



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 13 December 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, the meeting will be adjourned until the issue is resolved or the meeting will be postponed to another time and date in accordance with Council's meeting procedures and Governance Rules.

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 15 November 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 15 November 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.
- 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.
- 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. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

10.1.1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT - JULY TO NOVEMBER 2023

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

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

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

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with a summary of the Planning and Development Department's regulation activity for the period of July 2022 to November 2022.

BACKGROUND

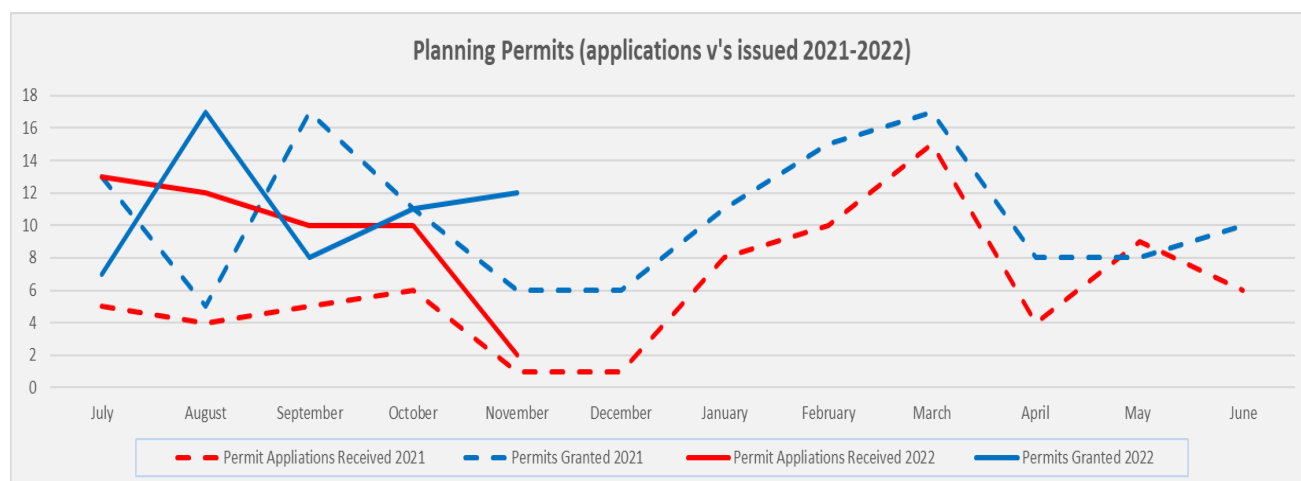
The Planning and Development team is responsible for administering a range of regulatory functions identified within the following Acts, Regulations, Codes and Standards:

- Local Government Act 2020
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Planning and Environment Regulations 2015
- Building Act 1993
- Building Regulations 2018
- National Construction Codes
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Water Act 1989
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Food Act 1984
- Tobacco Act 1987
- Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Domestic Animals Regulations 2015
- Country Fire Act 1958
- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994
- Road Safety Act 1986
- Protection of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
- General Local Law 2019

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

PLANNING:

PLANNING PERMIT DATA	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	TOTAL
Permit applications received	13	12	10	10	2	47
Permits Granted	7	17	8	11	12	55
Permits Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0
Time of extensions granted	0	0	3	1	2	6
Secondary consents approved	0	3	1	1	2	7



Planning permits received vs issued July 2021- November 2022

BUILDING:

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	TOTAL
BUILDING ACTIVITY						
Pools registered	1	0	1	0	0	2
Building Notice/Order issued	2	1	4	3	2	12
Building Notice/Order resolved	0	0	2	3	2	7
Report and Consent	15	13	1	8	10	47

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

WASTE WATER	July	August	September	October	November	TOTAL
Septic Applications Received	5	4	2	4	2	17
Permits to install	3	3	4	3	0	13
Permits to use	1	3	7	2	3	16
DWMP Inspections	18	17	33	14	23	105



REGISTERED PREMISES as at 30 Nov 2022

No. Registered food premises	127
No. Registered accommodation premises	17
No. Registered health premises	13

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND AMENITY:

ANIMAL MANAGMENT	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	Total FYTD
Cats Registered	526	534	533	535	538	-
Dogs registered	2173	2213	2237	2270	2283	-
Cats impounded	2	3	1	0	2	8
Cats reclaimed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats Euthanised	1	2	0	0	2	5
Dogs impounded	4	5	5	11	3	28
Dogs Reclaimed	3	5	5	7	0	20
Dogs Euthanised/surrendered	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stock impounded	16	0	0	0	1	17

INFRINGEMENTS	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Domestic Animals Act	23	12	5	1	5	46
Local Laws	5	1	3	5	12	26
Road Safety Act	0	0	0	0	7	7
Environment Protection Act	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impounding of Livestock Act	0	0	0	0	0	0
CFA Act	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Inf.	28	13	8	6	24	79
Prosecutions	0	10	2	2	1	15

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

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

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

2c. Promote responsible development.

Priority 3 - Environment

- 3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.
- 3c. Encourage community care of biodiversity and natural values.

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Enter community engagement / consultation activities (community cuppas, engagement hub activities etc.)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.2.1. COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - Q1 30 SEPTEMBER 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

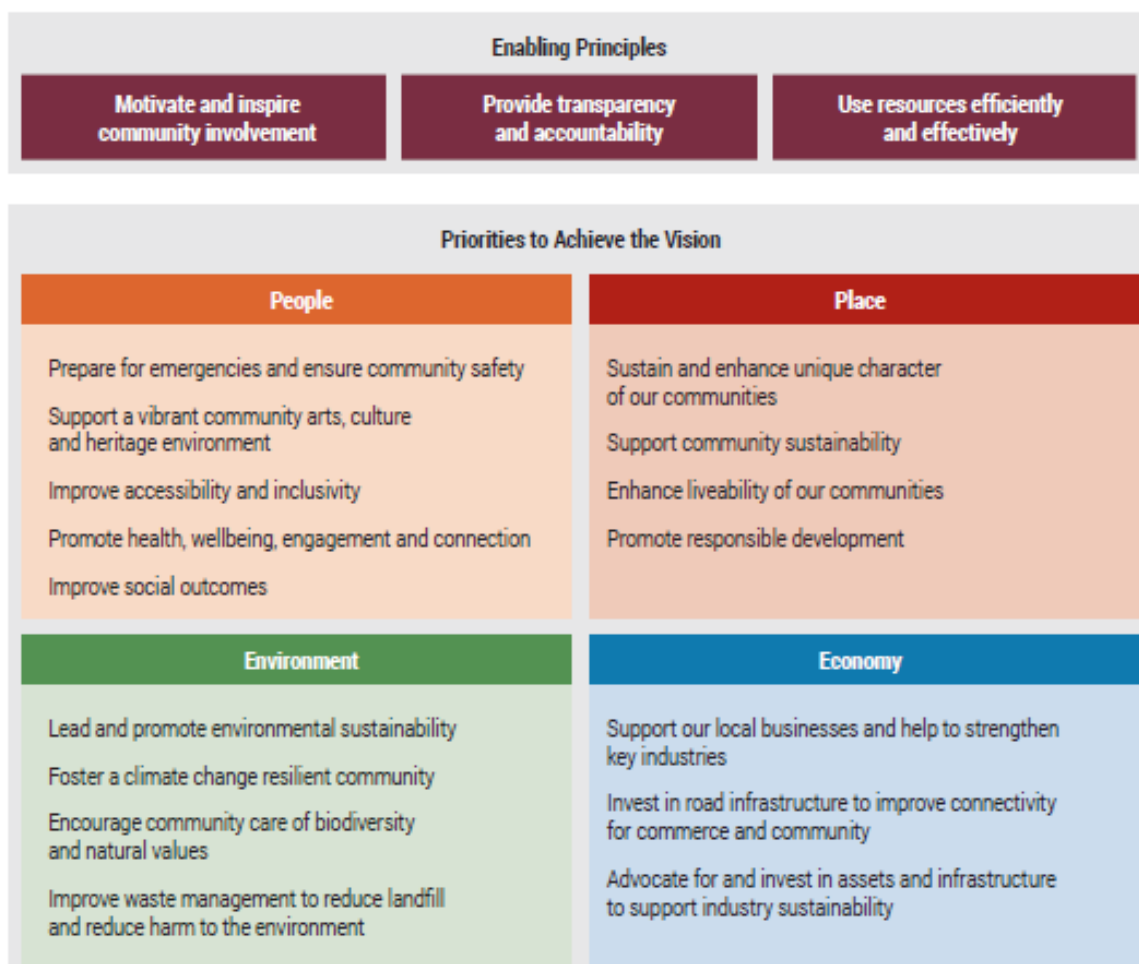
PURPOSE

This report provides 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 September 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 September 2022. Measures have not been included in this report as they are generally provided annually.

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.

Although the report is focused on the end of September 2022, some mention has been made of the significant impacts the October / November floods have had on some parts of delivering the Council Plan, where the focus of those activities is centred around working with our communities on activities, or delivery of normal scheduled road maintenance and construction – all of which have been impacted.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This report serves as part of Council's regular communications to communities on the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025, which is closely aligned with the Community Vision 2021-2031.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Council Plan Progress Update Report October 2022 [**10.2.1.1** - 12 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 September 2022

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

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

10.2.2. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2022

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: 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

This report gives the Council an update on requests made through the Customer Action Request System (CARS) for November 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, roads maintenance, pools, local laws, building maintenance and compliance matters.

Work continued on identifying complaints that may be entered as a customer action request and processing them in accordance with Council's complaints management framework, and to ensure appropriate and timely responses to our community.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION – IT TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

Each month a progress update will be provided to Council on the IT Rural Councils Transformation, a collaborative project with Central Goldfields Shire Council to develop and implement updated systems to manage financial and revenue management, plus a new customer relationship management system.

The funding variation request, input in September for an up-front payment of \$50,000 to enable project management resources to be employed and build capacity earlier, was successful and Central Goldfields Shire Council (as lead council) are recruiting project management resources.

Officers are currently working together on developing the first key deliverable of the project – the development of an IT Architecture Plan or Implementation Plan. The original deadline for submission of the Plan to Local Government Victoria was 31 October 2022, but this was extended to the end of December 2022 for all projects. The Plan has been drafted and feedback is awaited from project stakeholders at both councils.

Officers are also collaborating with Deloitte, appointed by Local Government Victoria, to develop a Shared Services Strategy – a joint deliverable by all councils successful in this round of transformation funding, to provide a framework that can be used as a guidance tool in the future by councils wanting to enter shared service arrangements.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION – NATURAL DISASTER EVENT OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022

The adverse weather event reported last month continued throughout November. Over the course of October and November, the Pyrenees shire was significantly impacted by riverine and flash flooding, with rain events occurring on a weekly basis resulting in three separate major events during that time. This caused extreme difficulty in identifying impacted assets as further damage was caused.

At the time of writing this report, the rain has reduced although long range weather forecasts indicate it may continue until February 2023. State-wide, the emergency event has not yet been declared closed.

The damage caused has been widespread – to private and public infrastructure, agriculture properties and crops, animal losses, businesses, and private residences, and to Council-managed roads and culverts. The original estimate of \$15.5 million has been revised downwards, although full assessment of all damage is not yet complete.

This event significantly impacted on Council's business as usual activity (BAU) and priority was given to the event response involving management, administrative and works staff. This has resulted in reduced capacity to address normal customer action requests and the significant additional demand for service requests experienced during October continued in November. It will take some time to recover and address all outstanding requests and until all damaged assets are restored, although every effort continues to be made to address requests as they are received.

In addition, pressure is being put on officers from Emergency Recovery Victoria and Local Government Victoria to provide detailed impact and cost updates, causing further stresses upon BAU.

A dedicated flood recovery team is being recruited to manage the long-term impacts and recovery activities. The team will comprise four staff including a person dedicated to restoring critical infrastructure. Jane Bowker, Council's Recreation Officer, has been appointed to the role of team coordinator and her substantive role will be backfilled for a period of 12 months. Jane has extensive experience in managing flood recovery at other councils.

The following statistics on customer action requests for the month of November are provided in the context of this ongoing event.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION – CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2022

466 CARs (Customer Action Requests) were logged in November, 3 more than the previous month and the highest number logged in the past 12 months. Of these, 197 related to telephone messages.

403 requests were closed during the month, of which 55 were telephone messages. This is 76 more than the previous month, demonstrating the effort officers are making to maintain focus on addressing requests. This leaves 401 outstanding of which 55 are telephone messages. The total number of CARs outstanding, including telephone calls, is above the Council's target of 300 per month.

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

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	DeCameron Ward	Ercildoune Ware	Mt Emu Ward
Number of requests received in November 2022 (previous month)	51 (80)	114 (107)	35 (47)	39 (51)	30 (39)
Requests received in November and closed in the same month (% of total received)	27 (53%)	63 (55%)	12 (34%)	15 (39%)	15 (50%)
Requests received in November outstanding	24	51	23	24	15
Outstanding requests from 2021	5	3	3	0	1
Total outstanding requests as at the end of November 2022 (previous month)	80 (79)	100 (79)	56 (41)	65 (53)	40 (42)

Analysis:

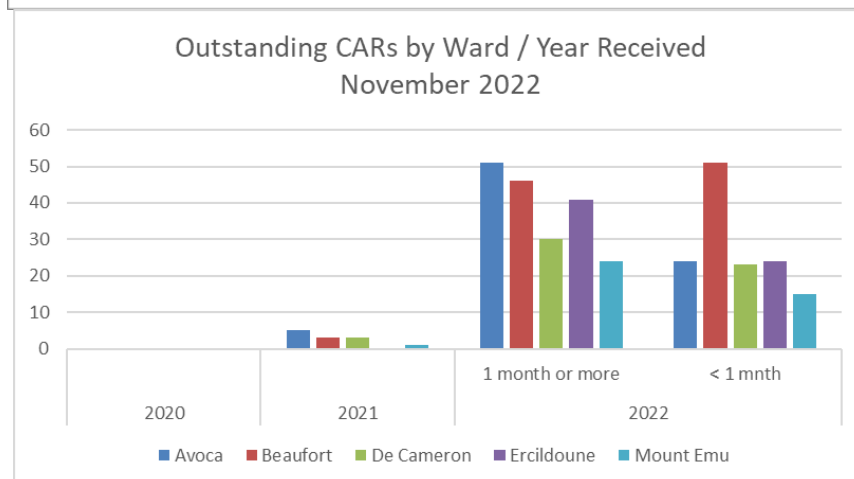
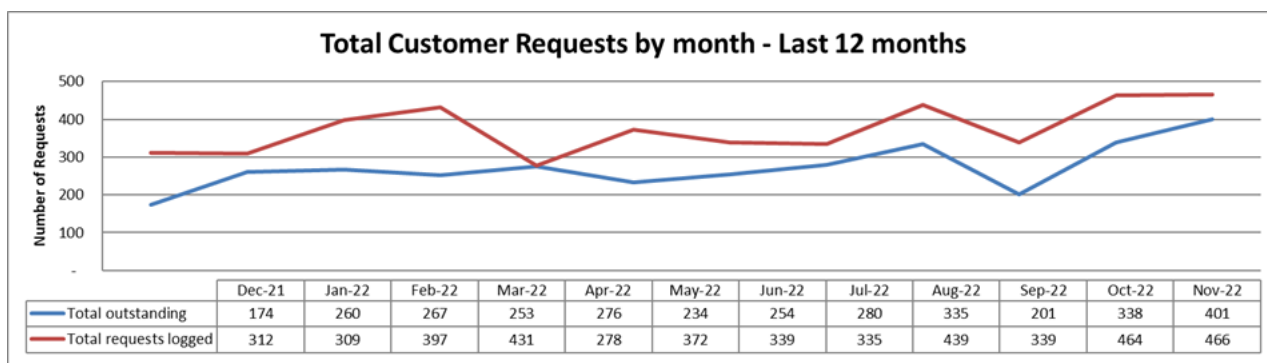
- The number of requests received in November was the highest monthly total for the year, with the previous month (October) the second highest – key impacts from the October / November flood events.
- The increased number of requests received related to flood / weather impacts:
 - Roads and road maintenance requests rose by 49
 - Drainage requests rose by 16
 - Footpaths / kerb & channel requests rose by 10
 - Roadside vegetation requests rose by 11
- The number of outstanding telephone calls rose slightly in November. Staff remain impacted by the focus of flood assessments and will not return fully to normal until the new flood recovery team is in place.
- Although the number of requests received and those outstanding have increased, officers remain committed to resolving as many as possible as soon as possible. In November, officers closed 403 requests, in October officers closed 327 requests – compared to an average 330 closures per month during 2022 to-date.
- The percentage of requests received and resolved in the same month has started increasing again, following the low percentages seen in October (impacted by floods), again reflecting officer commitment to resolving issues at the earliest possible stage.
- The long-term drainage issue from 2020 was closed during November and the number of outstanding CARs from 2021 reduced to 12.
- Checks of requests made during November identified no matters that need to be followed up as a complaint.

Responsiveness improvements: work to identify and implement process changes to effect a change in responsiveness is underway with the following implemented recently:

- The Rates & Revenue business unit ensures that there is always someone available during working hours to answer telephone calls – no matter where located. This is reducing the number of messages that need to be answered. However, rates reminders were issued in early November, increasing the number of enquiries received during the month.
- A training program has commenced to provide frontline staff with an increased level of knowledge relating to specific areas (e.g., rates) thereby allowing a greater proportion of enquiries to be answered at the first point of call.

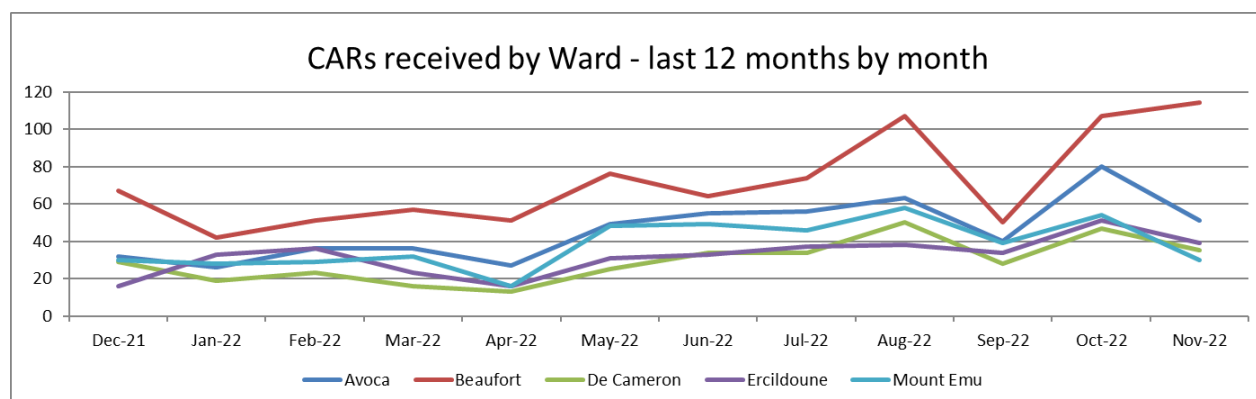
The following charts show the request numbers received by Ward / month and totals received for the past 12 months.

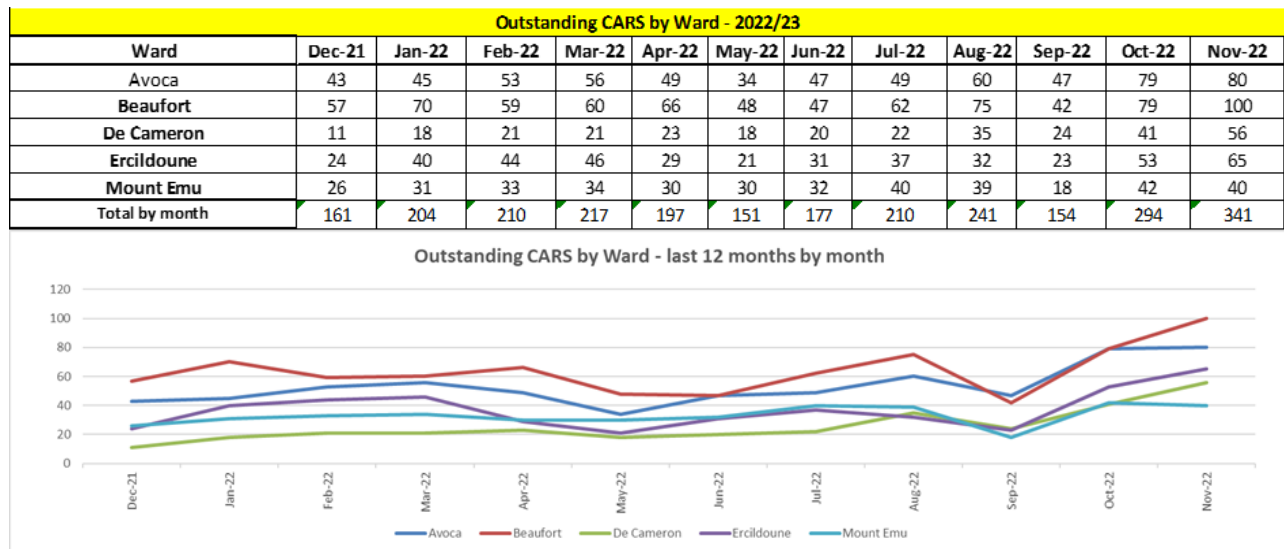
Outstanding requests by age													
Year	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	% Change
2019	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2020	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-100%
2021	171	148	124	115	82	25	24	21	20	16	15	12	-20%
2022	-	109	140	135	191	208	229	258	314	184	322	389	21%
Total outstanding	174	260	267	253	276	234	254	280	335	201	338	401	19%
Total requests logged	312	309	397	431	278	372	339	335	439	339	464	466	0%



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

CARS by Ward received by month Rolling - 2022/23												
Ward	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22
Avoca	32	26	36	36	27	49	55	56	63	40	80	51
Beaufort	67	42	51	57	51	76	64	74	107	50	107	114
De Cameron	29	19	23	16	13	25	34	34	50	28	47	35
Ercildoune	16	33	36	23	16	31	33	37	38	34	51	39
Mount Emu	30	28	29	32	16	48	49	46	58	39	54	30
Total by month	174	148	175	164	123	229	235	247	316	191	339	269





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

Open Requests Type			
	Oct-22	Nov-22	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	123	172	49
Streetlights	2	1	-1
Drainage	54	70	16
Footpaths / Kerb&Channel	7	17	10
Park & Reserves	5	6	1
Roadside Veg	27	38	11
Environmental Health	2	0	-2
Planning	25	0	-25
Bld maint	16	10	-6
Local Laws	7	2	-5
Cats	0	0	0
Dogs	1	1	0
Livestock	1	0	-1
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	1	1	0
Bld Compliance	2	1	-1
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	1	1	0
Rates	10	15	5
Natural Disasters	4	2	-2
Pools	3	2	-1
Council cleaning	2	4	2
Litter	2	2	0
Design & Assets	1	1	0
GIS	0	0	0
Community Wellbeing	0	0	0
Rural Addressing	0	0	0
Road Naming	0	0	0
Telephone messages	42	55	13
Total	338	401	63

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

- a. Motivate and inspire community involvement
- b. Provide transparency and accountability
- c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This report did not require any community engagement or consultation, other than that provided via this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Response to the natural disaster / emergency events occurring in October and November 2022 was necessary to address the immediate significant risks to Council and its community. Community safety and wellbeing continues to be priorities and resources were deployed away from BAU activity where appropriate to respond to the emergency event. Officers remain committed to resolving CARs received as early as possible but there remains a risk in coming months that community expectations will not be met due to constraints on Council resources, and the ongoing nature of the event – expected to continue into the New Year.

There is significant financial risk to Council due to the widespread nature of the damage to critical infrastructure for which reimbursement may not be fully realised.

CONCLUSION

The customer action request system remains an integral part of Council's reactive identification of issues that need attention. The ongoing flood events continued for a further month resulting in a further month of increased requests being received and an inability for officers to keep outstanding request numbers within expected target levels.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - NOVEMBER 2022

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
8 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Lexton
8 Nov	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Lexton
8 Nov	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
10 Nov	Martha Haylett Announcement – BPS60	Beaufort
15 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
15 Nov	Council Meeting	Avoca
24 Nov	PCC Community Meal	Beaufort
27 Nov	Lexton-Ben Major Bushfire Book Launch	Lexton
28 Nov	Councillor Planning Workshop	Beaufort

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
3 Nov	CVGA Meeting	Virtual
8 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Lexton
8 Nov	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Lexton
8 Nov	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
13 Nov	Waterloo Hall & Recreation Reserve CoM	Waterloo
15 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
15 Nov	Council Meeting	Avoca
17 Nov	CVGA AGM & Board Meeting	Maryborough
22 Nov	Raglan Hall & Recreation Reserve CoM	Raglan
24 Nov	PCC Community Meal	Beaufort
27 Nov	Lexton-Ben Major Bushfire Book Launch	Lexton
28 Nov	Councillor Planning Workshop	Beaufort
29 Nov	Waubra Primary School Grade 6 Pen Presentation	Waubra
30 Nov	MAV Rural South Central Meeting	Virtual

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
2 Nov	National Transport Congress	Tasmania
8 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Lexton
8 Nov	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Lexton
8 Nov	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
11 Nov	RCV Roads Discussion	Virtual
15 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
15 Nov	Council Meeting	Avoca
25 Nov	RCV Committee Meeting	Virtual
27 Nov	Lexton-Ben Major Bushfire Book Launch	Lexton
28 Nov	Councillor Planning Workshop	Beaufort
29 Nov	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Beaufort
30 Nov	MAV Rural South Central Meeting	Virtual

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
8 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Lexton
8 Nov	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Lexton
8 Nov	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
9 Nov	Affordable Housing Meeting	Virtual
10 Nov	Martha Haylett Announcement – BPS60	Beaufort
15 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
15 Nov	Council Meeting	Avoca
19 Nov	Avoca Open Petanque Triples Opening	Avoca
27 Nov	Lexton-Ben Major Bushfire Book Launch	Lexton
28 Nov	Councillor Planning Workshop	Beaufort
30 Nov	MAV Rural South Central Meeting	Virtual

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
8 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Lexton
8 Nov	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Lexton
8 Nov	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
15 Nov	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
15 Nov	Council Meeting	Avoca
27 Nov	Lexton-Ben Major Bushfire Book Launch	Lexton
28 Nov	Councillor Planning Workshop	Beaufort

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

11111 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - NOVEMBER 2022			
MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	8 th November 2022 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 3.50pm		
Meeting Location	Lexton Community Centre		
Items Discussed	1. Flood Update 2. Home and Community Care Service Update 3. New Regulations impacting on organisation capacity 4. Statutory Meeting Arrangements 5. Workforce Planning and Staff Wellbeing		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr David Clark		
Apologies	Cr Robert Vance		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Norman Prueter (Manager People and Culture) - item 5		
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		15 th November 2022 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 5.30pm	
Meeting Location		RTC, Avoca	
Items Discussed		<div>1. Planning & Development Reporting</div> <div>2. Rainbow Serpent Update</div> <div>3. Berton VCAT Matter</div> <div>4. MAV Workcare Scheme</div> <div>5. MAV Regions Review</div> <div>6. Landsborough Precinct Planning</div> <div>7. Flood Recovery</div> <div>8. Organisational Capacity discussion</div> <div>9. Council Plan Review / Planning Day</div> <div>10. End of Year Councillor / Exec Dinner / Event</div> <div>11. Agenda Review</div>	
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) Eoghan McColl (Coordinator Planning Services) - items 1 & 2 Rachel Blackwell (Principal Planning Officer) - items 1 & 2	
Visitors		Nil	
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Planning Workshop		
Meeting Date	28 th November 2022 commenced at 9.00am and closed at 2.40pm		
Meeting Location	Beaufort Community Bank Complex		
Items Discussed	1. Introduction and context 2. 10 Year Financial Projection 3. Aged Care Review 4. Organisation Capacity 5. Council Plan 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) Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance) - items 2 & 3		
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. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

13.1.1. TOURISM VIDEO PROJECT

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: 62/08/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for council to endorse a council contribution of \$2,500- to the Business for Beaufort Tourism Video project.

BACKGROUND

Business for Beaufort (B4B) has had an objective to transition Beaufort from a highway stop over town to destination in its own right for some time.

The town has a variety of historic and nature-based assets including Beaufort Lake and nearby Mt Cole as well as a vibrant café sector.

The town is also well known for events like the Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally, annual Pyrenees Art Exhibition and Sale, Agricultural Show and Truck and Car Show.

In recent months, B4B has been discussing with a video production firm to produce a series of short tourism videos suited to social media platforms which can attract visitors to Beaufort.

Council officers have been actively involved in assisting B4B with the direction of the project throughout.

While a grant application to the Bendigo Bank has secured a generous portion of the funds needed, B4B has written to Council seeking its support to meet a shortfall of \$10,000- required to complete the project.

Council has undertaken several tourism marketing projects in the past in collaboration with local tourism industry operators and where co-investment by council and local businesses has occurred.

Examples include the My Day Trip videos, the priority actions in the Grampians Pyrenees Wine and Culinary Marketing Strategy and production of the Pyrenees Tourism Guides every couple of years.

Council has also provided B4B support previously to produce a marketing brochure and made a co-contribution to the Beaufort shopping bags project.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

This project aligns to Council's economic development and tourism strategic objectives to attract more visitors and increase yield of the tourism sector.

B4B has initiated the project illustrating a proactive approach to supporting local businesses.

This is highly relevant in the current climate when several businesses have suffered during Covid19 and as a consequence of the impacts of recent floods on residents as well as cancellation of events such as the Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally and Beaufort Agricultural Show.

Based on these considerations a Council contribution of \$2,500- has been committed to B4B.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Enter community engagement / consultation activities (community cuppas, engagement hub activities etc.)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The contribution of \$2,500- is within current 2022/23 budget allowances for the economic development and tourism team.

CONCLUSION

A council contribution of \$2,500- is considered warranted to:

- Assist B4B with its objectives to transition Beaufort to a tourism destination
- Develop promotional assets that will attract visitors
- Support the Beaufort business community post pandemic and flood events
- Assist meet the Council's strategic objectives for economic development and tourism

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the commitment of \$2,500- to the B4B tourism video project.

13.1.2. SOTHERN WIMMERA AND NORTHEAST PYRENEES WATER SUPPLY FEASIBILITY

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services / 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: 32/20/02

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council's endorsement to procure the services of GWM Water to deliver the feasibility study for the Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply

BACKGROUND

The Natte Yallock Landcare Group initiated this project in 2019 to investigate a rural water supply project in the northern end of the Pyrenees Shire and parts of adjoining Northern Grampians and Central Goldfields Shires.

The project was previously known as the Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply project and the name has been updated to reflect the broader geographic scope of the area of investigation which will now incorporate farmlands on the western flank of the Pyrenees Ranges following representations by the VFF and Northern Grampians Shire Council earlier this year.

A grant submission reported to Council at the August 2022 meeting was approved and officially announced by the Victorian Government in October.

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.

GWM Water is an integral partner to the project having established a record of delivering various rural water supply projects predominantly enabled through water savings from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline project. Examples include the Landsborough Valley Pipeline and Southwest Loddon water supplies, with the East Grampians Project also progressing.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

To enable Council to secure the services of GWM Water to act as the delivery agent for this project requires Council to enact an exemption within its' Procurement Policy.

While Council would normally be required to go to open tender for a project with a budget of this amount there are provisions for exemptions within Councils Procurement Policy as outlined under the following clauses.

A contract made with, or a purchase from a contract made by another government entity, government-owned entity or other approved third party

This general exemption allows engagements:

- *With another government entity or government owned entity. E.g., Federal, State or Local Government or an entity owned by the Federal, State or Local Government, and/or*
- *In reliance on contracts and arrangements established by another government entity, local authority or local government group purchasing scheme, Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) or National Procurement network members (e.g., Local Buy), Procurement Australia (PA)*

At the time of preparing this report, work is underway to establish the Governance Structure incorporating a Project Control Group and Steering Committee, and to finalise the Project Plan.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Enter community engagement / consultation activities (community cuppas, engagement hub activities etc.)

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.

CONCLUSION

Council endorsement of procuring GWM Water to deliver the project is recommended.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the engagement of GWM Water to deliver the Southern Wimmera and North East Pyrenees Pipeline Feasibility Study under the exemptions permitted within the Councils Procurement Policy.

13.1.3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 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: Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 22/02/02

PURPOSE

This report is to update Council on Economic Development and Tourism Department activity over the past quarter.

BACKGROUND

While the recent flood events over October and November have diverted the attention of the Department to response and recovery activities there are a number of projects which were scoped out during the course of the year which have now secured funding and are being launched in addition to business as usual.

Flood Recovery

The Economic Development Team has been actively involved in flood recovery activities including:

- Liaison with rural property owners in regard to fencing damage and sharing details of Victorian Government initiatives which include:
 - The \$75,000- Primary Producer Recovery Grants
 - The \$25,000- Rural Landholder Grants (smaller rural properties)
 - \$250,000- Concessional Loan Program
 - Primary Producer Transport Subsidy
- Attending recovery sessions at the Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve and Lexton Community Centre (three sessions at each facility)
- Engaging BlazeAid to assist with fencing recovery and facilitating the logistics of their base camp at the Moonambel Pavilion
- Engaging the assistance of the Landmate teams at the Hopkins and Langi Kal Kal Correctional facilities for removal of flood debris and fencing work
- Attending a “Community Welcome” evening at the BlazeAid camp at the Moonambel Recreation Reserve
- Liaising with property owners regarding damaged fences and directing resources from the BlazeAid and Landmate teams where support is requested
- Visiting businesses that have been inundated in Beaufort and providing details of relevant grant initiatives and support programs

Further recovery work will ensue as Strategic Recovery Plans are formalized in particular relating to recovery of the agricultural and tourism sectors.

Economic Development

Project Funding

Three key projects have been funded by the Victorian Government since September which are currently being actioned and include:-

- The Feasibility Study for the Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply project. This project has received \$300,000- and will be matched by \$75,000- in contributions from project

partners together with a combined \$70,000- of in kind contributions (refer separate report in this month's council agenda).

- The Beaufort Lake Caravan Park redevelopment has secured \$500,000- in funding which is to be matched \$ for \$ by Council. Options are currently being explored for a further \$1M from the Commonwealth (or alternative funding sources). The Building Better Regions Fund has been discontinued by the recently elected federal government and is due to be replaced by an alternative regional program in the near future.

Subject to the project being funded to the proposed \$2M budget originally set out at the beginning of the year the project is aimed at expanding the number of cabins and powered sites, replacing the camp kitchen and amenities block and exploring the option of a southern entry which is being costed out at present.

In the event the budget is constrained to \$1M the priority deliverables are the addition of new cabins.

- The Beaufort Linear Masterplan Project has received funding of \$85,000-. The purpose of this project is to engage the Beaufort community in discussions about how the amenity and connectivity along the Garibaldi creek can be enhanced, to examine the potential for pedestrian linkages for passive recreation and to improve environmental outcomes and water quality.

Industry Events

Due to the workforce challenges and impact of recent floods on small businesses a range of workshops planned to be delivered over October and November have been postponed for the time being.

As mentioned in the tourism portfolio below there has been a number of industry strengthening workshops completed recently.

Tourism and Events

Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP)

The VEP working group comprising representatives of Central Highlands councils, Ballarat Regional Tourism and the Victorian Government has been examining various governance models for a new body to represent the regions tourism sector.

A breakfast event hosted by Ballarat Regional Tourism on 2 December sought feedback from industry stakeholders on what this model may look like and how it will be governed. The feedback from this forum will inform how the working group proceeds to develop the new framework for the partnership organization.

The timelines for having the new tourism body established is 30 June 2023 and it is anticipated the proposed framework and governance structure will be presented to council early in the new year.

Seasonal Tourism Marketing

The "Unplug and Unwind" campaign operated over Spring which aimed to encourage people to unplug and unwind and reconnect with friends, nature, good food, wine and wide open spaces

The "Play in The Pyrenees" campaign will operate over the summer months and into early autumn with a focus on a variety of upcoming events including Sunday by the Lake at Beaufort and Saturday by the River at Avoca.

Industry Strengthening

Council partnered Ballarat Regional Tourism to deliver a range of educational programs following survey feedback from tourism industry stakeholders late last year. These workshops included Digital bizkeeper 101, grow your business, generate cash flow, HR advisory, wine masterclass, coffee masterclass and content creation. The HR advisory program was well received by Pyrenees participants and involved one on one conversations at the premises of each business.

Events

While it was disappointing to see the cancellation of the Avoca Cup (approx. 8,000 patrons), Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally (3,000) and Beaufort Agricultural Show (1,000) to name a few, there are quite a number of events coming up over the summer and autumn period that council is promoting at present.

It is estimated that the impact of cancelled vents is in the order of \$1.6M comprising a combination of lost revenue and associated event costs that had already been expended leading up to the cancellations.

Upcoming events include:

- Wild Mount Trail Run, at Mount Beeripmo
- Ross Wilson Cool World Tour at Summerfield Winery
- Two Vintage Ducks Pop Up Museum
- Eel Skinners and Duck Pluckers BnS Ball
- Twilight Market
- Series of blend your own gin classes with Mrs Bakers Distillery
- Pyrenees Hideout Festival Beaufort
- Avoca Autumn Races
- Beaufort Agricultural Show (postponed from Nov 2022)
- Beaufort Truck and Car Show
- Pyrenees Unearthed Festival Avoca River Flats
- Live music at cellar doors
- and more

The above list includes the new Pyrenees Hideout event being hosted at Goldfields Recreation Reserve on 11 February which features some of Australia's best known music artists. The event organiser is aiming to attract a crowd of 3,000 people which should be a significant boost for the businesses in Beaufort.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The next quarter will see the department active with

- Ongoing flood recovery with a focus on the Agricultural sector
- Actions required to deliver the three projects funded by the Victorian government
- A busy events period between now and autumn
- Play in the Pyrenees campaign

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

- 4a. Support our local businesses and help to strengthen key industries.
- 4b. Invest in road infrastructure to improve connectivity for commerce and community.
- 4c. Encourage and invest in assets and infrastructure for commerce and community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Enter community engagement / consultation activities (community cuppas, engagement hub activities etc.)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

No additional financial or risk implications arise from this report

CONCLUSION

This report is for information.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the report and
2. Continues to explore funding options for an additional \$1M to complete the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park redevelopment.

13.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.2.1. PETITION - LEXTON FLOOD MITIGATION

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: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

File No: 30/22/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with options for actions that Council may take in response to mitigating the flooding of the Lexton township following receipt of a community petition.

BACKGROUND

Council received a petition addressed to the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) dated 20 October 2022 from residents of Lexton as a request for action in relation to the flooding of Lexton township including Burnbank Creek. The petition was tabled at the November Council meeting, in line with Council meeting procedures.

TO: North Central Catchment Management

Copies to : Pyrenees Shire Council, Dan Thena MP, Louise Staley MP, State Ministers & DELWP

"We, the below signatories and citizens of Victoria request that appropriate action be taken to minimise the flooding of our town."

The township and outlying areas of Lexton have experienced severe flooding in the past decades. Local residents again experienced severe flooding last Thursday 6th and then 13th October with homes and sheds inundated, fences knocked down, crops and pastures destroyed or damaged, roads damaged and debris wide spread. The conditions of the Burnbank creek and other creeks in our area has deteriorated over the past three decades with dense vegetation growth, silt build up and timber inundating the water ways, causing severe flooding during heavy & extreme rainfall.

It is time to address the situation and action needs to be taken.

We request a town meeting and inspection with representatives from the above mentioned to commence the process of cleaning up our creek and waterways.

The petition received contained 68 signatures and was accompanied with a request for appropriate action to be taken to minimise the flooding of Lexton.

Council resolved the following at the November Council meeting;

- Receives the petition;
- Engages with the North Central Catchment Management Authority on the petition and
- Requests a report to be presented to a future meeting of Council on the matter contained in the petition.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council has provided the petition to North Central Catchment Management Authority, and they have provided Council with acknowledgement of receipt of the petition. NCCMA has provided Council with a copy of the Victorian Floodplain Management strategy which details responsibilities of waterway management in built-up areas. (Reference: Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy / page: 32 /

Accountability 14a; “Outside the Port Phillip and Westernport region, LGAs are accountable for managing urban stormwater flood risk”)

(Reference: Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy / page: 52 / Accountability 17a; “LGAs (outside Melbourne Water’s region) are accountable for:

- *Leading the process to determine and implement new flood mitigation infrastructure, through flood studies and Water Management Schemes*
- *The ongoing maintenance and management of new infrastructure, through flood studies and Water Management Schemes (where appropriate), the assessment of new flood mitigation infrastructure.)*

As it is implied that Council has a lead responsibility in undertaking flood studies with associated flood mitigation investigations, Council will need to consider how it will prioritise and fund a full flood study investigation for the waterways that impact Lexton. Council undertook a preliminary flood study in 2018 that identified properties that might be impacted in a modelled one in 100-year event or 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event. The extent of flooding experienced in the October and November events aligned very closely with the mapping of the preliminary flood study. Preliminary flood studies did not investigate mitigation actions or various sized floods as a preliminary flood study does not go to these extents.

The community has identified that there are obstructions within the Burnbank creek that could be contributing to properties being inundated. Two of the issues identified include bridge obstructions and vegetation obstructions within the creek. A full flood study will be able to model how much the impact of flooding on residents may be mitigated through removal of bridge infrastructure and vegetation obstructions.

Council has met with the State Emergency Service (SES) who has committed to implementing a flood guide for Lexton. The NCCMA & SES will need to partner with Pyrenees Shire Council in implementing a full flood study.

Pyrenees Shire Council officers and North Central Catchment Management Authority have agreed to meet to discuss flood mitigation actions in early December.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. Victorian- Floodplain- Management- Strategy-accessible [13.2.1.1 - 85 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The cost of flood studies and associated mitigation actions are beyond Councils current budget allowances. Previous flood studies have ranged from \$100,000.00 to \$300,000.00 depending upon area and complexity of modelling. Flood studies have been partially funded through the National Disaster Recovery Framework and need to be formally applied for. Mitigation actions vary in cost and often require a high percentage of own source funding from Council.

CONCLUSION

The flood impacts on Lexton are extensive and should be further investigated including the modelling of mitigation actions to reduce impacts.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council;

1. Prioritises a funding application for a detailed flood study for Lexton.
2. Works with the appropriate agencies to investigate and implement flood mitigation actions.
3. Write to the authors of the petition and inform them of Council's proposed actions.
4. Receives a further update report on progress of the matters raised in the petition by the June 2023 Council meeting.

13.2.2. PETITION - AVOCA RIVER

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: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development

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

File No: 62/22/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of a petition requesting DELWP and Pyrenees Shire to undertake a number of actions relating to the Avoca River.

BACKGROUND

Council received a copy of a petition addressed to DELWP and Pyrenees Shire from Avoca and Pyrenees Shire residents, regular users and visitors to Avoca, for the Avoca River and River Flats area requesting the following:

- DELWP enforce their 'Land (Regulated Watercourse Land) Regulations 2021' and stop camping along the Avoca River in Avoca within 20m of the river or 200m of a dwelling.
- DELWP repair and restore the Riparian zone along the Avoca River in Avoca.
- The Pyrenees Shire investigate and select an alternate more suitable site in Avoca to cater to the increasing numbers of RV Campers seeking free camping. They must apply the same selection process that was applied when choosing a site in Beaufort (Pyrenees Shire Minutes 17 November 2015) being:
 - A site that is not in a flood zone and liable to become unsightly.
 - Not on full view of residents.
 - Not highly visible to visitors, passing traffic and residents.
 - Is in a more discreet location.
- Pyrenees Shire put a stop camping at the Dundas Street Public Reserve, an area that has never been designated for Camping.

The petition received contained 91 signatures and was accompanied with a number of associated attachments and images (attached).

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Before making any decision in respect of the matter, Council should have regard to the Pyrenees Shire Council Governance Rules 2022, Section 4.8.3 which states that:

- a) No motion may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next Council meeting after that at which it has been presented (except where it meets sub-Rule 4.9(b)) except for:
 - I. That the petition be received, and
 - II. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director for consideration and response, or
 - III. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director for a report to a future Council meeting.

It is normal practice then for Council to seek a report to be prepared by the relevant officer for a subsequent meeting addressing the merits of the issues contained in the petition.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. Avoca River Petition [**13.2.2.1** - 77 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be addressed within any future report for decision.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the petition;
2. Engages with the Department Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) on the petition and
3. Requests a report to be presented to a future meeting of Council on the matter contained in the petition.

13.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.3.1. FUTURE OF AGED CARE SERVICE DELIVERY

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: 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: 36/12/51

PURPOSE

This report seeks direction from the Council regarding its future role in delivering services to older people living in the Pyrenees Shire.

BACKGROUND

Like most councils in Victoria, the Pyrenees Shire Council has been a provider of home-based aged-care services to its community for many years. All Victorian councils have been working through the implications of the proposed reform changes and the Pyrenees Shire Council is not unique in facing important and difficult decisions about its ability to operate within a competitive market-driven industry.

At its confidential meeting of Council in July 2022, Council considered a report relating to the future direction of home-based aged-care provision in the Pyrenees Shire. This report sought direction from the Council following significant Commonwealth Government reform in funding and delivery models that impact on the ability of local councils to deliver these services in the future.

At that meeting, the Council requested that officers:

- Engage and consult with clients, staff, Union, and community,
- Seek Expressions of Interest to test the capacity of the local market and identify whether any potential alternate providers could provide the service, and
- Report back to Council by December 2022.

At their meeting in October 2022, a subsequent report was presented to the Council giving a progress update against the July Council resolution.

National Aged Care Reform

Home-based aged-care services support almost one million senior Australians. Research has shown that older Australians want to remain at home for as long as possible before entering a residential aged care facility, and this is certainly a cheaper option for funding bodies than an early entry into residential care.

Australia's national aged care program has been undergoing significant reforms over the past decade, following Commonwealth agreement to take full responsibility for aged care in August 2011 and establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme at around the same time.

The Commonwealth Government is now implementing significant changes in the aged care industry that will have a direct impact on the ability of councils to continue delivery of services. The reforms for which the industry is in preparation are seeking to find an Australia-wide, more efficient, and effective model of service to meet increasing demand for aged care services, including introducing a standardised national and competitive approach to service delivery and a shift to a model where the consumer controls their own care and how much they are willing to pay for it – including who will deliver it, where and when.

The existing CHSP (Commonwealth Home Support Program) will change to a new “Support at Home Program” providing an across-the-board model of support needed for residents aged 65+ to live independently and provide greater choice to clients between providers. These changes will see eligible residents receive Commonwealth-funded support packages that enable them to purchase services directly from providers – likely to result in an increase of available providers operating within the shire and reducing the current level of monopoly enjoyed by the Pyrenees Shire Council and exposing us to market-based competition on cost and quality.

Of the councils surrounding the Pyrenees Shire, all except two have decided to exit direct delivery of in-home aged-care services, with transition being undertaken (or to be undertaken in the case of the City of Ballarat) to alternative providers. Of the remaining two neighbouring municipalities, Northern Grampians Shire have determined to remain in the delivery of the service in partnership with Grampians Community Health (with minimal ratepayer subsidy required), and Central Goldfields have yet to decide.

Current Service Delivery Overview

Council is currently contracted by the Commonwealth Government to deliver the CHSP (Commonwealth Home Support Program) which provides the following support services:

- In-home support services including domestic and personal care.
- Respite support.
- Social connections and activities program.
- Delivered meals.
- Home maintenance and modification program.
- Transport services.
- Allied Health program.

The existing CHSP contract with the Commonwealth expires on 30 June 2023. Notification has been received that a one-year extension is being offered to the end of June 2024 but, as this matter is under consideration by Council, this option has not yet been accepted.

In addition, Council currently provides the Regional Assessment Service (RAS) under contract to the State Government, who in turn is the contract holder for this service for the Commonwealth Government. Council’s existing contract for the RAS also expires on 30 June 2023 with a one-year extension to the end of June 2024 also on offer.

Engagement and consultation to-date

Following Council’s resolution from July 2022, officers have:

- Provided information to clients and the wider community on the changes and need for consideration of Council’s ability to continue providing aged-care services.
- Engaged with impacted staff on the need to consider service changes and provided updates as other councils determined to exit.
- Provided notification to the ASU (Australian Services Union) and met with Union representatives on the matter.
- Engaged with the community, via the Engagement Hub online and Council’s customer service counters, providing information and seeking feedback via a survey document.
- Conducted an Expressions of Interest process to identify potential alternative suppliers.

Outside of the survey process, one formal submission was received. This submission received an individual response and was provided to Councillors during their consideration of this matter.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

To enable the Council to form an appropriate response to the Aged Care reforms, officers herein provide Council with information about current services delivered by Council, potential industry changes resulting from the reform process and their impact on Council's ability to continue service delivery, engagement and consultation feedback, options for alternative services that Council could consider, and what a potential investment into a new service model would involve and the commitment needed.

Given the fact that the sector has been working through the impacts of the aged care reform agenda for more than a decade, and the significant changes proposed post 1 July 2024 entailing a move into an open, competitive market; it is considered timely for Council to provide direction on its future in the delivery of home-based care services.

1. Existing Pyrenees Community Care model

The Pyrenees Shire Council is currently contracted to directly deliver the following Commonwealth Government funded services under the CHSP (Commonwealth Home Support Program) to 320 CHSP clients, approximately 15.3% of the 65 years and over residents within the Pyrenees. 76 clients participate in active ageing social support programs.

Council is also sub-contracted to the State Government (contracted to the Commonwealth Government) to provide assessment services via the Regional Assessment Service.

Both contracts are due to expire on 30 June 2023. Opportunity to extend either or both contracts to 30 June 2024 but this has not yet been exercised.

Council is also contracted to deliver in-home care services to about 18 clients under the State Government HACC PYP Program for under 65-year-olds. If a decision is made to exit other in-home care services, this service would also cease.

Service levels provided - CHSP:

Pyrenees Community Care Services (CHSP)	Statistics 2019-20	Statistics 2020-21	Statistics 2021-22
Domestic assistance	6414 hours	6835 hours	6190 hours
Personal care	1661 hours	2041 hours	1900 hours
Respite care	976 hours	1067 hours	527 hours
<i>Total in home services</i>	<i>9051 hours</i>	<i>9943 hours</i>	<i>8617 hours</i>
Planned Activity Groups	5115 hours	3592 hours	4331 hours
Delivered meals	4563 meals	4361 meals	4631 meals
Home modifications	\$6,629	\$14,613	\$29,799
Assessment (Excluding initial RAS assessment)	52 assessments	70 assessments	76 assessments
Transport	34 trips	364 trips	318 trips
Home Maintenance	0 hours	73 hours	29 hours
Goods Equipment and Assistive Technology	0 hours	179 hours	403 hours
Allied Health & Podiatry	0 items	38 items	35 items

Domestic assistance, personal care, respite care, transport, and planned activity groups are delivered directly by the Council's support staff. The delivered meals program is coordinated through Beaufort & Skipton Health Services and Maryborough & District Health Service.

The home maintenance and modification program is 100% outsourced, including handyman works and installations such as ramps, handrails, and tap handles to enable residents to remain at home. The Allied Health Program is 100% outsourced.

The current service profile includes 16 support staff and 4 indoor/administrative staff. 100% of our team are female, 50% are above the age of 45 years, and 20% have been employed with Council for more than 10 years.

The Regional Assessment Service (RAS) consists of 1 part-time staff member (0.6 EFT (Equivalent Full Time)). The RAS provided the following services in 2021-22:

- 88 new home support assessments (assessing eligibility for aged care service referrals)
- 109 support plan reviews (changes in care needs and updating service referrals)

Service costs - CHSP

Detail	Cost 2021/22	Funded / Claimable	Ratepayer subsidy
Direct service costs (service delivery and direct administration costs)	\$774,474	\$634,499	\$139,975
Corporate overheads attributed to service (15%)	\$116,171	Nil	\$116,171
Total service cost	\$890,645	\$634,499	\$256,146

Comments on service costs:

- Direct administration costs are 40% of the total direct service costs. This may appear high but is due to the high level of compliance and quality monitoring needed to deliver the service in accordance with the Quality Standards and program requirements imposed by the Commonwealth, against which Council is audited; combined with an inability to spread the costs across a larger market / number of clients.
- Corporate overhead calculations are conservative, at 15%, to allow for those overheads that would not be reduced if the service was not provided. These calculations include allowances for use of some Council-provided vehicles (cars and buses) that may not be required if the service was discontinued.

The following table represents the ratepayer subsidy for each of the services (excluding corporate overheads) and the fee increases needed for the service to break-even:

Service delivery subsidies 2021/22 (CHSP)	Ratepayer subsidy	Fee increase needed to break even
Allied Health and Therapy Services	\$0	0%
Brokerage	\$54,987	27%
Domestic Assistance	\$9,292	28%
Flexible Respite	\$11,303	658%
Home Maintenance / Home Modifications	\$0	0%
Meals	\$0	0%
PersonalCare	\$26,172	832%
Social Support - Group	\$38,221	712%
Total	\$139,975	

2. Future Aged Care Reform model – Support at Home Program

Following the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, significant reforms are to be introduced by the Commonwealth Government to better support older Australians – an intention re-affirmed following the election of the Labor Government in 2022. The government has committed that people who receive support through Commonwealth Government aged-care programs will not lose any existing services under the new in-home aged-care program.

Current in-home aged care programs comprise of:

- **Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)** provides recipients with entry-level services which support activities of daily living and focusing on maintaining an individual's independence at home and remaining activity in the community. In 2020-21 approximately 825,383 people received CHSP services valued at around \$2.7 billion.
- **Home Care Packages (HCP)** supports older people with more complex care needs to live independently in their own homes. At 30 June 2021 there were 176,105 HCP recipients at a cost in 2020-21 of \$4.19 billion.
- **Short-term Restorative Care (STRC)** provides support for recipients over a short period to assist them to manage or adapt to changing needs, utilising allied health services. In 2020-21 6,227 people received STRC services.
- **Residential Respite** provides short-term care in aged care homes with the primary purpose of providing carers or the client with a break from their usual care arrangements. In 2020-21 67,775 older Australians accessed an average of around 35 days of residential respite per person.

A summary of the proposed model of in-home aged care is as follows:

1. For clients:

- a. Assessment – all assessment providers able to assess for all aged care needs (centralised model)
- b. Short term support for independence and/or
- c. Ongoing support at home provided by one or multiple providers; clients able to choose from a defined service list and may change service mix and providers at any time.
- d. Clients would be supported by a Care Partner to ensure their care plan continues to meet their needs – either working for a provider or independent.

2. For Providers:

- a. Mixed funding model for ongoing support:
 - Activity based funding paid in arrears for services delivered.
 - Supplementary grants as part of ongoing funding – e.g., for lean markets, transport, social support group providers.
 - Client contributions (based on capacity to pay).
- b. Separate funding model for goods, equipment, technology, and home modification programs.

Under the reform process, new governance arrangements and obligations on providers will be implemented – i.e., a new Code of Conduct for Aged Care (from 1 January 2023) and a change in regulation to strengthen provider governance (from 1 December 2022) will be introduced. These changes will place significant new requirements on providers including leadership responsibilities, provider accreditation and approval requirements, new governance standards, public provider performance reporting, liquidity, and capital adequacy reporting requirements.

Provider governance obligations from 1 December 2022 include a requirement to assess the suitability of key personnel at least once per year, continuous disclosure requirements for material changes (including key personnel and corporate structure changes), and annual reporting on operations. Providers must also set up and continue a quality care advisory body and consider a consumer advisory body.

Under the future Support at Home model, all services from entry level (Pyrenees Shire Council is at this level) to complex needs support will be consolidated and delivered through contracted providers. This means that to be a provider Council will have to operate under a similar governance framework to specialist aged care service agencies that deliver clinical services.

These changes are likely to need significant operational changes to be made and additional specialist skills recruited. Although verbal comment was made during recent discussions with the Commonwealth Government representatives that providers of basic services may be subject to less stringent governance and reporting arrangements, there is no reference to this in the guidelines recently provided which suggests that this may not transpire.

A single information / access gateway will be implemented to replace or improve the existing My Aged Care process. It is likely that the process will remain online only. The assessment process will also be consolidated nationally from 1 July 2024, impacting the Regional Assessment Service operated within Council. It is highly likely that, no matter what decision is made by the Council, ongoing support will be needed for our community to aid them accessing the future system.

The new Support at Home Program will end the long-standing funding arrangements currently in place. Funding changes started from 1 July 2022 with agreed funding levels for activities delivered now paid retrospectively, upon provision of invoice by Council. Formerly, block grants were awarded at the start of a financial year based upon negotiated target service levels. This is already a fundamental change in the funding model with long-term implications on cash flow and a lack of forward budgeting certainty.

3. Victorian Competitive Neutrality Policy

Victoria is a party to the inter-governmental Competition Principles Agreement which underpins National Competition Policy and sets out the competitive neutrality policy framework.

The main objective of competitive neutrality is “the elimination of resource allocation distortions arising out of the public ownership of entities engaged in significant business activities: Government business should not enjoy any net competitive advantage simply as a result of their public sector ownership.”

The Policy goal is to offset inequalities arising when government businesses coexist with private businesses in the same market, e.g., differences in tax treatment, in the need to provide a return on investment, or related cost advantages that might impact on prices. The aim is to account for these factors in such a way that, where government entities undertake business activities in markets, they do so on a fair and equitable basis.

A range of measures may be adopted to achieve competitive neutrality, including corporatisation, commercialisation, and full cost-reflective pricing. As the in-home aged-care service market in the Pyrenees Shire is comparatively small, it is considered that corporatisation or commercialisation would be unsuitable; in which case full cost-reflective pricing would be required to achieve competitive neutrality.

The intention of full cost-reflective pricing is to offset any net competitive advantages a government business might enjoy, thereby ensuring that resource allocation decisions are made based on comprehensive and accurate costing.

For competitive neutrality policy, the key requirement of full cost-reflective pricing is that local governments should aim to recover the full costs of their whole-of-business activity over the medium to long term.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement was conducted through a widespread dissemination of surveys – provided electronically on Council’s website through the Engagement Hub facility, and in hard copy at all of Council’s front counters. A facility was also provided for quick comments or questions.

Although the survey closed 10 days prior to this report being prepared, surveys are still being received through the mail. At the time of writing, 72 surveys had been received from clients / family members (73% of respondents), service providers (7%), interested residents (10%), and other (10%). A copy of the survey report was provided to Councillors as part of consideration briefings.

In summary, the survey showed that most respondents believed Council was highly valued as a service provider and should continue to provide services if possible. However, examples of alternative providers and support services that Council could provide instead of direct service delivery suggested a level of acceptance that Council may have to exit direct service delivery, and that Council would have a role in supporting older people to access services and maintaining social activities and connectivity.

The many verbatim comments will be useful when planning in this regard to ensure that Council’s ongoing support to its community remains targeted and viable, no matter what the outcome of the Council’s decision.

One formal submission was received and provided to Councillors for consideration.

5. Expressions of Interest

As Council has been operating within the Pyrenees Shire for a lengthy period, it is likely that some monopoly of service supply in the CHSP program is enjoyed that may have acted as a barrier to competitors under the current service model. However, Council officers had limited knowledge of alternative providers that may already be operating, or willing to operate, in the municipality; apart from those for whom Council currently provide brokerage services under the Home Care Packages program: i.e., Health Care Australia and Grampians Community Health and our local provider – Beaufort Skipton Health Services and Maryborough & District Health Service.

To support Council in their decision-making process it was essential that further information was gathered on what potential providers were likely to operate in the area in the future. To this end, expressions of interest (EOI) were sought through advertisements and the Council’s Tender Portal.

It was made clear to potential respondents that there would be no contract resulting from this process and that any future appointments would be negotiated and awarded by the Commonwealth Government, not the Pyrenees Shire Council.

12 potential providers downloaded the EOI documents for consideration and three subsequently submitted formal responses.

It is likely that more submissions were not received due to it being only an identification of alternative providers, not a contract submission. However, of the 12 initial downloads, 11 were from legitimate aged-care providers, which suggests a range of alternative providers are willing to consider operating within the Pyrenees Shire in the future.

The three submissions are from providers based in Sydney, Melbourne, and Geelong. All providers have a presence in Victoria; two have local offices in Ballarat and one in Geelong. All three of these providers have a broad service delivery footprint, already operate within clinical governance models, and deliver a variety of care services. All providers operate in regional and rural areas, and one provider already operates within the Pyrenees Shire. All have indicated a willingness to employ local staff.

Information sourced from the Ballarat region (the closest regional centre to the Pyrenees Shire) indicates that 28 CHSP providers and 60 Home Care Package providers are operating in or close to Ballarat that could also expand services if worthwhile.

6. Risk Implications

Risk implications if decision made to stay in direct service delivery	
Financial implications / sustainability	<p>Current unit costing vs funding levels requires ratepayer subsidy. This was calculated at \$256,146 for the 2021/22 financial year – based on the ‘block funding’ model that ended on 30 June 2022 combined with a consistent demand for service.</p> <p>With a change in funding model to activity-based payments in arrears, introduction of increased governance obligations, and the introduction of competition in the local market; the future cost of service will increase alongside increased volatility of demand in a small market, resulting in a higher level of commercial risk.</p> <p>Council’s current unit costs are higher than funding levels requiring significant business analysis and operational re-modelling to achieve a sustainable business model.</p> <p>Investment will be required to achieve operational, quality, and governance obligations being introduced.</p> <p>Clear triggers would be needed for future review of decisions if financial sustainability cannot be achieved.</p>
Full cost attribution	<p>Council budgets traditionally reflect only direct operating costs and local management overheads.</p> <p>In evidence of competitive neutrality compliance, a move to full cost attribution will need to reflect direct and indirect operating costs, local and corporate overheads, costs of assets deployed in service delivery, and adjustments for tax and other advantages derived from being a level of government.</p>
Legal implications	<p>As the industry is moving to a market-based model for delivery of future services, it is reasonable to assume that there will be a prominent level of focus on ensuring the market is not influenced by government-subsidised activity.</p> <p>Breaching competitive neutrality policy may result in adverse action by regulators if receiving a negative complaint outcome.</p> <p>Competitive neutrality policy requires the public sector to maintain fair competitive practices and not to subsidise service costs to the detriment of private business.</p> <p>Council can undertake a Public Interest Test, but it is not likely to be able to justify continued subsidisation when in competition.</p>
Commercial Risk / Business sustainability	<p>An activity-based retrospective funding model creates uncertainty for long-term budgeting.</p> <p>Entering a competitive market, Council may lose market share if pricing is uncompetitive with potential for continued longer-term employment uncertainty.</p> <p>Council has operated in a highly collaborative, almost monopoly market for many years and will have difficulty adapting operating models to meet these challenges.</p>

Scale of operations / thin market	<p>Consideration has been undertaken of Council's ability to increase the scale of operations as a solution to the challenges introduced by the reforms. This has indicated that growth in a highly competitive market is unlikely to be successful due to inherent cost structures, the limited range of service offerings and lack of experience in marketing.</p> <p>A potential lack of viable alternate providers is a real risk in rural and remote areas. Council's recent EOI process has provided confidence that there are alternate providers for those areas within the Pyrenees Shire. However, if Council remains in the market, these more expensive delivery areas may be left to Council for delivery.</p> <p>Grants for thin markets look to be on offer to support providers but are limited to five years with no indication of longer-term continuance. Council needs to budget for a longer period and would have no certainty of sustainability for longer than five years.</p>
Stranded services	<p>If the market for services grows in populated areas, this will remain most popular for other providers and may result in Council being left with only the rural or remote areas with the associated prohibitive costs of delivery.</p> <p>Council will be the provider of last resort with diminishing market share and significantly increasing unit costs.</p>
Investment in innovation	<p>If Council seeks to remain as a service provider post-2023, it will need significant investment to support the existing operating model reorientation.</p> <p>This will require renegotiation of industrial arrangements, investment in business processes and technology, investment in new skills, a reduction in overheads, and the ability to respond quickly to market changes.</p>

Risk implications if decision made to exit direct service delivery	
Client transition / addressing vulnerability	<p>Neighbouring council experience has indicated Commonwealth-imposed short transition times.</p> <p>It is likely that many clients would make a successful transition to a new provider with limited support from Council. However, it is understandable that Council and staff have a high level of concern for vulnerable members of our community who might need a greater level of support structure to aid in the transition.</p> <p>Supporting our community must remain an important priority and, if Council decides to exit service delivery, a significant level of investment, engagement, and support will be needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with appointed provider(s) and existing clients to ensure as smooth a transition as possible, • support staff with needs associated with either transitioning to new provider employment or retrain for alternate employment opportunities, • monitor our existing client base after transition for a while, and • provide a short-term safety net to ensure positive outcomes for clients and community.
Workforce / Industrial obligations	<p>All pathway options for Council contain industrial and employee relations risks, including industrial obligations under Council's Enterprise Agreement, renegotiation of employment arrangements and a moral obligation to long-serving staff.</p> <p>If Council remains in the service, exposure to market volatility creates uncertainty of long-term business sustainability and associated employment.</p> <p>If Council exits from the service, staff will be impacted by loss of employment (redundancy) and the uncertainty of gaining employment with new providers. The chronic shortage of staff in the sector indicates qualified workers would be highly sought</p>

	<p>after, but 50% of Council aged-care staff are above the age of 45, which may reduce opportunities.</p> <p>Industrial obligations to staff in redundancy payments have been incorporated into financial considerations.</p>
Exit costs	<p>Staff redundancy costs are equivalent to approximately 18 months of direct service delivery operation. This cost is outweighed by the long-term savings that would aid in ensuring Council's long-term financial sustainability.</p> <p>There may be an opportunity for redeployment of at least one staff member to coordinate an active ageing program.</p> <p>Additional short-term costs would be associated with providing a safety net to ensure positive outcomes for clients and community during the transition period.</p>
Community	<p>A significant level of ongoing engagement will be needed to ensure community understanding of the need for a decision to exit the service.</p> <p>If Council decides to exit service delivery, an Active Ageing Strategy will be developed to supplement and support services provided by alternate agencies.</p>

PATHWAY OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

1. Option 1 – Plan for sustainable service provision beyond 30 June 2023

Council may resolve to stay in the delivery of direct services for home-based aged care within the Pyrenees Shire.

To manage the risks involved with this option – as detailed above – the model under which the service currently operates would need significant analysis and review to ensure that long-term financial and governance sustainability can be achieved.

If Council resolves to stay in the delivery of direct services in this regard, it is recommended that this resolution includes the following actions:

- a. That Council resolves to defer the final decision on whether to remain in or exit from direct service delivery until December 2023 at the latest.
- b. That the CHSP contract be renewed from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- c. That a business analyst be appointed to review the current service model and either:
 - i) identify what changes are required, and unit costs can be achieved, to deliver a long-term sustainable model that meets competitive neutrality obligations post July 2024, or
 - ii) determine an inability to deliver an appropriate and sustainable operational model.
- d. That a recommendation be made for final Council decision by December 2023 at the latest.

2. Option 2 – Transition out of direct service delivery and focus on broader Active Ageing

Council may resolve to cease direct delivery of home-based care services within the Pyrenees Shire and focus on broader active ageing strategies to support alternative providers.

If Council resolves to cease direct delivery of services, it is recommended that this resolution includes the following actions:

- a. That Council accepts that Commonwealth aged care reform is moving towards a nationally consistent and integrated aged-care system that will require a greater level of efficiency by providers who can deliver services across a broad spectrum of needs.

- b. That the decision to transition out of Council's long-term commitment to home-based care delivery is a significant decision that is not taken lightly.
- c. That Council accepts its responsibility to resource and support an effective transition for clients and staff.
- d. That officers advise the Commonwealth Government that the Pyrenees Shire Council intends to cease providing home-based aged care services currently contracted under the CHSP program on 30 June 2023.
- e. That officers advise the State Government that the Pyrenees Shire Council intends to cease providing home-based care services currently contracted under the HACC PYP program on 30 June 2023.
- f. That an immediate engagement program with employees, clients, Union, and the wider community is initiated to facilitate a high level of understanding on:
 - a. Why the resolution was made, and
 - b. What the transition process will be and the support that Council will provide to clients and employees during that process.
- g. That officers effectively manage the transition and simultaneously shift focus from service delivery as its primary role to investment in broader active ageing policy initiatives that align with its health and wellbeing obligations.

Alternative services that could be included within an Active Ageing program, aligned with the Pyrenees Shire Health & Wellbeing Plan:

- Positive Ageing – ensuring older people have a healthy and active lifestyle
- Access & Inclusion – ensuring that services and infrastructure meet the needs of our community
- Service Navigation – ensuring that vulnerable community members gain and maintain access to appropriate service systems
- Social Connectivity – ensuring that community members have opportunity to connect with others and reduce social isolation

3. Regional Assessment Service (RAS)

There is no option to remain in an assessment service post 30 June 2024. It is recommended that Council resolves to extend the current contract to provide the Regional Assessment Service to 30 June 2024 and then exit that service in accordance with Government direction.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Community engagement and consultation outcomes have been included within the body of this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

This report has significant risk and financial implications for Council. The ongoing ratepayer subsidy will be unable to subsidise the delivery of the aged care service once an open and competitive market position is established post July 2024 and Council will need to either implement a viable and sustainable long-term operating model or cease direct provision of services.

CONCLUSION

Following Council's resolution in July 2022, officers have conducted engagement programs and sought expressions of interest from potential alternate providers to aid in Council's decision making on whether to continue direct service delivery of home-based care services within the Pyrenees Shire.

Community engagement showed that most respondents believed Council was highly valued as a service provider and should continue to provide services if possible. However, examples of alternative services that Council could provide instead of direct service delivery suggests a level of acceptance that Council may be forced to exit direct service delivery and have a role in supporting older people to remain active and connected to community.

The expressions of interest process provided some assurance that alternative providers are able and willing to operate locally within the Pyrenees Shire, with experience in delivering within the rural Victorian landscape, and are willing to employ local staff. Should Council decide to exit the service delivery, the EOI outcomes should provide some assurance to clients and community that appropriate quality services will continue to be delivered to all who need them.

Supporting confidential documents were provided to Councillors prior to the meeting to support consideration and decision-making, including:

- Pyrenees Community Care Home Support Services – Potential Changes Survey Results
- Details of Expressions of Interest submissions by potential alternative providers

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. Provide direction to Council officers as to whether they intend to either:
 - a. Resolve to defer the decision for long-term service delivery intentions to December 2023 at the latest with actions in accordance with Option 1 outlined in the above report, or
 - b. Resolve to cease direct service delivery on or before 30 June 2023 with actions in accordance with Option 2 outlined in the above report.
2. Extend the existing contract to deliver the Regional Assessment Service to 30 June 2024 and then to cease delivery of that service in accordance with Government direction.

13.3.2. 2022 / 23 COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM - BIENNIAL CATEGORY ROUND ONE

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: Adam Boyle – Community Wellbeing and Grants Coordinator

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

File No: 36/28/06

PURPOSE

Following review of applications received against the 2022/23 Biannual Grant category, recommendation is made to award funding.

BACKGROUND

Pyrenees Shire Council's Community Funding Program aims to build stronger communities that deliver improved economic, social, and environmental outcomes for our residents and visitors.

Council provides a Biannual Grants category in recognition of the valuable contribution that community organisations and local business make to the social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Pyrenees Shire.

Funding is eligible for programs held within the geographical boundaries of Pyrenees Shire, or those that benefit a substantial number of Pyrenees residents.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Applications opened Wednesday 19 October 2022 and closed Wednesday 23 November 2022. Following a communication and engagement program, a total of 33 applications were received, collectively requesting \$104,189.50.

Following the close of the application period, a review panel of Council officers undertook initial assessment of applications. All 33 received applications were reviewed against the eligibility guidelines and selection criteria as stated in the guidelines.

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the outcome of this process, with eligible applications progressing to Council recommendation. Recommendation is to fund 29 out of 33 applications.

One application was deferred to a subsequent round of the Funding Program, due to need for a partnership agreement to be finalised, ensuring project viability and sustainability. One application (Avoca Riverside Market) has been approved via an earlier resolution of council at its meeting of 20 September 2021. Two applications failed to provide all final necessary documentation to enable a final assessment and recommendation. These projects can be encouraged to submit in a subsequent round.

Funding of applicants will be conditional upon securing all relevant Permits (i.e. Building, Planning and Local Law / Event) and entering into a Funding Agreement with Council.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

- 1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.
- 1b. Support a vibrant community arts, culture, and heritage environment.
- 1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.
- 1d. Promote health, wellbeing, engagement, and connection.
- 1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

a. Motivate and inspire community involvement

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

During a widely promoted program, Council officers provided direct support to applicants to scope, refine and document their project, including:

- Promotion through Council's social media channels.
- Information provided on Council's website, through the new funding hub at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/funding
- Direct email notification to groups on Council's Community Groups / Committees Directory.
- Direct email notification to Council's event organiser database.
- Officer visits to 'main street' business to advise of the new Shop Façade program.
- Notification in Council's Tourism industry e-newsletter.

To support applicants, Council officers were also made available at 6 community drop-in sessions held across the Shire. These were attended by a total of 18 groups.

In addition, officers also made themselves available for phone and face to face meetings to answer questions about the application process, assist in developing project ideas, and to guide groups improve the quality of applications.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment One OCM [13.3.2.1 - 9 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Table One provides a summary of the amount of funding made available, recommended amounts and what is remaining for a second round of funding.

Table One: Program Funding Summary

	Available	Recommended	Balance remaining
Program	\$33,000.00	\$14,085.00	\$18,915.00
Minor capital and Equipment	\$43,000.00	\$43,521.00	-\$521.00
Façade	\$90,000.00	\$26,688.50	\$63,311.50
Event	\$28,400.00	\$5,200.00	\$9,909.00*
	\$194,400.00	\$89,494.50	\$91,614.50*

* Prior to the funding program being mobilised, several event funding commitments were made totaling \$13,291.

Including Council's recommended contribution to eligible applications, the combined total value of projects applied for is \$661,228.23. Based on the recommended projects, the Funding Program is supporting an additional \$537,121 in direct cash and in-kind contributions, being leveraged into the local economy.

Risks regarding the implementation of the program have been controlled through the requirement of all applicants to provide budgets, financial statements, evidence of other contributing funding, insurance documents and appropriate acquittal of any previous grants.

A scored assessment process of applications, utilising promoted eligibility criteria, mitigates risk through a fair, consistent, and transparent process.

CONCLUSION

The Community Funding Program is an important way that Council provides financial support to strengthen our community, increases participation and strengthens economic growth across our Shire.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council award the following biannual program grants:

1. Capital Works and Equipment:
 - a. Carranballac Progress Association for a Carranballac Hall Toilet Upgrade Plan - \$6,000;
 - b. Beaufort Municipal Band Inc. for Equipment Transport and Storage project - \$5,000;
 - c. Beaufort Men's Shed for Shed roof repairs – up to \$3,500;
 - d. Beaufort Golf/Bowls Club for Replacing Timbers on Outdoor Deck project - \$7,000;
 - e. Moonambel Recreation Reserve COM for a New Gas Hot water system - \$5,000;
 - f. Landsborough Tennis Club for refurbishment works of the Landsborough Tennis Club facility - \$4,209;
 - g. Avoca & District Historical Society Inc for renovations works at the Helen Harris OAM Room - \$2,000;
 - h. Raglan Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee Raglan Hall for a Gravel Driveway & Parking Area - \$5,000;
 - i. Cyril Callister Foundation Inc for Pop-Up Museum Bench Seating - \$1,992;
 - j. Beaufort Blue Light Motorcycle Club for a Public Address System - \$2,000; and
 - k. Beaufort Agricultural Society Beaufort Show for a Fenced play area / Food Court - \$2,000.00.
2. Community Programs:
 - a. Avoca Community Food Pantry for a Healthy Eating Initiative - \$2,000;
 - b. Beaufort Guides Support Group Inc. to deliver a Junior Disco Program - \$2,000;
 - c. Beaufort Cricket Club for a Female Cricket Participation Program (Social Sixers) \$2,000;
 - d. Snake Valley Hall Committee for a Community Easter Project - \$690;
 - e. Beaufort Historical Society for an IT Software Upgrade project - \$1,932;
 - f. Beaufort Community House & Learning Centre for Down The Alley Art Program -\$2,000;
 - g. Beaufort Croquet Club Inc. for a Come & Have a Go Program - \$1,463; and
 - h. Skipton Cemetery Trust for a Cemetery Alternative Register Project - \$2,000.
3. Event Sponsorship:
 - a. GAP Events Pty Ltd for the Pyrenees Hideout Festival - \$2000;
 - b. Cyril Callister Foundation Inc for The Man who Invented Vegemite 100-year celebration - \$1,200; and
 - c. Beaufort Football Netball Club for the Beaufort Truck & Car Show - Fireworks Program Sponsorship - \$2000.
4. Shop Façade:
 - a. Craig Skene - 50 Neill Street, Beaufort - \$5,000;

- b. Jo and Mick Allen - 121 High Street, Avoca - \$5,000;
- c. Michelle Dixon - Royal Hotel, Snake Valley - \$5,000;
- d. Sam's Place - 158 High Street, Avoca - \$1,026;
- e. Howell Contractors Pty Ltd - 160 High Street, Avoca - \$2,062;
- f. Landsborough Larder - 64 Burke Street, Landsborough - \$3,600; and
- g. The Springs Hotel Waubra - \$5,000.00

13.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.4.1. 2023 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Chantelle Sandlant – Executive Assistant to the CEO and Councillors

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

File No: 16/17/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to decide on the meeting schedule for Council meetings and briefing sessions for 2023.

BACKGROUND

A 2023 schedule of meetings has been prepared in consultation with Councillors and is circulated with this report.

The schedule contains dates for Ordinary Council meetings held monthly as well as Assemblies of Councillors (Briefing Sessions), Special Meetings, Community Cuppas and the annual Statutory Meeting.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The schedule also contains locations for the meetings to be held across the municipality to enable Councillors to engage with the various communities.

Notice of meeting dates is available on Council's website and is published in Council's Noticeboard available in the Pyrenees Advocate and Maryborough Advertiser each week.

The Ordinary Council and Statutory meetings are livestreamed providing the community, who are unable to attend in person, the ability to view the meetings in real time, provide an awareness of how Council meetings are conducted and to reach a wider audience.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft - 2023 - Council Meeting Dates [**13.4.1.1** - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council has made provisions in its 2022-2023 budget to meet the costs associated with the meetings.

CONCLUSION

Subject to Council's agreement to the meeting schedule, it is proposed that public notice be given in accordance with Council Policy – Governance Rules 2020.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the meeting schedule for 2023, as attached to this report; and
2. Gives public notice, in accordance with Council Policy – Governance Rules 2020, of the proposed meeting dates.

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.1.1(c) of Council's Governance Rules, and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, the meeting be closed to the public in order to consider confidential items.

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to members of the public in accordance with Section 4.1.1(c) of Council's Governance Rules, and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, in order to discuss the confidential reports listed below:

15.1 - Australia Day Awards

15.2 - Supply and delivery of two 10 metre trucks and one 3 axle trailer

15.3 - Beaufort Lake Shelter - Tender

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at

Minutes of the meeting confirmed

2022

Mayor Cr Ron Eason