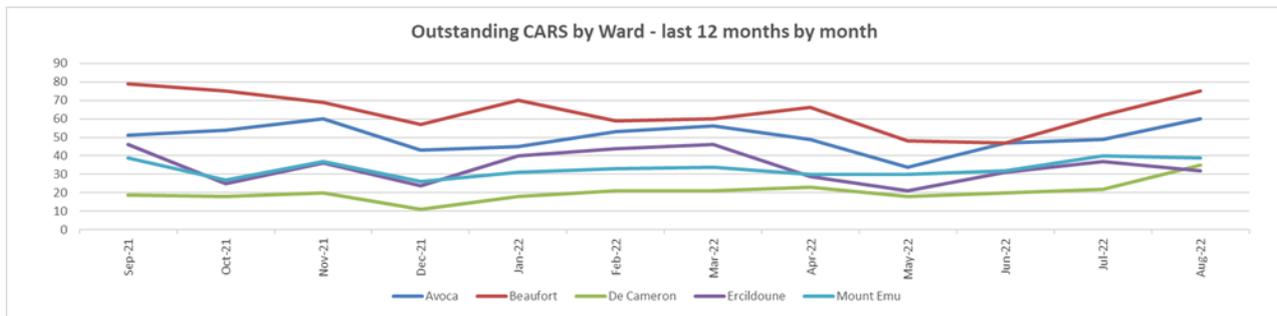
The following graphs display requests received by Ward/month and totals received for the last 12 months.

Outstanding requests by age													
Year	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	% Change
2019	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
2020	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0%
2021	231	247	293	171	148	124	115	82	25	24	21	20	-5%
2022	-	-	-	-	109	140	135	191	208	229	258	314	22%
Total outstanding	234	250	296	174	260	267	253	276	234	254	280	335	20%
Total requests logged	438	401	477	312	309	397	431	278	372	339	335	439	31%



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 August 2022.

Open Requests Type			
	Jul-22	Aug-22	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	65	63	-2
Streetlights	2	3	1
Drainage	19	24	5
Footpaths / Kerb&Channel	4	6	2
Park & Reserves	3	2	-1
Roadside Veg	20	22	2
Environmental Health	4	9	5
Planning	29	50	21
Bld maint	17	19	2
Local Laws	10	4	-6
Cats	0	0	0
Dogs	9	4	-5
Livestock	2	2	0
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	1	1	0
Bld Compliance	3	2	-1
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	0	0	0
Rates	9	19	10
Natural Disasters	0	0	0
Pools	0	0	0
Council cleaning	2	1	-1
Litter	3	3	0
Design & Assets	2	2	0
GIS	0	0	0
Community Wellbeing	4	4	0
Rural Addressing	2	1	-1
Road Naming	0	0	0
Telephone messages	70	94	24
Total	280	335	55

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 August 2022, which saw an increase in logged and outstanding requests.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

10.2.1. PROJECTS 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: 16/21/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive a high-level update on key Council projects.

BACKGROUND

Updates on Council projects have been reported regularly to Council and the community through information reports in quarterly Council meeting agendas, in addition to the project dashboard which has been developed in recent years and is accessible on Council's website.

There has been an impact on project staffing levels in recent months resulting in the dashboard data being unable to be updated for the community as intended. However, there is a significant amount of project work being undertaken in recent months as reported through the weekly community noticeboard and as provided in the summary below.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Lexton Community Hub

The Wastewater treatment system and associated piping has been installed and connected, with minor associated elements (pump, filter, and index valve) to be completed over the coming weeks to ensure the WWTS is working as required. Following that, sign off on the Health Environment Management Plan and issue of Certificate of Occupancy is required, commissioning and final clean before handing over to the community which is anticipated in late October or November. A formal opening will be arranged with the relevant funding bodies which is anticipated in early 2023.

Beaufort Water Reuse and Recycling Project

Central Highlands Water has advised that construction works on the project are set to recommence in November. Restoration earthworks along sections of the project pipeline, as well as earthworks have been impacted by the recent inclement weather, and as weather permits, the final phases of the project are expected to be met by March 2023. This sustainability focused project includes the installation of pipeline to connect the schools, golf club and Goldfields Recreation Reserve to reclaimed, efficient, safe water to support green spaces and community recreation. Long-term, the project will reduce demand on town supply and protect environmental flows to Lake Beaufort. The project is the result of the joint commitment between the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Pyrenees Shire Council and Central Highlands Water.

Beaufort Goldfields Recreation Reserve Cricket Nets

Discussions with the Beaufort Cricket Club, sporting clubs, Cricket Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria are continuing over the final siting of the nets with a decision on the siting to be made in near future. Other design elements are being refined in conjunction with the club.

There have been delays for the project which are expected to be addressed with commencement of works in coming weeks.

Avoca swimming pool carpark

Works to build a car park at Avoca Pool are well advanced. This will provide safer access to the pool and should be completed in October before the opening of the pool season.

Avoca footpath repairs

Work on High Street footpaths has started and should be complete by the end of September. During construction, traffic management will take place with the contractor talking to and working with affected property owners/service operators.

Avoca footpath projects

Community consultation has commenced on options for footpath construction projects in Avoca and the results will be reported to council later in 2022.

Lamplough bridge replacement works

Lamplough Greenhill Creek Road in Lamplough is closed around the bridge and signage for detours is in place. Works to replace the bridge with a major multiple cell culvert are well advanced despite challenges with rainfall and stream flows. It is anticipated that the road will be open in late September or early October.

Raglan Elmhurst Road bridge

Works on Bridge 139 at Raglan Elmhurst Road will start in October.

Carngham Streatham Road bridge

Works on Bridge 32 on Carngham Streatham Road are almost complete. The bridge structure is almost finished, and the guard rails are being installed. Unfortunately, due to delays with weather and supplies, works will be delayed with works due to finish in early October.

Upcoming road closures

Bridge 139 – Raglan Elmhurst Road closed from mid-October to late-November.

Bridge 11 – Beaufort Carngham Road closed anticipated from November to mid-January.

Bridge 10 - Beaufort Carngham Road - tender documents are being prepared for this project to be awarded in Q4 2022 with works planned for H1 2023 requiring the road to be closed during the construction period. Efforts will be made to undertake works around the same time as bridge 11 to reduce the closure period.

More information on road closures can be found on our website.

Avoca Car Park and EV Charging

Commencement of works have been suspended pending Council's consideration of a community petition.

Amphitheatre Carpark

Works on the car park at the post office are complete

Moonambel footpath

Work on the footpath from the town west to Summerfield winery is nearing completion.

Redbank Streetscape

Discussions are underway with the Redbank community on improvements to the main street in the vicinity of the Community Hall. Priorities to include drainage, parking, access, and street trees. Concepts are being prepared, and a funding allocation is still to be considered by Council.

Beaufort Goldfields MasterPlan

It is anticipated that this planning work will commence soon after the outcome of a funding application for planning of the Beaufort green Linear project (Beaufort Lake north to Beggs Street Park and beyond) is known. This work will involve engagement of an independent planning and engagement consultant and involve engagement with all relevant stakeholders and the broader community.

Avoca Depot Amenities upgrade

The purpose of this project is to upgrade the staff amenities at the Avoca depot to meet existing standards and expectations for workplaces. Detailed design and tendering are underway with commencement expected in Q4 2022.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

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.

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

This reporting on progress of projects is intended to inform Council and the community.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes this report

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - AUGUST 2022

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
Tues 09	Councillor Cuppa	Redbank
Tues 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tues 16	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 16	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Tues 23	VLGGC Statewide Information Session 1	Virtual
Thurs 25	Krupps Gun Discussion	Beaufort

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
Tues 02	MAV – Meet with South East Councils Climate Alliance	Virtual
Tues 02	Upper Loddon and Avoca Landcare Network Meeting	Maryborough
Wed 03	VNI-West Project Assessment Meeting (CVGA)	Virtual
Wed 03	CVGA Finance & Audit Meeting	Virtual
Fri 05	MAV Board Meeting	Virtual
Sat 06	Attended funeral for Cr Tony Driscoll, Northern Grampians Shire	St Arnaud
Tues 09	Councillor Cuppa	Redbank
Tues 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Wed 10	MAV – Met with Local Government Minister Melissa Horne	Melbourne
Thurs 11	HLLN Meeting	Virtual
Thurs 11	MAV – Technology Conference and Awards Dinner	Melbourne
Fri 12	MAV – Briefing for Greens leader Samantha Ratnam (Building Legislation)	Virtual
Mon 15	Local landholder meeting – Ausnet Powerlines	Waubra
Mon 15	MAV Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Virtual
Tues 16	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 16	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Wed 17	ALGA – Local Government Roundtable on skills and employment with Minister McBain	Virtual
Wed 17	MAV – Audit Committee recruitment panel	Virtual
Thurs 18	Launch of M9 Council grouping	Melbourne
Fri 19	MAV Rural North Central Regional meeting	Virtual
Fri 19	MAV Insurance Board meeting	Virtual
Sun 21	Mount Bolton Lions Changeover event	Learmonth
Mon 22	Western Renewables Link Community Discussion	Waubra
Mon 22	MAV Rules Review Steering Committee	Virtual
Mon 22	Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Network meeting	Beaufort
Tues 23	VLGGC Statewide Information Session 1	Virtual
Wed 24	Waubra Wind Farm Community Fund meeting	Learmonth
Wed 24	MAV Rules workshop	Virtual
Thurs 25	MAV Rules workshop	Virtual
Thurs 25	CVGA Board Meeting	Virtual

Thurs 25	MAV – Commonwealth Games Partner forum	Melbourne
Fri 26	MAV – Audit Committee recruitment interviews	Virtual
Fri 26	MAV Rural South West Regional meeting	Virtual
Mon 29	MAV – Inaugural meeting of Premier’s Mentally Healthy Workplaces Advisory Committee	Melbourne
Wed 31	MAV Rules Workshop	Virtual
Wed 31	ALGA Board meeting	Virtual

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
Tues 09	Councillor Cuppa	Redbank
Tues 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Thurs 18	Timber Towns Victoria Meeting	Virtual
Tues 23	VLGGC Statewide Information Session 1	Virtual
Fri 26	RCV Committee Meeting	Virtual

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
Tues 09	Councillor Cuppa	Redbank
Tues 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tues 16	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 16	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thurs 18	Vietnam Veterans Day	Beaufort
Mon 22	Western Renewables Link Community Discussion	Waubra
Tues 23	VLGGC Statewide Information Session 1	Virtual
Wed 24	Renewable Energy Transition Forum (Ausnet)	Ballarat
Wed 31	Parliament House Visit	Melbourne

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
Tues 09	Councillor Cuppa	Redbank
Tues 09	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tues 16	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 16	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Tues 23	VLGGC Statewide Information Session 1	Virtual
Thurs 25	MEMPC Meeting	Virtual

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

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	{item-title}		
Meeting Date	9 August 2022 commenced at 1.30pm and closed at 5.06pm		
Meeting Location	RTC Room, Avoca		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost Shifting 2. Pool Update 3. Aged Care Reform 4. Major Projects 5. Landsborough Store 6. Expenses Policy / Travel & Accommodation Procedure 7. Avoca Rail Precinct Asset Committee 8. Action Items 9. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Tanya Kehoe (virtual)	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Cr Damian Ferrari		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Martin Walmsley (Manager Community Wellbeing and Development) – Items 2, 3 and 4 Jane Bowker (Recreation Development Coordinator) – Items 2, 3 and 4		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

13. ITEMS FOR DECISION

13.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

13.1.1. SPONSORSHIP OF AVOCA AND BEAUFORT TOWN MARKETS

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 32/13/06

PURPOSE

This report provides an update on Council's sponsorship commitment of the Avoca and Beaufort Town Markets.

BACKGROUND

A sponsorship proposal by the Beaufort Progress Association was brought to Council for consideration in April 2022 with the following motion being passed:

That Council:

- 1. Approves sponsorship of \$5,000- per annum over three financial years commencing 1 July 2022.*
- 2. Increases its annual sponsorship budget by \$5,000- to accommodate this request*

It was noted in the report at the time that:

The markets are attended by around 300 people at Beaufort and 500 at Avoca with each market having between 30 to 40 stall holders.

Around two thirds of people attending the markets are from outside of the Shire with attendances and visitor percentages being higher during public holidays and long weekends.

The monthly markets encourage visitors to stay over weekends and go shopping at local small businesses and wineries which is especially important following the impacts of the pandemic.

Restaurants at cellar doors are regularly booked out on Avoca Riverside Market weekends.

The markets also provide fund raising opportunities for local community groups and social benefits and opportunities for Pyrenees residents as part of these monthly outings.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Beaufort Progress Association has advised Council that their market coordinator has withdrawn from the role because of changing employment circumstances. Due to these circumstances the Association has reviewed its position and decided to discontinue its involvement in running the town markets.

A subgroup of BPA comprising residents from Avoca has been coordinating the Avoca town market during the past three winter months and is willing to continue as its host in future. While this will

initially remain under the auspices of BPA, this group is presently working towards incorporation in order to establish their own independent body to operate the markets over the long term.

Council officers are providing support to the Avoca group as required and are developing an expression of interest process to seek applications from organisations in Beaufort who may individually or collectively wish to run the Beaufort town market in future.

A process for evaluation of EOI's is being developed by Council Officers and it is anticipated that EOI's will be advertised by mid-October.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is recommended the three year budget commitment of \$5,000- to support the town markets and endorsed by Council in April 2022, be retained in the budget in the event resources are required to support the new host organisations at Avoca and Beaufort.

Any approaches for this support will be subject to Council's usual sponsorship guidelines, terms and conditions.

CONCLUSION

A new incorporated association is being formed to run the Avoca markets. The members of this group have already formed a sub-committee within BPA and have gained experience with operation of the markets over the past three months.

An expression of interest will be advertised for organisations to apply to run the Beaufort Town Market.

Funds approved by Council in April 2022 to support the two markets may still be required by the new market hosts for the resources required to operate these regular events.

Cr Robert Vance / Cr David Clark

That Council:

1. Retains its original sponsorship commitment of \$5,000- per year over three years to support the two town markets
2. That should the abovementioned funds be required from Council by the new market hosts, then the CEO be authorised to approve them
3. That the funds mentioned under 1 and 2 above be shared equally between the Avoca and Beaufort markets
4. That the market host organisations meet Council's eligibility criteria in addition to the usual terms and conditions for sponsorship support

CARRIED

13.1.2. TOURISM DEVELOPMENTS

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 62/04/02

PURPOSE

To provide an update to Council on the status of the visitor economy.

BACKGROUND

The visitor economy has been one of the industries most affected by the Covid19 pandemic.

Some sectors within the visitor economy have felt the brunt of the pandemic more so than others due to the nature of some of the emergency mandates imposed over the past two years. In particular this includes the hospitality industry, group accommodation and wedding venue operators.

The following table developed from Remplan economic data provides a reflection on the performance of tourism industry sectors within the Pyrenees.

Sector	Output		
	2017	2019	2021
Food and Beverage	\$10.7M	\$11.6M	\$9.2M
Accommodation	\$7.3M	\$8.3M	\$7.2M
Retail	\$13.94M	\$14.6M	\$15.8M
TOTAL	\$31.94M	\$34.5M	\$32.2M

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Economic Development Team are continuing to work collaboratively under its Memorandum of Understanding arrangements with each of City of Ballarat and Ballarat Regional Tourism together with informal networks with other agencies to support the recovery of the tourism industry.

Initiatives to support the recovery are outlined below.

Business support covid recovery

Networking Events

Council provided support to Business for Beaufort to run three network events during May and June.

These events included speakers on topics of the Beaufort Bypass, incentive programs for cadetships and traineeships, and a presentation by Ballarat Regional Tourism on their Industry Strengthening Program and free training sessions offered consisting of:

- Hospo Heroes, a program targeted at food and beverage businesses to improve the skills and knowledge of staff about serving good quality coffee, beer and wine
- Human Resource advisory program (further details provided below)
- Digital content development
- Business health checks
- Chinese menu translations
- Australian Tourism Data Warehouse training

Human resource shortages

Human resource issues and staffing challenges continue to challenge many businesses. In August Pyrenees Shire Council partnered with Ballarat Regional Tourism to deliver a free human resource advisory session with Inspire HQ. This program provided local business an opportunity to have a one-on-one session addressing staffing, recruitment challenges and specific human resource challenges depending on the businesses needs highlighted during a pre session questionnaire.

This free advisory session was the first-time the BRT industry strengthening program has been provided as a localised program which has allowed for greater uptake of the program within our Shire with seven businesses taking part. Feedback from Inspire HQ and participating businesses has been very positive.

Small Business Bus

The Small Business Bus will visit Beaufort on the 3rd of October and Avoca on the 6th of October. The service delivers free advice to small business.

Whether businesses are starting, building, or transforming, the Small Business Bus can help develop business ideas and capabilities.

Business advisers offer free confidential 45-minute tailored sessions from 10am-4pm

The business adviser can help identify a clear direction, discuss key issues and priorities, and develop a business action plan to achieve goals.

Walk-ins are also welcome on this day for the Bus Concierge service. This service provides general information about Business Victoria as well as the Planning and Starting Your Business pack.

Upcoming Small Business Workshops

Workshops have been booked in partnership with Business Victoria in late October and early November. These free workshops are a wonderful opportunity for Pyrenees businesses to upskill to advance their business operations locally in the Pyrenees Shire.

Advanced taking your business online – Pyrenees

October 25, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Avoca Community Resource Centre RTC Room

This workshop is designed to give small businesses the tools, strategies, and knowledge on how to grow their business online.

The topics covered include:

- Investigating the different ways your business can sell online
- Automating business processes to increase efficiencies
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM)
- Systems Mechanisms of online marketing
- Digital disruption and the impact to your business

Generating cashflow – Pyrenees

November 8, 10:00am-12:00pm

Avoca Community Resource Centre RTC Room

This workshop is designed to help identify the key cash flow drivers in business and provide ways of improving operational activities that will immediately improve cash flow.

The topics covered include:

- Profit versus cash
- Cash conversion cycle
- Suppliers and cash flow
- Improving your customer collections
- Marketing and cash flow
- How to prepare a cash flow forecast

Events Brief

Events are back in Spring 2022. Old favourites returning such as the **Blue Pyrenees Avoca Cup**, the **120th Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally** and the **Beaufort agriculture show**, back in November for the first time since 2019. With event organisers excited to be back doing what they do best with no restrictions and expecting pre Covid visitation.

Other new events such as the **Australasian Regaining Championships** based in Warrenmang will provide a wonderful opportunity for a new demographic of visitor to experience the natural wonder of the Pyrenees Ranges. This event is expected to attract around 500 visitors with competitors able to combine outdoor adventure with strategy. Think of an outdoor treasure hunt for all ages. The goal is to race against the clock to navigate as many checkpoints as possible earning points along the way.

For outdoor enthusiast's there is plenty to keep them immersed in the unique beauty of the Pyrenees. The **Wild Mount Beeripmo Trail run** returns to Cave Hill Creek in December and **Dels Waterloo Challenge - Equestrian Endurance Event** is perfect day out for equestrian enthusiasts.

For those who enjoy cycling the **Pyrenees Magic Tri Circuit** returns with a new route this time and home base at Summerfield Winery.

For those who appreciate a day out with music, food and wine the **Rotundone road wine and Music Festival** will surely deliver.

Paella in the Pyrenees looks to return in December however with a potential new name **Free Range in the Pyrenees**. Summerfield are looking to deliver a fantastic line up of music with some big names and local talent. A greater range of local food and of course Summerfield signature wines.

Advanced Avoca are celebrating the rich tapestry of community groups that enrich the community of Avoca. The **Big Thank you Expo** is a thank you to all the volunteers and encourage new volunteers to join up and make new friends with common interests.

The wide range of events in the Pyrenees Shire forms a wonderful base to encourage visitation to the region while locals can benefit from these experiences right on their doorstep.

ROTUNDONE ROAD WINE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

17 Sept 2022

11am - 4pm

Spend the day listening to music and enjoying a glass of wine as you visit the wineries along the Rotundone Road: Mount Langi Ghiran, Mountainside Wines and Dogrock. Food will be available at each winery.

Pyrenees Magic Tri Circuit – Maryborough Rotary Club

23 Sept 2022

9am-3pm

Summerfield, Moonambel

Starting off from a new base at Summerfields Winery the Pyrenees Magic Tri Circuit is an exciting fun raising event for Maryborough Rotary Club. You can select 3 ride lengths to suit all riders. The route will take in the towns of Moonambel, Landsborough, Elmhurst and Avoca.

Avoca Big Thank You Community Groups Expo

2 Oct 2022

11am – 4pm

Avoca Shire Hall

The Expo is a celebration of the rich tapestry of community groups that enrich the community of Avoca. This is an opportunity to discover new activities, get involved and join up!

Australasian Rogaining Championships

8-9 Oct 2022

Warrenmang, Pyrenees Ranges

Victorian Rogaining Association will host the Australian Championship on 8-9 October 2022. The "Pyrenees Ponder" will be held in the Pyrenees Ranges, Warrenmang.

Dels Waterloo Challenge - Equestrian Endurance Event

9 Oct 2022

Waterloo Recreation Reserve

Equestrian endurance event, 80km, 40km, 20km affiliated with the Victorian Endurance Riders Association. This event is a celebration of the life of Waterloo local Del McErvale who had supported endurance horse riding in the Waterloo region for 30 years

Blue Pyrenees Avoca Cup

15 Oct 2022

Gates open 11am

Avoca Turf Club

Country racing and a picnic atmosphere, food stalls and kids activities, fashions on the field and live entertainment

Light the Night

15 Oct 2022

Beaufort Community Bank Complex

A non profit fundraising event for the Leukaemia Foundation, kids activities, entertainment, horse drawn wagon, lantern parade.

Trawalla Hall Spring Plant and Garden Fair

29 Oct 2022

Trawalla Hall

The event is designed to attract the many interested gardeners in our district and beyond. Stallholders will consist of a mix of nurseries, small plant and garden sellers, garden ornaments and other garden supplies.

120th Lake Goldsmith Rally

29-30 Oct 2022

Lake Goldsmith

The Perfect Living Museum, a wonderful day out for the whole family. The biggest steam rally in the southern hemisphere. Highlight Theme – Roundabout Steam Ploughing in action on the arena and 100 years of Howard Australia

Beaufort Agricultural Show

20 Nov 2022

Goldfields Recreation Reserve

So much to see and do: animal nursery, art, beer brewing, brass band, cattle, cookery & preserves, crafts, dog jumping, face painting, food trucks, fleeces, floral art, horse events, photography, poultry, rides, scones, trade stands, yard dog trials and wood chop.

Eel Skinners and Duck Pluckers Ball

10 Dec 2022

Carranballac Recreation Reserve

The Eel Skinners and Duck Pluckers Ball is a not-for-profit event with funds being channelled back into the community. Great musical line up and fun competitions

Tourism

Red Series

Wineries from the Grampians Pyrenees were able to resume the Red Series event at the Ballarat Mining Exchange this year following a break due to Covid19. The event was held on Saturday 30 July 2022 and hosted twenty two wineries. The event is a means of raising awareness in the Ballarat community of the wineries from the two regions with the event being promoted into Melbourne also.

This year two separate tasting sessions were held commencing late morning and mid-afternoon, with the later session being heavily booked.

Victoria by Farmers Daughters (Federation Square Melbourne)

Ballarat and surrounds will be the first region in residence at this new event to promote food and beverages from across regional Victoria commencing 1 September 2022. Featuring region-inspired menus and a full program of events to explore. Menu's and events will feature Dalwhinnie, Sallys Paddock, Mitchell Harris and Summerfields wines along with Summerfields Suffolk lamb.

In the lead up to Ballarat taking up residency, Executive Chef Alejandro Saravia has explored the Ballarat, Pyrenees and Moorabool regions meeting exceptional farmers, growers, artists and chefs who have helped shape the menu and programming at Victoria by Farmer's Daughters. Alejandro recorded his visit to the region which has provided us with some fantastic exposure.

Victoria by Farmers Daughters is a ground breaking culinary experience which brings the produce, people and places from regional Victoria to the city. Located in Melbourne's iconic Fed Square overlooking the Yarra River, the 250 seat venue celebrates the produce, ingredients and stories of the whole state of Victoria.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

a. Motivate and inspire community involvement

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information purposes.

Cr David Clark / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. Continues to support the tourism sector in the Pyrenees as businesses rebuild following the COVID_19 pandemic through promotion, and business support outlined in this report.
2. Considers a further progress report on the matter, and on Regional Tourism activities in early 2023

CARRIED

13.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.2.1. NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSMENT

Presenter: Kati Gleisner – Acting Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development

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

File No: 28/08/10

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the outcomes of the Neighbourhood Safer Places assessments, including additional sites that Council requested last year for inclusion as potential NSP's including Amphitheatre, Barkly, Crowlands and Raglan.

BACKGROUND

Under section 50J of the Country Fire Authority Act (1958), a municipal council must, by 31 August each year, conduct a review of each designated NSP in its municipal district to determine if it is still suitable to be designated as a Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP). Once reviewed, Council must submit to the CFA its intention to agree to the prescriptions outlined in the assessment reports for each site by 30 September of that year.

In conducting the annual review, Council must ask the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to assess each NSP in accordance with the CFA Assessment Guidelines.

A NSP is a space that:

1. is a place of last resort for individuals to access and shelter in during a fire event affecting their neighbourhood - without the need to take a high risk journey beyond their neighbourhood;
2. eliminates direct exposure to flames from a fire front and management of radiant heat to survivable levels; and
3. should only be accessed when personal bushfire survival plans (for individual properties) cannot be implemented or have failed.

An NSP does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council currently has nine (9) designated NSPs which are in the following locations:

1. Lexton – Toll Bar Park
2. Waubra – Recreation Reserve
3. Beaufort – Wotherspoon Park
4. Snake Valley – St Brigid's Church Reserve
5. Avoca – Medium Strip, High Street (between Russell & Cambridge Streets)
6. Moonambel – Recreation Reserve
7. Natte Yallock – Recreation Reserve
8. Redbank – Recreation Reserve
9. Landsborough – Recreation Reserve

All 9 locations were assessed by the CFA in July/August 2022 and deemed to be compliant with the CFA Assessment Guidelines.

CFA also assessed sites at Bakery Park Amphitheatre, Barkly Hall site, Crowlands Hall site, and Raglan recreation reserve. Three of the four sites were deemed compliant with prescribed maintenance conditions relating to grass management. Only Barkly Hall site was deemed non-compliant due to proximity to large areas of treed woodland.

Council officers contacted the assessment team to better understand whether there may be a way to achieve a compliant site at Barkly Hall. The advice has been to resubmit the request and nominate the inside of the Barkly Hall as the NSP. This process is currently underway, however it should be noted that if the hall is prescribed as a NSP, access in an emergency will need to be managed.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Priority 2 - Place

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. NSP - Natte Yallock [**13.2.1.1** - 5 pages]
2. NSP - Raglan [**13.2.1.2** - 6 pages]
3. NSP - Redbank [**13.2.1.3** - 5 pages]
4. NSP - Snake Valley [**13.2.1.4** - 5 pages]
5. NSP - Waubra [**13.2.1.5** - 5 pages]
6. NSP - Amphitheatre [**13.2.1.6** - 6 pages]
7. NSP - Barkly [**13.2.1.7** - 6 pages]
8. NSP - Avoca [**13.2.1.8** - 4 pages]
9. NSP - Beaufort [**13.2.1.9** - 4 pages]
10. NSP - Crowlands [**13.2.1.10** - 6 pages]
11. NSP - Landsborough [**13.2.1.11** - 7 pages]
12. NSP - Lexton [**13.2.1.12** - 5 pages]
13. NSP - Moonambel [**13.2.1.13** - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council has an annual budget for the maintenance of the designated NSPs. However, if additional NSP's are designated, a budget increase would be required to ensure that prescribed works are undertaken. It is estimated that in an average year the cost of maintaining a single NSP is in the range of \$2000-\$2500 per site. However, some sites are currently maintained for amenity and would not require an additional full site budget. Sites such as Bakery Park Amphitheatre and Crowlands Hall (maintained by others) would generally meet the prescribed works. Therefore, most of the additional budget requirement would be for Raglan Recreation Reserve.

CONCLUSION

Neighbourhood Safer Places provide a place of last resort in a bushfire emergency. They should be carefully considered in their designation as they can be misinterpreted as being an alternative to leaving early in a fire emergency.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr David Clark

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of Pyrenees Shire Council's Neighbourhood Safer Places assessment conducted by the Country Fire Authority and publishes the list of previously prescribed NSPs on Council's website.
2. Commence the gazettal process for designating the three new Neighbourhood Safer Places at Bakery Park, Amphitheatre, Crowlands Hall, Crowlands and the Raglan Recreation Reserve, Raglan; and commit to undertake the prescribed site preparatory works.
3. Further investigate sites for a Neighbourhood Safer Place in the locality of Barkly.

CARRIED

13.2.2. BAKERY PARK, AMPHITHEATRE - PEPPERCORN TREE PRESERVATION

Presenter: Katie Gleisner – Acting Director Assets and Development

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

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development

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

File No: 210000650

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council regarding the options to mitigate risk associated with the large peppercorn tree at Bakery Park Amphitheatre.

BACKGROUND

Council received a customer action request regarding the structural integrity of a large peppercorn tree in the centre of Bakery Park, Amphitheatre. The tree provides amenity to picnic tables, the playground and barbeque shelter within the park. The tree is estimated to be more than 100 years old and has an association with the former bakery at the site. Council sought to undertake an arborist inspection of the tree with a subsequent report provided. The arborist report determined that the structural integrity of the tree was causing a major risk to park users and would likely fall over if intervention is not undertaken.

Council officers considered that the most reasonable approach to reduce the risk to the public would be for the tree to be removed. Council notified the community of its intention to remove the tree through its Noticeboard and through a media release. Council received feedback from the community that the tree had historic value and should be preserved if possible. Council held off any work on the tree until Council could hear directly from the public at a community cuppa session held at Amphitheatre at 5pm on Tuesday 13 September 2022. Councillors inspected the tree on the same day.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The arborist considered three options including major pruning to lessen the weight of the limbs, supporting the limbs with engineered structures and potential removal.

There were several views voiced at the cuppa session including how the tree could be preserved, whilst acknowledging the risk the tree posed. The general consensus was that the tree be heavily pruned to at least 50% of its current size and that the tree be monitored for further decay or structural deterioration.

The community advised that children often climb on the tree, and should Council look to retain the tree in any form, then it is recommended that action be taken to reduce access to the tree by relocating picnic tables and by way of a suitable fence, with appropriate mulching below the tree to reduce the need for mowing in the vicinity.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

3c. Encourage community care of biodiversity and natural values.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Bakery Park - Tree Hazard Assessment Report- Copy [**13.2.2.1** - 7 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The tree in its current form poses a large risk to the public. The risk needs to be mitigated through adopting actions presented in this report. The estimated cost for structural support of the tree is in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000. The heavy pruning of the tree is estimated to be over \$3,000, while fencing, picnic table relocation and mulching a further \$10,000. The removal of the tree is in the order of \$3,000-\$5,000. Costings are estimates and quotes were not obtained at the time of preparing this report.

CONCLUSION

The peppercorn tree in Bakery Park Amphitheatre has significant historical value to the Amphitheatre community. The tree is currently compromised but action needs to be taken to mitigate the risk to the community.

Cr David Clark / Cr Robert Vance

That Council:

1. Undertakes a structural reduction prune of the peppercorn tree in Bakery Park, Amphitheatre.
2. Relocates picnic tables and fences the tree to restrict access by children and other members of the public.
3. Continues to monitor the tree following the proposed works to mitigate the risk of the tree falling.

CARRIED

13.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.3.1. CARRYOVER OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME TO 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR

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: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

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

File No: 32/26/04

PURPOSE

This report sets out those items of income and expenditure that are required to be carried forward to the 2022/23 Budget from the previous financial year due to grants being received in advance and/or project activity spanning multiple financial years and unfinished as at 30 June 2022.

BACKGROUND

Each year following the completion of Council's annual statement, a process is undertaken whereby information is reported to Council relating to:

1. Untied grants received during the 2021/22 financial year that relate to the 2022/23 financial year. The State and Federal Governments can prepay grants for various projects to be carried out by Council.

Under the current accounting standards, Local Government is required to recognise untied grants when received rather than the year that the income relates to. As such, it is required that funds that meet these criteria are carried forward to the correct financial year.

2. Projects that continued to be works in progress as at 30 June 2022 and require funding to be carried forward to 2022/23 to complete those works.

The conditions associated with any requests for money to be carried over from the previous financial year to the current financial year is:

1. The organisation must have a surplus of funds from the 2022/23 year before a carryover will be approved;
2. Projects must have a surplus of funds from the 2022/23 year before a carryover will be approved;

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Carryover funds requested are supported by surplus funds in the 2021/22 budget. A reconciliation at 30 June is carried out to ensure that the list of carryovers is supported by surplus funds and the financial position of Council remains within the parameters of the 10-year financial plan.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. Carryover Listing [**13.3.1.1** - 2 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The total funds requested to be carried forward to the 2022/23 financial year will be sourced from the cash in excess of the forecast financial position contained within the Pyrenees Shire Council 2022/23 budget. The approval of the carryovers will be within the parameters of the Pyrenees Shire Council 10 Year Financial Plan.

The reconciliation of the cash position of the Pyrenees Shire Council as at 30 June 2022 is:

	(\$'000's)
Cash balance as at 30 June 2022	15,761
Forecast cash position	6,877
Add: Provisions	500
Cash available for carryovers	9,384
Total carryovers	9,297
Surplus of cash	87

The reconciliation of the cash position ensures that the Council remains within the parameters of the 10 Year Financial Plan.

The table above indicates that \$9.384 million (adjusted for changes in forecast provisions) is available to carry forward funds to the 2022/23 financial year, of this amount \$9.297 million is recommended to be added to the 2022/23 budget.

CONCLUSION

The additional funding listed in the attached carryover report is subject to funding guidelines and/or is for projects that have commenced, as such, the funding listed is required. Should Council not adopt the carryover listing there will be a requirement to review the current budget to source the funding to satisfy the requirements of the projects listed in the carryover report.

As at 30 June 2022 the Pyrenees Shire Council recorded an increase in cash to fund the requested carryovers of \$9.297million.

Cr Robert Vance / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Approves the addition of \$9.297 million to the 2022/23 Budget to fund the attached list of carryovers.

CARRIED

13.3.2. COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - EOFY JUNE 2022

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: 16/20/06

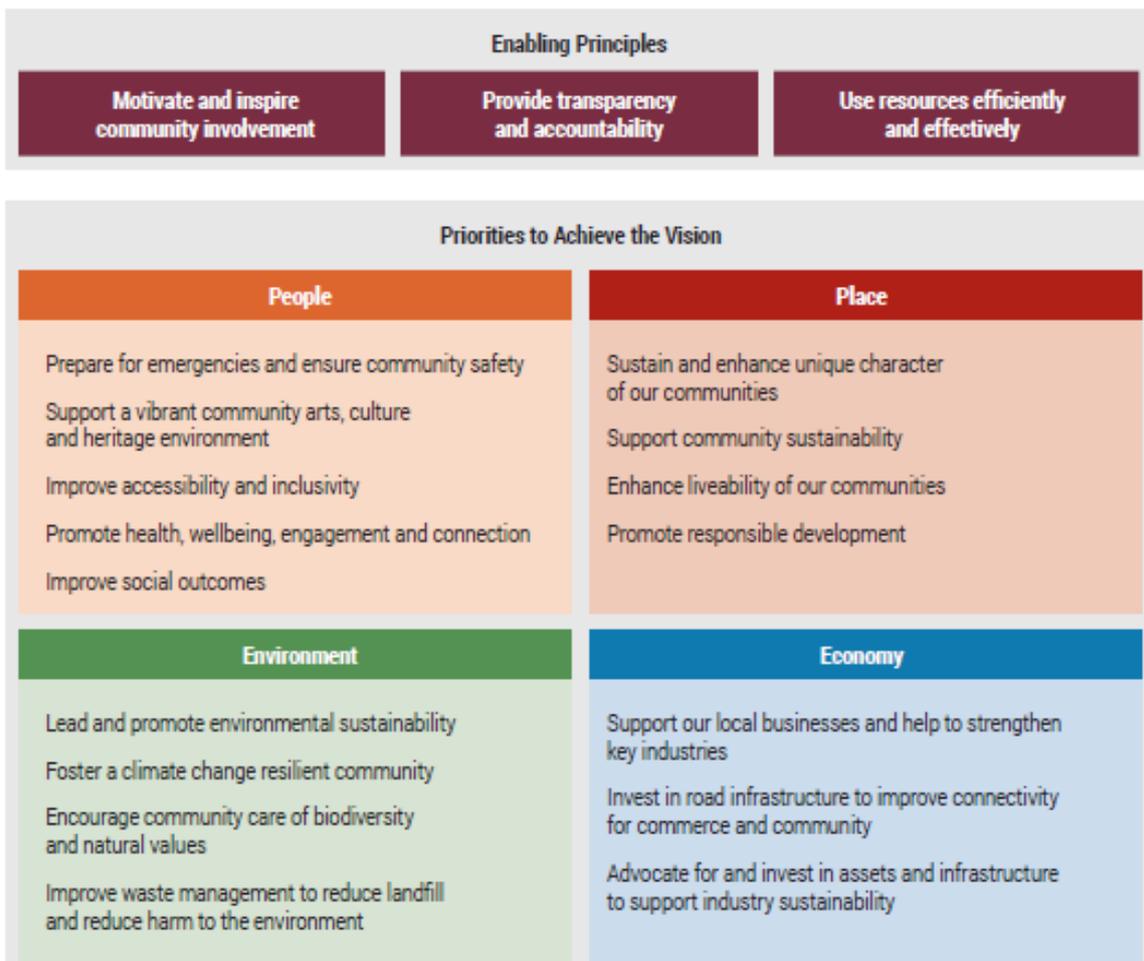
PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a progress report on actions planned to deliver the strategic goals and priorities identified in the Council Plan 2021-2025 as of 30th June 2022.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Council adopted the Council Plan 2021-2025 at its Ordinary Meeting on 19 October 2021. The Council Plan outlines how the Council will work toward implementing the 10-year Community Vision.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 was informed by the Pyrenees Shire Community Vision 2021-2031 and is framed around four strategic priorities, plus enabling principles:



In February 2022, the Council approved the operational projects and priorities for the next two years designed to support the implementation of the Council Plan.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Work is progressing on implementing operational initiatives designed to support the delivery of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The attached report provides a progress update against the Pyrenees Shire Operational Council Plan 2021-2025 as at the end of June 2022, including the annual report against the targets and measures included within the Plan.

The report has been structured for clarity, utilising symbols and brief commentary to provide a snapshot of progress. The status of the initiatives scheduled for the financial year is identified against each individual item and it should be noted that some items cross multiple years.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. Progress Update Operational Council Plan EOFY 2021 22 [**13.3.2.1** - 40 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Any risk implications are discussed in the attached report.

CONCLUSION

The Council adopted the Council Plan 2021-2025 in October 2021 and approved the operational activities that will support the delivery of that plan in February 2022. This report provides a progress update as at the end of June 2022.

Cr David Clark / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council considers and accepts the attached progress report against the Council Plan 2021-2025.

CARRIED

13.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.4.1. AVOCA CAR PARK EXTENSION

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: 58/16/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a petition relating to proposed works involving the southern Car Park extension project located in the central median in Avoca.

BACKGROUND

At the August Council Meeting, Council considered a report and resolved to remove five pine trees as part of the southern Car Park extension project located in the central median in Avoca.

Subsequently, concerned residents in Avoca initiated a petition and presented the petition containing 191 signatures to the mayor. The petition has also been circulated to Councillors and senior officers. Works on the car park project were deferred until Council had an opportunity to consider the petition.

The car park is also intended to accommodate an EV charging station. Community engagement through Council's Engagement Hub was undertaken early in 2022 seeking views from the community about the preferred location for the EV station in Avoca and a decision was made based on the community feedback for the EV station to be located in the southern car park. Access to adequate power is critical and has been made available in the vicinity of the car park.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The petition which is attached to this report states as follows:

At a meeting of concerned residents in the proposed car Park and proposed Electric vehicle charging station near the street/Bridport street intersection on the 19th of August, it was proposed to seek YOUR support for the following:

- (1) Retain the pine trees*
- (2) Request the P.S.C. to adopt Option 3 of the Avoca Car Park Extension project (This can be viewed on Council's web-page).*
- (3) Move the proposed EVC station to a better location --perhaps in front of the Victoria Hotel. The proposed site is cramped and has a congested entry/egress- all in all unsuitable for large electric vehicles*

In respect of point (2) of the petition, the options referred to are those contained in the Council report to the August Meeting relating to the Car park Extension which are copied below:

- 1. Proceed with the tree removal and construction as planned, and plant replacement tree species in suitable locations within the precinct.*

2. Progressively remove the trees over several years, modify the construction plans to suit, and plant replacement tree species in suitable locations within the precinct as other trees

are removed. Potentially removing the two smaller trees and one or two of the larger trees now leaving one or two larger trees for removal at a later time.

3. Remove only the two small trees and retain the three larger trees making the changes necessary to the construction design to suit which may include not laying concrete kerb in this or pavement within the immediate vicinity of the trees to avoid expected damage. Plant oak trees to replace the pine trees to be removed.

4. Retain all existing trees, and modify the construction plans to suit. Undertake any necessary pruning to accommodate car parking and tree health and community safety.

In respect of item (1) and (2) of the petition, these would appear to be contradictory in respect of the two smaller pine trees located under the powerlines, however consistent in the desire for the retention of the three larger pine trees.

Should Council choose to amend its original decision, the design of the proposed car park construction would be required to accommodate the trees retained.

In respect of the EV charging element, while there are concerns expressed about congestion, these factors can be addressed reasonably in the design, though it is not proposed to cater for large vehicles at this site as currently there is no demand for this service. The proposed EV charging station is to provide for passenger vehicle charging which is a growing demand.

Should the demand change, then a further charging station may be required in future. Given that this matter has been the subject of a previous Council decision which has been enacted to the extent that the power is now available on the site, it is not recommended that Council depart from that decision.

In respect of the previous decision of Council made at the August Meeting to remove the trees, whilst Council's Governance Rules provide limitations on the ability of decisions to be rescinded, the rules are absent in respect of amending decisions should council choose to consider an amendment to its earlier decision in the context of the petition.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

Priority 2 - Place

2a. Sustain and enhance unique character 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.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Petition - Avoca Car Park extension trees and EV charging station - August 2022 [**13.4.1.1** - 15 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risks associated with retention of the trees is documented in a previous report to Council on the issue.

Reputational risks exist having regard to the views of the community expressed in the petition.

CONCLUSION

While there have been previous decisions of Council on aspects of the petition, Council may wish to consider the matters as outlined in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the petition and provides direction in respect of the car park extension project.

THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS PUT

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council amends its decision from Item 13.3.5 from its August 2022 meeting to:

1. Confirm this as the location for the site of the Avoca EV charging station.
2. Proceed with tree removal on the western side of the car park, adjacent to the powerlines, and retain the three existing trees on the Eastern side of the carpark
3. Continue to provide information to the community throughout the construction about the works being undertaken.

CARRIED

13.4.2. NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONGRESS

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: 58/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the upcoming National Local Roads and Transport Congress, and to seek support for Cr Vance to attend the congress.

BACKGROUND

The [National Local Roads and Transport Congress](#) is held annually by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

The upcoming Congress is to be held in Wrest Point, Tasmania from 2-3 November 2022. The Congress provides an opportunity to learn of opportunities to boost national productivity, improve safety on our local roads and build more sustainable infrastructure. The Congress will also provide an opportunity to speak directly with federal decision-makers.

Topics covered in the Congress will include how councils are using recycled materials to reduce emissions and transitioning from fossil fuels to electric-powered cars and trucks, the latest developments in heavy vehicle access, and the role councils are playing in supporting and improving national productivity.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Roads and road expenditure comprise around 40% of Pyrenees Shire Council's budget expenditure, and Council is heavily reliant on government funding for maintenance and renewal of our road assets.

The local government sector through ALGA and state peak bodies such as the Municipal Association of Australia (MAV) and Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) advocate to both state and federal governments for an appropriate share of funding for local roads.

Cr Vance is a member of the RCV executive and the learnings from the Congress will assist in undertaking this role.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The cost for participation in the congress will include registration, accommodation and flights. These expenses can be met within the current budget provision.

CONCLUSION

There is benefit in Council participation in the National Local Roads and Transport Congress through advocacy to government for fairer funding for rural councils, and to learn how challenges associated with the management of road and transport system is being addressed.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Supports the attendance of Cr Vance at the 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress.

CARRIED

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Robert Vance

- Attended the Redbank Cuppa, it is pleasing to see projects already in play after the discussion to get some streetscape projects looked at, not necessarily going to be undertaken at the moment but being looked at to improve the streetscape in front of the hall.
- Privileged to be able to be at the MAV Special Meeting that was called last week with regards to the restructure of the MAV Rules, at the end of a long discussion and full credit to the chair, Councillor Clark, the vote went 57 to 13 in favor of 1 Council, 1 vote, 78 Councils in Victoria have one vote. Well done to MAV.
- Attending a Timber Towns forum next week, the TIRES report will be discussed.
- Attended a Rural Councils Victoria forum a fortnight ago, there were approximately 170 Councillors from across Victoria in attendance and as a board, we were able to present our advocacy approach for the upcoming State Elections. Rural Councils are getting more support now than in the past, and a very successful secretary and wonderful chair in Maryanne Brown
- Attended a forum regarding the energy powerlines at Joel Joel, there was one ratepayer from Pyrenees Shire presenting their ideas. It is pretty well accepted now that the lines from Bulgana through to Waubra are going to be overhead, it's impractical to put powerlines up and down hills due to erosion. There is a section of line around the Darley township that may go underground . Due to the heat generation the amount of work that goes into putting the lines underground makes it very costly.

Cr Tanya Kehoe

- Bridge 32 is still being rebuilt and will hopefully be completed soon. It will be a terrific new bridge once it is completed, again we thank the residents, it has been a long and drawn out process and with the detours in place we thank everyone for keeping safe on those roads, particularly as the roads are impacted by weather conditions at the moment.
- Today was a fantastic opportunity to witness the graduation of the Western Bulldogs Leadership Program participants, it has been an incredible journey for them and we saw the impact today when they presented. In particular a shout out to young Harrison Grant who is also giving great air to the importance of mental health with our farmers.
- It was wonderful the other weekend to be showing Minister Jaala Pulford around our incredible communities of Raglan, Barkly and Redbank and to see the fantastic job that has happened with the halls in those areas. The community turnout is always incredible and the amount of work that people put in to keeping those communities alive and the assets that are such a pin point for communities to be celebrating joyful events, sad events, all those events that happen in those communities. The halls are incredible assets and those communities surrounding them are incredible people and we were very warmly welcomed as always.
- It was also a wonderful opportunity to get to know more of the Amphitheatre community last week, again a very strong committed community that represent their needs and are doing great things looking out for each other. A shout out to two beautiful community members Will and

Georgia who also represented their community very well at our meeting last week, that is just a sign of what a beautiful vibrant community it is and continues to be in Amphitheatre.

Cr Damian Ferrari

- Attended the Cuppa at Amphitheatre, the change of time to 5pm seemed to work well, it was really pleasing to see such a good turn up. You can get a much better feel about what the concerns of the community are and perhaps it makes it easier for us to make decisions and make the right ones, well done to the Amphitheatre community.
- Have had some ongoing discussions in relation to the Krupps Gun and some ongoing discussions with the Beaufort Cricket Club.
- Had the pleasure of attending the Beaufort Secondary College Debutant Ball, that was fantastic and congratulations to all of the debutants and their partners, they presented exceptionally well and it was really well done, also congratulations to the organisers and the Beaufort Secondary College for that event.
- Had some discussions with Rotary in relation to a very worthwhile emergency management project that they are considering to pursue, more of that will come to light as time goes on.

Cr David Clark

- Western Renewables Link is of interest and have been discussing with a few landholders.
- Attended a briefing on VNI West which is a powerline that is coming down from NSW to Kerang through Bendigo and joining up with the Newlyn Terminal Station which is part of the Renewables Link to the west. This starts to put together what is going to be a pretty big jig saw across the State for people to try and understand the amount of new powerlines that we need everywhere if we are going to get the amount of renewables into Melbourne where the powers needed. What is going to happen over the next 5 to 6 years is pretty incredible. There is a lot of talk in the media about targets, targets are actually pretty easy, it is actually delivering that is going to be the real challenge for governments. They are talking 50% by 2030 and now hearing talk about 60-65% by 2035, to actually get that power to get us to 50% renewable power and 50% of electric vehicles when we are about 1-2% at the moment is an enormous step.
- Attended the MAV Technology Conference and annual awards, it was really good to see that it is not just the big councils with lots of money that win the awards, its the smaller rural councils as well, Moorabool one of our close neighbours was one of the recipients. Scale is not a limit to getting involved with technology and that's a really good thing.
- Attended the Mt Boltons Lions annual changeover dinner, we all know that service clubs are really important and this was one of the clubs that the late Nancy Dean was the matriarch of for many years. There were many references to Nancy looking down on them, about two years ago they were at four members and were going to close, they are now at 20 members. They have done an awesome job of recruiting in that time and are actually getting themselves back up and running. It was a really terrific day to be there with those new members and the energy they bring. They played a critical role in the fires at Lexton in 2019, they were a significant part of the community that helped support Blaze Aid and that is just one of the things that they do in our community.

- Attended a State Commonwealth Games partner forum which was really interesting, we are only three years off the Commonwealth Games. After talking to the CEO of the City of Ballarat, Evan King, the Mayor, Daniel Moloney and some of the state officials, there is so much work to do at the moment to lock down where the village is going to be and where the events are going to be. After Christmas they may be able to look a bit more regionally and be able to start some regional discussions about having athletes, activities and visitors. If the community is excited about it, it is likely in 2023 we will be able to have some really positive discussions about our involvement.
- Met with Mary-Ann Brown from Rural Councils Victoria about election matters to get MAV and rural councils aligned, we are pretty close and that is going to be really important in the election.
- The leadership forum and the graduation for the young people was terrific this afternoon, it highlights to me how Beaufort is almost a regional school for this area, there were kids from Waubra in the program, kids from Lexton go to school there, and kids from right down south, Skipton and alike. It covers a significant chunk of our Shire.
- Was really happy to be able to get to Raglan as part of the three halls tour and of course as soon as I got in the door it was not about what they had done, it was about the next thing they want to do at Raglan because its always about the next thing they want to do, full credit to them, it was a good day.

Cr Ron Eason

- We should always be looking at what's the next thing, what these community want, once we've provided something there is always something new that is on the agenda and that is part and parcel of what we do here.
- In relation to the Mt Bolton Lions, as an onlooker and partner of a lion we were very disappointed to see the Avoca Lions close down many years ago. It was just that the group became quite old and didn't want to take on the roles again and again and again and eventually the Lions folded. The beauty of that unfortunate event was that a number of them joined the Men's Shed and a lot of the things the Lions do, the Men's Shed are now involved in, one door closed and another one opened.
- The support we need for our volunteer groups never diminishes, we always need people joining these volunteer groups to keep them alive and keep them going.
- Represented the Shire at the RSL Club in Beaufort on Vietnam Veterans day, it was a lovely service and a lovely day to be there and support the RSL on a day of quite significant remembrance.
- Attended Parliament House with the CEO, spoke to Minister Melissa Horne about a number of issues relating to Pyrenees Shire and other matters, she seemed very receptive to our discussions, she passed on a number of things to various people and I have seen correspondence relating to some of that coming back to us already which is wonderful. We met with one of the Roads Ministers Advisors as the Roads Minister was otherwise engaged, we discussed some of the roads that we look after in the shire that are definitely not a local road and should be a road of significance and we are working on seeing what we can do there to change the assignment of those roads. We also spoke to Nationals Leader Peter Walsh in relation to some of the water matters throughout the shire and the region. Peters' knowledge and history in water matters and other matters within the Victorian political scene, it was very interesting to have a discussion.

- Attended the Western Bulldogs Leadership event this afternoon with the participants in the course, it's lovely to see young community minded juniors interested to put their hand up and become involved in their community. I hope that they go further with it and become community leaders as they get older and take on roles because younger people have to start taking on roles within our communities otherwise communities do not survive.

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council 20 September 2022 closed at 7:26 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

2022 Mayor Cr Ron Eason