



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 18 April 2023
Supper Room
Avoca Town Hall
Rutherford Street, Avoca

Dja Dja Wurrung 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 Ordinary Council Meeting to be streamed live, recorded and published online. Anyone who is invited to read out a question or make a submission will be recorded and their voice, image, and comments will form part of that 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 appropriate, that may include where the content of debate is considered misleading, defamatory or potentially inappropriate to be published.
- The live 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 live stream, the meeting will continue as long as a quorum can be maintained and, where possible, a recording of the meeting will be published on Council's website. Where a quorum cannot be maintained, the meeting will be adjourned until the issue is resolved or the meeting postponed to another time and date in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

3. OPENING PRAYER

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

Amen

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

5. APOLOGIES

6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 March 2023; and
- Closed Meeting of Council held 21 March 2023,

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

Responses to questions taken on notice at the previous ordinary Council meeting on 21 March 2023:

Mr. Roger Andrew (Gallery)

Question 1:

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 again thanked Mr. Andrew for the question and provides the following response:

An assessment of the carpark, line marking and signage has been undertaken. It has been determined that signage and road marking indications would be of benefit. A second 'No Entry' sign will be placed at the Neill street entrance and a directional arrow on the road pavement to indicate entry only. Statcon intersection markings where the car park meets Havelock street will also be provided.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Members of the community are encouraged to participate in public Ordinary Council Meetings by asking questions or presenting a submission.
- This can be done by attending in person or by submitting in writing, prior to 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting, online through Council's website, by mail or hand-delivered.
- If a question or submission is submitted in writing, this will be read by the Chair during public participation, stating the person's name and township.
- Question time will be held first, followed by public submissions.
- 30 minutes is allowed for the total period of public participation. Time extensions may be allowed at the discretion of the Chair subject to the provisions of the Governance Rules.
- A person may ask a maximum of two questions at any one meeting.
- The Chair will allocate a maximum of five (5) minutes to each person who wishes to address Council or ask question(s).
- The Chair, Councillor, or Council officer to whom a question is referred may immediately answer the question or take the question on notice for answering at a later date.
- There will be no discussion or debate with public attendees however Councillors may ask questions of the attendee for clarification.

10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

10.1.1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT QUATERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development

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

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

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with a summary of the Planning and Development Department’s regulation activity for the period of January 2023 to March 2023.

BACKGROUND

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

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

PLANNING:

PLANNING PERMIT DATA	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	TOTAL
Permit applications received	6	3	13	22
Permits Granted	7	5	13	25
Permits Refused	0	0	0	0
Time extensions granted	3	3	3	9
Secondary consents approved	2	3	4	9

CALL LOG FOR PLANNING JANUARY 2023 – MARCH 2023

Enquiry Type	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	March 2023	TOTAL
Pre-purchase enquiry	25	32	22	79
Pre-application enquiry	10	39	37	86
Existing permit enquiry	6	0	0	6
Current application enquiry	16	15	2	33
All other enquiries	40	39	29	108
TOTAL	97	125	90	312

BUILDING:

BUILDING ACTIVITY	Jan	Feb	March	TOTAL
Building Notice/Order issued	4	3	7	14
Report and Consent	2	4	6	12
CARS	10	15	14	39
Section 51 (1,2 & 3) Requests for information completed	10	12	20	42

Total cost of works for building permits issued within the Pyrenees in the months January 2023 to March 2023 was \$6,132,899.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

Data relating to environmental health activity, including septic permits, premises registration and immunisations will be reported at the July 2023 Council meeting.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND AMENITY:

ANIMAL MANAGMENT	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Total FYTD
Cats Registered	527	525	532	-
Dogs registered	2269	2274	2281	-
Cats impounded	7	3	15	34
Cats reclaimed	0	1	1	3
Cats Euthanised	7	0	8	21
Dogs impounded	1	3	7	43

Dogs Reclaimed	1	3	6	34
Dogs Euthanised/surrendered	0	0	0	0
Stock impounded	16	0	2	19

INFRINGEMENTS	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Total FYTD
Domestic Animals Act	5	7	3	62
Local Laws	4	10	10	51
Road Safety Act	0	2	2	11
Environment Protection Act	0	0	0	0
Impounding of Livestock Act	0	0	0	0
CFA Act	68	9	2	79
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Inf.	77	28	17	203
Prosecutions	0	2	0	17

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

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

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

2c. Promote responsible development.

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.2.1. COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

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: 16/20/06

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with a progress report on actions planned to deliver the strategic goals and priorities identified in the Council Plan 2021-2025 as of 31 March 2023.

BACKGROUND

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

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is framed around four strategic priorities, plus enabling principles:

1. People
2. Place
3. Environment
4. Economy

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

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

The attached report provides a progress update against the Pyrenees Shire Operational Council Plan 2021-2025 as at the end of March 2023. Measures have not been included in this report as they are provided annually.

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

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mar23 Progress Update Operational Council Plan 2022 23 002 [**10.2.1.1** - 41 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Any risk implications are discussed in the attached report.

CONCLUSION

The Council adopted the Council Plan 2021-2025 in October 2021, and approved the operational activities that support the delivery of that plan in February 2022. This report provides a progress update on those activities as at the end of March 2023.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

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

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - MARCH

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
Sun 5 March	Pyrenees Seniors Celebration	Beaufort
Tues 14 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tues 14 March	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Moonambel
Sun 19 March	Beaufort Agricultural Show	Beaufort
Tues 21 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 21 March	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
Thurs 2 March	Meeting with Planning Minister Sona Kilkenny	Melbourne
Thurs 9 March	New Councillor Induction Training	Virtual
Thurs 9 March	Lexton Community Hub CoM	Lexton
Tues 14 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tues 14 March	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Moonambel
Wed 15 March	Meeting with Greens Leader Samantha Ratnam	Virtual
Thurs 16 – Fri 17 March	MAV Board Induction	Melbourne
Mon 20 March	Premiers Mentally Healthy Workplaces Advisory Group	Melbourne
Tues 21 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 21 March	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thurs 23 March	ALGA Board Meeting	Virtual
Tues 28 March	Meeting with Health Minister Mary Ann Thomas	Virtual
Wed 29 March	Waste Resource and Recovery Conference	Melbourne
Fri 31 March	MAV Special Board Meeting	Virtual

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
Tues 7 March	Redbank Reserves Committee Inc. CoM Meeting	Redbank
Tues 14 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tues 14 March	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Moonambel
Tues 21 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 21 March	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thurs 23 March	Drought Hub Think Tank Event	Flora Hill
Fri 24 March	Rural Councils Victoria Committee Meeting	Virtual

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
Fri 3 March	Goldfields World Heritage Bid and Master Plan Update & Workshop	Virtual
Sun 5 March	Pyrenees Seniors Celebration	Beaufort
Tues 14 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tues 14 March	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Moonambel
Fri 17 March	Meeting with Dr Anne Webster MP	Virtual
Fri 17 March	Art Show Opening	Beaufort
Sat 18 March	Official Opening – Pyrenees Petanque Tournament	Avoca
Tues 21 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 21 March	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thurs 30 March	Meeting with John Pesutto MP Leader of the Opposition	Virtual

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
Sun 5 March	Pyrenees Seniors Celebration	Beaufort
Tues 14 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tues 14 March	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Moonambel
Sun 19 March	Beaufort Agricultural Show	Beaufort
Tues 21 March	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues 21 March	Council Meeting	Beaufort

12. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - MARCH 2023

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	14 March 2023 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 4.04pm		
Meeting Location	RTC, Avoca		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PA22080 – Proposed Cattle Feedlot in Avoca 2. Planning Advice 3. Governance Rules 4. Capital Works Update and Briefing 5. Opening of Bulaki Wuka Digital Hub 6. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe (2.30pm)	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Nil		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Katie Gleisner, Manager Planning and Development Services (Items 1 & 2) Helen Swadling, Statutory Planning and Buildings Services Coordinator (Item 1)		
Visitors	Nil.		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	21 March 2023 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NBN Co Briefing 2. Brewster Windfarm (Brewster Community Members) 3. Budget Workshop 4. RE Futures – Brewster Windfarm 5. Planning Application PA22080 – Proposed Cattle Feedlot - Avoca 6. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe (1.15pm)	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Nil		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Katie Gleisner, Manager Planning and Development Services (Items 2 & 5) Glenn Kallio, Manager Finance (Item 3)		
Visitors	Jennifer Ganske – NBN Co (Item 1) Brett Swan (Item 2) Gary Swan (Item 2) Neil Ham (Item 2) Siobhan Rogan (Item 2) Glen Pretty (Item 2) Shane Mahony (Item 2) Paul Morcombe (Item 2) Severin Staalesen (Item 4) Alister Mitchell (Item 4) Vaughan Mitchell (Item 4)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

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

13. ITEMS FOR DECISION

13.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.1.1. SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS UPDATE

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: 30/24/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a progress update on the positive benefits of sustainability projects undertaken in the past five years and to inform Council of the application of the recently received Climate Change Toolkit developed by Rural Councils Victoria.

BACKGROUND

In 2018 a report was commissioned by Council to undertake a greenhouse emissions reduction plan and inventory for use as a baseline for comparison and reporting on progress towards Council's emission reduction in future years. This report showed that most of Council's CO₂ emissions are associated with fleet, plant, and stationary energy consumption from Council's buildings with stationary energy consumption accounting for 62% of the total emissions.

Recently Council received the comprehensive Rural Councils Victoria Climate Change Toolkit. This was developed by Ironbark Sustainability and was made available to all rural councils within Victoria. The toolkit provides guidance and resources used to assist councils to meet their responsibilities and take meaningful action on climate change.

The toolkit provides four modules outlining key steps for action;

- Module One - Integrating Climate Change into Council Decision Making, identifying the climate change responsibilities of each department within Council and key actions to embed climate change into decision making, such as climate change policy development.
- Module Two outlines the steps to take for development of an adaptation plan. Identifying key hazards, stakeholders and priorities for action, climate change projections, risk assessments and monitoring.
- Modules Three and Four address the steps to take stock of and gain an understanding of Councils corporate and community emissions, set targets and action plans for emissions reduction and impact monitoring.

Council has been active in the climate change space with the development of the Climate Change Response and Mitigation Action Plan adopted by Council in early 2021. And together with Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA), several impactful actions have been identified to reduce Council's Co₂ emissions.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A significant number of sustainability projects have been undertaken to reduce Council's Co₂ emissions including solar panel installations, LED street light implementation, signing up to 100% GreenPower (electricity sourced from renewable energy) and auditing and retrofitting of 8 Council buildings.

Council's newly implemented Co₂ emissions tracking software Trellis, is currently being used to capture all corporate emissions. This is information Council is unable to capture from the existing databases generated

through our financial systems. The Trellis data will provide Council with an accurate corporate carbon footprint which will be essential for monitoring our emissions in the future. A report outlining the impact of this data will be presented to Council in the new financial year.

Data analysis undertaken by Ironbark Sustainability during site visits to the updated Council buildings provided a snapshot of the impact on greenhouse gas emission reduction percentages. Of notable reduction are the Beaufort Goldfields Complex, Avoca & Beaufort Senior Citizens and Avoca Resource Centre.

Building	GHG Savings (kg CO₂-e)	GHG Savings (%)
Avoca Children's Centre	17,910	39
Avoca Senior Citizens	4,473	94
Avoca Resource Centre	17,122	86
Avoca Town Hall	13,000	40
Beaufort Senior Citizens	9,130	87
Beaufort Office	42,127	35.5
Beaufort Resource Centre	25,588	53
Beaufort Goldfields Complex	28,248	93
Total	157,598	66

Looking forward, Council is participating in numerous projects and advocacy discussions with the guidance of Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) which will assist Council on the path to zero emissions.

Projects include:

- Charging the Regions;
Installing fast chargers at 23 locations and providing an estimated saving of 76 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Small Business Energy Savers Program;
Providing energy efficient technology information and supporting small businesses to access government incentive schemes.
- Neighborhood Battery Initiative;
Development of a business case for multiple behind-the-meter batteries across Victoria.
- Hydrogen Working Group;
Exploring the regions' potential to generate and use green hydrogen.

Advocacy discussions include:

- Planning for a safe climate campaign
- National EV Strategy
- Regional Zero Emissions Forum
- VNI West submissions
- Distribution Network Service Providers

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

Enabling Principles

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Council has supported community awareness regarding the impacts of climate change and how the community can contribute to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and in turn reduce energy costs.

ATTACHMENTS

1. RCV Climate- Change- Toolkit (1) (1) [13.1.1.1 - 127 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Climate change presents a significant economic threat to the community with increases in energy costs and the impact from extreme weather events on communities and Council assets. In support of renewables and other low carbon initiatives, there are several funding streams available that can be accessed by Council.

CONCLUSION

Council is committed to continuing to find ways to reduce its Co2 emissions and is actively monitoring through an external company to identify areas for further Co2 reductions. A report will be presented to Council in the new financial year for the previous 12 months of monitoring.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the report.
2. Commits to implementing further climate change initiatives.
3. Seeks a report be presented at a future meeting of Council demonstrating recorded emissions data.

13.1.2. ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY

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: Tim Day – Manager Assets

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

File No: 06/12/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider adoption of the revised Asset Management Policy.

BACKGROUND

Council's current Asset Management Policy was adopted in 2011. Given the passage of time and that the *Local Government Act 2020* has introduced the requirement for Councils to adopt a 10 Year Asset Plan it is timely that this policy undergoes a major revision.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Asset Management Policy sets out the principles of asset management to be adopted and undertaken by Council in relation to the maintenance, renewal, upgrading, creation of new assets and the disposal of redundant assets.

This policy sets out the relationship between Council's 10 Year Asset Plan and the Road Management Plan. It also provides guidance in relation to current and future risks and challenges in relation to the management of infrastructure that supports the services provided by Council.

The Asset Management Policy supports the realisation of objectives detailed in the *Council Plan – Shaping the Pyrenees 2021-25*.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

Priority 2 - Place

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

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

2c. Promote responsible development.

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

Local Government Act 2020 s92

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Asset Management Policy Apr 2023 [**13.1.2.1** - 7 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council can manage current and future risks by having an appropriate and current asset management policy. The policy supports the achievement of Council's objectives and meets the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

CONCLUSION

The revised Asset Management Policy is submitted to Council for adoption.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the revised Asset Management Policy.

13.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.2.1. BUDGET 2023/24

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

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

File No: 32/08/18

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the Pyrenees Shire Council draft Budget for the 2023/24 financial year, and the draft 10-year Financial Plan covering the years 2023/24 to 2032/33.

This report includes a recommendation that the Council, in accordance with sections 55,91,94, and 96 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) endorses the release of the 2023/24 draft Budget and draft 10-year financial plan.

It is recommended that Council, in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy, advertise the draft Budget 2023/24 and draft 10-year financial plan for public comment, invite public submissions and provide for those who wish to speak to their submission, the opportunity to do so before Council. Council is required to consider all submissions prior to adopting the draft Budget and draft 10-year financial plan in June 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) provides a Council:

- Must prepare and adopt a Budget for each financial year and the subsequent three years by 30 June each year – Section 94(1)(a)
- Must develop or review the Financial Plan – Section 91(4)
- Must develop the Budget, any Revised Budget and 10-year Financial Plan in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy – Section 96(1)(b)
- Must develop the Budget, any Revised Budget and 10-year Financial Plan in accordance with the financial management principles – Section 96(1)(a)

If endorsed for consultation, the 2023/24 Draft Budget and draft 10-year financial plan will be made publicly available, and Council will invite written submissions from 24 April 2023 until 9.00am Monday 22 May 2023. The document will be made available at Council's customer service centres and via Council's website.

Members of the community who prepare a written submission can request to be heard in support of their submission at an unscheduled meeting of Council to be held at 6.00pm Tuesday 6 June 2023. Following the completion of the community engagement, including consideration of submissions, Council may adopt the draft Budget and draft 10-year Financial Plan. Council must adopt the 2023/24 Budget by 30 June 2023.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Draft Budget for 2023/24 and draft 10-year Financial Plan has been prepared taking into consideration the latest economic factors, including the rate cap set by the Victorian State Government, set at 3.50%.

The rate cap applies to the overall general rate revenue raised across all property types in the municipality. However, the change in the level of rates charged for individual properties may vary from the 3.50% rate cap, based on the movement in the valuation of individual properties because of the yearly revaluation of properties as determined by the Victoria State Government.

This budget has been prepared considering the financial viability of the Council over the life of the 10-year Financial Plan. Both the capital works program and service delivery have been set at a sustainable level.

The Draft Budget for 2023/24 has been prepared within the following parameters:

- Inflation: 3.60%
- Rate cap: 3.50%

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- 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, this report commences the community engagement process for the adoption of the 2023/24 Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications associated with this report have been accounted for within the 2023/24 Draft Budget.

CONCLUSION

This report presents the draft Budget for 2023/24 and draft 10-year Financial Plan (*circulated separately*) based on the ongoing delivery of current services and service levels. The draft 2023/24 Budget and draft 10-year Financial Plan as tabled provide guidance on how Council intends to deliver its strategic objectives over the next twelve months and maintain financial sustainability over the next 10 years.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Gives Public Notice in accordance with sections 55 and 96 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) of Council's intention to adopt, at a Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm Tuesday 20 June 2023, the draft 2023/24 Budget prepared in accordance with section 94 of the Act.
2. Gives Public Notice in accordance with sections 55 and 96 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) of Council's intention to review and adopt, at a Council meeting to be held at 6.00pm Tuesday 20 June 2023, the draft 10-year Financial Plan prepared in accordance with section 91 of the Act.
3. Gives public notice seeking submissions on the proposals contained in the 2023/24 draft Budget. Written public submissions will be accepted for 28 days ending 9.00am Monday 22 May 2023.
4. Gives public notice seeking submissions on the proposals contained in the draft 10-year Financial Plan. Written public submissions will be accepted for 28 days ending 9.00am Monday 22 May 2023.

5. Gives public notice that any person who wishes to be heard in support of a submission received by Council should indicate in the written submission that he or she wishes to be heard. Any person requesting that he or she be heard in support of a submission is entitled to appear before a meeting of the Council either personally or by a person acting on their behalf at a Council briefing scheduled for Tuesday 6 June 2023 in Avoca.

13.2.2. RESOURCE CENTRE OPERATIONS - ANZAC DAY 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: 22/17/07 & 2217/05

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a change in operating hours at the resource centres for the ANZAC Day public holiday.

BACKGROUND

ANZAC Day is a day of significant importance and commemoration to the Australian people, with special arrangements in place governing opening hours for commercial businesses in respect to those who have fallen in battle.

Businesses are not allowed to trade until 1pm on that day.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Consultation conducted with members of the Frontline Services Team, who operate the Pyrenees Shire Council resource centres in Avoca and Beaufort, has provided recommendations to change the opening hours at the centres on ANZAC Day in 2023.

The recommendations provided in this report are based on information gained from previous years' visitor numbers, trading restrictions, and feedback from the Council's Tourism Officer.

The recommendations put forward for endorsement by Council are that:

1. The Beaufort Community Resource Centre operates on ANZAC Day 2023 from 1pm to 4pm, and
2. The Avoca Community Information Centre should close for ANZAC Day 2023.

The key reasons for the proposed change in operations are:

- The Avoca centre should close because feedback from the Avoca team and the tourism officer, together with visitor statistical evidence, shows that Avoca had minimal attendance on ANZAC Day in previous years.
- The Beaufort centre should remain open as they have a Warship and the Blue poppies display, and with the ANZAC Day March, this will attract more visitors.
- As Businesses are not allowed to trade until 1pm that day, the team feels that it is respectful to wait in Beaufort until 1pm to open.

Council endorsement of this recommendation is requested.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

No risk implications arise from this report.

CONCLUSION

Using information gathered from resource centre team members and former years' attendance statistics, a change in operations for Avoca and Beaufort resource centres is recommended for ANZAC Day in 2023. Council endorsement of the recommended changes is requested.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approves the closure of the Avoca Community Information Centre on ANZAC day for 2023.
2. Approves the change in opening hours for the Beaufort Community Resource Centre on ANZAC day for 2023 to 1pm – 4pm.

13.2.3. 2022 / 23 COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM - BIENNIAL CATEGORY ROUND TWO

Adam Boyle – Community Wellbeing and Grants Coordinator

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

File No: 36/28/06

PURPOSE

Following review of applications received against Round 2 of the 2022/23 Biennial Grant category, recommendation is made to award funding.

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Applications opened Monday, 23 January 2023, and closed Monday, 6 March 2023. Following a communication and engagement program, 31 applications were received, collectively requesting \$111,998.15.

After the application period closed, a review panel of Council officers assessed applications. All applications were reviewed against advertised eligibility guidelines and selection criteria.

Attachment 1 summarises the outcome of this process, with applications progressing to Council recommendation. Recommendation is to fund 27 out of 31 applications.

Of the four (4) applications not recommended for funding:

- One (1) application was assessed as ineligible as it was not able to provide the necessary documentation to comprehensively complete an assessment.
- Two (2) applicants were funded in Round One of the Program, and were consequently afforded a lower priority given the program is financially oversubscribed, and
- One application submitted 2 applications to the round, and as the program is financially oversubscribed, recommendation has been made to only fund the applicant's priority project.

Those projects not recommended for funding will be encouraged to be submitted in a subsequent round in the 2023/24 Community Funding Program. Officers will also work with the applicants to source other external grant sources where available to realise project ambitions.

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

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1b. Support a vibrant community arts, culture and heritage environment.

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

1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

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

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

Priority 3 - Environment

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

Enabling Principles

a. Motivate and inspire community involvement

ATTACHMENTS

1. Round Two Community Funding Program Panel Recommendation (2) [13.2.3.1 - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Funding requested from the Council totaled \$111,998.15. This is \$26,122.65 above the available budget. Officer assessment and subsequent recommendations result in delivery of the program within the available budget - due to 4 applications being not recommended for funding, some minor reductions in funding requests and supporting one project to be funded from an alternate appropriate Council program budget.

Including the total requested amount of Council's contribution, the combined total projects' value for all received Round 2 applications is \$470,765. This represents a funding ratio of the Council to other funders of 1: 5.5 i.e., for every Council dollar provided, a further \$5:48 in total value has been raised.

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council award the following biannual program grants at a total cost of \$91,793:

1. Event Sponsorship – total of \$7,007:
 - a. Cave Hill Creek for VCO Performance – \$2,000;
 - b. Pyrenees Arts Council for the Pyrenees Art Exhibition – \$700 sponsorship and \$1,307 of Council venue hire fee waiver;
 - c. Uniting Church Carngham, Snake Valley for the The Valley 'Seasons' Community Market – \$2,000; and
 - d. Beaufort Walkfest – \$1,000.
2. Shop Façade - total of \$41,952:
 - a. Avoca District Co-operative Limited – Community Bank at 121 High Street, Avoca – \$5,000;

- b. Beaufort Christmas Shop / Church Gallery – 69 Neill Street, Beaufort – \$4,364;
 - c. Beaufort News and Tatts – 44 Neill Street, Beaufort – \$5,000;
 - d. Northend Service Station Pty Ltd (Chapman Business Trust) – 150 High Street, Avoca – \$5,000;
 - e. Pyrenees Motel – 102 High Street, Avoca – \$5,000;
 - f. RG &RL McErvale – 15 Lawrence Street, Beaufort – \$5,000;
 - g. Westbury Antiques – 119 High Street, Avoca – \$3,750;
 - h. Yvonne and Bruce Leaman – Home Made Fresh, 132 High Street, Avoca – \$4,890;
 - i. de Baere House Antiques – 42 Neill Street, Beaufort – \$2,698; and
 - j. Shear Delights Bakery – 105 High Street, Avoca – \$1,250.
3. Capital Works – total of \$29,834:
- a. Avoca Sporting and Recreation Committee of Management for Netball Lighting – \$6,666;
 - b. Beaufort RSL for kitchen food preparation bench – \$4,445;
 - c. Lake Goldsmith Steam Preservation Association for roadway and path network reinstatement – \$7,000;
 - d. Trawalla Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee for a property fence upgrade – \$5,073;
 - e. Waubra Community Hub for netball court fencing – \$2,000; and
 - f. Avoca Friends of the Pool for an All-Abilities pool lift – \$4,650.
4. Equipment – total of \$2,000:
- a. Beaufort Community Bank Complex for an AV system upgrade – \$2,000.
5. Programs and Activities – total of \$11,000:
- a. Beaufort and Skipton Health Service for a Mental Health & Wellbeing Forum – \$2,000;
 - b. Landsborough & District Historical Group Inc. for a newspaper digitisation project – \$2,000;
 - c. Landsborough and District Bowling Club for a membership development project – \$2,000;
 - d. Waterloo Community Group for a community gathering event and Community Consultation project – \$2,000;
 - e. Avoca Girl Guides for a membership recruitment project – \$2,000; and
 - f. Snake Valley Craft Group for a craft group establishment – \$1,000.

13.3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.3.1. PROPOSED BREWSTER WINDFARM

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: 66/22/32

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support to write to the Victorian Minister for Planning to seek further consideration of matters raised by the community in respect of the proposed Brewster Renewable Energy Facility.

BACKGROUND

In April 2021, RE Futures submitted an application to the Minister for Planning seeking to develop a wind energy facility in the locality of Brewster that initially comprised of four turbines on properties bordering the southern side of the Western Highway west of Trawalla Road and east of Kayleys Lane.

The planning application PA2101150 was placed on exhibition on 13 January 2022, and the revised application comprised a seven-turbine wind energy facility.

Council received representation from residents and landowners within the Brewster area expressing concerns about aspects of the proposal including the limited time to make a submission. At the February 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved:

That Council:

- 1. Prepares a submission on the Planning Permit Application for the Brewster Wind Energy Facility that seeks to represent community concerns and mitigate any impacts to council-controlled assets; and*
- 2. Writes to the Minister of Planning requesting a one-month extension to the statutory period for submissions to this project.*

Subsequently the Minister, at the Council's request, approved an extension of time for submissions to be lodged up until 28 March 2022.

Council made a submission addressing matters including noise, community engagement, visual impacts, traffic movement, highway traffic, future land uses, and highlighting concerns raised by members of the community as follows:

- That the Ecological Assessment prepared by Ecology and Heritage Partners underestimates and fails to value the presence of Brolga habitat and the number of breeding pairs observed during the 2021 breeding season.
- A perception that the actions of the proponent in relation to engagement with affected stakeholders has caused divide within the community.
- A concern that the alleged community benefits are not representative of the damage and cost to social and economic values.
- The application does not provide sufficient detail to allow for the impacts on ground water associated with the anchorage of turbines to be understood and assessed.
- A sense that the photomontages included in the *Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment December 2021* are misleading in both size and scale.

- Impact on agricultural activities including aerial spraying and surface water flow are not properly understood.

In March 2023, Council received representations from residents and landowners expressing further concerns about the application and in particular concerns that brolga habitat and the number of brolga pairs observed in the area during 2022 and early 2023 might not be given adequate consideration by the Department / Minister before deciding on the application.

In April 2023, Councillors and officers were invited by neighboring landowners to inspect the area and observations were made of brolga pairs in the general location.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council is not a decision maker for the approval of wind farms and this role is wholly undertaken by the State Government through the Department of Transport and Planning (DOTP), previously the Department Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the final approval is a Ministerial decision.

Even though submissions have closed, it is understood that the Minister will reasonably consider any relevant matters prior to deciding on the application should Council choose to write to the Minister with any new information or concerns.

The Bush Heritage website states that:

The Australian population of Brolgas is considered 'secure', with somewhere between 20,000 to 100,000 birds in northern Australia. But the southern population – estimated at 1,000 birds – is dwindling, and the species is listed as vulnerable in NSW and South Australia, while its status has been assessed as 'Endangered' in Victoria

[Brolgas \(Australian Cranes\) - Bush Heritage Australia](#)

Given the observations made and the recent representations from the community, it is suggested that Council writes to the Minister seeking that proper consideration be given to the matters raised by the residents.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

2c. Promote responsible development.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Members of the Brewster community have met with Council, and a site inspection was undertaken

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that proper consideration by the Minister for Planning may not be given to the matters raised by the Brewster residents / landowners before deciding on the application.

CONCLUSION

Following representations made by residents and landowners in the Brewster area, the following recommendation is made.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Writes to the Minister for Planning bringing to the Minister's attention the further concerns raised by residents and landowners, and seeking that proper consideration be given to the matters raised before deciding on planning application PA2101150 - Brewster Wind Energy Facility.

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

15.1 - Council Industrial Land Beaufort

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council closed at

Minutes of the meeting confirmed

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2023

Mayor Cr Ron Eason