



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00pm Tuesday 16 February 2021
Virtual and Livestreamed

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1. WELCOME MEMBERS OF PUBLIC

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari welcomed all to the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Damian Ferrari

Councillors: Ron Eason, David Clark, Robert Vance

Chief Executive Officer: Jim Nolan

Director Asset and Development Services: Douglas Gowans

EA to CEO and Councillors: Jane Bowker (minutes)

IT Support: Shaun Elliott

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari read the livestream preamble.

3. OPENING PRAYER

The Mayor read the opening prayer.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respect to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these tribes on whose land we meet today.

5. APOLOGIES

Director Corporate and Community Services: Kathy Bramwell

6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Nil

7. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

CR CLARK / CR EASON

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 January 2021; and
- Closed Meeting of Council held 19 January 2021,

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

The livestream of the meeting stopped at 6.03pm due to technical difficulties and the meeting of Council was held. The livestream and meeting resumed at 6.09pm.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Barry Fox

Question 1:

Would like to know where we are at with Moonambel Town water supply?

Response by CEO Jim Nolan:

This is a very important project. The project is currently unfunded but is it is such an important project that it is worth Council communicating to the public some of the steps taken by Council to date. In 2015 Council, in partnership with Central Highlands Water, undertook a feasibility study. That feasibility study determined that the most feasible way of providing a potable water supply for Moonambel was by a pipeline from Avoca. Subsequently, there was further work undertaken on technical matters including cultural heritage, alignment and the sustainability of the Avoca aquifer to support such a project. Following that work, it was confirmed that project cost for such a pipeline on the concept alignment was to be \$7.2M. The next step involved the completion of a business case and in 2019, Council funded a business case to be undertaken and that business case demonstrated that the benefits of the project outweighed the costs associated with it. Since then Council has been strongly advocating for funding and commitment from partners to complete the project. Council is not a water authority so needs a water authority to agree to take on the project and to agree to maintain, operate and renew the infrastructure in the future. Secondly, it requires funding support from the State or Federal Government. In respect of the State Government, the Mayor at the time Cr Vance, and myself strongly advocated to advisors to Minister Neville to look for support for funding. Subsequently, I have met with the then Regional Development Minister Jaclyn Symes, who advised that whilst this project was considered a good project, it was not a priority of the State. In respect of Federal Government, through MP Anne Webster, Member for Mallee, Council has submitted to the Deputy PM, the project for consideration under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. Further in December 2020, the project was submitted, along with other priority projects of Council, for consideration under Commonwealth Stimulus Funding. Ahead of the state election, there was considerable advocacy to the candidates for Ripon for support in seeking that the project be funded. All of the attempts for funding to date have been unsuccessful. Council has allocated funding in its long-term financial plan and as a contribution to the project but at the moment the project is currently unfunded and Council will continue to advocate strongly for funding.

Waubra Community Hub Committee

Question 1:

The communication to our community and our Committee has been below standard, what is being done to rectify this issue? Examples experienced by Waubra are bin roster – Council cannot advise when collection will occur hot water system – Council response was embarrassing. The CAP plan is never looked at when allocating funds e.g. (tennis court fencing). Toilet cleaning – no communication about when, where or who and if any cleaning is being completed.

Response by CEO Jim Nolan:

Will take the question on notice to provide a fuller response.

Question 2:

With the continued COVID lockdowns how is the Pyrenees Shire going to support our Community Hub Committee and community in general. Maintenance issues are going to continue, we need a communication

channel that is open regardless of lockdown for emergencies. Also, community grants will continue to pop up and Council needs to be helping our community secure grants and not dismiss them because Council staff have “no time to look at them”.

Response by CEO Jim Nolan:

There are a number of elements to the question and it will be appropriate to take the question on notice for a fuller response.

10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

10.1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development

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

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on activities within the Planning and Development Department, during November 2020.

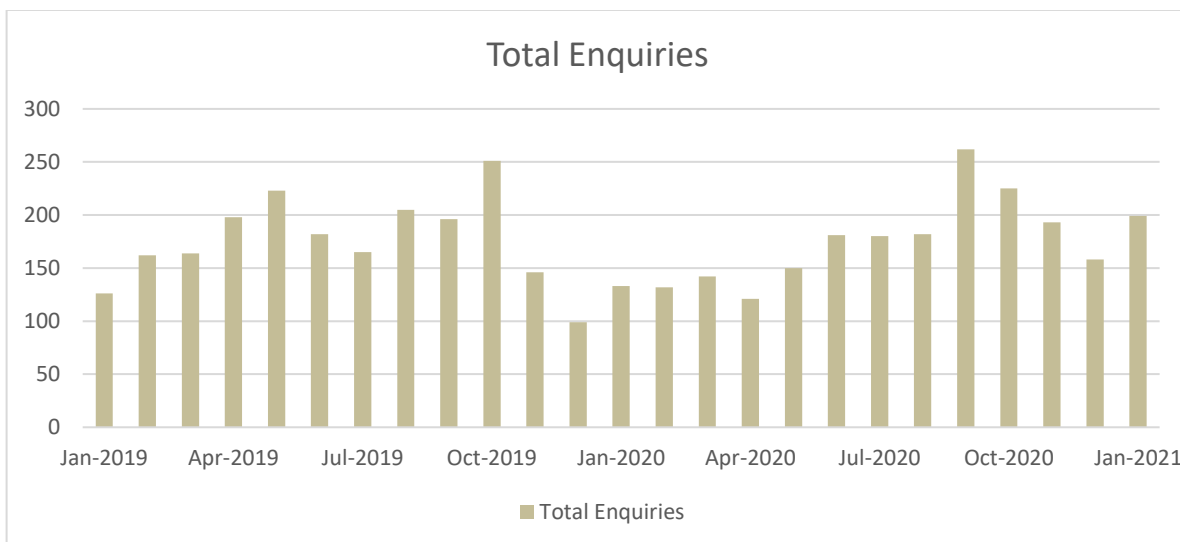
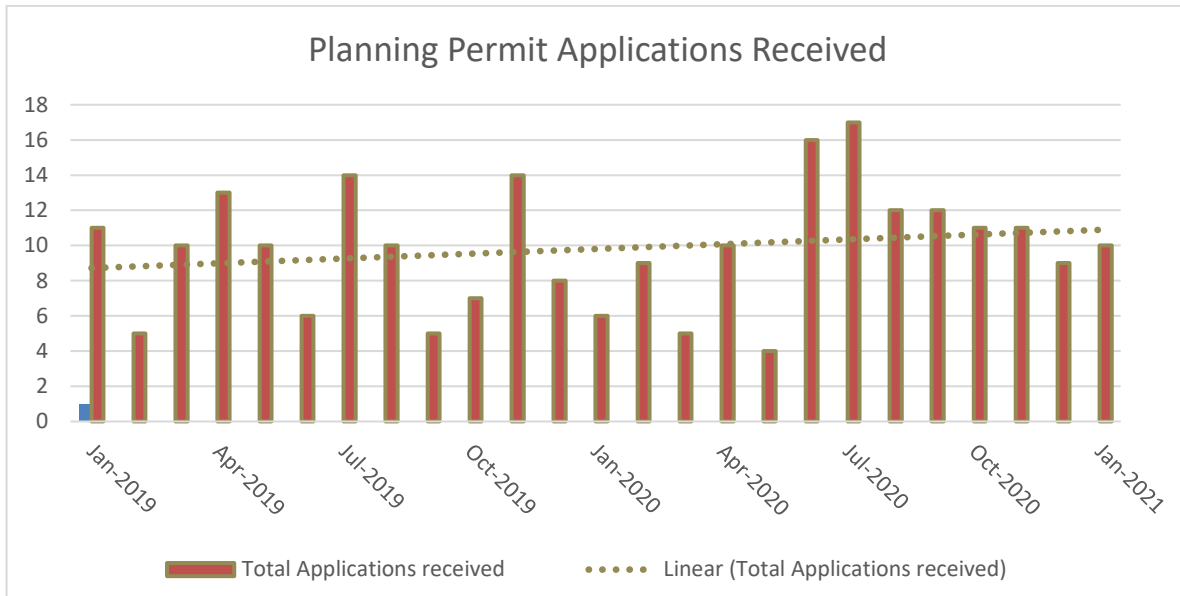
This report includes four parts:

- Part A: Planning
- Part B: Building
- Part C: Environmental Health
- Part D: Community Safety and Amenities

PART A: PLANNING

The planning activity statistics for the previous three months are summarised in the table below:-

Planning Permit Activity Reporting			
Activity	December 2020	January 2021	Financial Year to date
Applications received	9	10	82
Applications completed	6	15	60
Requests for further information	5	8	52
Estimated cost of works	\$2,123,509	\$1,375,918	\$12,711,329
Enquiry Type	December 2020	January 2021	Financial Year to date
Pre-purchase enquiry	32	49	316
Pre-application enquiry	68	91	605
Existing permit enquiry	6	14	107
Current application enquiry	32	27	196
All other enquiries	20	18	175
Total Enquiries	158	199	1499



STATUTORY PLANNING

The federal government’s Home Builder Grant program, which provides eligible owner-occupiers with a grant to build a new home, substantially renovate an existing home or buy an off the plan/new home, is resulting in an increased demand for the planning department’s services. The program has directly impacted the number of new, amended and time extended permits, as applicants seek to benefit from the funding.

The adoption of Greenlight, a case management and customer communication program, has been delayed by the program owners due to technical complications. These are expected to be resolved by the end of February with use of the program going live in early March.

The planning department has received a number of objections in relation to a proposed subdivision in Beaufort. The public exhibition period finished on the 2 of February and as per council process, a mediation session to understand the ability to resolve and concerns has been offered to the applicant. Depending on the outcome of any mediation, the matter is likely to come before Council for decision at its March 2021 meeting. Council can continue to receive submissions in relation to the proposal up until such time as a decision is made.

PART B: BUILDING

Activity

The building activity statistics as at 30/11/2020 are summarised in the table below:

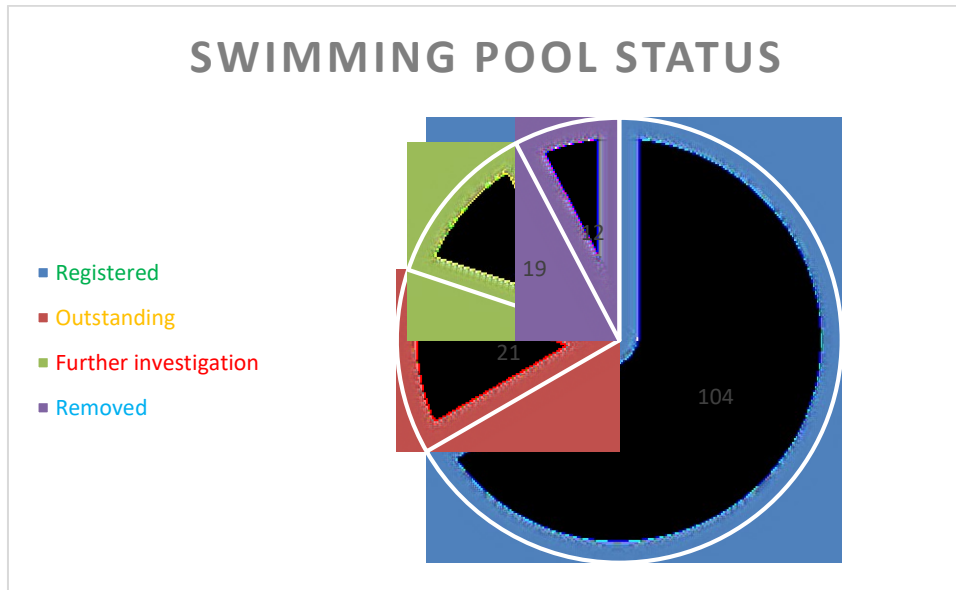
CATEGORY	December 2020	January 2021	COMMENT
Permits issued by private Building Surveyor	23	9	
'Property Information Certificates' prepared and issued	27	20	
'Report and Consent' issued	2	3	
Building Notices	0	0	
Building Order	4	3	
Resolved Building Notices	0	0	
Resolved Building Orders	4	1	
Direction to Fix Building Work	0	0	
Building permit inspections undertaken	0	0	
Council issued permits finalised	0	0	** Council have not issued building permits since June 2018.

As restrictions associated with COVID continue to ease, the Building Department has resumed assessing Place of Public Entertainment permit applications and other requests for approval that are required to support public gatherings. It is exciting to see events returning and organisers are urged to contact council at the earliest opportunity to ensure that adequate time is provided to allow for the assessment and granting of any required approvals.

Swimming Pool update

The Building Department has continued to work with swimming pool and spa owners to ensure compliance with registration requirements.

The below table demonstrates the significant effort that the community, with guidance from council officers, have undertaken to register pools, ensure compliant safety barriers and ultimately prevent child drownings at private facilities.



Council plan / legislative requirements

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

Financial / risk implications

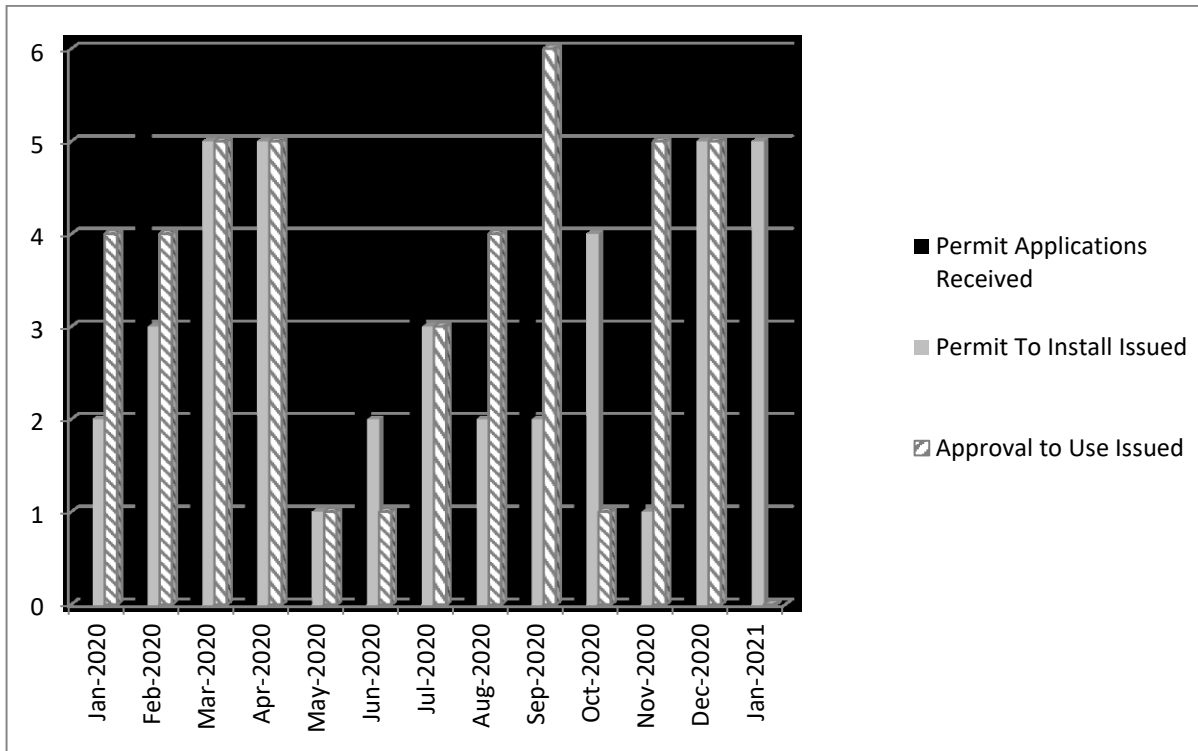
The Municipal Building Surveyor must have regard to any relevant guidelines under the *Building Act 1993* or subordinate regulations. The building services department must ensure that a responsive service is provided that meets the demand of the building industry within the municipality.

PART C: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Activity: Wastewater

Period	Applications to Install or Alter Septic Tanks Received	Permits to Install or Alter Issued	Approval to Use Issued	Fees Paid
1-31 January 2021	4	5	-	\$1,845

Wastewater activity statistics for January 2021



Monthly wastewater activity January 2021

Wastewater related tasks for January 2021	
Septic Tank Inspections	4
Domestic Wastewater Management Plan Inspections	1
Domestic Wastewater Service Agent Reports	0

Activity: Food, Health & Accommodation Premises

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

Period	New Premises, Transfers and Renewals	Routine Inspection, Assessments and Follow Ups	Complaints Received about Registered Premises	Food Recalls	Fees Paid
1-31 January 2021	22	1	1	6	\$245

*Fees associated with registration renewals have been waived for the 2021 registration period in support of businesses that have and continue to be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

Mobile and Temporary Food Premises in the Shire (Streatrader)

The easing of COVID-19 restrictions continues to see an increase in Streatrader applications and renewals. Both the Beaufort and Avoca markets have now resumed and been well attended by stall holders.

Activity: Immunisations

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

Session Type	Number of Clients & Vaccines	2 Month - 4+ Yr Old	Secondary School	Adult
January 2021	Clients	29	3	-
	Vaccines	70	3	-

Council plan / legislative requirements

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

Financial / risk implications

The Environmental Health Officer (EHO) must work with regard to various legislative requirements with respect to Food Safety (*Food Act 1984*), Public Health (*Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008*, *Environment Protection Act 1970*), Tobacco (*Tobacco Act 1987*) and Wastewater (*Environment Protection Act 1970*, *Domestic Wastewater Management Plan*, *Code of Practice for Septic Tanks*).

It is necessary for the EHO to adapt to any changes in regulations whilst still providing a service that meets the demands of residents within the municipality and complies with legislation.

PART D: LOCAL LAWS AND ANIMAL CONTROL

ACTIVITY - Animals

	December 2020	January 2021	Total YTD (20/21)
Cats Registered	568	564	-
Dogs registered	2366	2372	-
Cats impounded	4	12	39
Cats reclaimed	0	0	5
Cats Euthanised	4	12	23
Dogs impounded	3	1	10
Dogs Reclaimed	3	1	10
Dogs Euthanised/surrendered	0	0	0
Stock impounded	0	2	2

Registration and impoundment statistics

ACTIVITY - Infringements

Infringement Type	December 2020	January 2021	Total YTD (20/21)
Domestic Animals Act	1	0	7
Local Laws	0	0	2
Road Safety Act	0	0	0
Environment Protection Act	2	0	4
Impounding of Livestock Act	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total Infringements Issues	3	0	13
Prosecutions	0	0	3

Infringement statistics

Key projects

Council's Community Safety and Amenity officers continue to respond to a range of animal and stock related matters that are being reported in by the community.

Council plan / legislative requirements

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

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.2. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS (CARS) – DECEMBER 2020

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 16/08/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on requests made through the Customer Action Request System (CARS) for the month of January 2021.

BACKGROUND

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

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council’s recent request that more proactive effort is input into a greater level of resolution in the coming months is being enacted and progress of this should be seen in coming months. This month’s reporting has identified some requests that should have been closed and action will be taken to facilitate that during February.

Last month, it was reported that approximately 25% of outstanding requests reflect matters being case managed as part of the system, unlikely to be closed on the system in the short-term and impacting on closure and ageing statistics (e.g. local laws matters). This statistic has now reduced to 15% as some of those cases have been closed.

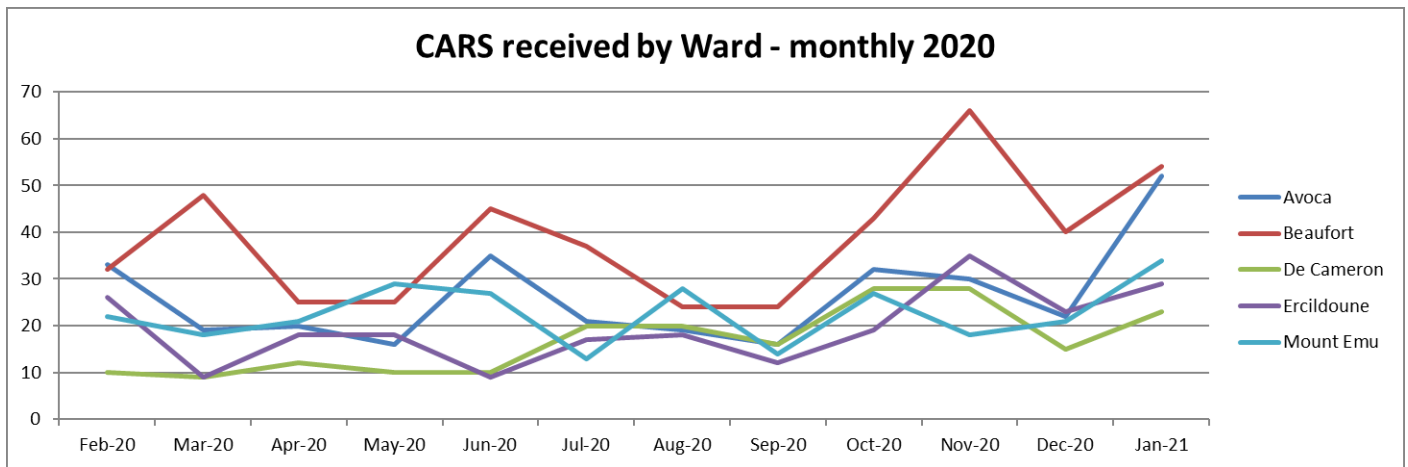
Statistics:

384 customer action requests were received in January 2021, 192 of which related to telephone messages. 320 requests were closed in January 2021.

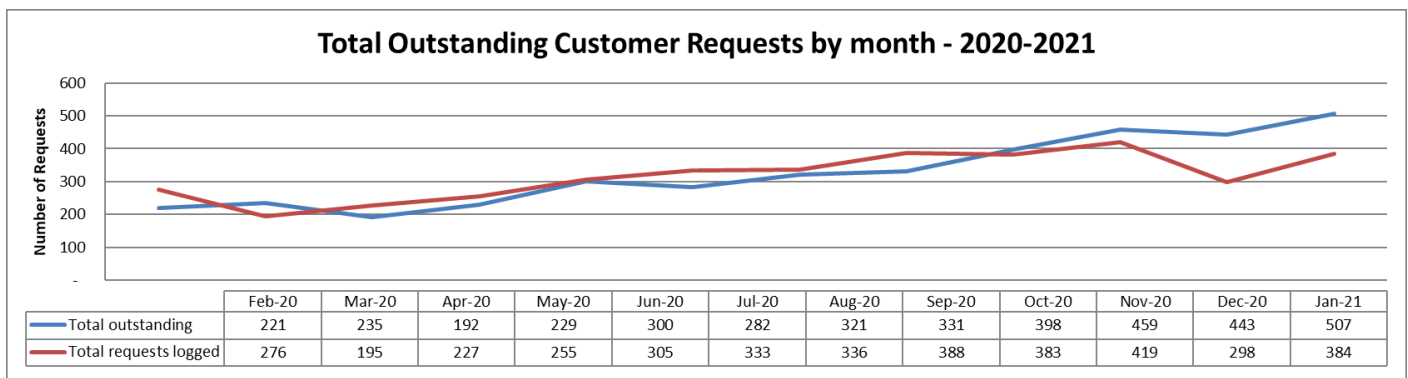
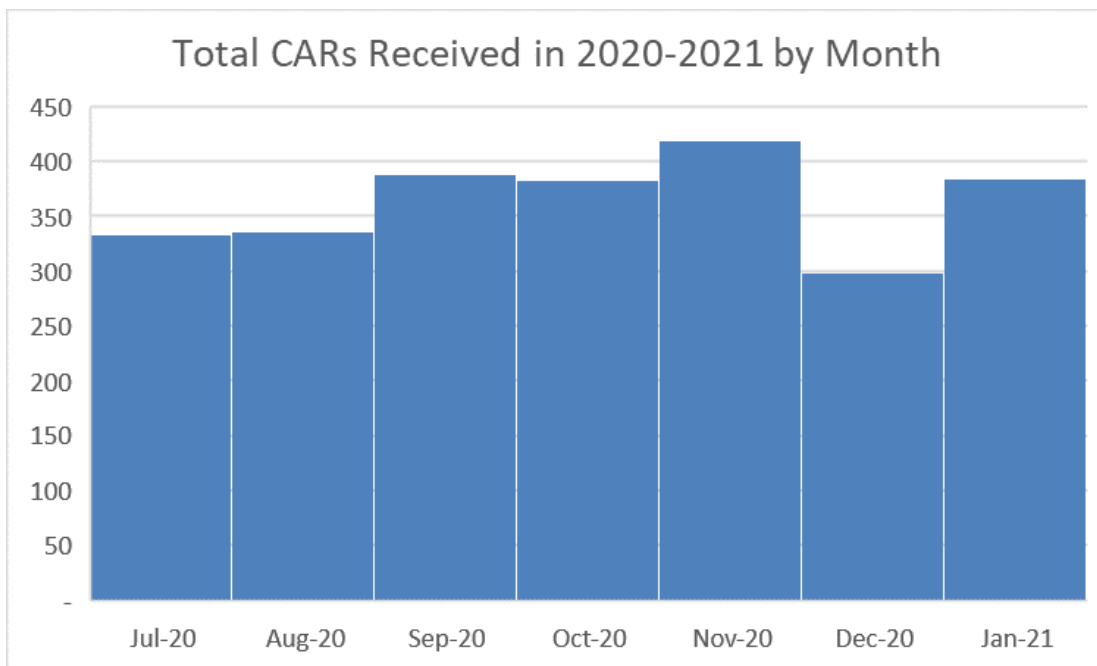
Of the customer actions requests (non-telephone calls) received, the following represents those received and still outstanding by Ward:

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	De Cameron Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mount Emu Ward
Number of Requests received in January 2021 (previous month)	52 (22)	54 (40)	23 (15)	29 (25)	34 (21)
Requests received in January and closed in same month (% of total received)	22 (42%)	17 (32%)	11 (48%)	15 (52%)	18 (53%)
Requests received in January still outstanding	30	37	12	14	16
Outstanding requests 1 month or older	39	78	38	40	38
Total outstanding requests	89	115	50	54	54

The following graph shows details of CARs received by Ward / month during 2020/21. Several spikes can be seen in individual Wards during the year, with little consistency month-on-month over the year. CARs received increased in January for all Wards.



The following graphs display total CARs received by month outstanding CARs for each month during 2020/21.



Telephone calls:

In early 2020, COVID-19 restrictions forcing many staff to work from home caused an increase in telephone calls being logged through the CARs system.

In January 2021, 192 telephone calls were logged, of which 40 remain open on the system. In total, 136 telephone calls and messages remain open and examination of the call details indicate that most of these should be closed. Work will be undertaken in February to action this.

Work is planned in 2021, as part of the Frontline Services Review Implementation, to analyse the type of calls received and be more proactive in general information that can be provided in advance to reduce the amount of calls received.

The following graph provides greater detail of the areas where outstanding requests remain, clearly showing where the spike in requests received in January related: Roads, Drainage, Roadside Vegetation and Planning. Local Laws (including animal matters) reduced their outstanding requests by 27.

31 January 2021 - Open Requests - Type			
	Dec	Jan	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	64	84	20
Streetlights	1	1	0
Drainage	41	56	15
Footpaths	11	13	2
Park & Reserves	26	34	8
Roadside Veg	44	70	26
Environmental Health	4	1	-3
Planning	9	24	15
Bld maint	12	16	4
Local Laws	46	29	-17
Cats	7	8	1
Dogs	23	14	-9
Livestock Act	3	3	0
Parking	2	2	0
Fire Hazard	1	2	1
Bld Compliance	0	0	0
Waste Management	1	2	1
Natural Disasters	0	0	0
Pools	0	2	2
Council cleaning	0	3	3
EPA - Litter	3	1	-2
Design & Assets	2	3	1
GIS	0	0	0
Community Wellbeing	1	3	2
Telephone messages	142	136	-6
Total	443	507	64

Note:

- The item 'Roads' now represents an amalgamation of Roads, Road Maintenance, Roads Unsealed and Road Maintenance Unsealed.
- Local Laws and related CARs reflect case management of issues rather than un-managed matters.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 1 - Roads and Townships. We will plan, manage, maintain and renew infrastructure in a sustainable way that responds to the needs of the community.

1.1 - Ensure local roads are maintained and renewed in line with adopted plans and strategy to provide a safe transport network and meet community needs.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

The Customer Action Request System remains an integral part of Council's reactive identification of issues that need attention and is now also used as a case management tool for more complex matters. 2021 will see a continued review in how the system is used, proactive ways to improve speedier resolution and reporting against progress.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the information contained within this report.

10.3. QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORT

James Hogan – Manager Finance

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

File No: 32/08/18

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update of the operating and capital financial performance for the three months from 1 July to 30 December 2020. The report compares the current budget against year-to-date actuals for each operating program and for all capital works in the 2020/21 financial year to-date.

BACKGROUND

Council adopted the budget for the 2020/21 financial year at its meeting on 21 July 2020. The budget was adopted based on projected completion of projects and capital works at 30 June 2020 and information available at that time.

Council, at the 15 September 2020 Council meeting, considered a report on the 2019/20 year-end financial position. At this meeting Council approved the carryover of certain projects that remained incomplete as at 30 June 2020. Council also endorsed the funding of \$555,000 in projects from the working capital surplus during this meeting. These projects have now been added to the original budget amounts to form the amended budget.

In addition to these projects Council has also been notified of successful grant applications for the following fully funded projects which were not included in Council's 2020/21 Budget but have been incorporated into the amended budget.

- Rural Council ICT Infrastructure Support Program (\$98.5K)
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (\$1,395K)
- Working for Victoria Program (\$283K)
- COVID Outdoor Eating & Dining (\$250K)
- Beaufort New Practice Nets & Storage Shed (\$165K)

It is the amended budget amounts that this report, and future reports, will be using for comparison purposes.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The financial reports are prepared in consultation with the senior leadership team.

The attached financial report comprises of the following sections:

- Working capital report
- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Summary Operating Results by Service Unit
- Detailed Operating Results by Service Unit
- Capital & Projects Report

The operating results show variations against the amended budget.

Working capital result

At this stage of the financial year Council's overall financial result is showing a projected working capital surplus of \$1.667m as at 30 June 2021.

From this surplus, it is usual practice to reserve \$800,000 in case of a call from the defined benefits superannuation scheme or in the event of unexpected expenditure such as a natural disaster, leaving a projected surplus of \$867,000 for the 2020/21 financial year.

Income Statement

Total YTD income is \$916,000 lower than YTD budget. This variance is driven primarily by timing differences in the receipt and recognition of grants (\$542K) and in a reduction in rate revenue(\$345K) primarily related to the Stockyard Hill Windfarm.

Total YTD expenditure is \$1,427,000 lower than YTD budget. This variance is primarily due to timing differences in the payment of expenditure.

The Original Budget shows a deficit of \$698,000 and the Current Budget shows a surplus of \$1,165,000. The movement primarily relates to carried forward capital grants.

Major (Capital) projects

Capital expenditure YTD is 36% of the full year budget. This variance is driven by:

- Seasonal spend patterns
- Projects pending government grants

Balance Sheet

Assets:

- Cash and investments at 30th December 2020 total \$8.485 million which include \$2.4 million for the Long Service Leave and Annual Leave provisions.
- Trade debtors (receivables) are \$8.218 million which includes outstanding rates from prior years, current year rates and other miscellaneous debtors. Rates are invoiced in August but not generally received as lump sums.

Liabilities:

- Creditors balance is \$3,540,000
- Loan Liability at 30th September is nil
- Employee provisions are \$2.4 million

Cash Flow

- Cash and investments at 30th December 2020 total \$9.481 million which include \$2.4 million for the Long Service Leave and Annual Leave provisions.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 4 - Financially Sustainable, High-performing Organisation. Our organisation will respond to community needs, attend to our core business, and strive for excellence in service delivery in an ethical and financially responsible manner.

4.4 - Develop our systems to support and enable our people to deliver efficient and quality services which are cost effective.

ATTACHMENTS

10.3.1 - Q1 Jul-Dec 2020 Quarterly Finance Report (*circulated separately*)

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications have been dealt with in the report.

CONCLUSION

The finance report for the period 1 July to 30 December 2020 was developed in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team. At this stage of the financial year Council's overall financial result is projected to be a net working capital surplus of \$867,000 as at 30th June 2021.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Finance Report for the period 1st July to 30th December 2020.

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
January		
Mon 11	Mayor / CEO Meeting	Phone
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Mon 18	Mayor / CEO Meeting	Phone
Mon 26	Mayor / CEO Meeting	Phone
Tue 26	Australia Day Event	Trawalla

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
January		
Mon 04	Constituent matter – Waubra Hub	Waubra
Sun 10	Toilets and cleaning – Waubra Hub	Waubra
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Tue 26	Australia Day Event	Trawalla

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
January		
Fri 15	Rural Councils Victoria Committee Meeting	Virtual
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Tue 26	Australia Day Event	Trawalla

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
January		
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Tue 26	Australia Day Event	Trawalla

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
January		
Tue 26	Australia Day Event	Trawalla

12. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Induction and Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	19 January 2021 commenced at 2.00pm and closed at 5.35pm		
Meeting Location	Beaufort Council Chambers		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Induction Session 2. Climate Change Pledge 3. O'Connor Park 4. State Electoral Boundary Redivision 2020/21 5. Private Swimming Pool Regulations and Enforcements 6. Proposed Pump Track at Avoca 7. Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program – Stage 2 8. Goldfields Recreation Reserve and Surrounds Masterplan 9. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Ron Eason	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Cr Tanya Kehoe		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
9	Cr Damian Ferrari	Declared an interest in the East Grampians Pipeline discussed as part of the Agenda Review	5.05 left 5.12 returned

CR VANCE / CR EASON

That the items for noting be received.

CARRIED

13. ITEMS FOR DECISION

ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.1 CREATIVE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development

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

File No: 66/22/30

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support for the development of a Pyrenees Creative Community Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The Pyrenees Shire is fortunate to be rich in artistic creativity, diversity and activity. From the internationally renowned artist to the hobbyist, working individually or as part of a community, the myriad of interesting and inspiring pieces and activities coming from the Pyrenees is to be celebrated.

Council regularly receives approaches from the local community as well as the broader creative industry, seeking to enhance and promote creativity within the Pyrenees. Such proposals have included the installation of public art, participation in a national art trail, the enhancement and promotion of exhibitions and the hosting of culture and music events and festivals.

In response to the existing and new creative activity being proposed within the Pyrenees, it has been identified that a Creative Community Strategy would be beneficial in supporting a coordinated approach to growth in the sector, whilst identifying and protecting the identity of creativity that is unique to the region.

Some preliminary engagement has been undertaken with Regional Arts Victoria (RAV), which has confirmed that RAV are keen to partner with Council and the community to develop such an overarching strategy.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The purpose of the proposed strategy is to identify key priorities that support creative engagement, activation, programming, learning activities and tourism opportunities across the Shire, whilst achieving the following objectives:

- Enhanced community cohesion and connectedness
- Regional collaboration (RAV and other partners)
- Identifying funding and grant opportunities
- Profile raising and promotion
- Identifying issues gaps and opportunities
- Strengthening existing creative industries
- Promote and encourage new and diverse creative investment

The Strategy would also look to further establish the Pyrenees as a location that fosters individual creativity and provides confidence and opportunity for creative professionals.

While the development of the Strategy would be facilitated by Council in partnership with RAV, it would be community-led and driven through extensive engagement and the establishment of a reference group/s.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.3 - Community Development - Supporting communities to build connections, capacity and resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Engagement facilitation and Strategy preparation would be delivered with existing Council resources in partnership with RAV.

The proposed coordinated approach to enhancing and promoting creative activities would support Council and the community's applications for grants and other funding.

The proposed Strategy provides opportunities for promotion and marketing, which will have a positive impact on the Shire's economy.

CR KEHOE / CR CLARK

That Council supports the development of the Pyrenees Creative Community Strategy.

CARRIED

13.2 WIND FARM NOISE REGULATION

Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development

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

File No: 66/22/20

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is provide Council with an update on the proposed legislative changes which will affect the way in which wind farm noise complaints and concerns are handled; and to seek Council's support for a submission to the Victorian government around the proposed changes to be made.

BACKGROUND

Due to growth in Victoria's wind energy industry and the complex nature of wind energy facility (WEF) noise, the Victorian Government intends to introduce a range of legislative provisions into the *Environment Protection Act 2017 (as amended)* (the EP Act) and the *Environment Protection Regulations 2021* (the EP Regulations).

The proposed changes, which are expected to come into effect on 1 July 2021, seek to provide certainty to industry and confidence for communities around WEF noise regulation. They include the introduction of a 'general environmental duty' and 'unreasonable noise' provisions into the EP Act and EP Regulations, as well as the removal of the reference to 'wind turbine noise' from the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (PHW Act).

The proposed changes will see the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), as Victoria's independent environmental regulator, become responsible for administering and enforcing the EP Act.

The requirements for WEF operators to comply with adopted noise standards and any planning permit conditions remains unchanged, however the Act will impose obligations on operators which include:

- a general environmental duty to minimise the risk of harm to human health and the environment, so far as reasonably practicable, and
- the prohibition of unreasonable noise.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Under the current regulatory framework, there are multiple pathways in which a complaint regarding noise emissions from a WEF can be managed. These include establishing whether the facility has been built and is operating in accordance with the relevant planning permit and any endorsed plans and / or whether the WEF is causing a nuisance in accordance with the PHW Act.

The PHW Act assigns the responsibility of investigating any such nuisance complaints to council, with the investigation being undertaken by an Environmental Health Officer. In the case of nuisances associated with WEFs, a range of specialist equipment and expertise is generally required to support the undertaking of an investigation. It is unreasonable that a small rural council, such as Pyrenees, would have the required skill set in house, and therefore would be required to engage the services of a suitable qualified and experienced professional.

Due to the logistical and financial difficulties associated with engaging an expert resource, the fact that each planning permit is different and that each council in the state of Victoria have varying policies that guide their approach to managing complaints associated with WEFs, industry confidence in Victoria's ability to be able to manage such matters has become compromised. Further, the inconsistent approach can be upsetting to communities affected by WEFs.

By transferring responsibilities associated with the management of WEF noise from council to EPA, council can effectively advocate for and support the community without being compromised by the need to arbitrate an alleged breach of the permit or nuisance.

The Victorian Government is currently undertaking stakeholder and public consultation on the proposed changes and is seeking submissions up until the 28 February 2021.

With Council's support, officers intend to make a written submission which includes the following elements:

- Council supports and welcomes the proposed changes to the regulation of wind farm noise;
- Council encourages the clear and consistent approach to WEF noise management that is sought to be achieved through the proposed reform;
- Council recognises the value in having EPA provide the consistent regulation of wind farm noise, and supports the move away from arrangements that are unique to each municipality and project;
- Council acknowledges that EPA are more appropriately skilled and resourced to manage the complexities associated with wind farm noise;
- Council anticipates that industry is likely to benefit from a consistent and contemporary approach to managing such issues;
- Council supports that the proposed changes eliminate the potential financial burden that may be worn by its ratepayers in the instance that a matter of non-compliance, or council's approach to an investigation, is contested in a court of law; and
- Council acknowledges that the proposed changes may be perceived by members of the community as limiting avenues for complaints to be managed, and requests that further guidance materials be prepared and communicated at the earliest convenience.

Following the receipt of submissions, the Victorian government will prepare and release a consultation report in April 2021, and the new regulatory framework will come into effect as of 1 July 2021.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 2 - Relationships and Advocacy. We will build and maintain effective relationships with community, government and strategic partners, and advocate on key issues.

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The proposed changes will positively impact council by:

- reducing the level of resourcing required to undertake the function of investigating and managing complaints and non-compliance associated with WEF noise; and
- eliminating the potential for having a council decision or action in relation to WEF noise reviewed in a court of law, and removing the subsequent need to engage legal representation.

CONCLUSION

It is a government objective for EPA to become the primary regulator for noise from wind turbines and be responsible for compliance and enforcement activities under the EP Act.

EPA will be primarily responsible for implementing the proposed Regulations and DELWP will provide input into key strategic policy development and support EPA in identifying any necessary linkages with whole of Government policy.

The proposed changes allow for council to more effectively understand and represent the needs of the community without compromising the function of regulating WEF noise related matters.

CR EASON / CR CLARK

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the proposed changes to the regulation of wind energy facility noise; and
2. Supports officers in making a formal submission generally as outlined in the body of this report.

CARRIED

13.3 WASTE TRANSITION UPDATE AND WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW

Philip Diprose – Waste and Contract Administration Officer

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

File No: 68/08/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide further information to Council on the Waste Transition Plan and the proposed review of the Pyrenees Shire Waste Strategy.

BACKGROUND

In February 2020, the Victorian Government announced significant reforms to household recycling to ensure Victoria is well placed to transition to a circular economy. A draft Transition Plan was provided to DELWP in order for the State to understand the planned implementation of waste and recycling household reform at a local level. Information collected through the transition planning process will support the Victorian Government to identify options to implement strategic procurement activities and to identify opportunities for regional solutions to deliver the circular economy.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council's implementation of the Waste Transition Plan will be in a staged approach based on the timing of implementation of the four bin service elements. A key element of the Waste Transition Plan is to understand community needs and expectations regarding waste and recycling services. It also requires Council to provide community education and behaviour change activities.

A survey has been available to the community seeking their views on the current and proposed waste collection services. See attachment 1. These results will inform a review of Council's Waste Strategy.

The Transition Plan proposes kerbside collection services will be provided as follows:

	Bin Size	Collection Regime	Current number of properties serviced	Proposed number of properties to have service available from 1 July 2021
Landfill Waste Collection	120/240 Litre	Weekly/Fortnightly	2836	3800
Commingled Recycling Collection	240 Litre	Fortnightly	2836	3800
Glass Collection	120 Litre	Monthly	0	3800
Green waste Collection	240 Litre	Monthly	1,444 (Beaufort and Avoca only)	1444

A glass collection service will be rolled out to existing collection services prior to the new Street Collection contract commencing 1 July 2021, additional glass collection services to newly available service areas will be rolled out after this date.

A container deposit scheme (CDS) will be introduced by 2022-23 which may have some impact on glass deposited into the collection bins depending where the CDS sites are located and what types of glass it will accept. Currently wine bottles are not included in the CDS.

The new services for Landfill, Recycle and Green Organics will be rolled out after consultation with the community and a survey completed to ascertain the take up rate of the new service. Public collection hubs will be established to provide service stream collections for properties that do not want to be included in the Street Collection Service. These hubs will be a gated site holding Landfill, Recycle, Green Organics and Glass skips.

Food Organics will be another waste stream that will be in place by 2030. Disposal of Food Organics can be a traditional weekly collection service or possibly a worm farm style disposal, composting or a waste to energy opportunity. Community consultation will be conducted to find out what disposal method for the Food Organics will work best for the community.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 5 - Development and Environment. We will undertake forward planning, and facilitate growth in our local economy while protecting key natural and built environmental values.

5.5 - Protect our environment by providing efficient and effective waste management.

ATTACHMENTS

13.3.1 - Waste Survey Results (*circulated separately*)

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

DELWP will facilitate funding for the introduction of the four-bin waste service. Funding will be available for changes to existing services to be in compliance with the Waste Bin Strategy for colour lid changes and provision of the Glass bin service.

CONCLUSION

The waste and recycling reform program introduced by the Victorian Government will provide a standardised waste collection service that is intended to be available to all households. The household collection service will provide a cleaner and more effective waste recovery system.

CR CLARK / CR EASON

That Council:

1. Supports a universal compulsory service across Pyrenees Shire for kerbside collection for landfill waste, commingled recycling and a separate glass bin from 1 July 2021.
2. Continues to investigate best practice and shared service options for the planned introduction in 2026 of a universal kerbside food and green organics service.
3. Reviews the Pyrenees Shire Waste Strategy taking into account community feedback.

CARRIED

13.4 ROTARY CLUB SIGNAGE PROPOSAL

Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development

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

File No: 36/16/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with additional information regarding a signage installation project that has been proposed by the Rotary Club of Beaufort; and to seek a further resolution to that of Council's November 2020 meeting, on the same matter.

BACKGROUND

Council has received an application from the Beaufort Rotary Club (Rotary), seeking consent to install two new Service Club signage boards, within the public realm, at the eastern and western town entrances of Beaufort.

The proposed sign design features an art easel, with service clubs being identified on what would be the 'canvas' area of the easel. The proposed sign is 4.66 meters high and 3.6 meters wide and would replace the two existing service club signage structures.

At Council's November 2020 meeting, the following was resolved:

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledges the efforts of the Beaufort Rotary Club in seeking funding to replace the Service Club signage at Beaufort's town entrances;*
- 2. Support officers to continue working with Beaufort Rotary Club to refine the design to address the key issues raised in this report;*
- 3. Support officers to develop a working relationship with funding bodies, including the Beaufort Community Bank, to ensure that landowner/manager consent becomes a criteria requirement of any future funding applications; and*
- 4. Require officers to bring a further report to Council, seeking endorsement of the location and design of a new Service Club sign within the public realm, subject to recommendation 2.*

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In response to item 2 of the above resolution, officers have met with representatives of Rotary to discuss the options for refining the design of the proposed signage. Rotary clearly expressed that they are committed to the original design and do not wish to modify the proposal, except for a change of wording on the sign:

From - *"Beaufort – The "ART" of the PYRENEES"*

To - *"Welcome to Beaufort" or
"Beaufort – supporting ART in the Pyrenees" or
"Beaufort Service Groups" or*

In response to Rotary wishing to retain the original design, this report is being brought to Council for final resolution.

A sign of this nature within the *Road Zone 1* requires a planning permit (section two use), unless in the instance that the "...works with an estimated cost of \$1,000,000 or less [are] carried out by or on behalf of a municipality".

This provides two (2) pathways for the proposal to be managed with the first being via a planning permit, and the second being under the auspice of Council, which activates the planning permit exemption clause.

In the instance that the planning permit pathway is elected, Council, in its capacity as the *responsible authority*, must have regard to site context, specifically:

- The location of the proposed sign on the site and distance from property boundaries.
- The location and size of existing signage on the site including details of any signs to be retained or removed.
- The location and form of existing signage on abutting properties and in the locality.
- The location of closest traffic control signs.
- Identification of any view lines or vistas that could be affected by the proposed sign.

In processing a planning permit application, Council are required to refer the proposal to Regional Roads Victoria (determining referral authority) who will give consideration to the following:

- Whether the proposal will obstruct a driver's line of sight at an intersection, curve or point of egress from an adjacent property.
- Whether the proposal obstructs a driver's view of a traffic control device, or is likely to create a confusing or dominating background that may reduce the clarity or effectiveness of a traffic control device.
- Whether the proposal could dazzle or distract drivers due to its size, design or colouring, or it being illuminated, reflective, animated or flashing.
- Whether the proposal is at a location where particular concentration is required, such as a high pedestrian volume intersection.
- Whether the proposal is likely to be mistaken for a traffic control device, because it contains red, green or yellow lighting, or has red circles, octagons, crosses, triangles or arrows.
- Whether the proposal requires close study from a moving or stationary vehicle in a location where the vehicle would be unprotected from passing traffic.
- Whether the proposal invites drivers to turn where there is fast moving traffic or the sign is so close to the turning point that there is no time to signal and turn safely.
- Whether the proposal is within 100 metres of a rural railway crossing.
- Whether the proposal has insufficient clearance from vehicles on the carriageway.
- Whether the proposal could mislead drivers or be mistaken as an instruction to drivers.

The proposal would also be subject to public notice for a period of 21 days, which would allow for members of the community to make submissions.

In the instance that the second pathway is selected, Council would effectively 'own' the project and inherit the infrastructure, whilst permitting Rotary to manage the installation. Whilst this option exempts the requirement for a planning permit, the Regional Roads Victoria and other design principles will still apply.

The following options are provided for Council's consideration:

Option 1. That the proposal be progressed as per the second pathway (under Council's auspice), in its currently designed form, subject to further siting approvals.

Option 2. That the proposal be progressed as per the second pathway (under Council's auspice), but with modifications to the support structure design, and subject to further siting approvals.

Option 3. That Council provide the infrastructure at both locations, for Rotary and other community groups to affix their sign to.

Option 4. That the proposal be progressed as per the first pathway (planning permit application), and assessed in accordance with the *Pyrenees Planning Scheme*.

Some further comments on each of the options are provided below:

Option 1. That the design, size and nature of the proposed easel is substantial (4.66m high x 3.6m wide) when compared with the existing sign that is to be replaced (2.5m high approx.), with its relevance to the service clubs being unclear to visitors and locals alike. The scale is likely to have a negative impact on the town entrances and may impact maintenance within the public realm.

Option 2. This option would require that the support structure be modified to address concerns around size, design and relevance. This option is most preferred, however presents challenges as Rotary has sought to retain most of the original the original design concepts.

Option 3. This option would allow Council to provide the infrastructure to support signage displays for Rotary and other community groups, whilst controlling impacts on amenity and the identity of Beaufort's town entrances.

Option 4. This option is least preferred. In the instance that an objection is received, or the application is not recommended for approval, the matter will be presented to Council for decision. In the format of a planning permit application, Council would not have the ability to negotiate an improved outcome. Further, this option would prolong a decision by a minimum of 30 days.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 5 - Development and Environment. We will undertake forward planning, and facilitate growth in our local economy while protecting key natural and built environmental values.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Options 1 and 2 may be supported by a small grant from Council that is being considered in a separate report. Should option 3 be supported, the cost of design and installation has been estimated at \$30,000.

CONCLUSION

The Rotary Club of Beaufort has proposed new service club signage at the two main entrances to Beaufort. There are benefits of achieving community endorsement for proposed infrastructure within the public realm, however there are concerns expressed in this report with some design concepts. The report provides a number of options for Council to consider to achieve the best outcome for the community.

Should an alternative structure design (option 3) be supported, it would be necessary to consult further with Rotary and other community groups

By selecting option 3, Council retains the ability to influence design and amenity outcomes for Beaufort's town entrances and ensure that design and style objectives can be achieved.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Seeks to amend signage in its current form; and
2. Commits to providing 2 new sign structures at Beaufort's Western Highway town entrances, for use by Rotary and other community groups in accordance with Council's signage policy.

CR CLARK / CR EASON

That Council supports the replacement of the service club sign frames at the two main entrances at Beaufort, subject to:

1. The scale of the sign to be no more than 1.5x the size of the existing sign;
2. Retention of an easel concept for the sign frame;
3. The wording on the sign to be one of the proposed options included in this report;
4. The sign board to enable flexibility to fix individual service club logos/signs; and
5. Any other requirements by Regional Roads Victoria.

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.5 BEAUFORT COUNCIL OFFICE RECEPTION OPENING HOURS

Helen Swadling – Manager Governance, Risk and Compliance

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

File No: 16/20/35

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of changes to the opening hours of the Beaufort Shire Council Office to the public from the current (Pre COVID-19) arrangement of 8:30 to 5:00pm to 9:00am to 4:30pm.

BACKGROUND

Frontline customer service is a key role of Council and is considered a core or mandatory service. It supports Council's governance functions, key legislated roles and all the many services and programs delivered under policy. In 2019, Mach 2 Consulting was engaged to undertake a review of Council's Frontline services. The resulting report provided in March 2020 recognised the many relationships Council has with its citizens and the channels through which customers want to interact with Council.

Review recommendations detailed the need to implement a service model that encourages on-line delivery of information and access to services and an organisational mobility strategy for staff based on improved technology by developing capability in improving business processes and that work redesign will be required to effectively implement new arrangements.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In May 2020, Council considered a report requesting a change in the hours for which the Beaufort Council Reception is open to the public. The proposal was a move from the traditional 8:30am-5:00pm opening hours to 9:00am-4:30pm. At its meeting in May 2020, Councillors approved a trial period of three months for opening hours of 9:00am-5:00pm.

There was no proposal to change the hours of the telephonist / switchboard service which remains as 8:30am-5:00pm. This function has been re-located to be separate from the main reception area.

The proposed change was to enable Customer Service Officers to undertake activities essential to the role within rostered hours, which had previously been undertaken outside of normal hours unpaid and which has provided the following benefits:

- The opportunity to undertake training and attend meetings without interruption. Ability to hold regular team meetings.
- Opportunity to receive updates and training from staff in other areas (to fit with a 'single source of information' model).
- Ability for Customer Service Officers to do administrative tasks related to servicing the Council offices – e.g. setting up meeting rooms and checking kitchen supplies.
- This has complemented the desired model of "educating/encouraging self-service" by customers.

The original proposal to close the doors at 4:30pm instead of 5:00pm, not accepted by Council, was to improve security for staff balancing cash transactions at the end of the working day. This has not been achievable and continues to be completed during opening hours.

The trial period of three months should have ended in August 2020 but was interrupted through office closures implemented in response to COVID-19 government direction. It is considered that sufficient time has now elapsed since the Council office reception re-opening in November 2020 for the trial to be complete.

As most customer service interactions are by phone, with emails increasing, the impact on our community has been minimal. Data gathered during the Frontline Services Review identified that 70% of interactions are by telephone. Future implementation of recommendations from the Review will improve the capability of customers to interact with Council online and further reduce the need for customers to travel to Beaufort to undertake transactions face-to-face. Public meetings or appointments are rarely held prior to 9:00am so no impact has been seen in this regard, however, these can still be accommodated where needed.

It is considered, therefore, that the trial was successful, and Council is requested to endorse the change in the opening hours of the Council office reception to be permanently 9:00am to 5:00pm.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 4 - Financially Sustainable, High-performing Organisation. Our organisation will respond to community needs, attend to our core business, and strive for excellence in service delivery in an ethical and financially responsible manner.

4.4 - Develop our systems to support and enable our people to deliver efficient and quality services which are cost effective.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the proposed permanent changes to the opening hours of the Beaufort Council office reception. The trial period has indicated little or no impact upon customers interacting with Council and therefore no reputation risk.

CONCLUSION

Council approved a trial period of reduced opening hours of the Council office reception to 9:00am-5:00pm in May 2020. It is considered that the impact on our community has been minimal and the trial was successful.

CR VANCE / CR EASON

That Council considers the trial period of changed opening hours as successful and permanently adopts the proposed changes to the opening hours of the Beaufort Council Office of 9:00am to 5:00pm.

CARRIED

13.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS UPDATE – 02/2021

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: 16/20/35 and 16/24/18

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a progress update on the implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* was proclaimed on 6 April 2020 with transition from the former Act being implemented in stages between 1 May 2020 and 30 June 2022.

INTEGRATED STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLANNING PROJECT UPDATE

Implementation Status – Policy and Plan development:

The status of implementation of policy and plan deliverables required under the 2020 Act provisions is provided in the table below:

Items to be implemented	Timeframe	Status
Councillor Expenses Policy revision and adoption Governance Rules development and adoption Delegated committees and asset committee Instruments of Delegation in place Audit & Risk Committee Charter adopted and Committee re-established Public Transparency Policy adopted	1 September 2020	Completed
Election candidate training completed	17 Sept 2020	Completed
Councillor Code of Conduct revision and adoption	Jan 2021	In progress – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration 19 Jan briefing • Adoption 19 Jan meeting
Community Engagement Policy adoption	Mar 2021	Public consultation complete Request for adoption 16 Feb 2021
Gifts Policy revision and adoption (New Conflicts of Interest Policy)	Apr 2021	Request for adoption 16 Feb 2021
Councillor induction training	May 2021	In progress – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of Councillor & Mayor – Complete • Role of CEO – Complete • Interaction between Councillors & staff – Complete • Governance – Complete • Standards of Conduct – Complete • Misconduct – Complete • Internal arbitration process - Complete • Engagement & reconciliation with traditional owners of land – Scheduled 9 February 2021 • Gender equality, diversity & inclusiveness – scheduled 9 Feb 2021

Items to be implemented	Timeframe	Status
Budget adopted	30 Jun 2021	In progress
Revenue and Rating Plan revision and adoption		
Long Term Financial Plan	31 Oct 2021	In progress
Council Plan revision and adoption		Deliberative engagement process started:
Community Vision (Community Plan) – SHAPE PYRENEES 2030		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-publicity in progress • Postcards seeking feedback • EOIs for Community Panel scheduled • Workshops planned
Annual Report 2020/21	31 Oct 2021	Not yet started
CEO Employment & Remuneration Policy adopted	31 Dec 2021	In progress
Long-term Workforce Plan adopted		
Recruitment Policy revision and adoption		In progress
Staff Code of Conduct revision and acceptance		Not yet started
Complaints Policy revision and adoption		Not yet started
Procurement Policy revision and adoption		In progress
		In progress
Long-term Asset Management Plans in place	30 Jun 2022	In progress

Integrated Strategic Business Planning Project

Two key plans will steer all other business and financial plans throughout the next 4 to 10 years: the 10-year Community Vision (proposed to be entitled **Shape Pyrenees 2030**) and the 4-year Council Plan.

Additional strategic plans have been included within the project to ensure alignment with community vision and Council plan. An update on the full deliverables is provided below.

Deliverable	Applicable Timeframe	Target for completion	Status
Community Engagement Policy	4 years	1 Mar 2021	First draft complete Community consultation complete Adoption scheduled 19 Feb 2021
Community Vision – Pyrenees 2030	10 years	31 Oct 2021	Planning underway Working Group convened Workshops planned Apr, May, Jun
Council Plan 2021-2025	4 years	31 Oct 2021	Planning commenced Council workshop held 1 Dec 2020 Community consultation planning underway
Annual budget	1 + 3 years#	30 Jun 2021	In progress – Management budget packs prepared and feedback underway
Revenue & Rating Plan	4 years	30 Jun 2021	Drafting in progress
Financial Plan (LTFP)	10 years	31 Oct 2021	In progress
Annual Report	Annual	31 Oct 2021	Not yet started
Gender Equality Action Plan (new Act - 31 Mar 2021)	4 years	30 Jun 2021	Planning underway to conduct gender audit Working Group convened
Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan	10 years	Oct 2021	Planning for review underway
Municipal Early Years Plan		Oct 2021	Not yet started
Positive Ageing Plan		Oct 2021	Planning for review underway

Deliverable	Applicable Timeframe	Target for completion	Status
Reconciliation Action Plan Phase 2	1 year	June 2021	Planning underway Working Group convened
Workforce Plan	4 years	31 Dec 2021	Review in progress Workforce Plan already in place
Asset Management Plans	10 years	30 June 2022	In progress
Reporting framework review	n/a	30 Jun 2021	Review in progress

#From 2021, the budget will require to be a 4-year focus, with the first year detailed and an overview of the subsequent three.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

To facilitate the legal requirement to undertake deliberative community engagement in developing the 10-year Community Vision (Shape Pyrenees 2030) and the 4-year Council Plan, Council Officers are preparing to commence this process soon.

A call for expressions of interest to form a Community Panel in this regard will be advertised soon, and a selection of residents will be chosen to represent our community on the panel. The panel will consist of people who reflect the nature and make-up of the Pyrenees Shire community and be a mixture of people representing the Shire in terms of age, gender, culture, education, industry or occupation, employment, and residential location.

Following the EOI process, if there are some groups of our community who may be at risk of not being represented, we may conduct some targeted recruitment to make sure the right mix of people are included.

The panel will meet over 3 Sundays in April-May and, through carefully facilitated sessions, will work together to deliberate a develop a community vision, objectives for the Council Plan, and input into the Financial Plan and Asset Plan. The sessions will be facilitated in a way that enables participants to share and listen to diverse views, deliberate, and come to an agreement about solutions that meet the different needs of our diverse communities. There will be a broad mix of activities to suit different people’s learning and engagement styles.

- **Proposed remit for the Community Panel**

The proposed remit for the Community Panel is to ask: “What is your vision for Pyrenees Shire for 2031 and how can we support the different needs of our communities?”

There are a range of factors that community members will be able to influence through engaging in this process. There are other factors which will not be up for negotiation. These are listed in the table below.

Negotiable	Non-Negotiable
The Vision for Pyrenees Shire Community for 2031 High-level objectives and priorities to achieve the Community Vision Success criteria	Compliance with legal and legislative requirements Staffing structure Operating budget Factors outside the scope of Local Government

- **The Promise – proposed level of commitment from Council**

It is requested that Council commit to the following level of commitment from Council: That Pyrenees Shire Council will:

- a. Publish the unedited recommendations of the deliberative process,

- b. Undertake a rigorous decision-making process to adopt the recommended community vision to the fullest extent possible,
- c. Ensure that the priorities identified by the Community are incorporated into the Council Plan and Financial Plan to the fullest extent possible, and
- d. Where recommendations are not implemented in full, Council will report back to the community and explain the reasoning for decisions made.

DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT AND REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT

As part of the implementation of the Local Government Act 2021 (the Act) obligations, several documents have been developed, undertaken consultation with appropriate stakeholders and are now provided for Council consideration and adoption. All the following documents have been prepared in accordance with the Act's timelines for adoption.

Council Policy & Procedure – Acceptance of Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality 2021

Section 138 of the Act requires Council to adopt a Councillor Gift Policy by 24 April 2021. Council formerly implemented a policy applicable for both Councillors and Council Officers and it was considered appropriate to continue with this format.

The existing policy was reviewed and revised to ensure compliance with provisions within the Act. The review strengthened the policy for processes around the management of the gifts register and the new requirement for certain items to be publicly available on Council's website.

The draft policy & procedure is attached for Council's consideration and adoption.

Community Engagement Policy 2021

Section 55 of the Act requires Council to adopt a Community Engagement Policy by 1 March 2021. It is a requirement of the Act to undertake community consultation as part of the policy development and the draft document was put out for public feedback during December and January.

Four feedback submissions were received, two from external community members and two from community members who are also Council staff. The relevant suggestions from these submissions were incorporated into the draft policy. One external submission included information more relevant for a strategy document and these will be incorporated into a strategy to be developed later in the year. No person requested a face-to-face meeting with Council to present their submission.

Feedback was responded to as listed below:

Description of feedback	Response by PSC	Policy amendment made
1. Is the November 2021 review date the date by which a reviewed Policy will be put before Council for adoption, or when the review of the Policy will begin? I feel the former would be preferable.	Clarified – policy to be reviewed by November 2021	Review dates amended
2. At present the Policy reads somewhat formally / legalistically, to the extent that it feels like something Council is doing (a) to the community, rather than with it, and (b) because we have to rather than because we want to.	Advised that the Policy is designed as a high-level document and that more engagement focused language will be used within a strategy to be reviewed later in 2021. Consider for November 2021 review of Policy.	n/a

3.	Concern that there is no statement of intent to drive Council's commitment and relationship with community.	Noted. Community member informed that the policy does not state aims and objectives as it is not a strategy, however, through appointing a new Community Engagement Officer, and committing to deliberative engagement processes, Council is demonstrating its commitment to continuing to building relationship with community.	n/a
4.	I sincerely hope that the community input receives genuine consideration and that the engagement framework and tools are similarly developed with sound community input.	Noted. That the process of developing engagement tools is to be a collaborative process and achieved in consultation with our community.	Section 2.0 – last paragraph: Frameworks and tools to help implement this Policy are being developed in collaboration with the community over the next 12 months. This Policy should be read in conjunction with Council's Transparency Policy.
5.	Early, frequent, and collaborative engagement and strong feedback loops will be critical to the success of any engagement activity.	Add a fourth principle into section 4.3 about engagement processes having closed-loop and ensuring outcomes are communicated back to the community.	Section 4.3.4 – Informed We will ensure that our community has access to information to guide their input into community engagement activities. We will communicate with our participants and our community to keep them informed of engagement outcomes and communicate the ways in which community input has been used to inform decision-making.
6.	Suggestion to incorporate engagement principles into policy statement.	Include recommended change (as well as 4.3.4 feedback loop).	Section 1.0 Council is committed to purposeful, accessible, representative and informed community engagement to facilitate well-informed decision-making and maintain accountability, trust and transparency.
7.		Section 6.1 consultation and feedback – amend to include a statement about response to community feedback.	Section 6.1 A draft version of this Policy was put out for exhibition and feedback from the public was invited from 10 December 2020 to 15 January 2021. Community members who provided feedback were informed of the outcomes of their feedback which resulted in four amendments to the Policy being made.

It is acknowledged that the policy may need to be revised in accordance with lessons learned during the 2021 deliberative engagement process for developing key Council and Community plans, so it is proposed that the new policy will be further reviewed in approximately 12 months to ensure it fully meets Council and Community needs and expectations.

The draft policy is attached for Council's consideration and adoption. Proposed changes from the last draft viewed by Council have been marked up in red to ease visibility.

Conflicts of Interest Procedure 2021

The requirement for a Conflicts of Interest Procedure is not included within the Act, other than that for Councillors included within the Governance Rules. However, it was considered appropriate for a more detailed guidance document to be available for both Councillors and Council Officers and the existing Conflicts of Interest Policy was reviewed and revised as a procedure.

During the review, the procedure was aligned with the Governance Rules 2020 and strengthened for Council Officers processes around procurement and recruitment.

The draft procedure is attached for Council's consideration and adoption.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The *Local Government Act 2020* was enacted in April 2020 and includes a requirement for councils to develop an integrated and collaborative approach to strategic business and financial planning, monitoring and reporting.

ATTACHMENTS

13.6.1 - Draft Council Policy & Procedure – Acceptance of Gifts, Benefits & Hospitality 2021 (*circulated separately*)

13.6.2 - Draft Policy – Community Engagement 2021 (*circulated separately*)

13.6.3 - Draft Procedure – Conflicts of Interest 2021 (*circulated separately*)

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Alignment of strategic business and financial plans is a primary requirement of the 2020 Local Government Act. Robust and effect monitoring and reporting mechanisms are key in managing any risks, enterprise or financial, involved with the delivery of the Pyrenees Shire Council Plan and Community Vision.

CONCLUSION

The *Local Government Act 2020* was enacted in April 2020 and is being implemented in stages throughout 2020-2022. Council has developed a project plan to develop an integrated strategic business planning framework, together with improving its monitoring and reporting framework in alignment. This report provides a progress update on these plans and provides three documents for Council consideration and adoption as part of the Act's implementation.

CR EASON / CR KEHOE

That Council:

1. Notes this report on the progress within the Pyrenees Shire Council on implementing the Local Government Act 2020 requirements;
2. Commits to the following promise as part of its deliberative engagement process regarding the Community Vision and Council Plan: That the Pyrenees Shire Council will:
 - a. Publish the unedited recommendations of the deliberative process;
 - b. Undertake a rigorous decision-making process to adopt the recommended community vision to the fullest extent possible;
 - c. Ensure that the priorities identified by the community are incorporated into the Council Plan and Financial Plan to the fullest extent possible; and

- d. Where recommendations are not implemented in full, Council will report back to the community and explain the reasoning for decisions made;
3. Adopts the draft Policy & Procedure – Acceptance of Gifts, Benefits & Hospitality 2021;
 4. Adopts the draft Policy – Community Engagement 2021; and
 5. Adopts the draft Procedure – Conflicts of Interest.

CARRIED

13.7 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT AND COUNCILLOR & STAFF INTERACTION POLICY

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: 16/20/35 and 16/24/18

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an updated Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 and a support procedure for Councillor-Staff Interaction, for consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* was proclaimed on 6 April 2020 with transition from the former Act being implemented in stages between 1 May 2020 and 30 June 2022.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Councillor Code of Conduct 2021

As part of Division 5 – Councillor Conduct section of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), section 139 requires Council to develop and adopt a Councillor Code of Conduct (the Code) by 24 February 2021. The Act prescribes several inclusions within the Code including the Standards of Conduct prescribed by the *Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Regulations 2020*.

A draft Code has been developed, in collaboration with Councillors, based upon guidance provided by Local Government Victoria. The Code is split into several sections for ease of reference:

- 1. Purpose and commitment** – including the legislative context and related policies and procedures
- 2. Definitions**
- 3. Governing Principles** – including:
 - a. Overarching Governance Principles
 - b. Community Engagement Principles
 - c. Public Transparency Principles
 - d. Strategic Planning Principles
 - e. Financial Management Principles
 - f. Service Performance Principles
- 4. Conduct** – including:
 - a. Standards of Conduct
 - b. Values
 - c. Specific Behavioural Obligations (e.g. bullying, sexual harassment, gender equality and interaction with children and young people)
 - d. Specific conduct obligations around communications, decision-making, gifts & hospitality, disclosure of conflicts of interest, and elections
- 5. Misconduct and Improper Conduct**
- 6. Roles and Relationships**
- 7. Breaches of the Prescribed Standards of Conduct**

The draft Councillor Code of Conduct is attached for Council consideration and adoption. The Code must be signed by all Councillors in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer and dated for it to become effective. The Code must be adopted by a Council resolution of at least 2/3 of all Councillors (4 Councillors).

Until the Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 is adopted and signed, Councillors must abide by the existing Councillor Code of Conduct.

Councillor-Staff Interaction and Email Policy 2021

Recently, the Local Government Inspectorate recommended that a Councillor–Staff Interaction Policy be developed to guide Councillors and Council Officers in what direct engagement is appropriate and what is not. The key purpose behind this policy is to strengthen relationships between Councillors and the Council administration, and to establish clear communication protocols that facilitate high standards of governance and transparency.

Although this is not considered an issue at the Pyrenees Shire Council, references within the Local Government Act regarding Councillor–Officer interaction – particularly section 124 of the Act that prohibits a Councillor from intentionally directing, or seeking to direct, a member of Council staff in certain circumstances – and acknowledging that Councillors need sufficient and reliable information to undertake their duties, indicate that guidance in this regard could be useful.

It is intended that this policy acts as a support document to the Councillor Code of Conduct. The draft policy is attached for Councillor consideration and adoption.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The *Local Government Act 2020* was enacted in April 2020 and section 139 of the Act requires Council to adopt a new Councillor Code of Conduct within 4 months of the general election.

ATTACHMENTS

- 13.7.1 - Draft Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 (*circulated separately*)
- 13.7.2 - Draft Councillor–Staff Interaction Policy 2021 (*circulated separately*)

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risk implications have been discussed in the body of this report.

CONCLUSION

The *Local Government Act 2020* was enacted in April 2020 and is being implemented in stages throughout 2020-2022. The development of a new Councillor Code of Conduct is required under the new Act and it is considered appropriate to develop a supporting policy to guide Councillors and Council Officers in appropriate interaction and communication as a support to the new Code, as recommended by the Local Government Inspectorate. Both documents are attached for Council consideration and adoption.

CR KEHOE / CR CLARK

1. That Council adopts the draft Councillor Code of Conduct 2021; and
2. That Councillors arrange to sign the adopted Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 in the presence of the Pyrenees Shire Council Chief Executive Officer; and
3. That Council adopts the supporting Councillor-Staff Interaction Policy 2021.

CARRIED

13.8 COMMUNITY GRANTS 2020/21 – ALLOCATION OF ROUND 1

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: 32/14/35

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council consideration of the allocation of Round 1 of the 2019/20 Community Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

Community Grants Policy and good governance

As a public institution, it is imperative that Council responsibly manages public assets, exercises financial responsibility, good governance, and complies with all legislative requirements. In the administration of community grants, this must be undertaken in a way that is responsible, consistent, transparent and equitable across the end-to-end grant lifecycle.

Effective governance of community grants processes starts with a strong Community Grants Policy, supported by a framework of robust procedures and documentation, that not only ensure effective management of grants but clearly demonstrate the assessment and awarding of funding is transparent and capable of withstanding public scrutiny.

Community Grants Program

Council provides funding through community grants to recognise the importance of providing financial assistance to community groups, services and organisations located or operating within the Pyrenees Shire. These grants are designed to enable the provision of activities and events which promote community activity, achievement, participation and wellbeing. Grants are allocated under the following streams:

- **Community Grants**
Grants of up to \$1,500 for programs and equipment
Grants of up to \$750 for events
- **Community Capital Grants**
Grants of up to \$5,000 for capital works projects

At its meeting in September 2020, Council approved a split in available budget between Community Grants and Community Grants of:

- Community and Events Grants - allocation of 35% - \$33,250
- Community Capital Grants - allocation of 65% - \$61,750

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Allocation of Round 1 2020/21:

Opening of Round 1 to applicants for Community Grants in 2020/21 financial year was delayed due to COVID-19 considerations and impact, with the program opening for applications in November 2020. A full summary of grant applications was provided to Councillors as part of consideration processes.

1. Community Grants

7 (seven) applications were received for Community & Events Grants:

Community Group	Township	Purpose	Amount requested
Avoca & District Historical Society	Avoca	Painting of windows and door to avoid need for replacement.	\$1,500
Beaufort Historical Society	Beaufort	Preservation of historical documents.	\$1,578
Beaufort & District Pony Club	Raglan	Cross Country Course redevelopment to meet safety standards.	\$1,450
Avoca Preschool	Avoca	Fridge/freezer replacement.	\$1,000
Beaufort Football Netball Club	Beaufort	Purchase of laptop for club officials to update mandatory information.	\$1,500
Beaufort Agricultural Society	Beaufort	Replacement of Art Pavilion Doors – Security improvement.	\$1,500
Project Platypus Association	Landsborough & Crowlands benefit	Strategic activity with public to engage in discussions to develop future directions for Landcare in 2021.	\$1,500
Total requested			\$10,028

All community and events grants requested total \$10,028. \$33,250 is available for community and events grants in Round 1.

- The application from the Beaufort Historical Society is for \$1,578. The total grant allowable under this program is \$1,500 and it is recommended that \$1,500 be allocated to this project.
- Although the Project Platypus Association leadership is based in Stawell, it is our understanding that this activity will be of direct benefit to the Landsborough and Crowlands-Warrak Landcare Groups therefore of benefit within the Pyrenees Shire. This will be confirmed prior to the Council meeting and recommended decision.
- It is considered that the Platypus application is for an event so, if approved by Council, it is recommended that this be limited to \$750.

It is acknowledged that it is usually preferred for community grants to be spread wider afield across multiple townships, and that applications focus on Avoca and Beaufort in this round. However, it is recognised that many rural community groups have been closed during the COVID-19 restrictions period in 2020 and it is therefore recommended that this normal requirement be waived for this round.

Following discussion with Councillors at a Councillor briefing, it was agreed that Council Officers should discuss a digitisation program with Shire-based community groups and historical societies to preserve the Shire's cultural heritage in an accessible format.

An additional request was received post Round 1 being closed. The request was for Council to support hiring of a marquee for an event to be held at Carranballac by the Harvfest sub-committee of the Skipton Football Club. Delays in requesting support were caused by the committee initially believing they did not need financial support but a late change in facilities use was required due to building inspector permit requirements. As the event was being held before the opening of Round 2 a proposal to provide events funding of \$750 towards cost of hiring an approved marquee, under the Community Grants Program, was circulated to Councillors outside of the normal process. Councillors individually provided in principle support

for the CEO decision to provide \$750 towards the event, and it is recommended as part of this report for endorsement to be provided by Council.

An engagement program will be undertaken prior to opening of the 2020/21 Round 2 grants program to ensure that all groups in all townships can participate in the program. Round 2 is scheduled to open on 15th March 2021 and will remain open for a period of 6 (six) weeks.

2. Community Capital Grants

3 (three) applications were received Community Capital Grants:

Community Group	Township	Purpose	Amount requested
Beaufort Progress Association	Beaufort	Steel security gates to improve security for Indigenous garden, rear tenants, and planned artworks to be on loan.	\$2,300
Evansford Community Centre	Evansford	BBQ Pavilion Upgrade – weather protection and increase usability.	\$3,356
Rotary Club of Beaufort	Beaufort	Provision of new service club sign boards at entrances to Beaufort.	\$4,010.10
Total requested			\$9,666

All Community Capital Grants requests total \$9,666. \$61,750 is available for the community capital grants program in 2020/21.

- The application from the Rotary Club of Beaufort refers to a design matter considered by Council at its meeting on 24 November 2020 and still awaiting resolution. Until this matter is resolved, the final costs of the proposed signage boards are uncertain. Council is required to make a decision in respect of the planning application relating to the signage before making a decision in respect of any supportive funding.
- The application from the Beaufort Progress Association is similar to an application received in 2020, which was denied. Concern was expressed by Councillors on Council funds being used to improve privately owned facilities, rather than community owned, and further information has been requested on this application.

Proposal for special grant categories

The Local Government Act 2020 and supporting Regulations increases positive obligations upon Council to eliminate discrimination, sexual harassment and victimisation and promote gender equality. In this regard:

- Council's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group is preparing a second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to improve relationships with and opportunities provided to Traditional Owner groups, and
- Council's Diversity & Equity Working Group are preparing a new 2021-2024 Action Plan to improve diversity, equity, and opportunity for all.

As part of this endeavour, it is proposed that the Community Grants Program be extended to include a special section allowing grants of up to \$1,000 for Pyrenees community-focused programs designed to increase inclusion and diversity for Indigenous peoples and members of the LGBTIQ+ community, to reduce discrimination and victimisation, and to promote gender equality in our community.

Council is now requested to endorse the special grants section as part of the recommendations in this report.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.3 - Community Development - Supporting communities to build connections, capacity and resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The 2020/21 Budget provides for \$95,000 to be allocated to eligible and approved Community Grants in two rounds, across two streams, conducted during the financial year. Reputation risk arises if this program is perceived as being administered in an unfair or inequitable manner.

Positive obligations have been introduced in the Local Government Act 2020 and supporting Regulations to increase equity and decrease discrimination.

CONCLUSION

Council allocated \$95,000 in its 2020/21 Budget to fund the Community Grants Program. Round 1 of the program was opened in November 2020 with eight (one late) applications received under the Community & Events Program and three applications received for the Community Capital Grants Program. Recommendations for Council approval have been made as part of this report in addition to a proposed special grants category to meeting positive obligation requirements introduced by legislation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council allocates Community Grants Program funding for Round 1 2020/21 as follows:

Community group	Grants program	Project	Amount
Avoca & District Historical Society Inc	Community	Repainting windows and door	\$1,500
Beaufort Historical Society	Community	Preservation of historical documents	\$1,500
Beaufort & District Pony Club	Community	Cross Country course upgrade	\$1,450
Avoca Preschool	Community	Fridge/freezer replacement	\$1,000
Beaufort Football Netball Club	Community	Purchase of laptop	\$1,500
Beaufort Agricultural Society	Community	Replace pavilion doors	\$1,500
Evansford Community Centre	Community Capital	BBQ Pavilion Upgrade	\$3,356

2. That Council endorses the action of the Chief Executive Officer to provide to award \$750 in urgent funding to the Harvfest sub-committee of the Skipton Football Club to enable building inspector approved marque facilities to be hired for an event scheduled for February 2021.

3. That Council determines whether to award community grants to the following applicants:

Community group	Grants program	Project	Amount
Project Platypus Association Inc	Community	Stakeholder participation to develop Strategic Direction for Landcare 2021	\$750
Beaufort Progress Association Inc	Community Capital	Purchase & install steel security gates	\$2,300
Rotary Club of Beaufort	Community Capital	upgraded service club signage boards at the eastern and western entrances to Beaufort on the Western Highway	\$4,010

4. That Council approves a special grants category, within the existing Community Grants Program, to allocate grants of up to \$1,000 for programs or projects designed to increase inclusion and diversity for Indigenous peoples, members of the LGBTIQ+ community, to prevent discrimination or victimisation, and/or to promote gender equality in our community.

CR CLARK / CR EASON

1. That Council allocates Community Grants Program funding for Round 1 2020/21 as follows:

Community group	Grants program	Project	Amount
Avoca & District Historical Society Inc	Community	Repainting windows and door	\$1,500
Beaufort Historical Society	Community	Preservation of historical documents	\$1,500
Beaufort & District Pony Club	Community	Cross Country course upgrade	\$1,450
Avoca Preschool	Community	Fridge/freezer replacement	\$1,000
Beaufort Football Netball Club	Community	Purchase of laptop	\$1,500
Beaufort Agricultural Society	Community	Replace pavilion doors	\$1,500
Evansford Community Centre	Community Capital	BBQ Pavilion Upgrade	\$3,356
Project Platypus Association Inc	Community	Stakeholder participation to develop Strategic Direction for Landcare 2021	\$750
Rotary Club of Beaufort	Community Capital	upgraded service club signage boards at the eastern and western entrances to Beaufort on the Western Highway	\$4,010

2. That Council endorses the action of the Chief Executive Officer to provide to award \$750 in urgent funding to the Harvfest sub-committee of the Skipton Football Club to enable building inspector approved marquee facilities to be hired for an event scheduled for February 2021.
3. That Council seeks further information in respect of Beaufort Progress Association Inc's application and that a report be brought to a future Council meeting for decision.

4. That Council approves a special grants category, within the existing Community Grants Program, to allocate grants of up to \$1,000 for programs or projects designed to increase inclusion and diversity for Indigenous peoples, members of the LGBTIQ+ community, to prevent discrimination or victimisation, and/or to promote gender equality in our community.

CARRIED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

13.9 FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW FOR VICTORIA

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 34/04/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the Federal Electoral Boundary Review and to seek direction in respect of whether a submission be made into the review once the draft boundaries are released by the Australian Electoral Committee (AEC).

BACKGROUND

The redistribution of federal electoral divisions in Victoria commenced in July 2020 undertaken by an independent Redistribution Committee.

The process is being undertaken in the following stages:

1. Commencement
2. Public suggestions
3. Comments on public suggestions
4. Proposed electoral divisions
5. Objections to the redistribution proposal
6. Comments on objections
7. Announcement of final boundaries
8. Final determination

At the time of preparing this report, the Committee is considering the comments on public suggestions and expects to release the proposed electoral divisions in the first quarter of 2021.

Council will have an opportunity to lodge an objection to the proposed divisions should it choose to do so.

Further details about the process and submissions previously made can be found here:

<https://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2021/vic/index.htm>

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Pyrenees Shire Council is currently split between the two federal electorates of Wannon (south) and Mallee (north).

The seat of Mallee is a safe seat held by Nationals Anne Webster MP while Wannon is considered a fairly safe seat held by Liberals Minister Dan Tehan MP.

While there are some advantages having access to two Federal MPs, there are also potential disadvantages including administrative inefficiencies in dealing with two electoral offices. Disadvantage also can arise where communities of interest may not seem to have appropriate representation due to distance, or inability to access electoral offices.

Whilst the electoral divisions are not yet known, Council may wish to consider whether it will look to make an objection

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 2 - Relationships and Advocacy. We will build and maintain effective relationships with community, government and strategic partners, and advocate on key issues.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

Whilst the draft federal electoral divisions are yet to be released, Council may wish to consider whether it will make an objection, and the following recommendation is made.

CR VANCE / CR EASON

That Council seeks to lodge an objection to the draft federal electoral divisions once released only if the Chief Executive Officer considers there to be an apparent disadvantage to the Pyrenees Shire communities of interest because of the draft divisions.

CARRIED

13.10 MOBILE BLACKSPOT PROGRAM

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 60/10/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider its support for sites under the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spots Program Round 6.

BACKGROUND

Council has advocated for improved mobile phone coverage as a high priority for the Pyrenees shire to improve digital connectivity and grow the economy.

Council previously also provided a co-contribution towards mobile phone bases stations at Moonambel and Landsborough which were funded to Telstra under round 1 of the program. Landsborough West base station was also funded to Telstra under round 1. Under round 2 Lexton, Waubra, and Amphitheatre were funded through Optus.

In 2018, Council resolved in round 6 to support three sites to be nominated, namely Mena Park, Natte-Yallock and Yalla-Y-Poorra. Subsequently Mena Park was successfully funded through Telstra.

“On 18 November 2020, the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, together with the Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government, The Hon Mark Coulton MP, announced the opening of applications for round 5A.

Round 5A will test a range of different program designs to continue to expand and improve mobile coverage for regional and remote Australia. Up to \$34.5 million will be available for round 5A.

The Government sought feedback from industry and the community on options for the design of round 5A, which includes a focus on improving mobile connectivity along major transport corridors and in disaster-prone regions, such as bushfire-prone areas, as well as the testing of new technologies that support shared mobile coverage in regional areas.

Applications for funding under round 5A are open to Mobile Network Operators and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers. The application period has been extended from 10 February 2021 to 5 March 2021.

Further information on round 5A can be found on the [Grant Connect website](#).

Round 6

The Government has committed \$80 million for Round 6 of the Program. Round 6 is expected to commence after the Round 5A process is complete.” (Australian Government website).

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

While the Yalla-Y-Poorra site extends across the shire boundary with the Rural City of Ararat, should a base station be funded in this location, it will address a current blackspot, and provide improved connectivity for residents and farming enterprises in the area, travellers on the Eurambeen-Streatham Road and for the grain receival facility at Lakaput, as well as provide a further incentive for future expansion of intensive agriculture activity in this area.

Only Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) are able to submit applications under the program, and Council officers have commenced discussion with one of the MNOs in respect of the above site.

Council, along with MNOs and members of the community previously nominated sites where poor coverage was observed for inclusion on the Database of Reported Mobile Black Spot locations. While the Database is still current, this nomination process has now closed.

It is intended that discussions with the MNO continue in respect of possible application sites for rounds 5A and 6, and that advocacy for improved mobile phone connectivity in the Pyrenees remain a priority of Council.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

Residents businesses and visitors in some parts of the Pyrenees Shire Council are disadvantaged because of lack of mobile phone connectivity. Further funding has been provided by the commonwealth has been made available under round 5A and 6 of the Mobile Blackspot Program.

There is an opportunity to work with MNOs to make application for funding for base stations at sites within the Pyrenees Shire.

CR CLARK / CR EASON

That Council:

1. Seeks to work with relevant Mobile Network Operators to make application for funding under the Mobile Blackspot Program; and
2. Continues to advocate for ongoing Program funding until mobile blackspots are sufficiently eliminated in the shire.

CARRIED

13.11 LOCAL ROAD AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM – STAGE 2

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 32/13/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council about the projects to be funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Phase 2)

BACKGROUND

Council considered a report at the July 2020 Council Meeting regarding the allocation of \$ 1,394,921 through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Phase 1 which was designed by the Commonwealth government as part of its economic stimulus package. Council endorsed a number of projects to be funded under that phase of the program, successful applications were made, and works are currently underway on those projects.

In the last quarter of 2020, the Commonwealth advised of a Phase 2 of the program with Pyrenees allocation being \$1,126,363.

The program guidelines being similar to those of phase one with eligible projects described as follows:

“Eligible Local Road Projects are projects that involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments. Local governments are encouraged to consider works that support improved road safety outcomes. This could include projects involving any of the following associated with a road:

- *traffic signs;*
- *traffic control equipment;*
- *street lighting equipment;*
- *a bridge or tunnel;*
- *a facility off the road used by heavy vehicles in connection with travel on the road (for example, a rest area or weigh station);*
- *facilities off the road that support the visitor economy; and*
- *road and sidewalk maintenance, where additional to normal capital works schedules.*

Eligible Community Infrastructure Projects are projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public.

‘Generally accessible to the public’ means that the project, or the amenity provided by the project, is generally accessible to the public at large. Some areas are clearly publicly accessible as they are areas that are open to all members of the public such as parks, playgrounds, footpaths and roads.

Projects will also be considered generally publicly accessible if they are in a location that is:

- *generally publicly accessible to the wider public undertaking a specific activity (for example council operated sporting fields); or*
- *generally publicly accessible for a limited age group of the Community as a whole i.e. a kindergarten building; or*
- *used for the provision of an essential service or community service, as determined by the Department, and the amenity of the asset is publicly accessible and benefits the community.*
- *All projects whether carried out on council owned land, or another type of public land, must deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity, and/or safety. Examples of eligible works include:*
- *Closed Circuit TV (CCTV);*

- *bicycle and walking paths;*
- *painting or improvements to community facilities;*
- *repairing and replacing fencing;*
- *improved accessibility of community facilities and areas;*
- *landscaping improvements, such as tree planting and beautification of roundabouts;*
- *picnic shelters or barbecue facilities at community parks;*
- *community/public art associated with an Eligible Project (Eligible Funding Recipients will need to provide a clear description of the conceptual basis of the artwork);*
- *playgrounds and skate parks (including all ability playgrounds);*
- *noise and vibration mitigation measures; and*
- *off-road car parks (such as those at sporting grounds or parks).*

Projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to state/territory and crown owned land/assets and Commonwealth owned land/assets, can also be eligible projects where the Council can confirm that they have the authority of the land or asset owner to undertake the project at the nominated site(s) and the sites are accessible to the public (including natural assets). “

This grant opportunity opened on 14 December 2020 and will close on 31 July 2021. Works must be completed by 31 December 2021 and a “use it or lose it” principle applies where unspent funds will be reallocated by the Commonwealth.

When allocating endorsing projects to be nominated under phase 1, Council used the following principles to guide the selection of eligible projects to be nominated for funding under the program:

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

It is suggested that Council use these same principles when providing direction on phase 2 projects.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

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

Project	Description	Reason for inclusion	Estimated Amount X\$1000
Tanwood Avenue of Honour -	Restoration	Identified in Moonambel community action plan	\$71,500
Growing our Tree Canopy	Tree planting in townships across the shire	Expansion of an existing council initiative	\$50,000
Resilient Floodways	Upgrade of floodways to make them more resilient.	Protection for existing Council assets	\$154,000
Road Construction of Orme St, Avoca (Pyrenees Hwy to Pearson St)	Road construction and sealing	To provide an improved service level, and reduce maintenance demand	\$120,000

Road Upgrade Project (to support heavy vehicle routes)	Specific road project to be determined.	Upgrade of an existing asset to provide improved service level	\$330,863
Footpath Upgrade - High St Avoca	Remove and replace damaged and irregular paving.	High volume pedestrian use and consistent with Council's objective to renew assets, and improve Avoca 's main street.	\$200,000
Footpath Construction - Beaufort along Hwy East to Broadbent Crt	Construct new footpath	Implements the Beaufort Walkability Plan and provides link to CBD for residential precinct.	\$200,000
Total:			\$1,126,363

The unspecified road project above is to be determined, and the total value of projects is to be aligned with the funding available.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 1 - Roads and Townships. We will plan, manage, maintain and renew infrastructure in a sustainable way that responds to the needs of the community.

- 1.1 - Ensure local roads are maintained and renewed in line with adopted plans and strategy to provide a safe transport network and meet community needs.
- 1.2 - Maintain and renew Council's facilities and built assets in line with community service needs.
- 1.4 - Maintain, develop and renew the public amenity of our townships in consultation with our communities.
- 1.5- Prepare and implement township framework plans to guide future development in Beaufort, Avoca, Snake Valley, Lexton, Waubra / Evansford, Landsborough, Moonmabel, Amphitheatre, and Raglan, and then consider extending the planning to include other towns

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

Council direction is sought on projects to be funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Phase 2.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the following projects to be nominated for funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program- Phase 2:

list of recommended projects to be decided by Council

CR CLARK / CR VANCE

That Council endorses the following projects to be nominated for funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program- Phase 2:

Project	Estimated Amount X\$1000
Tanwood Avenue of Honour	\$71,500
Growing our Tree Canopy	\$50,000
Resilient Floodways	\$154,000
Road Construction of Orme St, Avoca (Pyrenees Hwy to Pearson St)	\$120,000
Road Upgrades including Wright St, Crowlands	\$330,863
Footpath Upgrade - High St Avoca	\$200,000
Footpath Construction - Beaufort along Hwy East	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$1,126,363

CARRIED

13.12 GOLDFIELDS RECREATION RESERVE AND SURROUNDS MASTER PLAN

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 523046200

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to allocate funds for the preparation of a Masterplan for the Goldfields Recreation Reserve and Surrounds.

BACKGROUND

The Goldfields Recreation Reserve is a high use community asset catering for a range of community recreation and sporting activities including but not limited to AFL football, cricket, tennis, athletics, passive recreation as well as providing a site for community events such as the Annual Beaufort Agricultural Show.

Adjoining the recreation reserve is the Beaufort lake which is a valued community asset supporting walking and passive recreation as well as boating and fishing.

On the southern side of the reserve, the Beaufort Caravan Park provides accommodation for visitors and a small number of semi-permanent residents with onsite cabins as well as powered and unpowered sites.

The northern edge of the reserve intersects with the school zone providing easy access for school use of the open spaces for sporting and recreation activity. Car parking in the reserve also provides for overflow parking at school pick up and drop off times.

The Beaufort-Skipton road is the western boundary of the reserve and the main entrance for vehicles to the reserve, caravan park and lake.

The Bendigo Community Bank Complex (BCBC) is a relatively modern community Hub building that supports the recreation activities with change room facilities and community spaces for a range of community events social and recreational uses. The facility is under the management of a Council appointed Asset Committee.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In 2017, Council prepared and endorsed a shire wide Recreation Strategy 2017-2027. The strategy identified the preparation of a Masterplan for the Goldfields Recreation Reserve as a priority action for Beaufort. A Masterplan will enable the community, user groups and partners to have input into the plan to assist prioritising future works. The masterplan will also seek to clarify service standards and alignment of management responsibilities.

The Masterplan will also enable the intersection with the Caravan park and the school precinct to be reviewed. The Recreation Strategy also identified that a Masterplan be prepared for Beaufort Lake as a high priority action to *“help to guide future developments in a logical and well planned way.”* More recently there has been some community engagement and design done on a section of the Lake foreshore ahead of a staged foreshore improvement project which commenced in 2020.

A strategic report on the Caravan Park also made recommendations about access to and from the caravan park by visitors and the general community, as well as identifying opportunities for improved design and layout of the caravan park in future planning.

The Beaufort Walkability plan identified the importance to maintain linkages between community recreation and open space assets, and in particular the linkages to the south of the reserve.

It would seem appropriate therefore that the Master planning for the Recreation Reserve be expanded to incorporate future planning for the Lake surrounds, and consider the intersection issues associated with both the caravan park and the school precinct, and the linkages beyond the reserve to the south.

Community engagement will be an important part of this planning to ensure all stakeholders have opportunity to have input into the plan, and further resourcing of this aspect of the planning will need to be provided in any financial allocation by Council.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.2 - Physical activity - Ensure our residents have access to facilities and programs that allow them to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

5.4 - Increase the visitor economy by implementing the Pyrenees Shire Council Tourism Strategy.

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Master planning work is an unbudgeted activity and would require an allocation from Council's working capital surplus.

CONCLUSION

Master planning for the Goldfields Recreation Reserve and Lake surrounds has been identified as a priority action in Council's Recreation Strategy 2017-27. The reserve is a high use community asset, and the plan will assist guide future development and prioritisation of works at the precinct.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council allocates up to \$80,000 towards the preparation of a Master plan for the Goldfields Recreation Reserve at Beaufort incorporating the Beaufort Lake surrounds and other relevant adjoining land use activities.

CR CLARK / CR VANCE

That Council allocates up to \$50,000 towards the preparation of a Master plan for the Goldfields Recreation Reserve at Beaufort incorporating the Beaufort Lake surrounds and other relevant adjoining land use activities.

CARRIED

13.13 CLIMATE CHANGE PLEDGE

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 30/24/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a request from the Victorian Government make a climate change pledge towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

BACKGROUND

On 20 August 2020, Council received correspondence from the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, requesting that Council consider submitting a pledge to acknowledge actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

On 15 September 2020, a report was presented to Ordinary Council Meeting about the Pledge and it was resolved that the matter of the Climate Change Pledge be presented to the new Council once elected to consider in conjunction with the development of the new Council Plan.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Victorian Government's Climate Change Act 2017 sets a pathway for Victoria by legislating a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and provides a signal to all sectors of the Victorian economy for sustained and significant actions to reduce emissions. The Act also contains provisions for Councils to submit a voluntary Council Pledge to recognise the substantial efforts of local government towards this shared objective.

The Pledge would align with the United Nation's Sustainability Development Goal 13 – Climate Action which sets out actions to combat climate change and its impacts. The Goal aims to 1: strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries; 2: integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning and 3: improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

It would be appropriate for any pledge that Council may wish to consider, to be done in conjunction with the development of a community vision and the Council Plan 2021-25.

A pledge (as previously sought by the Victorian government) is expected to reduce emissions caused or otherwise influenced by Council and where possible, include reasonable estimates of resulting emissions reductions that are expected from those actions. However, the Government is proposing a more flexible approach in that Councils may submit a pledge that can include actions without identified emissions or a collective pledge that reflects actions being taken by multiple councils working in partnership.

The current Council Plan commits Council to *"provide leadership by encouraging sustainability initiatives in partnership with others which reduce Council's environmental footprint, or which enable businesses and the community to increase resilience and adapt to a low carbon economy."*

Council has delivered on this initiative through a range of actions. Participation with the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) has led to positive action as outlined in the most recent CVGA update contained below. While Pyrenees is not actively involved in all projects, there are a regional collective approach and several projects are long term in their implementation.:

CVGA is currently delivering the following projects:

- 5.1.1 Local Government Power Purchase Agreement (PPA):** The local government power purchase agreement (PPA) for Victorian councils, led by Darebin City Council, has collected participation deeds from 47 councils throughout Victoria, committing almost 250GWh per year to invest in renewable energy. This includes 12 of the 13 CVGA councils. A tender for the PPA will be released to market shortly.
- 5.1.2 Charging the Regions 2:** CVGA has received funding from DELWP for \$664,000 to fully fund a roll out of electric vehicle charging network for councils in the Mallee and part of the Loddon Campaspe regions, including installation costs. The following councils are included in the DELWP funding: Mildura, Swan Hill, Campaspe, Loddon, Central Goldfields, and Gannawarra. An additional 3 councils are likely to also participate in the tender; Mount Alexander, Buloke and Greater Shepparton. The CVGA will lead the tender for the chargers with a project control group representing each council and DELWP.
- 5.1.3 Road Lighting Upgrades:** The CVGA has been working with its councils to facilitate a regional project for streetlighting upgrades. Working with councils, Ironbark Sustainability and Powercor, a tender has commenced for lighting upgrades for 10 councils; Ballarat (residential), Mildura, Buloke, Gannawarra, Pyrenees, Bendigo, Mount Alexander, Swan Hill, Hepburn and Southern Grampians. The total lights upgraded this financial year will be approximately 10,000 with more lights being changed the following year and other councils potentially to join next FY.
- 5.1.4 MASH Program:** The MASH program has recently installed two solar and battery systems to demonstrate energy resilience in the face of emergency events. One system has been installed at the Malmsbury CFA and the other at the Hepburn Recreation Reserve. Both systems are designed to enable backup power supply from the battery to enable critical functions to continue in the event of a power outage. Despite COVID-19 impacts, the program is going well and seeing an overall increase in demand, particularly in batteries. Since the previous report in September 2020, a community information session has been organised for 17 February in Beaufort to promote the uptake of solar for homes and businesses within Pyrenees.
- 5.1.5 Cool It Stage 2:** Smaller rural shires are commencing street tree plantings through funding directly from a DELWP grant awarded through CVGA. Work continues to develop a climate resilient street tree database for the CVGA region.
- 5.1.6 Zero Net Emissions Town projects:** The CVGA is working closely with Hepburn Shire and Mount Alexander Shire in developing community transition plans to zero net emissions. The Hepburn ZNET project was recently featured in ABCs new TV show “Fight for Planet A”. CVGA is partnering in an ARC Linkage Grant led by the UNSW to use the two projects as case studies for developing a social justice framework for community climate change projects.

Advocacy

The CVGA has been working with the other greenhouse alliances to address a number of key advocacy issues:

Submissions

- **Technology Roadmap Discussion Paper:** The CVGA developed a submission on behalf of the alliances to the Federal Governments Technology Roadmap Discussion Paper. The full submission is available [here](#).
- **Energy efficiency for low income housing:** The CVGA has partnered with a range of organisations [to advocate to the National Covid Commission](#) for a national stimulus package for energy efficiency retrofits for low income housing including rental, owner occupier, social housing and apartments. In addition the CVGA has been doing a range of media to help elevate the issue [such as this article](#) that ran across 115 newspapers around the country in June.
- **Transmission Grid Upgrades:** The latest national energy system plan (the ISP) has been released and after some advocacy from CVGA and others the plan for grid upgrades in the north of our region has been brought forward by 1-2 years. However, this is still the latter half of the 2020s. The CVGA is working

with the Murray Group of Councils to advocate for these upgrades to be accelerated as part of COVID stimulus. We are also aware of the community issues arising in the southern part of our region and are working with the councils there to understand those issues and help it shape our advocacy.

Knowledge sharing

The CVGA undertakes a number of knowledge sharing activities throughout the year to share best practice across councils working on climate change. To keep up to date with what's going on at CVGA, please sign up, on our [website](#), to our bi-monthly newsletter.

Council also collaborates with the Grampians New Energy Taskforce, **GNET**. GNet has been formed to represent, lead and advocate for the development of a zero-carbon economy in the Grampians region. More recently GNet has led the preparation of a renewable energy roadmap, "**Roadmap to Zero (R2Z)**". R2Z is based on global climate action which aims to keep warming below two degrees Celsius. To do this we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero* by 2050. The roadmap sets a path to achieve this.

Other relevant initiatives of Council, some of which have been reported previously include:

- Future Landscapes Project – a regional research project to identify the impacts of different climate change scenarios on selected agriculture commodities and biodiversity in our region and to provide recommended actions for future adaptation.
- Straw Pallet Project and the pilot involving the Skipton Hospital Straw Heating Project scheduled for completion December 2021. This project seeks to capture straw as a byproduct of agricultural cropping for energy consumption instead of being the subject of stubble burning, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Local Government Energy Saver Program – seeks to implement energy efficient and renewable energy upgrades on Council buildings.
- Advocating for funding for the East Grampians Rural Pipeline – to provide sustainable practices in agriculture – Council advocated for funding which has been secured and the project has commenced.
- Solar Savers Program in partnership with the CVGA.
- Take2 Climate Change Program in partnership with Sustainability Victoria.
- Council officer Ed Riley participates in the Regional Climate Adaptation project which is focused on impacts of climate change with a view to creating a five-year strategy to address these.

Climate Change Response and Mitigation

Climate Change Response and Mitigation measures have been compiled into a document attached to this report. The document includes many of the measures described above, and Council could demonstrate its commitment

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 5 - Development and Environment. We will undertake forward planning, and facilitate growth in our local economy while protecting key natural and built environmental values.

5.8 - Provide leadership by encouraging sustainability initiatives in partnership with others which reduce Council's environmental footprint, or which enable businesses and the community to increase resilience and adapt to a low carbon economy.

ATTACHMENTS

13.13.1 - Guidance note on making the Pledge (*circulated separately*)

13.13.2 - Climate Change Response and Mitigation Action Plan (*circulated separately*)

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Victorian government has requested that councils consider making a non-mandatory Climate Change Pledge.

This report sets out some of the activity that Council has been actively involved in to achieve its Council Plan objective encouraging sustainability initiatives in partnership with others which reduce Council's environmental footprint. This action is progress towards achieving the state's goal of zero net emissions by 2050.

Attached to this report is a Climate Change Response and Mitigation Action plan. Council's commitment to this would demonstrate its commitment to take action to combat climate change and its impacts.

CR CLARK / CR EASON

That Council endorses the Climate Change Response and Mitigation Action Plan, and in doing so pledges to take action to combat climate change and its impacts.

CARRIED

13.14 WIND FARMS VALUATION

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 52/04/24

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about a recent Supreme Court finding in respect of valuation of wind farm assets, and to seek direction about any further action.

BACKGROUND

Attached to this report is recent Supreme Court ruling dated 16 December 2020 involving Ararat Wind Farm Pty Ltd, Ararat Rural City Council and the Valuer General Victoria.

In summary, the applicants (Ararat Wind Farm Pty Ltd) proposed, and the court ruled wind turbines to be “chattels” and not “fixed” for the purposes of determining the Capital Improved Value (CIV).

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

CIV is used to calculate Fire Services Levy (FSL). Wind Farms currently contribute a significant amount of FSL to the state government revenue. The impact of this ruling would appear to result in lower CIV and thereby a lower FSL for windfarm owners.

This aspect should not impact councils financially as the amount of FSL that Council collects on behalf of the State is what we provide to the State.

In respect of Council revenue, Wind Farms are subject to the Electricity Industry Act 2000, and the formula that determines what payments councils receive (Payment in Lieu of rates) is not based on CIV but rather on Megawatt (plus a base payment per wind farm) and this is subject to cpi adjustment annually. See the relevant fact sheet that sets out the details at the following link:

https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/394196/PiLoR-fact-sheet.pdf

It is understood that Wind Farm owners may choose to opt for a CIV methodology for valuation and rating, however it is not currently the preferred choice by the owners due to the method resulting in a considerably higher payment.

A further revenue implication for Councils however relates to other (non-wind turbine) infrastructure such as mobile phone towers, masts, substations and other infrastructure that may currently be valued based on CIV (fixed) but (having regard to the Supreme Court ruling) likely to be CIV (chattel) and thereby resulting not only in reduced FSL revenue to the state, but reduced rates to Council should the ruling create a precedent for future valuations. Should that be the case, a greater share of the rate burden would be born by the remaining rate payers.

At the time of preparing this report, it is understood that the Valuer General Victoria may be considering an appeal, and until such time as an appeal is heard the status quo will apply.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 2 - Relationships and Advocacy. We will build and maintain effective relationships with community, government and strategic partners, and advocate on key issues.

ATTACHMENTS

13.14.1 - Supreme Court of Victoria – Ararat Wind Farm Pty Ltd vs Ararat Rural City Council and Valuer General Victoria (*circulated separately*)

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are currently no financial implications, only potential future implications as reported above.

CR EASON / CR VANCE

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the potential risks associated with the Supreme Court ruling; and
2. Seeks to bring the matter to the attention of the Local Government Minister.

CARRIED

13.15 PETITION – PUMP TRACK

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 58/08/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of a petition requesting a pump track in Avoca due to the lack of spaces for young people to safely ride bikes and scooters away from traffic.

BACKGROUND

Council received a petition dated 2 December 2020 from students of the Avoca Primary School bringing to Council attention the lack of spaces to safely ride bikes and scooters away from traffic. The petition received contained 63 signatures, examples of a pump track and a statement as per the following:

“Living in the township and surrounding areas, we would like to be able to enjoy riding our bikes with our families and friends.

When visitors come to town for a holiday, they often bring bikes but don't have specified areas for riding, which are often seen in other towns.

There is unused bushland close to the town, which we think would be a great place to make a designated bike track and/or a pump track.

It would be appreciated if this proposal could be considered by the Pyrenees Shire Council because we think it would be a popular, recreational site for tourists and residents.”

In addition to the petition from the students, Council also received a letter from resident Jo Field in support of a pump track.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Before making any decision in respect of the matter, Council should have regard to the Pyrenees Shire Council Governance Rules 2020, 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 Director for a subsequent meeting addressing the merits of the issues contained in the petition and the additional letter received.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.2 - Physical activity - Ensure our residents have access to facilities and programs that allow them to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

A pump park is identified in the Pyrenees Shire Council Recreation Strategy 2017-2027 as a priority action which would increase participation in physical recreation activity.

ATTACHMENTS

13.15.1 – Petition (*circulated separately*)

13.15.2 – Letter (*circulated separately*)

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

CR VANCE / CR EASON

That Council:

1. Receives the petition; and
2. Requests a report be presented to a future Council Meeting for decision.

CARRIED

13.16 JOINT LETTER – OFF LEASH DOG PARK, BEAUFORT

Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 56/08/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council about a proposal for an Off-Leash Dog Park for Beaufort.

BACKGROUND

Council has received a joint letter / submission from Ms Heather McCracken and Ms Celia Myers with a proposal for Council to establish an Off-Leash Dog Park in Beaufort.

The submission outlines a number of benefits of such a park in Beaufort and proposes a site and name for the park as well as a number of design considerations.

The author's proposal was published in the Pyrenees Advocate receiving several letters of support.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Whilst not technically a petition, the submission may be considered in the same way that Council receives a petition in accordance with the Pyrenees Shire Council Governance Rules 2020, Section 4.8.3 which states that:

(b) 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 Director for a subsequent meeting addressing the merits of the issues contained in the petition or joint letter / submission.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - Community Connection and Wellbeing. We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active and resilient communities.

3.2 - Physical activity - Ensure our residents have access to facilities and programs that allow them to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

The Authors advise that an Off-Leash Dog Park is contained in the Beaufort Community Action Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

13.16.1 - Letter and submission (*circulated separately*)

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

CR CLARK / CR EASON

That Council:

1. Receives the joint letter /submission; and
2. Requests a report be presented to a future Council Meeting for consideration.

CARRIED

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Vance

- Attended the Australia Day function at Trawalla which went really well. Congratulations to the award winners.
- Attended the Rural Councils Victoria meeting and had an address from the Regional Development Minister Mary-Anne Thomas on public housing, strategic planner shortage and roads funding.
- Had a couple of constituents raise some issues. There no sign on the Sunraysia Highway directing people to the new toilets at Waubra. Also, the give way sign at the intersection of Avoca Stawell Road and Barkly Frenchmans Road glares making it hard for drivers to see.

Cr Eason

- Attended the Australia Day event which was a great day. The award winners were very deserving.
- In Avoca, the new children's playground is well underway and is hoped to be finished within 6 weeks. It will be a great asset for the town to encourage people to stop and enjoy it.

Cr Clark

- Most Committees are back in action. Attended meetings with Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA), Highlands LLEN and also the Community Advisory Group meeting at Langi Kal Kal prison.
- A number of constituent matters have been reported to Council.
- The Australia Day event was a terrific day. It is important to mention that we are in an education awareness/learning phase in relation to what happened to our nation's first peoples. Council, through the Reconciliation Action Plan, continues promote awareness though there is still work to do.

Cr Kehoe

- This has been a great harvest season.
- The Carranballac Ball was sold out and was a wonderful event.
- The Snake Valley Skate Park is very popular. The issue with graffiti/rubbish early on seems to have been rectified.
- The Snake Valley Reserve now has a sign which is a collaborative effort between the Committee and the Linton Men's Shed. There will be an opening on 21st March.
- The Snake Valley RSL is working through how ANZAC Day will be held this year. They are also looking at options to seal the war memorial pavement.
- Attended the Australia Day event which was a fantastic event with a great turnout. It was a credit to the Trawalla community.

Cr Ferrari

- Continuing with the weekly Mayor/CEOs meeting.
- The Australia Day event was a fantastic day despite the weather. Thanks to all for braving the conditions to attend the day. The award recipients were very worthy.
- Attended a meeting with the Rotary Club of Beaufort.
- Had a number of constituent meetings.
- Congratulations to Council staff for the work done to accommodate the latest COVID lockdown. Thanks to Councillors for their patience with having to meet online.
- Thanks to the Pyrenees community for their resilience around COVID and continue to do the right things.

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 60 and 61 of the Local Government Act 2020, the meeting be closed to the public in order to consider personal matters.

Cr KEHOE / CR CLARK

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.1.1(c) of Council's Governance Rules, and Section 60 and 61 of the Local Government Act 2020 in order to discuss contractual and personal matters considered in the reports on:-

- 15.1 Business Support
- 15.2 CEO Review

CARRIED

The livestream was stopped at 8.04pm to consider the confidential items.

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

CR EASON / CR KEHOE

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

CARRIED

The meeting was unable to be re-connected to the livestream for public viewing therefore the meeting was closed.

17. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 8.34pm

Minutes of the meeting confirmed _____

2021

Mayor