



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 21 March 2023
Council Chambers
Beaufort Council Offices,
5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort

Wadawurrung Country

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

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1. WELCOME

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

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

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

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

The public is able to view this livestream via our website at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au.

Should technical issues prevent the continuation of the stream, the meeting will be adjourned until the issue is resolved or the meeting will be postponed to another time and date in accordance with Council's meeting procedures and Governance Rules.

3. OPENING PRAYER

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

Amen

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

5. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Cr David Clark declared of conflict of interest (direct or indirect or pecuniary or non-pecuniary) being a landowner in the vicinity of the WRL project in the event that it may be discussed during the ordinary meeting. The matter is specifically listed as 13.4.2 VNI West Consultation Report in the agenda for decision.

7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Robert Vance

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 February 2023
- Confidential Meeting of Council held on 21 February 2023

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising (items taken on notice) from the previous meeting held 21 February 2023.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Gemma Millard of Lexton

Question one:

I am seeking an update on the permit status of Rainbow Serpent Festival so my family can be aware of volunteering opportunities to rent their land and house. This an annual venture conducted by my family offering accommodation to visitors seeking to arrive ahead of the date or leave Lexton after event closure. It is my family's way of offering options to ensure community safety. I have contacted the event but as our contribution has no affiliation have not had a response. Greatly appreciate an update on status so my family can plan around the event. Sincere apologies if this is unrelated to Council and if this question impacted your time.

Response:

Mr. Douglas Gowans thanked Ms. Millard for the question and provided the following response: I can confirm that the former Rainbow Serpent Festival permit expired in 2020 and that there are currently no approvals in place to allow the festival to occur at Jack Smith Lane, Lexton. I am aware that the festival organisers are currently navigating an approval process that involves amending the Pyrenees Planning Scheme, and I can confirm that our Planning Department are actively involved in this process. Further, I wish to take the opportunity to advise that some types of accommodation require planning approvals and registration under the Public Health and Wellbeing (Prescribed Accommodation) Regulations 2020. It would be remiss of me not to encourage that you seek further advice prior to making your property available for accommodation.

Mr. Roger Andrew (Gallery)

Question one:

Regarding the parking around the Rotunda and the lack of marking on the road.

There are two problems, one is traffic entering from Livingstone Street and taking the short cut to the IGA and people then moving from the parking area around the Rotunda to do a right-hand turn into to Livingstone and Neill Streets with no marking, often due to the width the corners are cut quite sharply. A couple of close calls seen, and marking is required.

The other issue is on the exit there is a sign saying 'No Entry' onto Neill Street, only one sign on the left-hand side as you enter and a lot of cars try to go out through the exit area the wrong way because they do not see the left-hand sign due to looking up Neill Street toward the traffic lights, and quite frequently get cars coming in both directions, so additional signing is required.

Response:

Mr. Douglas Gowans thanked Mr. Andrew for the question and provided the following response:

The question has a fair bit of merit in seeking further consideration of traffic movement in that area and I will take the question on notice to undertake a review of the carpark with regard to line marking and extra signage.

10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1.1. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2023

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 16/08/04

PURPOSE

This report gives the Council an update on requests made through the Customer Action Request System (CARS) for February 2023.

BACKGROUND

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

Service requests are received for operational issues regarding maintenance, roads maintenance, pools, local laws, building maintenance and compliance matters.

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION – CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2022

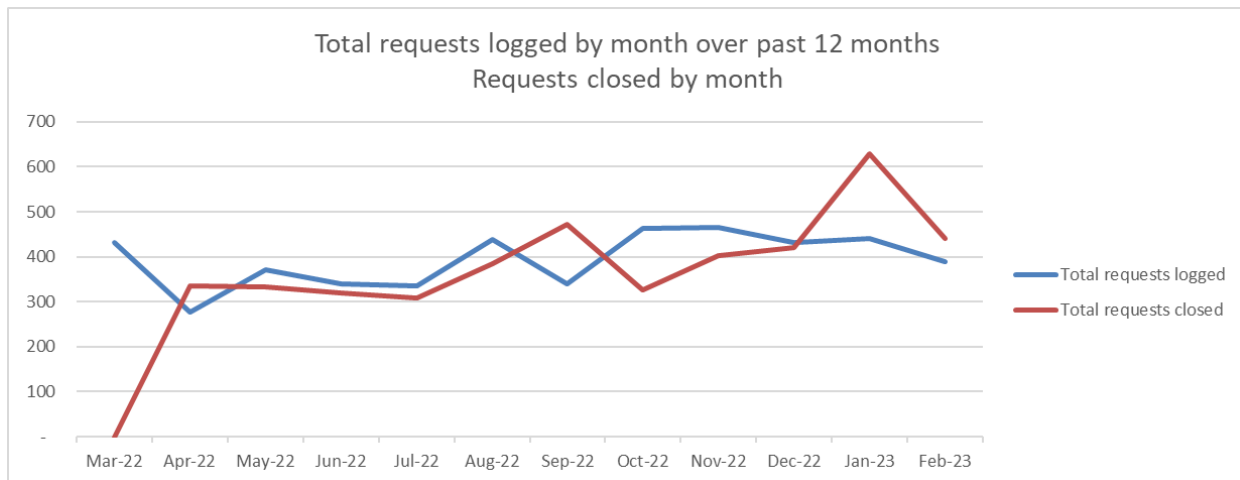
1. Logged and closed requests

390 CARs (Customer Action Requests) were logged in January, 51 less than the previous month. Of these, 194 related to telephone messages.

440 requests were closed during the month, demonstrating the ongoing effort officers are making to maintain focus on addressing and closing requests.

The following charts detail the numbers of requests received over the last 12 months and the number of requests closed each month.

Year	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	% Change
Total requests logged	431	278	372	339	335	439	339	464	466	431	441	390	-12%
Total requests closed		335	333	319	309	384	473	327	403	421	630	440	-30%



2. Telephone requests

194 telephone calls were transferred into requests in February 2023, with 22 requests remaining outstanding at the end of the month.

3. Open Customer Action Requests

The number of open requests will be reported differently from this month onwards. Some requests that have had initial contact with the customer but are unable to be resolved quickly for some reason, are now being moved to being 'on-hold' and some may be referred to budget (e.g., long term drainage issues).

Because we are now reporting on these requests that have had their first contacts made, to be transparent about those that are not fully resolved, this will mean that the total open request statistics will increase, which is why I will detail the individual numbers each month.

At the end of February 2023, there was a total of 414 active or open requests. These include:

- 172 which are open and assigned for action
- 241 which are on hold awaiting final resolution
- 1 which has been referred to budget

Referred to budget – one request has been referred to budget relating to a request for future maintenance by Council of the Wayside Reserve at Avoca Lead – a wayside stop that was established and formerly maintained by Avoca & District Landcare.

On hold – although this report indicates that 241 requests were on hold as at the end of February, at the time of writing this report, the number had reduced to 190 requests. In general, these relate to matters that have had initial contact and require additional work or case management, or have been put on a schedule for action - e.g.,

- Complex local law matters, mostly relating to shipping containers or dog complaints (Avoca 5, Beaufort 12, DeCameron 6, Ercildoune 8, Mt Emu 13)
- Road improvement requests (Avoca 5, DeCameron 3, Ercildoune 5, Mt Emu 1)
- Flood impacts / Natural disaster (Avoca 26, Beaufort 15, DeCameron 19, Ercildoune 16, Mt Emu 18)
- Long term drainage works (Avoca 6, Beaufort 2, DeCameron 3, Ercildoune 6)

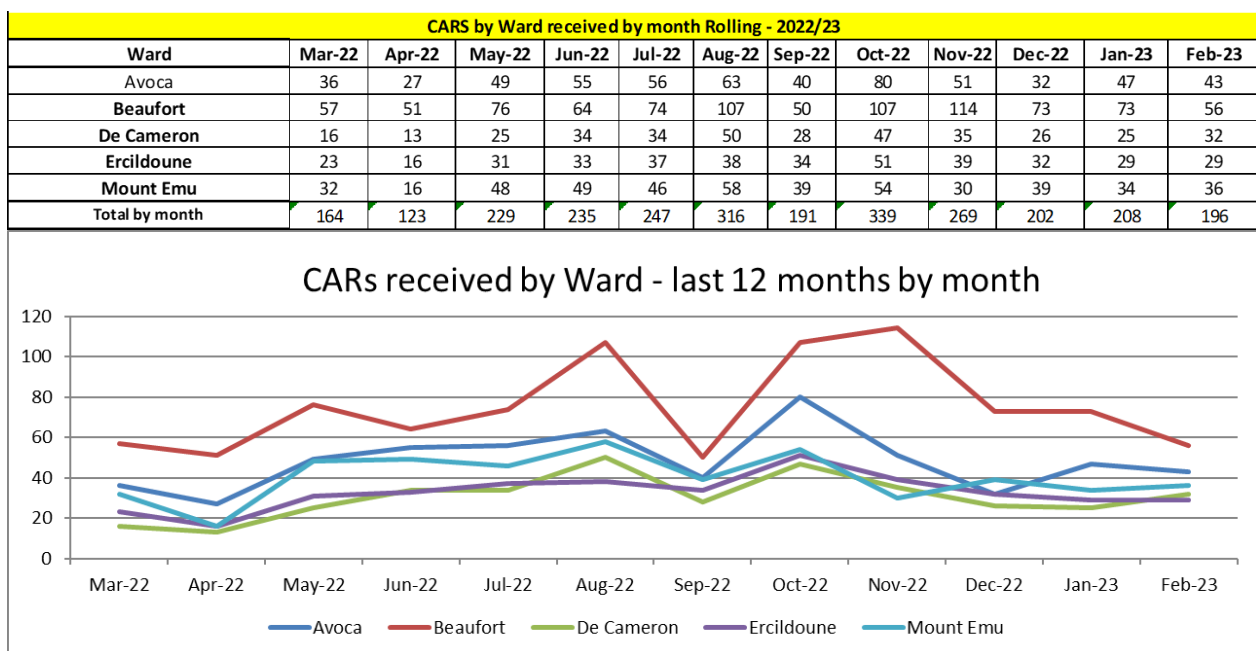
A small component of the total on-hold requests related to vegetation, bin collection, pool maintenance requests, and a request for better streetlighting.

Open requests – the balance of this report will focus on the open requests as normal, but statistics relating to requests marked as on-hold or referred-to-budget have been included in the table.

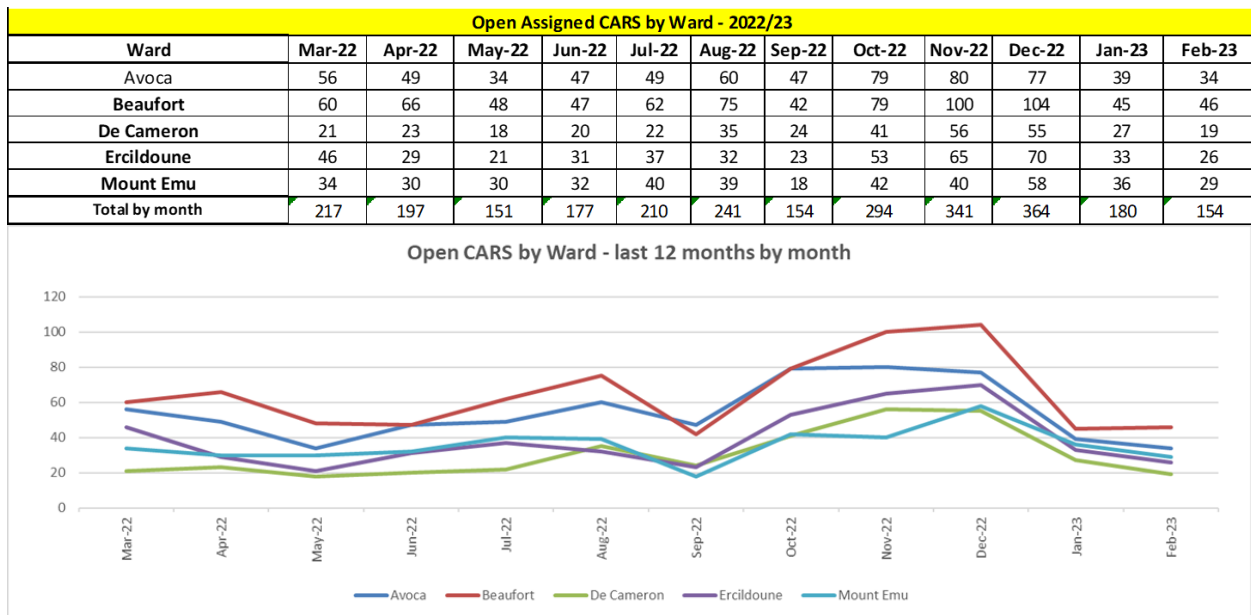
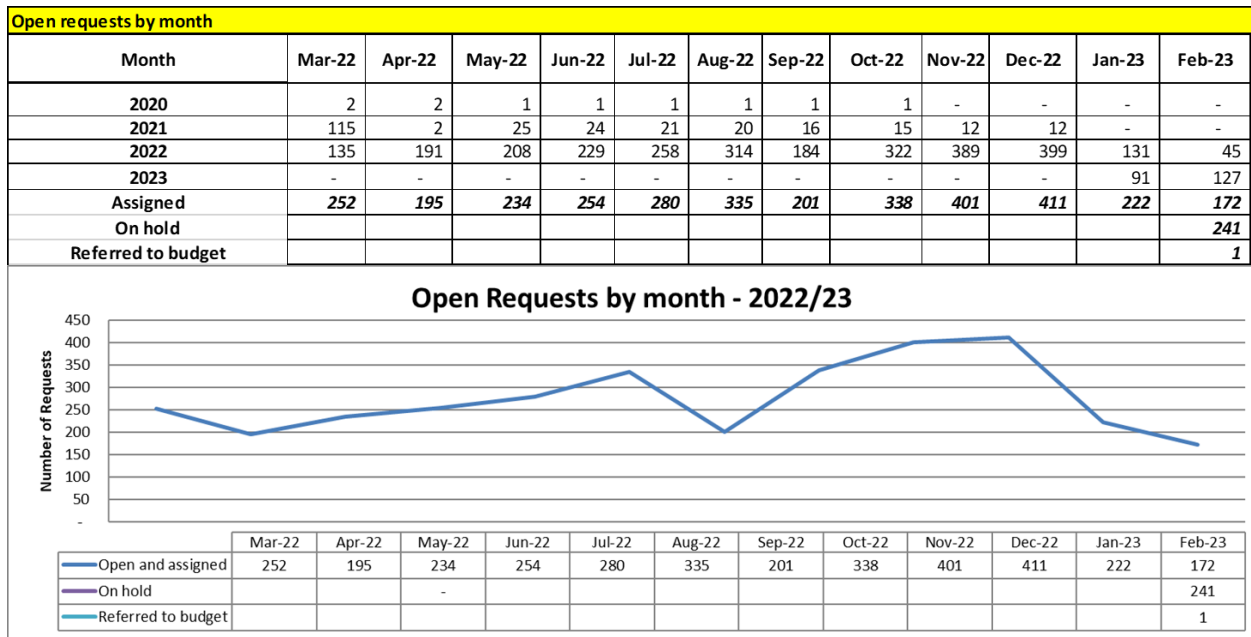
Of the non-telephone call requests received in February, the following represents those received and still open at the of the last month by Ward:

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	DeCameron Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mt Emu Ward
Number of requests received in February 2023 (previous month)	43 (47)	56 (73)	32 (25)	29 (29)	36 (34)
Requests received in February and closed in the same month (% of total received)	24 (56%)	27 (48%)	20 (63%)	15 (52%)	18 (50%)
Requests received in February remaining open	16	18	8	10	18
Requests received in February on-hold awaiting final works or resolution	4	6	7	6	5
Requests received in February referred to budget	0	0	0	0	0
Open requests from 2022 (previous month)	10 (23)	9 (45)	9 (27)	9 (33)	7 (36)
Total open requests as at the end of February 2023 (previous month)	34 (39)	46 (45)	19 (27)	26 (33)	29 (36)

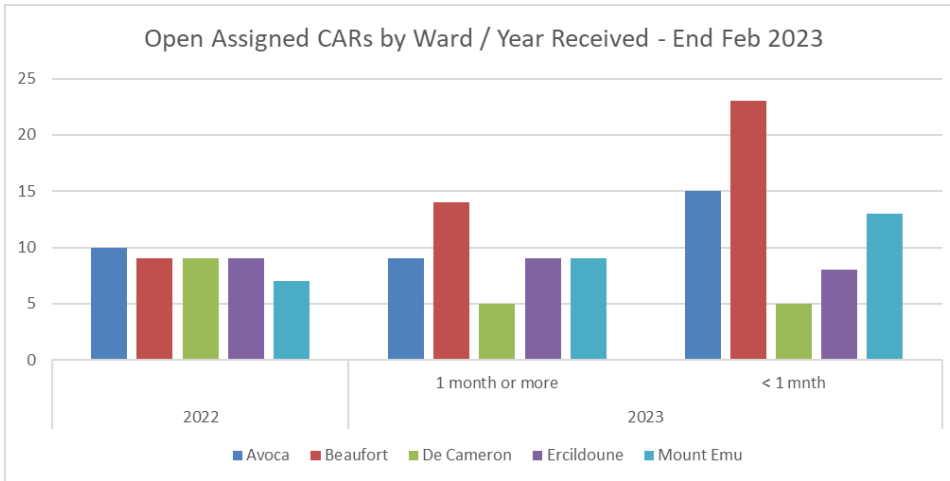
The following charts show the numbers of requests received by Ward per month for the past 12 months.



The following charts show the statistics for requests that remained open each month for the past 12 months. Over future months, these charts will start reflecting numbers of requests that are transferred to on-hold or referred-to-budget status.



The following chart shows the open assigned requests by Ward as at the end of February 2023, excluding those referred-to-budget or on-hold.



The following table provides greater detail of the areas where outstanding requests remain, showing the functional areas and numbers of requests still outstanding as at the end of the last month. This data includes those referred-to-budget or on-hold.

Outstanding Requests Type			
	Jan-23	Feb-23	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	98	77	-21
Streetlights	0	1	1
Drainage	26	36	10
Footpaths /	11	7	-4
Park & Reserves	9	10	1
Roadside Veg	19	33	14
Environmental Health	7	11	4
Planning	0	0	0
Bld maint	2	6	4
Local Laws	12	44	32
Cats	0	1	1
Dogs	4	15	11
Livestock	0	2	2
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	1	1	0
Bld Compliance	0	1	1
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	0	0	0
Rates	1	1	0
Natural Disasters	2	144	142
Pools	0	2	2
Council cleaning	1	1	0
Litter	1	0	-1
Design & Assets	0	0	0
GIS	0	0	0
Community	0	0	0
Rural Addressing	0	0	0
Road Naming	0	0	0
Telephone messages	28	22	-6
Total	222	415	193

ISSUE / DISCUSSION – IT TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

Each month a progress update will be provided to Council on the IT Rural Councils Transformation, a collaborative project with Central Goldfields Shire Council as the Lead to develop and implement updated

systems to manage financial and revenue management, plus a new customer relationship management system.

Tenders were recently sought from suitable consultants to provide project management and business analyst services to undertake the software development and procurement phases of the project. Unfortunately, tender responses all exceeded the total budget for the project – ranging from \$500,000 to \$4.1 million – excluding the cost and implementation of the software itself.

Alternate strategies are now being considered including either recruitment of specific roles or backfilling of existing IT Managers from either or both councils to enable them to undertake the project management role.

Deliverable	Evidence	Due / Status
Governance Structure	Governance structure established and regular project meetings / communication commenced.	Complete
IT Systems Architecture Plan	Development of the Architecture & Project Implementation Plan and provision to the Department.	Due Dec 2022 Complete and approved by Department
External Resource Engagement	Subject to successful up-front funding variation agreement – appointment of external resources: Project Manager and Business Analyst through appointment of consultant expertise.	Due Feb 2023 Tender completed and responses evaluated. All responses were above budget available – ranging from \$500,000 to \$4.1 million, excluding software purchases. Alternative strategies are being considered.
Full funding allocation	\$50,000 allocated in November 2022. \$450,000 allocation subject to appointment of external resources.	Complete
Develop Project Brief	Develop project brief and product definition.	Due May 2023
Tender	Specifications and Tender document developed and provided to Department.	Due Jun 2023
Tender procurement	Issue tender to market for systems procurement and award contract.	Due Oct 2023
Finalise project plan	Agreed project plan and implementation commencement.	Due Nov 2023
Systems implemented	CSRM and Finance systems implemented at two councils.	Due Jun 2024
Final report	Outcomes report approved by Department	Due Jun 2025

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risks are discussed in the body of the report.

CONCLUSION

The customer action request system remains an integral part of Council's reactive identification of issues that need attention. A large focus was committed in January and February 2023 to closing or rescheduling outstanding CARs to enable realistic reporting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

10.2.1. PROJECTS UPDATE

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jerry van Delft – Project Management Facilitator

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

File No: 16/21/08

PURPOSE

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

BACKGROUND

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

There has been an impact on projects in recent months resulting from the rain event in 2022. Notwithstanding this, most major projects will be completed by the due date as reported through the weekly community noticeboard and as provided in the summary below.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The website has been updated with most open projects. Closed projects are currently marked with a "Z" so that they appear at the end of the website. Other enhancements include the addition of acknowledgment of the Aboriginal County.

Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) - Phase 3

Projects undertaken as part of this \$2.318M Federally funded program are due for completion by 30 June 2023. Four of the Twelve projects are completed. Others are underway or yet to commence (refer below). A separate report has been prepared for Council relating to the footpath construction project in Avoca which is at risk of not being completed due to an approval still to be obtained, seeking approval from Council to substitute the project for another project in Avoca should timely approval not be able to be obtained.

Beaufort Lake Walking Path and Stage 2 BBQ Shelter (LRCIP 3)

Works on the walking path around Beaufort Lake are in progress. Sections of the path are being resurfaced and several culverts installed to improve drainage and the quality of the walking surface. A contract has been let for the Lakeside Shelter which is on track to be completed by June 2023.

Major Road Construction Works

Two major road construction projects are underway at Crowlands-Eversley Road (LRCIP 3) and at Snake Valley-Smythesdale Road (between Hopes Lane and Burrumbeet-Hillcrest Road).

Bridge Works

Construction on the Raglan-Elmhurst Road bridge (Bridge 139) is well advanced with the majority of the super structure completed, and the road remains closed. Works are expected to be completed by late March / early April.

Works on Bridge 11 on the Beaufort Carngham Road are expected to begin following the completion of Bridge 139.

Beggs St car park

Initial works on the Beggs St car park was completed in February. Sealing the car park will happen later, with those works expected to happen in early April.

Goldfields Recreation Reserve

Cricket net construction

Construction of new cricket practice nets at the Goldfields Recreation Reserve is scheduled to start on 20 March, after the Beaufort Agricultural Show. It is expected to be finished in late May. Two trees have been removed from the site.

Goldfields lighting project

Lighting mast reinforcement cages are on site with poles to be delivered next week. The construction is on track to commence at the end of March after the Ag show and is due to be completed by November. Preliminary works including design and the towers and footings have been procured.

Goldfields Recreation Reserve Master Plan

The Master Plan project has been launched and a schedule of community consultations is being developed. The successful tenderer (Solucio) has met with Council Officers to identify documents, information and data needed before consultation can commence.

The Beaufort Lake Caravan Park

The project has been initiated with \$500K funding from council and \$500K from the Victorian Government). Timeline for completion is the end of May 2025.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (LRCIP 3)

Both the Avoca and Beaufort EV charging stations are on track for a June 2023 completion.

The NE Pyrenees Water Project

The scope of the project has been expanded to include parts of the Southern Wimmera and so the name is now Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply. Council has allocated \$15K (cash) plus in kind to the feasibility study that is currently under way and the overall project cost is \$375K including \$300K of Victoria Government funding. Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water has been engaged as the main contractor to deliver the study. Information sessions held in Nattee Yallock and Navarre have been well attended, and a strong indication of support has been obtained from landowners to date. While the timeline for completion is currently the end of May 2023, it is anticipated that a variation will be sought from Regional Development Victoria to enable additional time for appropriate engagement to occur on this complex project.

Raglan Hall (LRCIP 3)

The project saw major repairs and replacement of roof drainage and stormwater drainage, repairs to kitchen, replace external weatherboards with colourbond, and repairs to doors and internal walls.

Lexton Hub

The works have been completed and the equipment from the old clubrooms is currently being removed. The Hub has been operating since the beginning of the year with a formal opening planned for later in the year when the demolition of the old clubrooms has been completed. This is due in April. The facility was handed over to the management committee in March.

Beaufort Footpaths (LRCIP 3)

Work is soon to commence on the construction of an 840m section of footpath in Neil Street East.

Rural Council Transformation Project (RCTP)

This project is a two-year shared services project with Central Goldfields Shire Council (lead council) funded by the Victorian Government. The project aims to implement a new Customer Relationship Management System and a new Finance system. The first two milestones for this project have been met, with completion scheduled for 2024.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes this report

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**11.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - FEBRUARY 2023**

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
Mon 6 th	BP60 Meeting	Beaufort
Sat 11 th	Pyrenees Hideout Festival Opening	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Waubra
Tues 21 st	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 21 st	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
Thurs 2 nd	CVGA Finance & Audit Committee Meeting	Virtual
Fri 3 rd	MAV Board Meeting	Virtual
Mon 6 th	ALGA Board Meeting	Sydney
Thurs 9 th	HLLLEN CoM Meeting	Ballarat
Fri 10 th	MAV Leadership Conference	Melbourne
Sat 11 th	Pyrenees Hideout Festival Opening	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Waubra
Thurs 16 th	ALGA Board Meeting	Virtual
Tues 21 st	Resident Site Visit	Trawalla
Tues 21 st	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 21 st	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Wed 22 nd	Meet with opposition Treasurer, Brad Roswell	Melbourne
Thurs 23 rd	CVGA Board Meeting	Virtual
Mon 27 th	ALGA Board Meeting	Sydney
Tues 28 th	MAV visit with Moyne Shire Council	Mortlake
Tues 28 th	Meeting of Pyrenees Nature Group	Beaufort

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
Tues 14 th	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Waubra
Thurs 16 th	Timber Towns Vic General Meeting	Virtual
Tues 21 st	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 21 st	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Mon 27 th	Crowlands Hall & Reserves CoM Meeting	Crowlands

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
Sat 11 th	Pyrenees Hideout Festival Opening	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Waubra
Fri 17 th	Rail Freight Alliance AGM & Ordinary Meeting	Virtual
Tues 21 st	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort

Tues 21 st	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Tues 28 th	VLGGC Statewide Information Session	Virtual

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
Tues 31 st	Carngham Recreation Reserve AGM	Carngham
Sat 11 th	Pyrenees Hideout Festival Opening	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 14 th	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Waubra
Tues 21 st	Councillor Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 21 st	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Wed 22 nd	MEMPC	Beaufort

12. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - FEBRUARY 2023**

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	14 February 2023 commenced at 12.00pm and closed at 4.30pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainability Initiatives 2. CEO Review 3. Lexton Golf Club 4. Technical Presentation from South Stawell Gold 5. Infringements 6. Illegal Buildings 7. Avoca River Flats 8. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe (12.45pm)	Cr David Clark (12.15pm) Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Visitors	South Stawell Gold - Annie McPherson, Stephanie Koziol, Bill Reid		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	21 February 2023 commenced at 12.00pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainability Initiatives 2. 2023/2024 Budget 3. AEMO update 4. Regional Tourism 5. Avoca Drainage Study 6. Agenda Review 7. Citizenship Ceremony 8. Reconciliation Actions 9. MAV State Council 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe (3.10pm)		Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance) item 2 Ray Davies (Manager Economic Development & Tourism) item 4 Tim Day (Manager Assets) item 5 Zahedur Rahman (Project Co-Ordinator) item 5		
Visitors	Claire Holster (Aurecon Group) & Rosanna Lacorcia (AEMO)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
3	Cr Clark	Interest in item 3 as a potential landowner	The matter was an update received.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

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

CARRIED

13. ITEMS FOR DECISION

13.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

13.1.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 22/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an economic snapshot of the shire, information on recent activities of the Economic Development and Tourism team and review progress of actions and activities against the March 2020 Economic Development Strategy.

BACKGROUND

Economic Development Strategy

Council endorsed the current Economic Development Towards 10,000 Strategy in March 2020 which includes three overarching objectives to:

1. Attract new residents, visitors and investment
2. Foster the capability of key economic sectors
3. Develop local business and employee capacity

An action plan was developed in 2020 from the strategy and Attachment A to this report summarises progress of the thirty-two initiatives identified in the action plan.

Council Plan

The Council Plan 2021-25 includes four central pillars of People, Place, Environment and Economy.

The Economy pillar states that Council will:

- Support our local businesses and help strengthen key industries
- Invest in road infrastructure to improve connectivity for commerce and community
- Advocate for and invest in assets and infrastructure to support industry sustainability

Central Highlands Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS)

The key priorities of the CH REDS are:

- Enhance the regional value add and collaboration across the agri-food supply chain
- Continue to grow and develop the visitor and creative economies
- Strengthen the renewable energy and waste management industries
- Enhance the innovation ecosystem

Performance of the Pyrenees Shire Economy

Generally favourable seasonal conditions (with the exception of the 2022 floods) and commodity prices for agriculture and a trend towards regional migration over the past three to five years have resulted in significant growth of the Pyrenees Shires economy.

In summary the graphs and charts that follow in this report illustrate that between 2011 and 2021:

- The number of people employed in the Pyrenees has increased by 475 from 1,744 to 2,219. Of these people who are employed in the agriculture sector continue to represent around 25% of jobs in the Shire
- Population has grown at an average annual rate of 85 people per annum from 6,759 to 7,613. Should this trajectory continue then the population will reach 8,000 people by 2025 which is the base level target in the 2020 Economic Development Strategy
- Real estate values have risen significantly with valuations of all property categories within the Shire increasing from \$1,505-M in 2011 to \$3,110-M in 2021. Farming land which comprises 62% of the value of all rateable properties in 2021 rose in value by \$971M (102.5%) from \$947M in 2016 to \$1918M in 2021
- Agriculture, and in particular the sheep, grains and beef cattle sector continue to play a dominant role in the Pyrenees economy in terms of the sectors contribution to output, jobs and value add.
- The construction industry (particularly civil construction) has also emerged over the past ten years as a significant contributor while wine manufacturing and tourism remain important to the Pyrenees Shire in the context of employment and attracting visitors who may be contemplating relocation and/or investment.

The following tables accessed using Remplan data reflect the performance of the key propulsive industries of the private sector in the Pyrenees Economy.

Table 1. Economic output

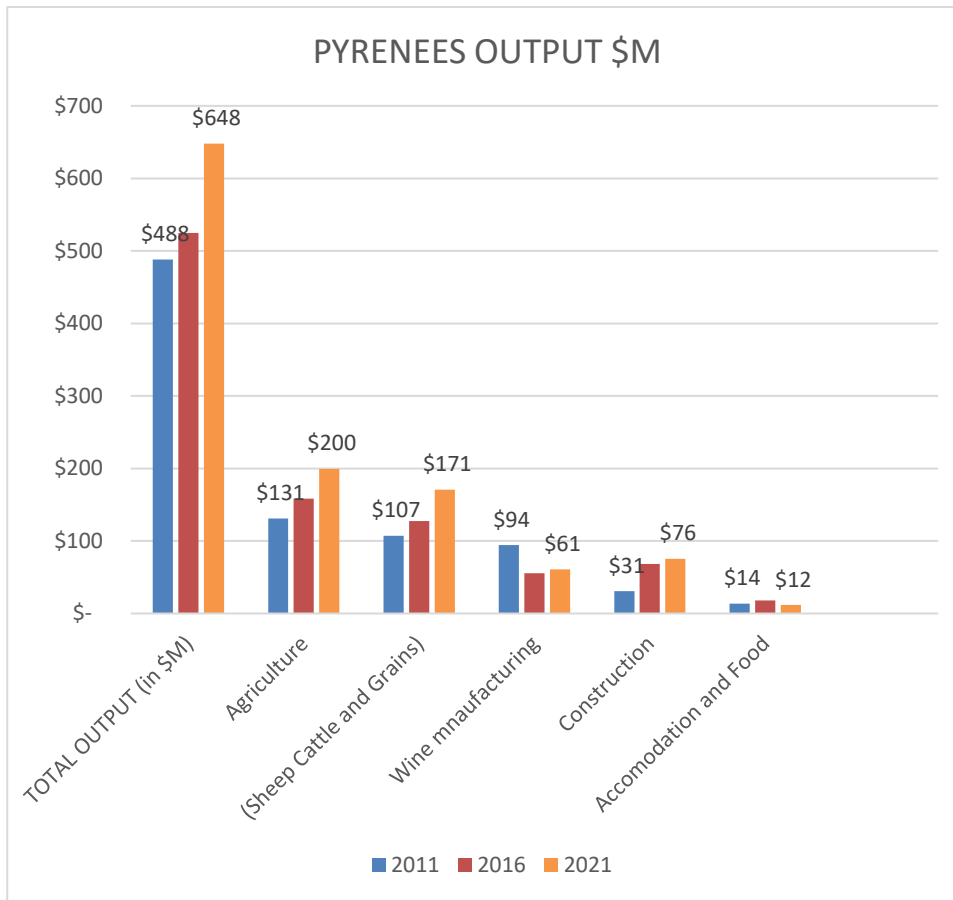


Table2. Economic output as a percentage of total output

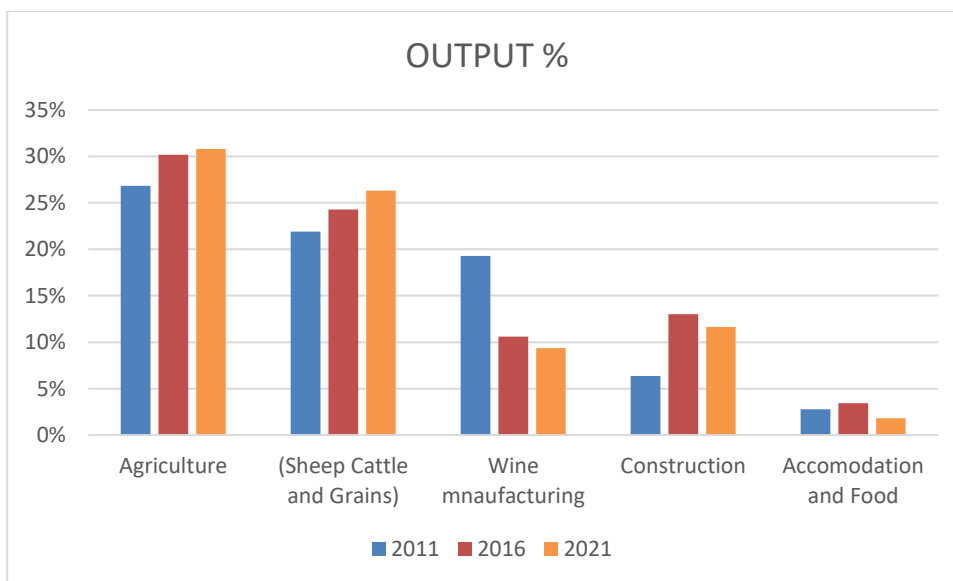


Table 3. Employment

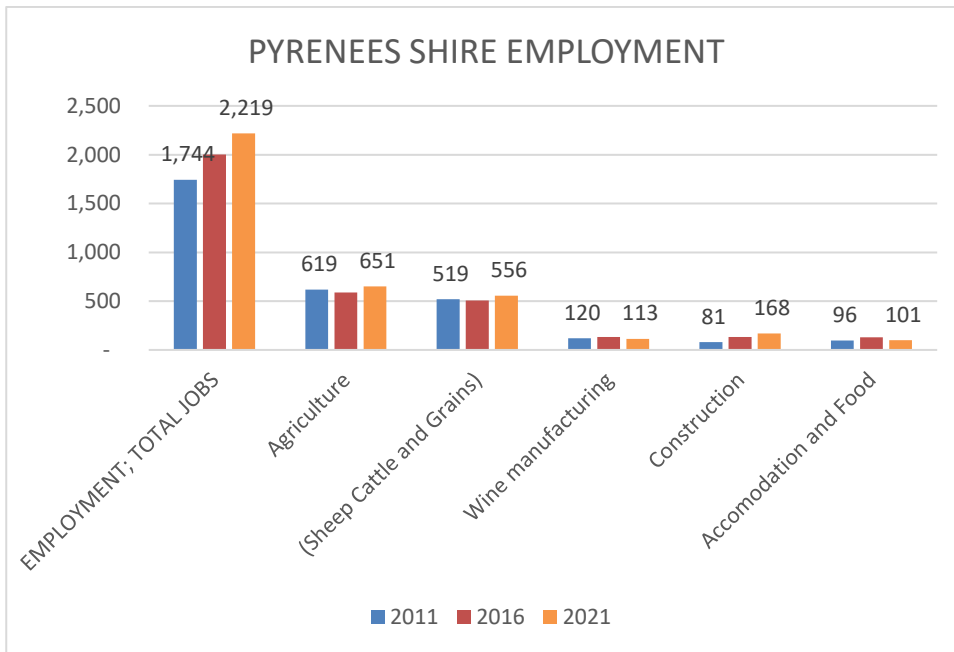
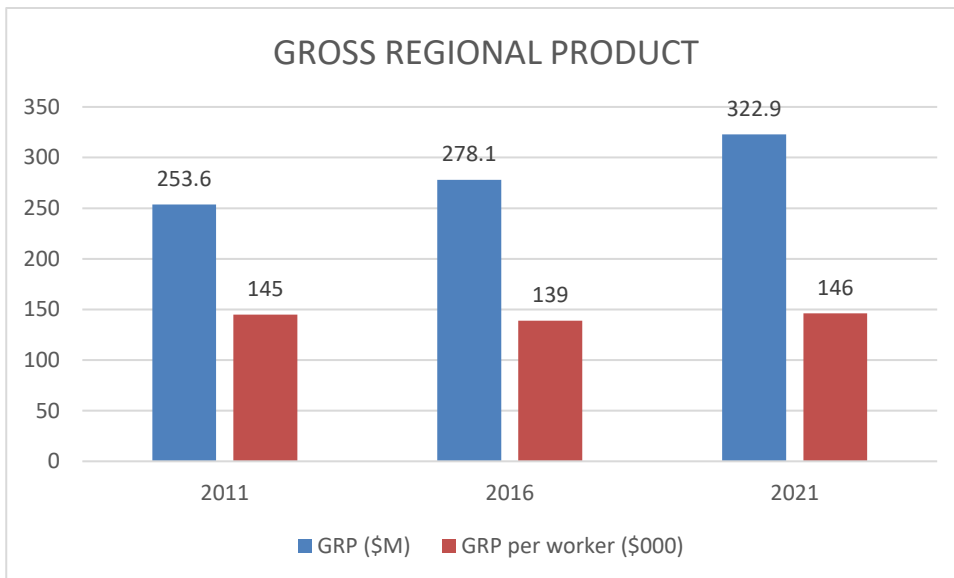
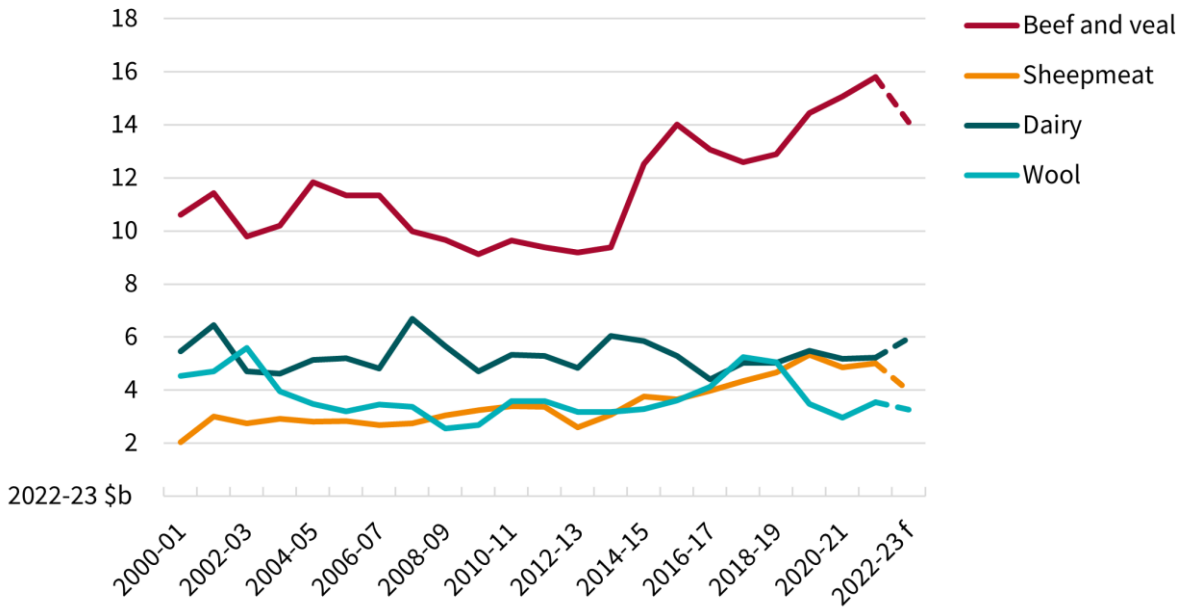


Table 4. Gross Regional Product



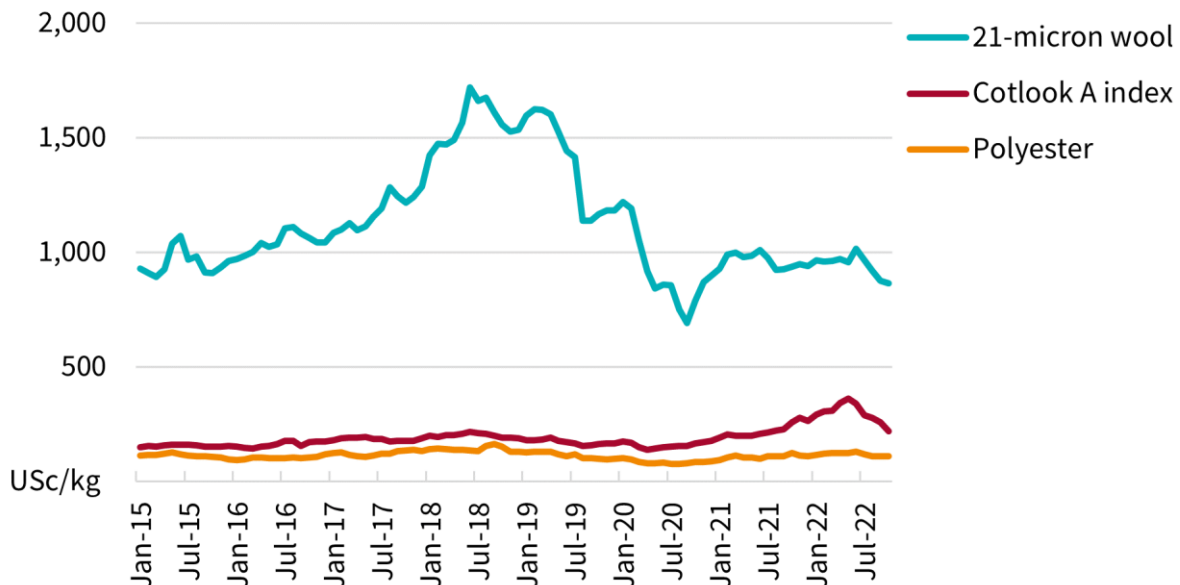
Agricultural commodity prices for sheep, wool, cattle and wheat are reflected in the following figures sourced from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics (ABAREs) which illustrate favourable commodity prices in recent years, noting the decline in beef and sheep in 2022/23.

Figure 1.1 Gross value of production (value of production at point of sale) for select livestock industries, 2000-01 to 2022-23



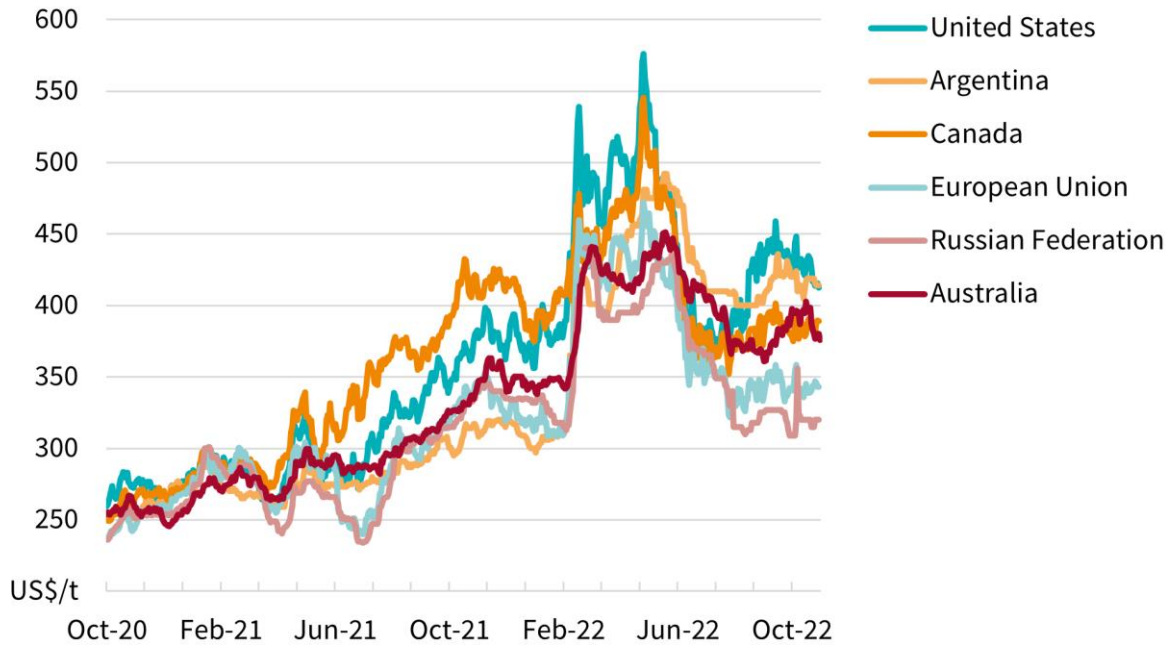
Source <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/livestock#gross-value-of-production-to-remain-steady>

Figure 1.2 Natural fibre price comparison, January 2015 to October 2022



Sources: AWEX; Cotlook; Emerging Textiles

Figure 1.3 World wheat export prices (daily), October 2020 to November 2022



Note: Argentina (12%), fob up river; Australia APW, fob Port Adelaide; Canada CWRS (13.5%), fob Vancouver; European Union, France grade 1, fob Rouen; Russian Federation milling (12.5%), fob Black Sea; United States HRW (11.5%), fob Gulf.

Source: International Grains Council

Spring 2022 floods

While seasonal conditions over the past five years have been generally favourable spring 2022 came with challenges for many.

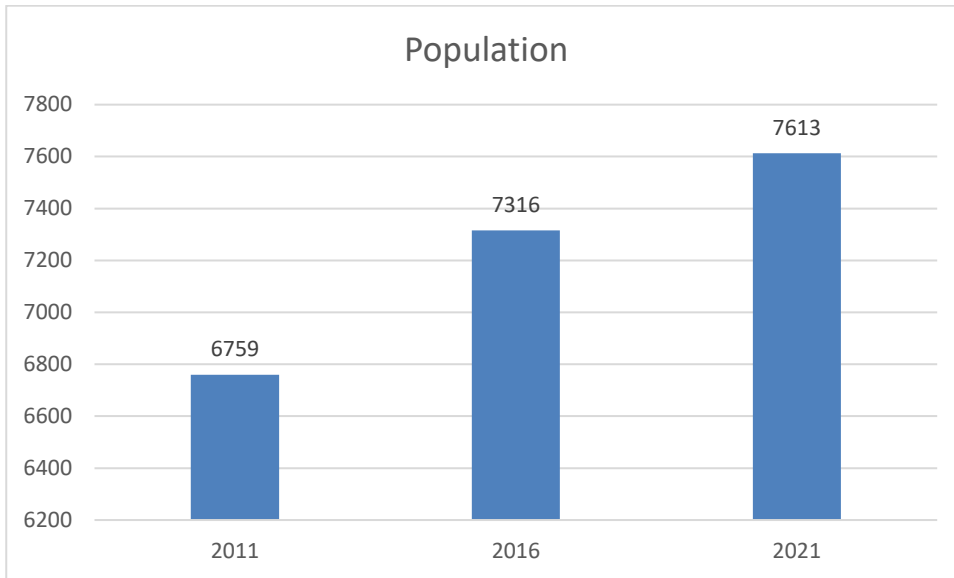
Floods and waterlogged crops have had a significant impact on many producers in the past year and a post flood impact report compiled for council by Ernst and Young estimates the damage to hay and crops caused by floods to be in the order of \$14.8M representing around 7% of agricultural production.

Population

ABS data for the Pyrenees Shires population is reflected in table 5.

Council set a base line target in its 2020 Economic Development Strategy for a population of 8,000 people by 2025. Growth over the past ten years suggests that if the trajectory continues this target will be achieved.

Table 5. Pyrenees population

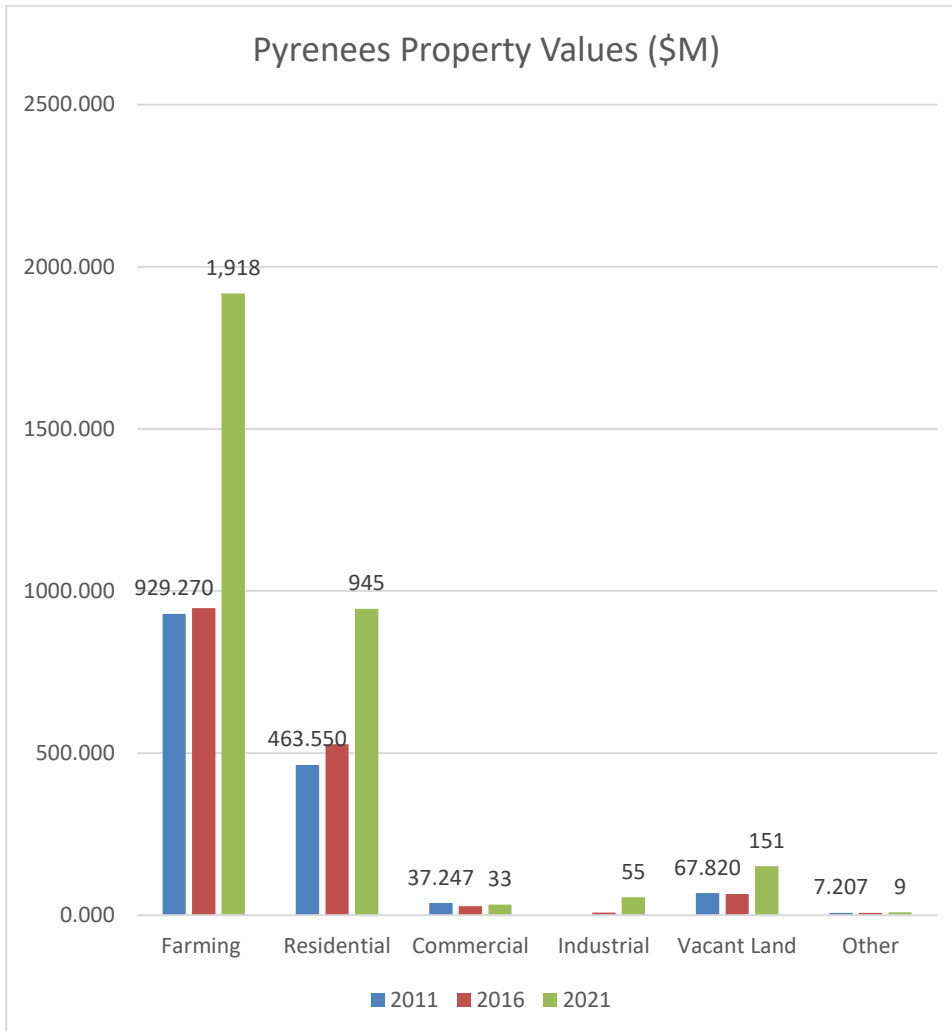


Property Values

Table 6 represents the overall value of each of the various property categories across the Shire.

The table reflects significant upwards demand for real estate over the past five years with farming properties, which comprise 62% of the value of all rateable properties in 2021, having risen in value by 102.5% between 2016 and 2021.

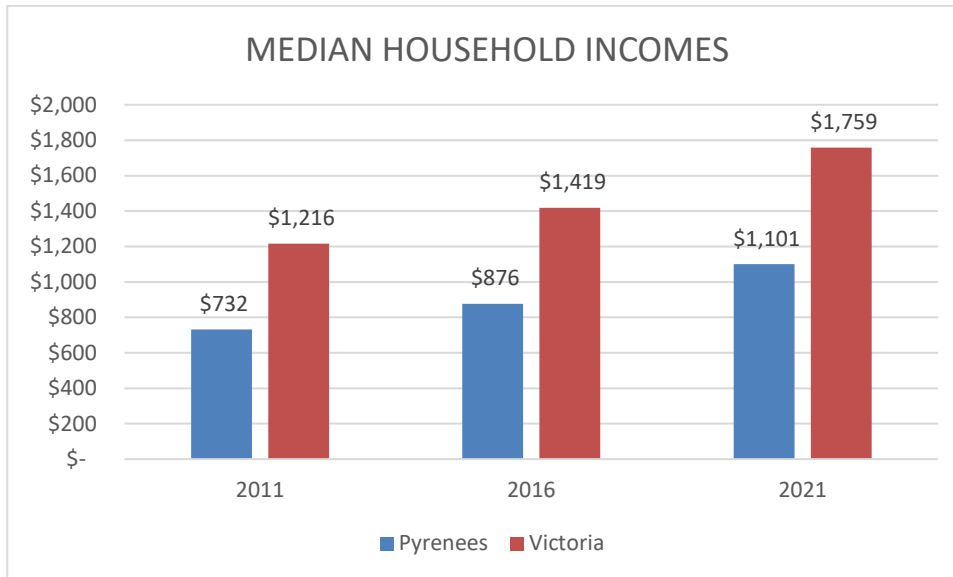
Table 6. Property values



Living standards

Median household incomes and the Socio-Economic Index For Areas (SEIFA) data have been used here as a reflection of the standards of living in the Pyrenees.

Median household incomes for the Pyrenees Shire compared to those for Victoria are represented in the following table. In percentage terms, median household incomes have marginally increased over the past ten years as a percentage of Victorian households from 60% in 2011 to 63% in 2021.

Table 7.

The SEIFA index is a product developed by the ABS that ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. A low number on the index indicates an area of high disadvantage.

While the 2021 ABS Census figures for the SEIFA index of disadvantage are not due to be published for another two months, the Pyrenees ranking in Victoria improved from 8 to 17 between 2011 and 2016 and from 134 to 180 for the Shires ranking in Australia.

Recent Economic Development Activities

Since the previous Council update in December 2023 Economic Development activities have included:

- Commencement of the Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply Feasibility Study. This included a mail out to around 1,700 Pyrenees landowners, and public information sessions at Natte Yallock and Navarre. Attendances at Natte Yallock of 94 people and around 80 at Navarre from landholders across the breadth of the project area indicate there is strong demand. Expressions of interest are being received by GWM Water from landholders at present
- Various works for the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park including:
 - Establishment of a new online booking system (data is being transferred from the old to the new system at the time of developing this report)
 - Development of a new website
 - Coordinating developing a Detail Design for a southern entry to the caravan park to understand the likely costs and approval pathways required. Preliminary designs are currently with the Department of Transport for their feedback
- Shop façade and sponsorship grants round two. This involved door to door visits in Avoca and Beaufort, attendance at three drop-in sessions, follow up contacts by phone and email, and has resulted in thirteen submissions with four other interested parties having registered in the application portal but not completing applications. Conversations by staff with business owners

indicate there is demand from others to participate in the program that have not yet registered their details. Applications will come to Council for consideration at the April Council meeting.

Events

The beginning of the year has been a busy period with a variety of events featuring Pyrenees Hideout the Beaufort Truck and Car Show and Play in the Pyrenees events in Avoca and Beaufort.

Events scheduled throughout Autumn include:-

- Two Vintage Ducks pop up shop at Grape Farm March 12
- Pyrenees Petanque Tournament 19 March
- Pyrenes Magic Cycle event 19 March
- Beaufort Agricultural Show 19 March
- Pyrenees Historic Vehicle event at Natte Yallock 19 March
- The Brothers Bishop at Blue Pyrenees Estate 19 March
- Avoca Autumn Races 25 March
- Cyril Callister Pop Up Museum 25 March
- Avoca Riverside Market 25 March
- Rotundone Road Shiraz Adventure 8 April
- Pyrenees Unearthed 22 April
- Botanists Journey to Gin at Mrs Bakers Still House 30 April
- Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally 6 May

Tourism

Tourism activities since December have included:

- Participation in the working group activities to establish the Central Highlands Visitor Economy Partnership
- Coordinating an itinerary for a visit to the Pyrenees by the City of Ballarat tourism marketing team which is anticipated in late March 2023
- Planning activities to attract and occupy visitors during Easter
- Developing content for the winter marketing campaign
- Development of the Beaufort Caravan Park website

Flood activities

Flood response and recovery activities featured during the period from October to January 2021 and included the following:

- Visits to properties, phone calls and emails to flood affected residents, business owners and farmers
- Facilitation of weekly economic recovery sessions over three week periods at each of Lexton and Natte Yallock
- Coordination of support by BlazeAid including arrangements for them to be hosted at the Moonambel recreation Reserve. At the time of developing this report BlazeAid have started work on 34 properties (from a list of 42), finalised 30 of these, cleaned up 41 km of debris and rebuilt 13.5 kilometres of fences
- Establishment of agreements with the Department of Justice to assist landowners with removal of debris and fencing by the Landmate teams from Langi Kal Kal and Hopkins correctional facilities.

Landmate are working on properties generally south of the Pyrenees Highway while BlazeAid are focussing on the northern areas of the Shire

- Maintained communications to businesses and farmers regarding government grants and other flood support programs from agencies like the Rural Financial Counselling Service and Agriculture Victoria

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The 2020 Economic Development Strategy identified thirty two actions aimed at meeting the three key objectives of the economic development strategy being to:

1. Attract new residents, visitors and investment
2. Foster the capability of key economic sectors
3. Develop local business and employee capacity

Progress since 2020

Attachment A to this report provides a brief summary of actions completed against the Economic Development Action Plan endorsed by council in March 2020.

Of the thirty two actions listed, seven have been completed, ten are in progress, six involve ongoing work that are in progress/recurring activities and nine that have not yet been commenced. Of those not yet commenced two will be undertaken in partnership with regional agencies and managed by external organisations.

In respect of Council actions to support the agriculture sector, and in addition to the comments in Attachment A, Councils Department of Assets and Development (DAD) have continued to work on the rural bridge and road network to enable BDouble access to improve freight efficiency and the productivity of the agricultural sector.

Following recently completed bridge works, the Carngham Streatham Road East of the Beaufort Skipton Road can now cater for these vehicles as can the Eurambeen Streatham Road.

The twin bridges on the Landsborough Elmhurst Road have been renewed and bridge improvements further north on this road are being planned to improve freight movements along this route.

Renewal of Bridge 139 on the Raglan Elmhurst Road is currently in progress to improve access for larger vehicles there.

The next quarter will see the Economic Development and Tourism Department focus on activities including:

- Finalising the Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply feasibility study and (assuming feasibility is demonstrated) looking at next steps for completion of a business case
- Commencing the Beaufort Linear project
- Working with the business sector to identify potential solutions to worker shortages
- Completing the transition of the Beaufort Lake Caravan Parks bookings to the new online booking system and finalising development of the new website. These activities are well progressed at the time of writing this report
- Coordinating an Easter promotional activity to attract visitors to the Pyrenees
- Developing and implementing the winter tourism marketing campaign

- Working with the Central Highlands Councils involved in the emerging Visitor Economy Partnership to establish the new board. Once established the VEP will turn its attention to the development of marketing strategies, completion of Local Area Action Plans for each local government area and a region wide Destination Management Plan.
- Continuing Council's support to events organisations, in particular but not exclusive to, the Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally and Pyrenees Unearthed Festivals

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment A EDandT update March 2023 [13.1.1.1 - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

This is a progress report on Economic Development which does not include any additional financial or risk implications.

CONCLUSION

Population growth has remained steady and if current growth rates continue at this trajectory will see the Pyrenees population reach 8,000 people in 2025.

The Pyrenees economy has performed strongly over the past five years reflected by increases in Gross Regional Product, output and jobs.

Progress on actions identified in the 2020 Economic Development Strategy that are completed and in progress etc. are included in Attachment A to this report.

This report is primarily an update of progress by the Economic Development and Tourism Department and incorporates a review of initiatives completed against strategic actions identified in the 2020 strategy

The report is also a means of considering the principals of improving living standards of residents in the Pyrenees in addition to measurement of population growth, jobs, output, Gross Regional Product and other economic indicators.

It is recommended therefore that a fourth Economic Development objective be "to increase the living standards of residents in the Pyrenees Shire".

Cr Robert Vance / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. Notes the report and
2. Continues to support farmers impacted by the 2022 floods to access financial support through the various government programs.
3. Looks to share aspects of the economic data contained in this report with residents and businesses as part of Councils future engagement where appropriate.
4. Receives a further report on activities in three months

CARRIED

13.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.2.1. PA22080 PROPOSED CATTLE FEEDLOT - AVOCA

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Helen Swadling – Statutory Planning & Building Services Coordinator

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

File No: 319014400

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information relevant to making a determination on planning permit application PA22080, for the Use and development of land for a cattle feedlot at Fields-Lower Homebush Road, Homebush; being Crown Allotments 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25 and 26, section M, Parish of Glenmona.

BACKGROUND

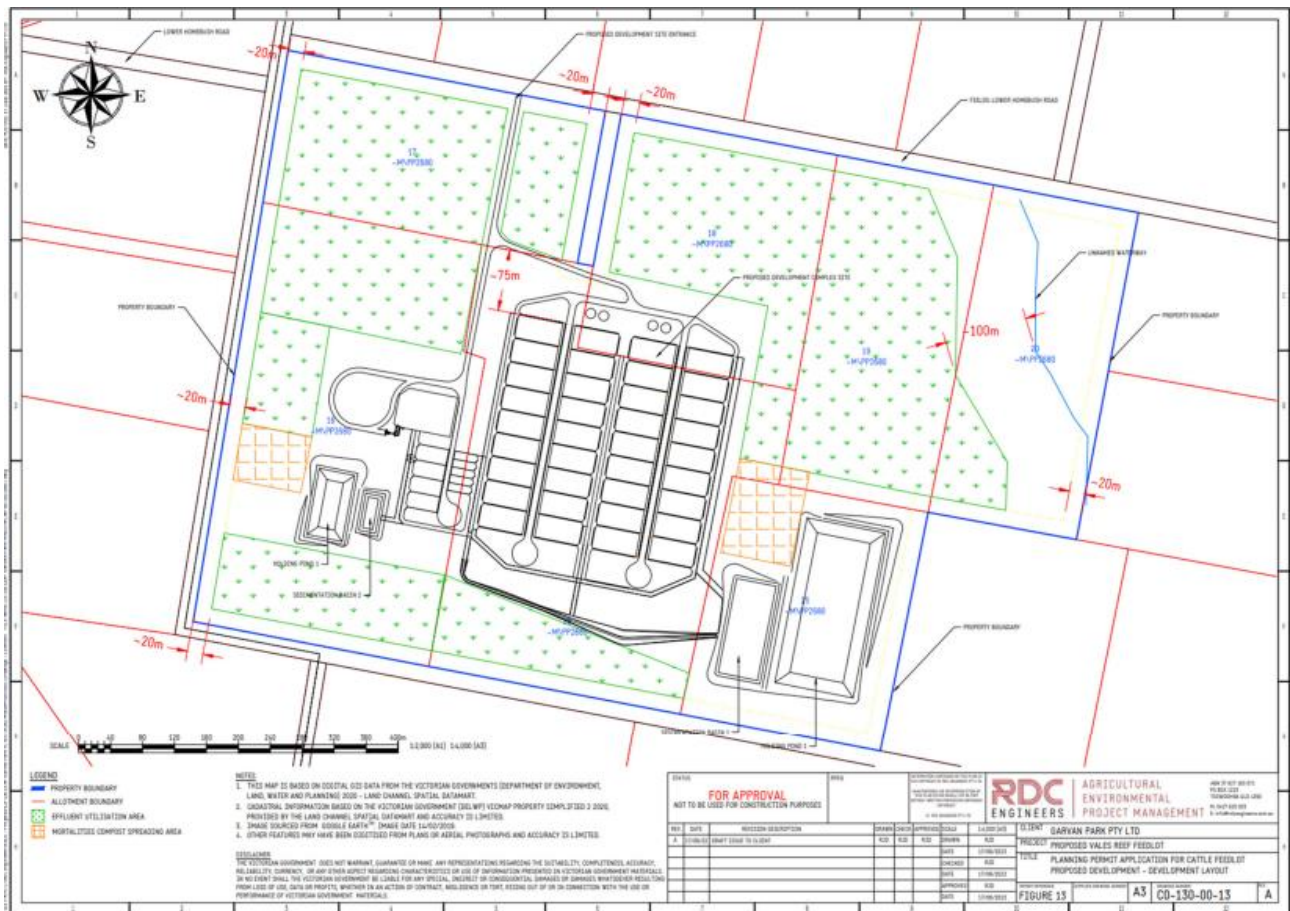
Council has received a planning permit application for a 4,000 Standard Cattle Unit (SCU) Beef Cattle Feedlot and associated buildings and works at Fields-Lower Homebush Road, Homebush, Vic 3465.

The proposed feedlot is to be constructed and operated in accordance with a 'Class A' feedlot as specified in the *Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots* (the Code). Additionally, it will be expected to comply with the *National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice* and the *National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia*.

A 'Class A' feedlot conforms to the highest standards of design, construction, operation, maintenance, pen management, cleaning frequency and runoff control system management of all the classes. Accreditation under the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) will be sought.

The proposed feedlot consists of:

- 36 production pens (arranged in 4 straight rows)
- Hospital and holding pens
- Total pen area of 69,005m/sq
- Shedding and cover (7,304m/sq)
- Cattle handling facility
- Solid waste/manure and carcass composting area
- 2x sediment basins (holding ponds)



Requirement for Permit

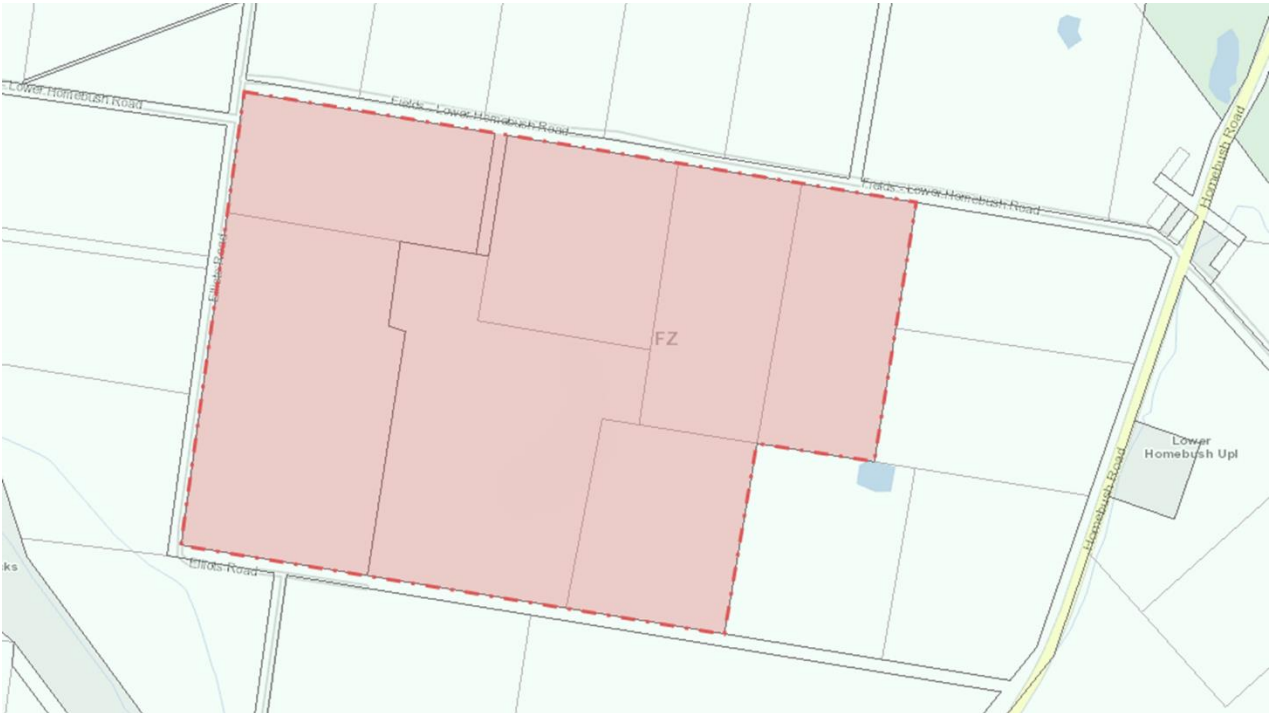
A planning permit is required under the following clauses of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme:

- Clause 35.07-1 – A permit is required to use land for a Section 2 Use (Cattle Feedlot in excess of 1,000 head)
- Clause 35.07-4 - A permit is required for buildings and works associated with a Section 2 Use (Cattle Feedlot).
- Clause 45.05 (Schedule 20) – Homebush Environs Restructure Plan – A permit is required to construct a dwelling or other buildings.

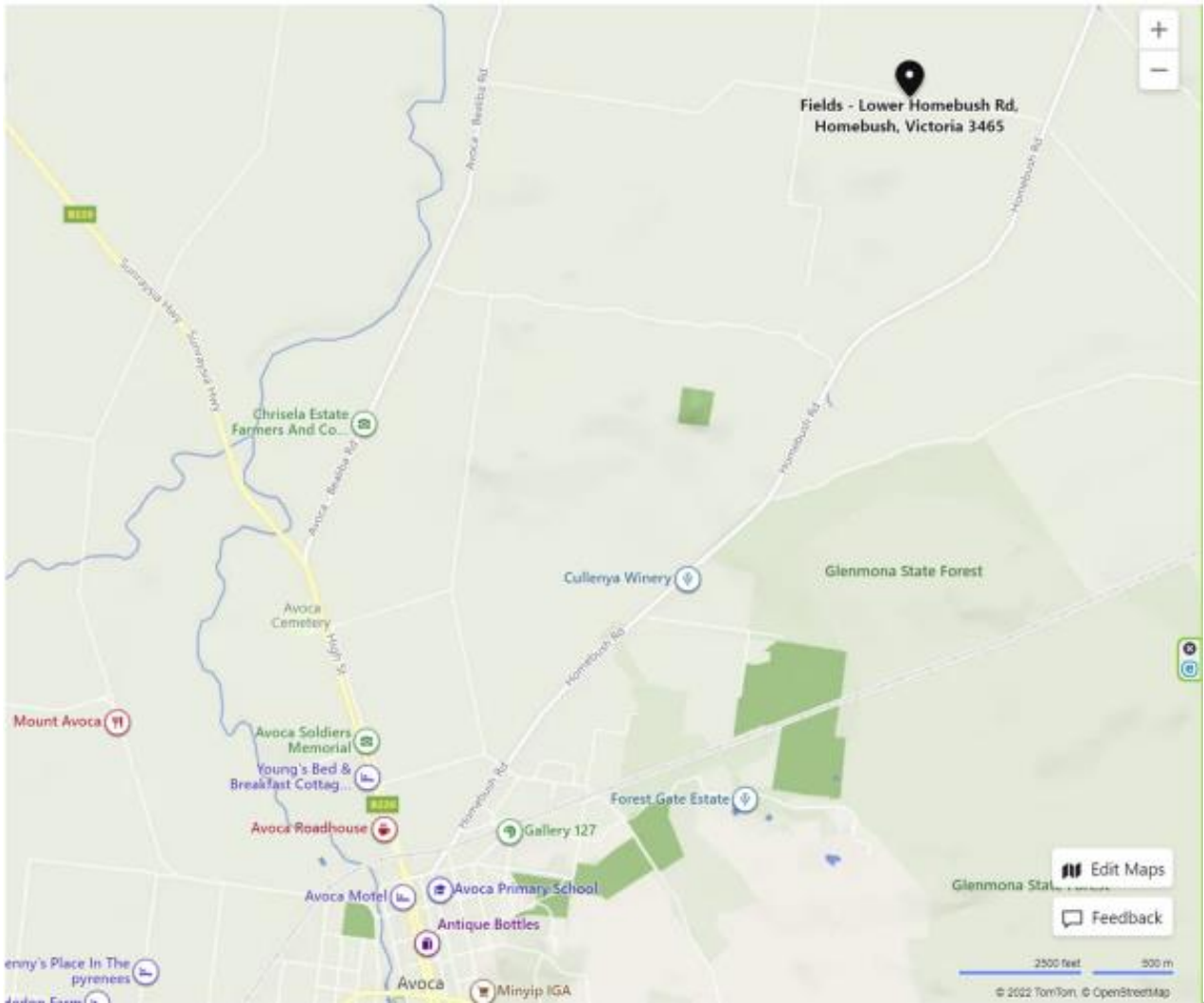
Subject site and locality

The subject land is 71.5 hectares in size and is made up of seven individual lots all within single ownership. It is located approximately 4.1 kilometers north-east of the Avoca Township, with access being along Fields-Lower Homebush Road.

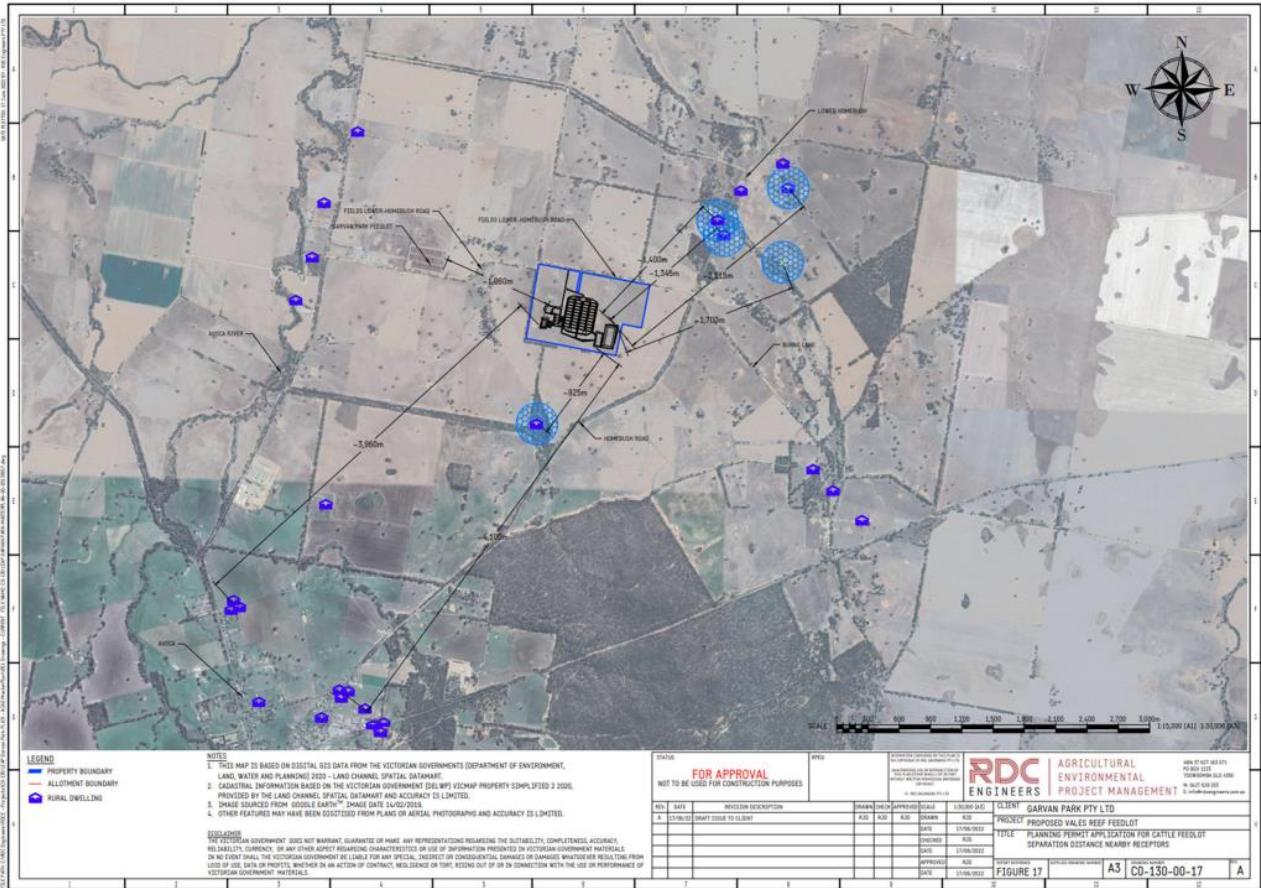
The subject land is currently used for grazing and does not host any significant infrastructure. It primarily consists of pastures and scattered trees.



Above: Subject land



Above: Site in proximity to Avoca Township



Above: Separation distances to nearby receptors

Section 52 Notice of Application and submissions received

The application was advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and included:

- Written correspondence to all landowners within 2.5 km radius of the proposed site
- Public Notice published in the *Pyrenees Advocate* (25 November 2022)
- Published on Council’s website

Three submissions were received. The themes raised in the submissions have been summarised below:

1. Concern that the feedlot could impact the quality of surface water runoff (contamination and biosecurity)
2. Effluent being transported on vehicle tires (waste and biosecurity concerns)
3. The current condition of Fields-Lower Homebush Road and its capacity to accommodate additional vehicles associated with the proposal
4. The impacts of additional traffic on neighboring farming operations
5. Amenity impacts (dust, odour, flies, noise)
6. Property devaluation
7. Health impacts (noise and smell).

In response to the submissions raised, the applicant has provided the following:

The feedlot has been designed to sit within controlled drainage areas (CDA). The main CDA drains to the east away from Ellilotts Road. The CDA that drains to the west includes only a small area of the feedlot (i.e., the handling yards, four holding pens and associated drainage works). All runoff from this CDA will be directed first to a sedimentation basin and then to a holding pond. The system has been designed for a spill frequency of 1 in 10 years, which accords with the Code requirements. Because it is not expected that there will be runoff of contaminated water from the property, it is also not expected that there will be an associated contamination or biosecurity risk.

With the increased number of cattle in the area and the number of trucks transporting stock locally, there will be an increase in effluent however, the on-farm roads have been designed to minimize the risk of additional manure being picked up on tyres of vehicles transporting cattle and feed. Vehicles transporting cattle to and from the feedlot will go directly to the handling yards on the western side of the site. There will be some manure in these trucks from the cattle they are transporting that could go on tyres. The delivery of feed will be via a purpose-built alley that is not used by cattle. There will be very little opportunity for the tyres of these vehicles to be in contact with manure. Manure trucks will be the only vehicles entering the cattle lanes or pens as well as the manure storage area. Any manure leaving the property would be dry, aged material that would carry a lower biosecurity risk than fresh material. The proponent is willing to install and use a washdown bay for dirty vehicles. An on-farm buffer around the feedlot offers secondary protection.

For intensive livestock facilities, including cattle feedlots, separation distances are measured from the closest point of the proposed facility to the closest point of a house or other sensitive land use e.g., rural residential or residential zone. There are no houses on the submitters land that are within the calculated separation distances for the feedlot. Like the proposed feedlot, the submitters land is also within the Farming zone. Hence the proposal is compliant with the adopted standards, indicating that acceptable amenity outcomes would be achieved. While the calculated separation distances are to houses and other sensitive land uses rather than land within the Farming zone, it is worth noting that only a small area of one of the submitters lands is within the calculated 888 m for a house. Flies unfortunately are attracted to all livestock operations.

There will be an increase in vehicle movements in and out of the site, in total there will be some 1256 B-Double equivalent truck movements in and out annually, or 24 per week. It is likely that some cattle movements will be in semi-trailers and feed will also likely be transported in smaller trucks. With Engineering conditions and upgrades to the roads affected, it is felt that the road integrity can be managed.

In addition to the above response being provided to the submitters, a mediation meeting was facilitated by council officers. Following this, all three submissions remain as originally submitted.

Referrals

Section 55 Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Minister for Agriculture	At the time of preparing this report, a response has not yet been received. It is anticipated that a response will be received before Council considers the matter.

Section 52 Notices & Internal Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Agriculture Victoria	Agriculture Victoria conditionally supports the application for a 4,000 standard cattle unit (SCU) beef Cattle feedlot and recommends that if a permit is granted for the Class A Cattle feedlot subject to conditions.
Environmental Protection Authority	No objections, no conditions, however did recommend <i>Permit Notes</i> (as provided in the recommendation to this report)
Engineering	No objections, subject to conditions (as provided in the recommendation to this report)

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The key considerations applying to this application and the application of policy relate to the sustainable agricultural land use, environmental impacts and offsite amenity impacts. There is clear support within the provisions of the Farming Zone and the Planning Policy Framework for agricultural land uses, such as the proposed cattle feedlot, provided that they are operated in a controlled and sustainable manner.

The proposal is for the use and development of a cattle feedlot with a capacity for up to 4,000 SCU. A cattle feedlot is a form of agricultural land use which is sought within the Farming zone. Small scale feedlots typically do not require a planning permit within the Farming zone (less than 1000 SCU). The Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots – August 1995 applies to this application and aims to assist in the orderly development of a cattle feedlot industry in Victoria and provides a set of standards that are compatible with the economic operation of the industry as well as ensuring that community expectations of environmental protection are achieved.

The application is accompanied by a detailed and thorough report which examines all facets of the proposed cattle feedlot ranging from wastewater management and soil quality to odour, noise and operational management. This report provides a response to the Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots – August 1995 and offers confidence that the proposed cattle feed lot will be operated in an environmentally sustainable manner with measures in place to minimise amenity impacts such as odour and noise.

The proposal is compatible with surrounding land uses, typically being used for dryland agriculture. There are several dwellings scattered within the broader region. It is considered that the report provided by the applicant suitably addresses the potential amenity impacts resulting from the proposed cattle feedlot and conditions will be placed on any permit issued to reinforce the mitigation methods specified within the report.

Impacts on local traffic and road infrastructure as a result of increased heavy vehicle use has been considered. It is proposed to manage and mitigate, where possible, any such traffic and road impacts through the application of planning permit conditions that require specific infrastructure upgrades to be undertaken by the permit holder prior to the commencement of the proposed use.

It is the assessing officer's opinion that the proposed cattle feedlot accords with the objectives of the Farming Zone and can be managed in a way that minimises impacts on adjoining and nearby landowners. Further, the assessing officer is satisfied that the required compliance with relevant legislation, codes and standards will ensure that no unreasonable amenity impacts are experienced.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

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

2c. Promote responsible development.

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - P A 22080 Application [**13.2.1.1** - 133 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - P A 22080 Copies of Submissions [**13.2.1.2** - 6 pages]
3. Attachment 3 PA22080 Planning Considerations [**13.2.1.3** - 8 pages]

Cr David Clark / Cr Robert Vance

That Council:

1. Issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit PA22080 for the land at Fields-Lower Homebush Road, Homebush 3465 for Use and Development of Land for a Cattle Feedlot (4,000 Standard Cattle Units or 5,000 whichever is the least) and associated buildings and works, with the following conditions:

Amended Plans Required

1. Before the development starts amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will form part of the permit.
 - a. Amendment to Element 1, – Location and size, Page 27, of the Planning Report provided by Livestock Environmental and Planning which requires an amendment to the separation distance calculated values.
 - b. The provision of a landscape plan in accordance with condition 5 to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the use and development.
 - c. A car parking plan in accordance with condition 7 to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the use and development.
 - d. Vehicle Washdown plans as per Condition 9 to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the use and development
 - e. Drainage plans and construction plan as per Condition 15 to the satisfaction of the

- Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the use and development.
- f. Road upgrade plans as per Condition 18 to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the use and development
 - g. On site stormwater detention plan as per Condition 19 to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the use and development.

Land Use

2. The use and development of the feedlot is managed in accordance with the Livestock Environmental and Planning Report, "Garvan Park Pty Ltd: Application for 4,000 SCU Beef Cattle Feedlot", prepared by Livestock Environmental and Planning as endorsed to form part of any permit issued to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Layout not Altered

3. The development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Consolidation

4. Before the use and development starts,

Crown Allotment 16 Section M Parish of Glenmona (Volume 03696, Folio 174)

Crown Allotment 17 Section M Parish of Glenmona (Volume 05086, Folio 007)

Crown Allotment 18 Section M Parish of Glenmona (Volume 04581, Folio 080)

Crown Allotment 19 Section M Parish of Glenmona (Volume 04618, Folio 551)

Crown Allotment 20 Section M Parish of Glenmona (Volume 04609, Folio 647)

Crown Allotment 25 Section M Parish of Glenmona (Volume 05817, Folio 334)

Crown Allotment 26 Section M Parish of Glenmona (Volume 04581, Folio 190)

must be consolidated under the Subdivision Act 1988.

Landscape Plan

5. Prior to the commencement of any works, a landscape plan must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved the plan will form part of the permit. The landscape plan must include:
 - a. A survey (including botanical names) of all existing vegetation to be retained and/or removed.
 - b. Retention of existing vegetation where practical.
 - c. The provision of screen planting along the frontage to the Fields-Lower Homebush Road, Homebush in front of the cattle handling yards and production pens to reduce their visibility from the road.
 - d. A planting schedule of all proposed trees, shrubs and ground covers, including botanical

names, common names, pot sizes, size at planting, sizes at maturity, and quantities of each plant.

Completion and Maintenance of Landscaping Works

6. Prior to the use commencing all landscape works forming part of the approved Landscape Plan must be completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The landscaping shown on the approved landscape plan must be maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority for 24 months from the practical completion of the landscaping. During this period, any dead, diseased or damaged plants or landscaped areas are to be repaired or replaced during the period of maintenance and must not be deferred until the completion of the maintenance period.

Car Parking

7. On-site parking must be provided in accordance with the Approved Measure 5 of the Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots (August 1995), with a rate of:
 - a. One car space per employee plus three visitor car spaces.
 - b. One truck loading bay.
 - c. One truck parking space.
 - d. One truck parking space for feed trucks.
8. On site car parking must be provided at all times, in accordance with the Design Standards listed under Clause 52.06-9 of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme and must not be used for any other purpose.

Vehicle Wash Down Area

9. All vehicle wash down areas shall be constructed and drained in accordance with plans approved by the Responsible Authority and include provision of on-site sediment traps to ensure that no contaminated water leaves the site unless appropriately treated to remove polluted material and is to be disposed of to a standard approved by the Responsible Authority. All such traps shall be regularly maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Agriculture Victoria

10. The use and development of a 'Class A' cattle feedlot must at all times comply with the Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots – August 1995.

National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Audit

11. Twelve months after the issue date of this permit and on an annual basis thereafter, a copy of the annual National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Audit must be provided to the Responsible Authority and Agriculture Victoria to satisfy the Code's requirement for an annual audit.

Preoperational Assessment

12. Prior to the use of the proposed feedlot commencing, a preoperational assessment needs to be

undertaken to ensure that the construction aligns with approved plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Engineering

Vehicle Access

-
13. Prior to the commencement of the use and/or development, a vehicle access to the site must be constructed in accordance with plans and specifications set under a Road Excavation Permit to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
 14. A Road Excavation permit must be taken out for the construction of the vehicle crossover. Any redundant vehicle crossings must be removed, and the nature strip reinstated to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The vehicle crossover is to be built to Pyrenees Shire Council's IDM standard drawing - Driveway to IDM SD 265.

Drainage Plans and Construction

15. Prior to works commencing on site, drainage and/or stormwater treatment plans must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The drainage and/or stormwater detention plans must accord with the Infrastructure Design Manual and address the following:
 - a. The development as a whole must be self-draining.
 - b. The Volume of water discharging from the development in a 10% AEP storm shall not exceed the 20% AEP storm prior to development. Peak flow must be controlled by the use of a detention system located and constructed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
 - c. The lot must be provided with a stormwater legal point of discharge at the low point of the lot, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
16. All drainage works must be constructed in accordance with the approved plans and completed to a standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the development/use hereby approved.
17. At the completion of the works one set of 'as constructed' civil plans must be submitted to the Responsible Authority.

Road Upgrade Works

18. Prior to the use commencing, intersection upgrade works at Avoca-Bealiba Road/Fields-Lower Homebush Road and Homebush Road/Fields-Lower Homebush Road, and upgrade works on a section of Fields-Lower Homebush Road are required including:
 - a. Replace existing culvert under Fields-Lower Homebush Rd with a new box culvert, (drivable endwalls required if within 6m of Avoca-Bealiba Rd). Culvert to extend past edge of B-double sweep path turn template checks (either replaced in current location or further along Fields-Lower Homebush Rd).
 - b. Bitumen seal of first 30m's of Fields-Lower Homebush Rd from the edge of Avoca-

Bealiba Road.

- c. Bitumen seal of first 30m's of Fields-Lower Homebush Road from the edge of Homebush Road.
- d. Bitumen seal widening of Avoca-Bealiba Rd at the intersection of Fields-Lower Homebush Rd as per a basic right turn treatment (BAR) (refer to Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4 page 96 - 2021).
- e. Reform table drain (including the road as required) on the inside of curve at 1350m from Avoca-Bealiba Rd to ensure water does not pond and gravel resheet for 50m's minimum each way of the middle of the curve to a 150mm compacted depth.

On-Site Stormwater Detention

19. All underground or surface drainage works that are considered necessary by the Responsible Authority shall be constructed in accordance with the plans, computations and specifications submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of construction of drainage works.
20. Such drainage works shall include the provision of an on-site stormwater detention system and installed to transport stormwater run-off from the subject land and surrounding land or adjoining road(s) to an approved point of discharge.
21. Any proposed discharge of stormwater requiring a direct and/or modifying and existing connection to a designated waterway (as defined by the Water Act 1989) will require approval by the relevant Catchment Management Authority.
22. On completion of the construction of the stormwater detention system as-constructed drawings shall be submitted to the Responsible Authority. The plans shall be certified by a suitably qualified and experienced engineer eligible for Corporate Membership of Engineers Australia.
23. All works shall be completed to a standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the use hereby approved.
24. Storm water drainage from the development must be directed to a legal point of discharge to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. A Stormwater Point of Discharge permit must be obtained from the responsible authority prior to the commencement of the works associated with the permit.

Engineering Plans and Construction

25. Prior to the commencement of works or use hereby approved, any engineering plans and specifications must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. The engineering plans must accord with the Infrastructure Design Manual. All engineering works must be constructed in accordance with the approved plans and completed to a standard satisfactory to the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the development/use hereby approved.
26. At the completion of the works one set of 'as constructed' civil plans shall be submitted to the Responsible Authority.

27. Prior to the commencement of the development and post-completion, the notification including, photographic evidence, must be sent to Council's Asset Services department identifying any existing damage to council assets. Any existing works affected by the development must be fully reinstated at no cost to and to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Permit Expiry

28. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies.

- a. The development is not started within two (2) years of the date of this permit.
- b. The development is not completed within four (4) years of the date of this permit.
- c. The use is not started within two (2) years after the completion of the development; or
- d. The use is discontinued for a period of two (2) or more years.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing in accordance with Section 69 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987.

NOTES

Bushfire Prone Area

This site is located within a designated Bush Fire Prone Area. Compliance with AS3959 is required.

Building Act

Building Approvals

This permit does not constitute any authority to carry out any building works or occupy the building or part of the building unless all relevant building permits are obtained. The works hereby approved must accord with the requirements of the *Building Act 1993*, *Building Regulations 2006* and *Building Code of Australia*.

Works within Road Reserve

The construction or altering of a vehicle crossing, footpath and/or any other works or alterations within a road reserve or any other Council asset may require either a Crossover Permit (which includes a driveway and new crossover), a Road Opening Permit (i.e. opening up a road for installation of infrastructure), Asset Protection Permit (Temporary Crossing Permit i.e., providing for temporary site access) or other approval to be obtained from Pyrenees Shire Council.

Legal Point of Discharge

An application must be made to ascertain the Legal Point of Discharge.

EPA Notes

The amended Environment Protection Act 2017 came into effect on 1 July 2021. The amended Environment Protection Act 2017 imposes new duties on individuals and/or businesses undertaking the activity permitted by this permit. If your business engages in activities that may give rise to a risk to human health or the environment from pollution or waste, you must understand those risks and take action to

minimise them as far as reasonably practicable. For further information on what the laws mean for Victorian businesses go to:

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business>

For further information on what the laws will mean for individuals and the community go to:

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws/thenew-act-for-the-community>

Further guidance can be found below:

Noise from industry in regional Victoria, EPA Publication 1411, <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1411>

Designing, constructing, and operating composting facilities, EPA Publication 1588.1, <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1588-1>

Q-Fever: guidance for preparing planning approvals, EPA Publication 1907, <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1907>

Australian standard for composting (AS 4454-2012: Composts, soil conditioners and mulches), Standards Australia website, <https://www.standards.org.au/standards-catalogue/sa-snz/other/cs-037/as--4454-2012>

The Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots

1995, https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/102162/Vic-CattleFeedlots-Code-of-Practice-1995.pdf

Understanding your environmental obligations, <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/forbusiness/new-laws-and-your-business/understanding-your-environmental-obligations>

General Environment Duty, <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/forbusiness/new-lawsand-your-business/general-environmental-duty>

CARRIED

13.2.2. BURNBANK CREEK FOOTBRIDGE - LEXTON

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development

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

File No: 28/14/50

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the results of the community consultation on whether to remove the Burnbank Creek footbridge in Lexton.

BACKGROUND

A request was made by members of the Lexton community at the November 2022 Community Cuppa to remove the footbridge that crosses Burnbank Creek to reduce impact from future floods. The general view of the 20 residents present at the Community Cuppa was that the footbridge should be considered for removal.

This was further implied in a petition from the Lexton community presented to Council in December 2022 to clean up the Burnbank creek which contained 68 signatures.

A wider community consultation process needed to be undertaken before Council could progress with the proposed action of removing the footbridge. The methodology for the consultation included directing respondents to an online survey via notices on the footbridge itself, in the local community at the Lexton Post Office and Pub, on Council's website, Facebook and in the noticeboard printed in the Pyrenees Advocate and Maryborough Advertiser.

The community engagement project ran for a period of 3 weeks with submissions closing on Friday 17 February 2023.

**Community consultation results were circulated confidentially prior to the meeting.*

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

There were 28 people who responded to the survey. A total of 22 voted to keep the footbridge and 6 were in support of removal of the footbridge. There were 6 written submissions presented as part of the survey, with an even split of opinion; 2 were in favour of retaining the footbridge, 2 were in favour of removing the footbridge and there were 2 undecided respondents.

Considering the feedback, Council has several options open to it.

Council could;

- Remove the footbridge immediately; Based on community feedback at the Lexton community cuppa event soon after the floods, there was strong support for the bridge to be removed particularly by residents in the flood affected part of the town which initiated this issue.
- Wait until a full flood study has been undertaken for Lexton which can model how the footbridge contributes to flood impact and whether removal will mitigate extents of future floods; or
- Look at an alternative design to what is currently at the footbridge to lessen the impact on the bridge waterway area.

A recurring theme throughout the consultation process was the obstructions to the flow of the creek in times of flood due to debris build up at the footbridge. Council officers have met on site with North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) representatives regarding the clearing of debris in Burnbank

Creek and arranged to seek a works on waterway permits to undertake debris removal. Council has engaged an external contractor to undertake this work.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Enabling Principles

a. Motivate and inspire community involvement

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The community consultation process and responses are noted above.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are financial risk implications to Council assets and infrastructure and private infrastructure relating to flood damage. These can be mitigated with planning controls and other measures identified through a full flood study.

A full flood study for Lexton is estimated to cost in the order of \$100,000. Two thirds of the cost can be sourced from grant funding.

Removal of the footbridge is estimated to cost \$5000. Replacement of the footbridge with a bridge that has a smaller cross-sectional area is estimated to cost in excess \$50,000 if the bridge abutments are deemed structurally sound.

CONCLUSION

It is evident from the community consultation undertaken by Council that most of the respondents are in favour of retaining the Burnbank Creek footbridge. Council will continue to work with the North Central Catchment Management Authority and external contractors regarding the clearing of debris from Burnbank Creek.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Models the impact of how the footbridge contributes to flood impact in Lexton through undertaking a full flood study.
2. Commits the own source funding contribution of up to \$35,000 to undertake a full flood study for Lexton in order to apply for the next round of the Risk and Resilience program that is available at the end of March 2023.
3. Commits to removing the footbridge if the modelling indicates that localised flooding is exacerbated by retaining the bridge.

AN ALTERNATIVE MOTION WAS PUT FORWARD

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Remove the Burnbank Creek footbridge prior to winter.
2. Commits the own source funding contribution of up to \$35,000 to undertake a full flood study for Lexton in order to apply for the next round of the Risk and Resilience program that is available at the end of March 2023.
3. Request that Regional Roads Victoria remove as many barriers as possible from the Beaufort Talbot Road bridge so that it can function more effectively.

CARRIED

13.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.3.1. GOVERNANCE RULES 2023

Michelle Richards – Manager Governance, Risk and Compliance

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

File No: 16/24/12

PURPOSE

This report is provided to Council to facilitate consideration and adoption of updated Governance Rules, new Guidelines included as Appendix A, revised Appendix B: Procedural Motions Table Updates and Appendix C: Election Period Policy.

BACKGROUND

The original Governance Rules commenced on 1 September 2020 and replaced the former Local Law No.1 which was subsequently rescinded. An update was adopted in August 2022, implementing legislative changes around enabling Council meetings being held by virtual means.

The objectives of the Governance Rules are to:

- provide for the orderly conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees,
- Provide procedures for open and fair decision-making, and
- Detail the proceedings for the election of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairpersons.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Governance Rules Review

An annual review on the content of the Governance Rules was conducted in early 2023. The review identified areas that would benefit from clarification or updating.

- **Amended Section 4.1.2** – Clarification inserted around what processes must be followed if technical difficulties interrupt broadcasting during a Council meeting. Formerly, the Rules said that the meeting had to be suspended but the rules have now been amended to clarify that this is only needed if it impacts the quorum of a meeting – i.e., when a meeting is being held in person and disruption to live streaming does not impact on the required quorum of Councillors present, then the meeting does not need to be adjourned. (Should this be approved, the Council meeting preamble will need to be updated).
- **New Section 4.6.3** – Allows for a new form of motion to amend something previously adopted. Formerly, this always had to be done by rescinding the original motion and then creating a new motion. This clarification separates an amendment where the original motion intent is retained, as different to one where the former motion is being completely overturned.
- **Amended sections 4.6.4, 4.6.5, 4.6.6** – Added the wording “or to amend something previously adopted” to allow for the change as detailed in section 4.6.3.
- **Amended section 4.6.7** – simplified the process for amending policy formerly adopted by Council.
- **Amended section 4.8 on public participation** – Added paragraphs to clarify rules around public participation in Council meeting, including the introduction of new guidelines on participation at Council meetings, included within the Governance Rules as Appendix A and which sets out behaviour standards required.
- **New sections 4.8.4 and 4.8.5 on public behaviour and removal from meetings** – complements the new Appendix A Guidelines.
- **Amended section 10.1 on conducting virtual meetings** –

- clarifies how Council can resolve to have a preferred formal style of meetings -in person or hybrid and where meetings MUST be face-to-face (e.g., Annual Statutory Meeting). This doesn't mean they have to do this, just gives them the ability to.
- New section 10.1(e) allows for a Councillor to be present electronically and be deemed present.
- New section 10.1.2 provides a process for Councillors to request attendance by electronic means.
- Section 10.1.3 provides greater clarification around when a meeting must be adjourned due to technical difficulties.
- Sections 10.4.4 and 10.4.5 provides for when a meeting is being held virtually.
- **New section 11** – provides for governance arrangements around the use of Council's Common Seal. Once this inclusion is approved, the current policy around this will be rescinded and this has been included in the resolution in the report.

New Appendix A – Guidelines for Public Participation at Council meetings

New Guidelines to strengthen Council requirements around public participation processes and public behavior at Council meetings.

Proposed change - Appendix B – Procedural Motions Table updates

The review identified a potential issue with the wording of some items within Appendix B – the Procedural Motions Table.

Due to the relatively low numbers of Councillors elected to act on behalf of the Pyrenees Shire communities, it was felt that the wording relating to "Mover & Seconder" in items 1, 2, 3, and 4 could inhibit the ability of a procedural motion being carried if the debate was substantial and included all Councillors present.

The wording that could create such an issue is: "Any Councillor who has not moved or seconded the original motion or otherwise spoken to the original motion." or "A Councillor who has not spoken for / against the motion."

To overcome this potential issue, it is proposed to reword these sections as "Any Councillor."

Update of Appendix C: Election Period Policy

Section 69 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to include an election period policy in its Governance Rules. The Pyrenees Shire Council Governance Rules includes this policy as Appendix C.

As part of the review into the Governance Rules, it was considered timely to include a revision of the supporting Election Period Policy to reflect obligations leading up to the next local government general elections scheduled for late 2024.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT POLICY Governance Rules 2022 V1 2 (1) [13.3.1.1 - 54 pages]
2. DRAFT POLICY Governance Rules Appendix B PSC Election Period Policy 2023 (1) [13.3.1.2 - 14 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Legislative compliance risks exist if the Election Period Policy is not updated prior to the 2024 general local government election.

CONCLUSION

A review has been conducted of the Governance Rules and supporting Appendix B Election Period Policy. The suggested changes have been detailed in the body of the report and highlighted in the attached draft revision for Council consideration and adoption.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Adopts the updated Governance Rules 2023, including the new Appendix A – Guidelines for Public Participation at Council Meetings and new Appendix B, Procedural Motions Table Updates.
2. Adopts the updated Appendix C: Election Period Policy.
3. Resolves to rescind the Council Policy – Use of the Council Seal, governance requirements for which are now included within the Governance Rules.
4. Requires Council Officers to provide a copy of Appendix A – Guidelines for Public Participation at Council Meetings to members of the public at all in-person Ordinary Council Meetings.

CARRIED

13.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.4.1. AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

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

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

File No: 44/04/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to attend the National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra on 13 - 15 June 2023, and to consider whether to submit a motion to the National General Assembly (NGA).

BACKGROUND

The 2023 National General Assembly and Conference will be held in Canberra 13 - 15 June 2023.

The theme for the 2023 Conference is 'Our Communities, Our Future' focusing on ideas for new federal programs and policies that would support councils to build stronger communities into the future.

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

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

With the exception of 2017 and 2020, it has been the practice for the Mayor and CEO to attend the NGA. In the past, Council has also used the opportunity to undertake a range of advocacy work in conjunction with councils that form Central Highlands Councils Victoria (CHCV).

CHCV has, in the past advocated to state and federal governments on matters including funding, policy change and support around key regional issues such as road and rail transport funding, employment, telecommunications, health and wellbeing, waste, sport and recreation, township development and the arts.

A Councillor briefing session in Avoca and a cuppa and chat in Glenpatrick is scheduled for 13 June 2023. It is proposed that the briefing session and cuppa and chat date be changed to Tuesday 6 June 2023 to enable the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to attend.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. ALGA NGA 2023 - Call for Motions [13.4.1.1 - 21 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The delegation to Canberra will require Councils to meet their own participant costs associated with attendance at the NGA, flights, accommodation, cab fares and meals. These costs have been provided for within Council's 2022/2023 budget.

CONCLUSION

This event provides an opportunity for the Mayor and CEO to participate at a national level in matters impacting on councils and the sustainability of local communities.

It also provides an opportunity for advocacy and to engage directly with the Federal Government.

Council may also wish to consider the opportunity to submit a motion to the NGA.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. Supports the participation of the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to attend the ALGA National General Assembly and conference from 13-15 June 2023.
2. Amends the date of the Councillor Briefing Session (Avoca) and cuppa and chat (Glenpatrick) from Tuesday 13 June 2023 to Tuesday 6 June 2023.

CARRIED

13.4.2. VNI WEST CONSULTATION REPORT

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 66/27/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to support a submission to be made in response to the VNI West – Options Assessment Report.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) is a proposed new high-capacity transmission line, connecting the Western Renewables Link (WRL) in Victoria to EnergyConnect in New South Wales.

AEMO Victorian Planning (AVP) and Transgrid recently published a Consultation Report – February 2022. This is an additional consultation report following the Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR) issued in July 2022. In the earlier report, which assessed the technical and economic feasibility of credible route and connection options, the preferred connection with the WRL was North of Ballarat at Mt Prospect (within the Hepburn Shire). Council did not make a submission to the PADR as the proposal did not appear to impact on Pyrenees residents.

The February 2023 consultation report, however, provides further analysis of seven VNI West route and connection options, including a new preferred option for the VNI West connection near Bulgana.

Each of the options have been assessed for net economic benefits, environmental, cultural heritage, social, land use and engineering criteria. Based on the on the analysis, Option 5 (Bulgana) was found to be the most favorable option.

The following is an excerpt from the report.

The differences in the options relate to the Victorian scope and can be summarised as:

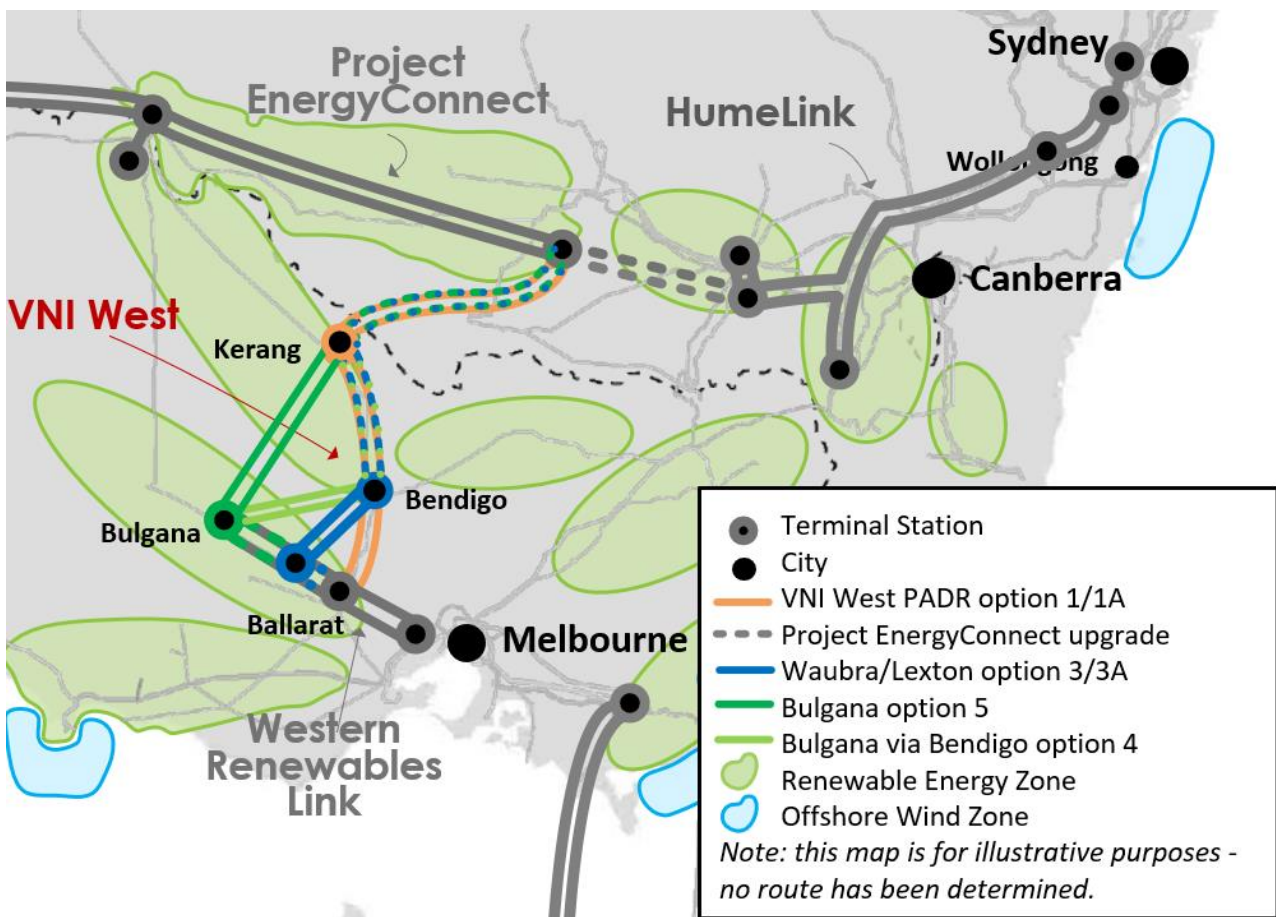
- *Option 1 (to north of Ballarat), per the PADR – connects from Dinawan, via the new terminal station near Kerang, to WRL at the proposed terminal station north of Ballarat, and routes via Bendigo.*
- *Option 1A (to north of Ballarat with spur uprate to 500 kV) – is the same as Option 1 but with the additional spur involving uprate of WRL from the proposed terminal station north of Ballarat to Bulgana from 220 kV to 500 kV following the same WRL route for much of the length except for a slight variation around Waubra.*
- *Option 2 (to north of Ballarat plus non-network), per the PADR – is the same as Option 1 but with a virtual transmission line (VTL) involving batteries at South Morang and Sydney West commissioned in 2026-27.*
- *Option 3 (to Waubra/Lexton) – connects from Dinawan, via the new terminal station near Kerang, to WRL at a new terminal station in the Waubra/Lexton area (Djaara Country), and routes via Bendigo. This option requires relocation of the WRL proposed terminal station north of Ballarat to near Waubra/Lexton and uprate of the proposed WRL transmission line from north of Ballarat to Waubra/Lexton from 220 kV to 500 kV.*

– Option 3A (to Waubra/Lexton with spur uprate to 500 kV) – same as Option 3 but with the additional spur involving uprate of WRL from the proposed terminal station in Waubra/Lexton (Djaara Country) to Bulgana (Wotjobaluk Country) from 220 kV to 500 kV following the same WRL route for much of the length except for a slight variation around Waubra.

- Option 4 (to Bulgana via Bendigo) – connects from Dinawan, via the new terminal station near Kerang, to WRL at a new terminal station near Bulgana (Wotjobaluk Country), and routes via Bendigo. This option requires relocation of the WRL proposed terminal station from north of Ballarat to Bulgana (Wotjobaluk Country) and the uprate of the WRL transmission line from north of Ballarat to Bulgana from 220 kV to 500 kV.

- Option 5 (to Bulgana) – connects from Dinawan, via the new terminal station near Kerang, directly to WRL at a new terminal station near Bulgana (Wotjobaluk Country). This option requires relocation of the WRL proposed terminal station from north of Ballarat to Bulgana and the uprate of the proposed WRL transmission line from north of Ballarat to Bulgana from 220 kV to 500 kV following the same WRL route for much of the length except for a slight variation around Waubra.

The seven credible options assessed as part of the process are shown in Figure 1 below.



Consultation

There is a six-week consultation period, and submissions are invited up until Wednesday 5 April 2023.

The project team will be hosting community drop-in sessions across several LGAs including in the Pyrenees on:

1. Friday 17 March 9am - 11am outside Avoca Town Hall
2. Tuesday 21 March 3pm - 5pm at the Beaufort Band Rotunda
3. Wednesday 22 March 2pm-4pm at the Waubra Football and Netball Club

Members of the public can also register to attend a webinar via the following link:

<https://aemo.com.au/initiatives/major-programs/vni-west/stakeholder-consultation>

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

It is proposed that Council make a submission to the report advocating on behalf of Pyrenees residents and landowners in respect of concerns raised with Council relating to impacts.

The relocation of the terminal station further west along the WRL line has the effect of increasing the capacity of the WRL from 220kV to 500kV for the section east of the connecting terminal station. In the case of the preferred Option 5, this will result in the full length of the WRL increasing to 500kV and providing increased state and national benefits. However, the increased capacity will also result in taller towers and wider easements thus increasing impacts on Pyrenees residents.

Residents have expressed concerns relating to visual impact, impacts on the ability to farm the land and concerns relating to fire prevention / response and agricultural spraying.

Despite the Victorian Government releasing in early 2023 an additional compensation payment for directly affected landowners of \$8,000 per annum per km of transmission line, the matter of appropriate compensation is still a concern for some landowners.

Others have expressed concern about insufficient consideration being given for sections of the WRL to be placed underground.

In addition to the above, the changes to the WRL as a result of the VNI West preferred option will also see some change to the WRL route in the vicinity of Waubra.

While these impacts relate to the WRL which is the subject of an EES planning process and for which a more detailed submission by Council is proposed, the effect of the VNI West Options assessment also warrants a submission by Council.

The effect of each of the options needs to be considered in Council's submission. Option 3 or 3A would see a Terminal Station at Waubra / Lexton, and this is a further concern because of the size / scale of the infrastructure and the visual impact.

While some have suggested that Council take a strong stand objecting to the proposal for Transmission Lines in the Pyrenees completely, Council does not have the capacity to investigate or suggest other credible alternatives to resolve the broader energy transmission challenges.

There is a need for transmission to transmit energy from where it is generated to where it is consumed, and in order for the state to meet renewable energy targets, and to supply the state's energy needs once coal fires power stations are retired.

The matter of social license is an important consideration for the state. That Pyrenees hosts the hard infrastructure used to service and benefit the broader state consumers warrants recognition and financial consideration for the affected communities. This is a matter that is proposed to be raised in any submission by Council.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. vni-west-consultation-report-options-assessment-feb 23 [**13.4.2.1** - 126 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that matters of concern to Council and our residents and landowners may not be given due consideration if Council does not look to advocate on their behalf by making a submission to the Consultation Report.

CONCLUSION

There is an opportunity for Council to make a submission to the VNI West Consultation Report – Options Assessment (February 2023) and the following recommendation is made.

Cr David Clark / Cr Robert Vance

That Council:

1. Endorse a submission to be made to the VNI West Consultation Report Options Assessment - February 2023.
2. Continues to encourage affected residents and landowners to become informed about the report by attending the information sessions and to make their own submissions.

CARRIED

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Vance

- Attended the Waubra Councilor Cuppa and Chat
- Chaired the Crowlands Hall AGM
- Chaired the Redbank Reserves Committee AGM
- Attended the water proposal meeting at Navarre with 70-80 people in attendance
- Attended the Rural Councils meeting via Zoom on 25 February 2023

Cr Kehoe

- Attended the International Womens Day event in Skipton, fun, engaging and informative event with local women presenting including a local indigenous presentation. A unique and lovely event.
- Attended the Beaufort show and acknowledged the supporters in the gallery tonight. A fantastic event and challenging at this time of year. A wonderful job from everyone involved and I look forward to November event.
- Happy Harmony Day today, we are blessed to promote equality and inclusivity in our community and the "Everyone Belongs" theme is to be remembered.

Cr Clark

- Thank you to fellow Councilors and Council officers for supporting a second term at MAV, continuing to ensure the voice of small rural councils is in the mix.
- Acknowledge ALGA's work on federal budget submission, over 40% of Pyrenees Shire Council's money comes from this budget.
- Attended a number of ministerial changes and meetings with these ministers recently.
- Attended Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance and Highlands Local Learning and Employment Network meetings in February
- Attended briefings at Waubra and Moonambel last week
- I was pleased to attend with Mr. Nolan and Chair the Lexton Hub Committee meeting two weeks ago, the Committee is an enthusiastic group who recognise the opportunities they have to get revenue and hold events.
- Attendance at Martha Haylett's Community drop-in session went very well, with 12 locals attending and discussing issues such as flood and powerlines.

Cr Ferrari

- Attended the Waubra Councilor Cuppa and Chat
- Attended constituent meetings which are always of importance.
- Attendance at the Beaufort show which had good attendance and a fantastic event, congratulations to the committee on persevering and rescheduling. The Show highlighted the talent within our community at the Art Show
- Pleased to see the works on the cricket nets have commenced with the expected completion in late May.

Cr Eason

- Enjoyed Cuppa at Waubra, the best place for face-to-face interaction and improves knowledge of local areas.
- Attended the Rail Freight Alliance AGM and Ordinary Meeting where freight movement via rail around Victoria was discussed.
- Attended virtual meeting with Grants Commission where they provided an explanation of funding allocations to Pyrenees Shire Council to help our shire, it was interesting to see how they determined allocations by population per head and comparisons with metropolitan and rural councils.

15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr David Clark

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

15.1 - CEO Performance Review – KRA's

CARRIED

The live streaming of Ordinary Meeting of Council 21 March 2023 stopped at 7.15pm to consider confidential items.

The live stream re-commenced at 7.24pm and the Mayor chose to report on confidential items discussed in closed Council which are noted below:

15.1 - CEO Performance Review KRA's

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council 21 March 2023 closed at 7.25pm.

Minutes of the meeting confirmed

2023

Mayor Cr Ron Eason