



**Pyrenees**  
Shire Council

# Minutes

## Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 16 May 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**

Mayor Cr Ron Eason welcomed all to the meeting.

## **PRESENT**

**Mayor:** Cr Ron Eason

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

**Chief Executive Officer:** Jim Nolan

**Director Asset and Development Services:** Douglas Gowans

**Director of Corporate and Community Services:** Kathy Bramwell

**EA to CEO and Councillors:** Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

**Senior Communications Officer:** Noel McKeegan

## **2. STREAMING PREAMBLE**

Mayor Cr Ron Eason read the livestream preamble.

## **3. OPENING PRAYER**

The Mayor read the Opening Prayer.

## **4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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

## **5. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

## **6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Cr Robert Vance / Cr Tanya Kehoe**

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 April 2023; and
- Closed Meeting of Council held on 18 April 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 18 April 2023.

## **9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **Mr Trevor Davey of Lexton**

#### *Question one:*

I read in the local paper last Friday an article from Cr Clark talking about the improved funding for roads and I was just wondering how the council was going with all the incredible amount of funding they have been waiting for.

#### *Response:*

Jim Nolan thanked Mr Davey for the really important question. Roads and road expenditure is one of the most expensive services that we provide, as you are very well aware Council is heavily reliant on external funding to support that activity. Council Clark's column on last Friday referred to the Local Road and Community Infrastructure fund which was announced by the Commonwealth Government in recent times. It comprises two elements, part A which provides for community and road infrastructure and part B which is essentially about roads.

The Commonwealth have allocated Pyrenees \$1.39million as part of that program and then a further \$804,000 was announced more recently. This is a really important means for council to be able to achieve its road renewal program and council will be looking to allocate projects and activities to be undertaken with those funds. One of the key things to be mindful of with that program is that it is a one off. Whilst this is the fourth phase of that program, which was introduced during Covid, there is no commitment ongoing beyond phase 4 of this program.

Councils advocacy to the Commonwealth and to the State around sustainable funding for roads is about ongoing funding and to that extent, that is an ongoing ask for Council. Our long-term projection over a ten year period is that we have an infrastructure renewal gap of about \$1.9million per annum in the forward estimates, so whilst this funding is really welcome it does not answer all of our sustainability questions and we will be continuing to advocate ongoing.

## 10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 10.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

#### 10.1.1. ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN REINSTATEMENT

**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:** 58/08/14

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the formal reinstatement of the Pyrenees Shire Council Road Management Plan.

#### BACKGROUND

In late 2022, and in accordance with section 5.3 of the Pyrenees Shire Council's Road Management Plan, formal notice of suspension of the Plan was issued due to the widespread and significant impacts on the road networks and Council resources caused by the October 2022 flood event.

At the time of the formal notice of suspension, Council did not have the financial capacity or resources to ensure the minimum service standards could be delivered within the timeframes set out in Council's Road Management Plan.

As reported previously to Council, Section 5.3 of the Road Management Plan states as follows:

#### *5.3 Suspension of the Road Management Plan*

*Council will make every endeavour to meet all aspects of its Road Management Plan. However, in the event of natural disasters and other emergency events including but not limited to, fires, drought, floods, and the like, together with human factors, including but not limited to lack of Council staff or suitably qualified contractors, because of Section 83 of the Victorian Wrongs Act, 1958, as amended, Council reserves the right to suspend compliance with its Road Management Plan.*

*In the event that the Chief Executive Officer of Council, has to, pursuant to Section 83 of the said Act, consider the limited financial resources of Council and its other conflicting priorities, meaning Council's Plan cannot be met, they will write to Council's officer in charge of its Plan and inform them that some, or all of the timeframes and responses in Council's Plan, are to be suspended. Once the events beyond the control of Council have abated, or if the events have partly abated, Council's Chief Executive officer will write to Council's officer responsible for Council's Plan and inform them which parts of Council's Plan are to be reactivated and when.*

Accordingly, on 21st October 2022, the Chief Executive Officer formally notified the Director Assets & Development Services of the following:

*21/10/2022 - In accordance with section 5.3 of our Road Management Plan, consider this formal notice of suspension of the Pyrenees Shire Council Road Management Plan as a result of the October Flood Event which has been widespread and had significant impact. Council does not have the financial capacity or*

*resources to ensure the minimum service standards can be delivered within the timeframes set out in the Plan as a result of the flood event.*

*Once the secondary impact assessment is completed and works can be planned, I will receive advice about the status of the road network and give further consideration of lifting the suspension. The suspension will remain in place until such time as it is formally lifted.*

Specific areas of road management where response times to rectify hazards could not be met within the parameters of the RMP included:

- Culverts
- Drains
- Signage
- Guard Rail
- Pavement Failure
- Unsealed Shoulders
- Shoulder Potholes
- Surface Scour on pavement

The roads and road related assets subject to remedial work, and for which the Road Management Plan remain suspended, are listed in the attachment. Please note that listed assets that do not have full location details can be identified through Council's GIS system.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Since the formal suspension of the Road Management Plan, secondary impact assessments have been conducted and works have been planned allowing Council to transition to the recovery stage of the flood events. Specific resources have been engaged to manage the Pyrenees Shire flood recovery and the event is partly abated, allowing Council to reactivate the Road Management Plan to all roads and road assets, excluding those roads and road assets awaiting remedial works, ensuring standards are maintained across the road network.

Although the Road Management Plan was suspended in late 2022, Council Officers have continued to undertake inspections, effectively in practice continuing the Road Management Plan excluding the significant amount of flood damaged locations.

In accordance with Section 5.3 of the Road Management Plan, and in consideration of the above, the Chief Executive Officer has determined that the Road Management Plan can be reactivated to all roads and road assets, excluding those roads and road assets awaiting remedial works.

#### **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

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

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Flood Event Locations 2022 [**10.1.1.1** - 14 pages]

### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

The flood events in late 2022 caused significant damage to public and private assets and the suspension of the Road Management Plan was a necessary response in minimising Council's liability. Council has since transitioned to recovery and the reinstatement of the Road Management Plan is required for Council to complete inspections, ensuring safe and efficient road network standards are maintained across the Shire reducing risk to all members of the public.

### **CONCLUSION**

This report seeks to inform Council of the formal reinstatement of its Road Management Plan, with the exclusion of the listed flood damaged locations.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes this report.
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## 10.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 10.2.1. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS UPDATE - APRIL 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 April 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 APRIL 2023

##### 1. Logged and closed requests

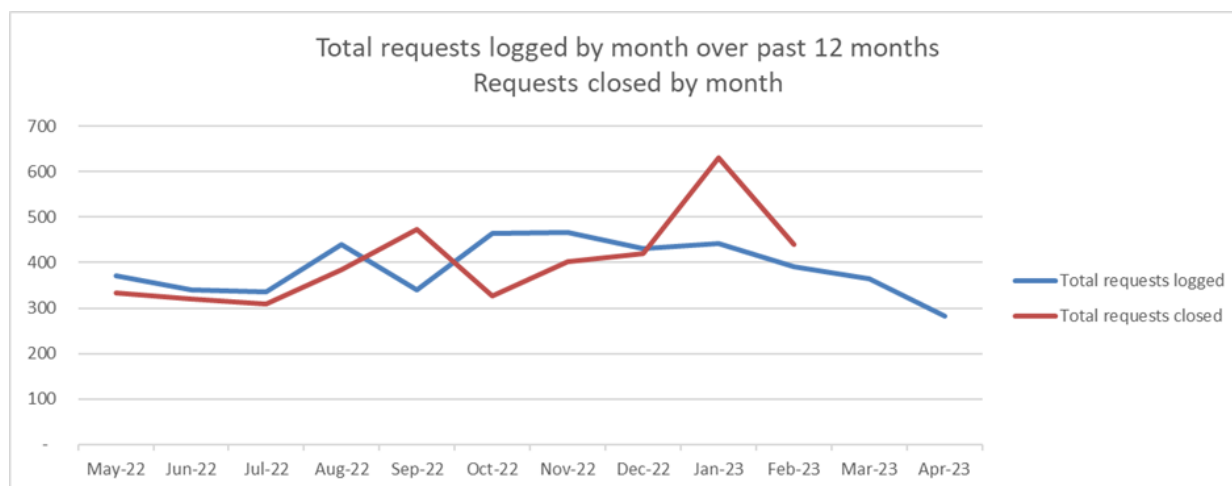
282 CARs (Customer Action Requests) were logged in April. Of these, 87 related to telephone messages.

269 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	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	% Change
Total requests logged	372	339	335	439	339	464	466	431	441	390	364	282	-36%
Total requests closed	333	319	309	384	473	327	403	421	630	440		269	-57%





## 2. Telephone requests

87 telephone calls were transferred into requests in April 2023, with 37 requests remaining outstanding at the end of the month.

## 3. Open Customer Action Requests

Outstanding requests that have had initial contact with the customer but are unable to be resolved quickly for some reason, are now moved to being 'on-hold' and others referred to budget (e.g., long term drainage issues).

At the end of April 2023, there was a total of 376 active or open requests. These include:

- 185 which are open and assigned for action
- 190 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** – in general, on hold requests 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
- Road improvement requests
- Flood impacts / Natural disaster
- Long term drainage works

**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.

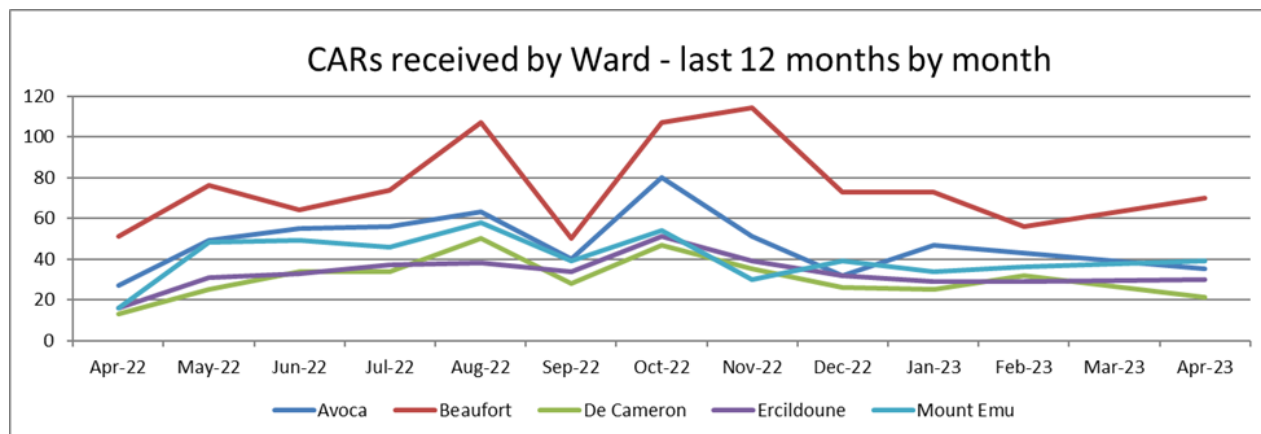
Of the non-telephone call requests received in April, the following represents those received and still open at the of the last month by Ward:

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	DeCameron Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mt Emu Ward
<b>Number of requests received in April 2023</b>	35	70	21	30	39

<b>Requests received in April and closed in the same month (% of total received)</b>	24 (69%)	33 (47%)	12 (57%)	15 (50%)	25 (64%)
<b>Requests received in April remaining open / assigned for action</b>	8	32	7	12	13
<b>Requests received in April on-hold awaiting final works or resolution</b>	3	5	2	3	1
<b>Requests received in February referred to budget</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Open requests from 2022</b>	3	4	3	4	3
<b>Re-opened requests from 2021</b>	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total open/assigned requests as at the end of April 2023</b>	20	54	18	33	25

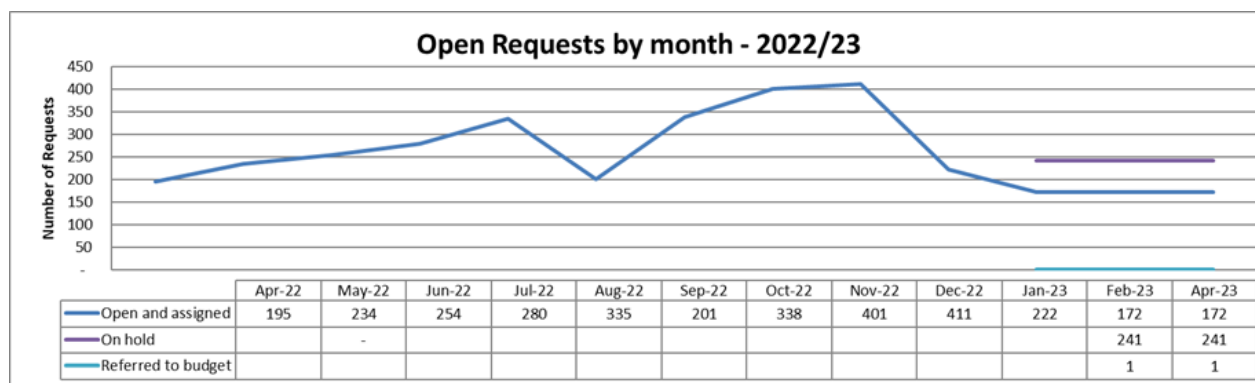
The following charts show the numbers of requests received by Ward per month for the past 12 months.

<b>CARS by Ward received by month Rolling - 2022/23</b>												
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Apr-22</b>	<b>May-22</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	<b>Jul-22</b>	<b>Aug-22</b>	<b>Sep-22</b>	<b>Oct-22</b>	<b>Nov-22</b>	<b>Dec-22</b>	<b>Jan-23</b>	<b>Feb-23</b>	<b>Apr-23</b>
Avoca	27	49	55	56	63	40	80	51	32	47	43	35
Beaufort	51	76	64	74	107	50	107	114	73	73	56	70
De Cameron	13	25	34	34	50	28	47	35	26	25	32	21
Ercildoune	16	31	33	37	38	34	51	39	32	29	29	30
Mount Emu	16	48	49	46	58	39	54	30	39	34	36	39
<b>Total by month</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>195</b>

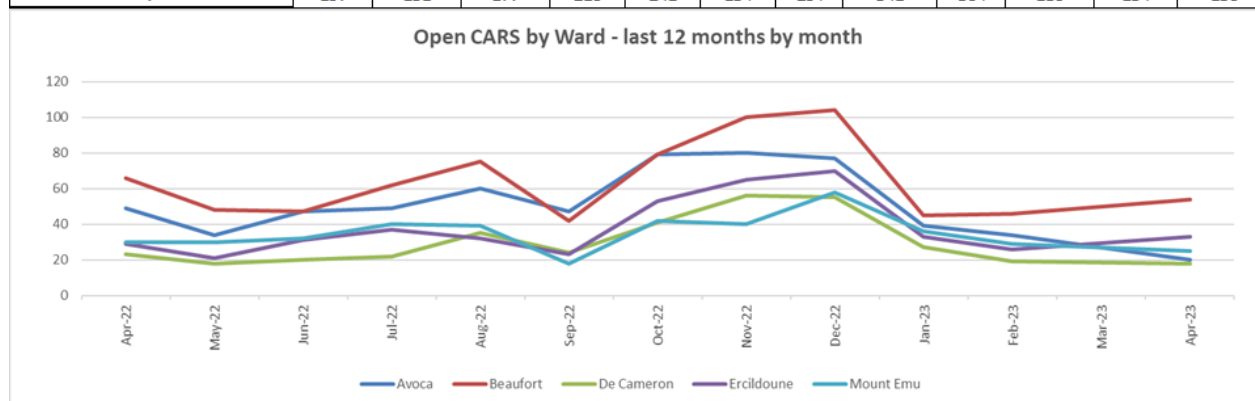


The following charts show the statistics for requests that remained open each month for the past 12 months. Over future months, these charts now reflect numbers of requests that are transferred to on-hold or referred-to-budget status.

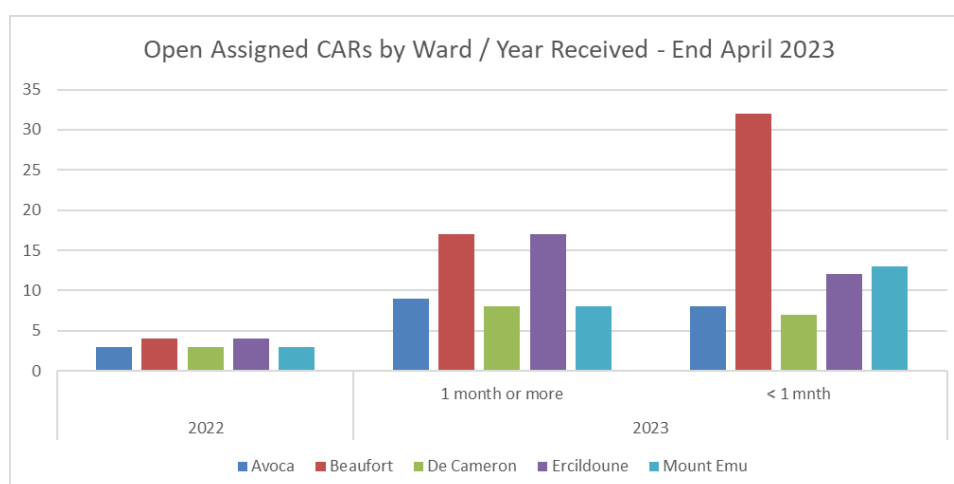
<b>Open requests by month</b>												
<b>Month</b>	<b>Apr-22</b>	<b>May-22</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	<b>Jul-22</b>	<b>Aug-22</b>	<b>Sep-22</b>	<b>Oct-22</b>	<b>Nov-22</b>	<b>Dec-22</b>	<b>Jan-23</b>	<b>Feb-23</b>	<b>Apr-23</b>
2020	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
2021	2	25	24	21	20	16	15	12	12	-	-	-
2022	191	208	229	258	314	184	322	389	399	131	45	45
2023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	127	127
<b>Assigned</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>On hold</b>											<b>241</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>Referred to budget</b>											<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>



Open Assigned CARS by Ward - 2022/23												
Ward	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23
Avoca	49	34	47	49	60	47	79	80	77	39	34	20
Beaufort	66	48	47	62	75	42	79	100	104	45	46	54
De Cameron	23	18	20	22	35	24	41	56	55	27	19	18
Ercildoune	29	21	31	37	32	23	53	65	70	33	26	33
Mount Emu	30	30	32	40	39	18	42	40	58	36	29	25
Total by month	197	151	177	210	241	154	294	341	364	180	154	150



The following chart shows the open assigned requests by Ward as at the end of April 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			
	Feb-23	Apr-23	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	77	73	-4
Streetlights	1	1	0
Drainage	36	23	-13
Footpaths /	7	6	-1
Park & Reserves	10	3	-7
Roadside Veg	33	13	-20
Environmental Health	11	11	0
Planning	0	6	6
Bld maint	6	10	4
Local Laws	44	45	1
Cats	1	3	2
Dogs	15	14	-1
Livestock	2	7	5
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	1	2	1
Bld Compliance	1	1	0
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	0	0	0
Rates	1	16	15
Natural Disasters	144	104	-40
Pools	2	0	-2
Council cleaning	1	3	2
Litter	0	0	0
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	22	37	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>-37</b>

### 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

- Motivate and inspire community involvement
- Provide transparency and accountability
- 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 is ongoing on closing or rescheduling outstanding CARs to enable realistic reporting.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes this report.
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### 10.2.2. 3RD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

**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 provide the Council with an update on the financial performance for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023.

#### BACKGROUND

The provision of regular reports of Council's financial performance ensures that Council's financial management and associated processes are accountable, transparent, and responsible.

The attached financial report for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, is a component of ensuring the accountability of the Council's operations. In line with good governance, it forms part of the public accountability process and reporting and includes the following Financial Statements.

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement; and
- Statement of Capital Works
- Capital Works Program

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

1. Overall, the financials are operating within budget parameters
2. Operating statement deficit attributed to:
  - a. Carryovers
  - b. Reduction in capital grants:
    - i. Revision of the Roads to Recovery program
  - c. Increase in employee costs:
    - i. Allowance made for redundancy costs for aged services
  - d. Increase in materials and services (major forecast over expenditure)
    - i. Costs associated with the storm recovery effort - \$610k
    - ii. Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply Feasibility Study Access improvements for waste contract - \$375k (transferred from capital works)
    - iii. Strategic Planning Exp - \$98k
    - iv. Beaufort Linear Masterplan Exp - \$85k
3. Expected increase in cashflow for the year
4. Rate debtors continue to be on target
5. Further work will be carried out on grants held in the balance sheet over the next few months

## **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Enabling Principles

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

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Finance Report Mar 23 - Council [**10.2.2.1** - 20 pages]

## **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

The financial risks are discussed in the attached financial report.

## **CONCLUSION**

The review of financials for the period ending 31 March 2023 has ascertained that the financials for the 2022/23 year are operating within Council's 10-year financial plan parameters.

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Financial Performance report for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023.

### 10.2.3. FLOOD RECOVERY PLAN - SUMMARY OF REVIEW

**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:** Jane Bowker – Flood Recovery Coordinator

**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 to provide an update on recovery activities in line with actions detailed in the Flood Recovery Plan 2022.

#### BACKGROUND

Council approved the Pyrenees Flood Recovery Plan at its meeting on 21 February 2023. The Plan has been developed to coordinate the flood recovery operation and provide an implementation framework and reporting mechanism. It has been designed to evolve over time and has the community at its core. Oversight of the implementation of the actions and tasks in the plan will be the responsibility of the Flood Recovery Team with support from Council staff and other recovery agencies.

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Recovery is continuing with a strong focus on supporting community recovery which is community-led and incorporate the needs and desires of the broad and diverse communities. Whilst there is still support being provided to residents such as material aid, accommodation, clean-up and financial assistance, community-led initiatives are currently being planned with members of the Pyrenees community.

The attached Flood Recovery Plan Summary of Review details the status of recovery actions and some of the key outcomes, to date, are:

- Council's Flood Recovery Officer, Windermere Services staff and staff from the Department of Fairness, Families and House continue to provide outreach services to support residents apply for funding, clean-up and make referrals for other support.
- Early funding was provided by the Victorian Government under the Council Support Fund and has assisted Council greatly to clean-up debris deposited on council parks, reserves and community assets, provide transportation and staffing costs, and help restore community services.
- Landmate teams continue to repair fencing on private properties across the municipality. BlazeAid has now completed its works program in the Pyrenees and cleared 46km of fencing and built 21km of new fencing for 42 residents.
- Thorough planning to repair the Council's infrastructure such as roads and culverts is continuing with \$10M work of works required. In conjunction with Council's capital works program, recovery works have commenced on sealed roads. Regular updates on the works appear on Council's website, in the Noticeboard and in the Flood Recovery Newsletter.
- The Flood Recovery Newsletter is being distributed monthly.
- Council staff have been working with community representatives, government departments and insurers to reinstate the community assets such as recreation reserves and parks.
- Community recovery sessions with David Younger and Cathy Bunter have been held in Avoca and Lexton. These sessions are about personal and community recovery. Another session will be held in Beaufort on 8 June. All members of the community are welcome to attend.

#### COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 – People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES**

Residents, farmers, sporting/recreation groups, community groups and business owners have contacted either by Council or Windermere Services (on behalf of Council) as part of providing recovery support. There has been ongoing engagement with government agencies and organisations in planning and coordinating the relief and recovery efforts. Consultation and engagement will continue for however long it requires to ensure the community is fully supported in their recovery.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. 16.05.2023 - PSC 2022 Flood Recovery Plan Status Report [**10.2.3.1** - 16 pages]

**FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

There has been a significant risk to public safety caused by the October and November flood event. In addition, there has been widespread damage to public and private assets, and substantial personal hardship caused to individuals and businesses. There is a significant financial risk to Council if the recovery effort is not managed carefully.

**CONCLUSION**

Whilst there is quite a way to go in the recovery space, progress has been made on key recovery areas detailed in the summary. Council would like to thank all the community members, businesses and organisations who have helped with the recovery efforts so far, and often at short notice. Flood recovery is a big job and takes time, and efforts have been really appreciated.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the flood recovery work undertaken to date, as detailed in the Flood Recovery Plan 2022 Summary of Review.

### **10.3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

#### **10.3.1. VEC - LOCAL COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARY REVIEWS**

**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:** 26/02/08

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of a proposed ward boundary review to be undertaken for the Pyrenees Shire by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC).

#### **BACKGROUND**

In 2011, the Victorian Electoral Commission undertook an Electoral Representation Review of the Pyrenees Shire and recommended that Pyrenees Shire Council consist of five single wards with one councillor representing each ward. Minor changes were made to the ward boundaries that previously existed, and the names of the five wards were given Avoca, Beaufort, Ercildoune, Mt Emu and De Cameron.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Notification was received from Hon Melissa Horne MP on 21 April 2023 that a ward boundary review is required for Pyrenees Shire Council prior to the October 2024 elections for local government.

Having regard to population movements, the Victorian Electoral Commission has advised that the council is expected to have one or more wards with councillor-voter ratios outside of the allowed ten percent tolerance by the October 2024 elections.

Under section 17 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Hon Melissa Horne MP has requested the VEC to conduct a ward boundary review for Pyrenees and to provide a report on any necessary ward boundary changes. The Act enables the VEC to conduct the ward boundary review as it considers appropriate, but a process of community engagement must be followed.

#### **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Priority 2 - Place

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

#### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial or other risks to note.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Victorian Electoral Commission will undertake a ward boundary review for Pyrenees Shire Council ahead of the 2024 council election.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes this report.

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

<b>Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward</b>		
Tues 4 April	Brewster Community Windfarm Meeting & Site Visit	Brewster
Tues 11 April	Council Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 11 April	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Stoneleigh
Tues 18 April	Council Briefing	Avoca
Tues 18 April	Council Meeting	Avoca

<b>Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward</b>		
Mon 3 April	Future of School Crossing Supervision Meeting	Virtual
Tues 4 April	Brewster Community Windfarm Meeting & Site Visit	Brewster
Wed 5 April	Meeting with Peter Walsh, Opposition Spokesperson on Local Government	Avoca
Tues 11 April	Council Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 11 April	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Stoneleigh
Wed 12 April	Waubra Wind Farm Community Fund AGM	Waubra
Fri 14 April	MAV Board Meeting	Melbourne
Tues 18 April	Council Briefing	Avoca
Tues 18 April	Council Meeting	Avoca
Thurs 20 April	Meet with Sonia Killkenny, Minister for Planning	Virtual
Thurs 27 April	CVGA Finance & Audit Committee Meeting	Virtual
Thurs 27 April	Highlands LLEN AGM	Ballarat

<b>Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward</b>		
Tues 11 April	Council Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 11 April	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Stoneleigh
Tues 18 April	Council Briefing	Avoca
Tues 18 April	Council Meeting	Avoca
Thurs 27 April	Timber Towns Victoria General Meeting	Virtual
Fri 28 April	RCV Committee Meeting	Virtual

<b>Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward</b>		
Tues 4 April	Brewster Community Windfarm Meeting & Site Visit	Brewster
Tues 11 April	Council Briefing	Beaufort
Tues 11 April	Councillor Cuppa & Chat	Stoneleigh
Tues 12 April	Meeting with Sarah Mansfield MP, Member for Western Victoria	Beaufort
15 April	Cave Hill Creek Junior Camp Opening	Cave Hill Creek
Tues 18 April	Council Briefing	Avoca
Tues 18 April	Council Meeting	Avoca
20 April	CHCV AGM	Virtual
30 April	Snake Valley Golf Club Irrigation System Opening	Snake Valley



<b>Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward</b>		
Tues 4 April	Brewster Community Windfarm Meeting & Site Visit	Brewster
Tues 18 April	Council Briefing	Avoca
Tues 18 April	Council Meeting	Avoca
Tues 25 April	ANZAC Day Dawn Service	Snake Valley
Tues 25 April	ANZAC Day Service	Stockyard Hill
Tues 25 April	ANZAC Day Service	Beaufort



MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	18 April 2023 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	RTC, Avoca		
Items Discussed	1. Telstra 2. Planning Scheme Review 3. Economic Development – Digital Communications 4. Economic Development – Investment Attraction 5. Martha Haylett MP 6. Community Satisfaction 7. Agenda Review		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason                      Cr David Clark Cr Damian Ferrari                          Cr Tanya Kehoe 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	Steve Tinker – Telstra (item 1) Katie Gleisner, Manager Planning & Development (item 2) Eoghan McColl, Coordinator Planning Services (item 2) Ray Davies, Manager Economic Development & Tourism (items 3 & 4) Melissa Dimond, Business Support & Events Officer, (items 3 & 4) Martha Haylett MP, Member for Ripon (item 5) Ange, Office of Martha Haylett MP (item 5)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

**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. REGIONAL TOURISM 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:** 62/10/04

##### **PURPOSE**

To provide Council with an update on the Regional Tourism Review in the Central Highlands Region and progress regarding formation of the new Visitor Economy Partnership and anticipated outcomes.

##### **BACKGROUND**

A report was presented to Council at the February 2023 Council meeting which provided the background to the Victorian Governments “Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan” (VERRP) and within that plan the review of Regional Tourism Boards.

Since early June 2022 Council has been working in partnership with the other Central Highlands Council’s to develop a new peak tourism organization or “Visitor Economy Partnership” which was the subject of the abovementioned report.

Council resolved that it

1. Becomes a member of the Visitor Economy Partnership being formed to represent the regions tourism industry
2. Approves the CEO to negotiate the terms and conditions of council’s membership and
3. Maintains a provision in the 2023/24 budget of \$40,000- to cover the base level membership and allow some capacity for buy in to programs
4. That a further report be provided to Council as to the allocation of these funds for 2023-24 and the measures that Council will use to assess the work of the Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP).

Since the previous report City of Ballarat Council together with the Shire Councils of Moorabool, Hepburn and Golden Plains have resolved to become partners to the new VEP which has been incorporated in late April under the name of “Tourism Midwest Victoria”.

Applications for the position of the independent board chair closed on 5 May and expressions of interest for five skills based board positions of local tourism industry representatives are due to be advertised shortly.

##### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Council will be in a position to negotiate the measures that will be used to assess the work of the Visitor Economy Partnership once the board positions for Tourism Midwest Vic have been filled and the VEP becomes operational.

##### **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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



Enabling Principles

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Council has resolved to commit an annual sum of \$40,000- per annum to accommodate annual membership of \$30,000- and allow additional capacity for buy in opportunities for industry development, product development and marketing initiatives.

Officer time to incorporate attendance at board meetings is an additional cost to council which is expected to be counteracted by minimising duplication of effort and investment in marketing campaigns etc.

**CONCLUSION**

Council has resolved to enter into the Tourism Midwest Victoria VEP and board members for the new entity are being recruited at this time.

**Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Robert Vance**

That Council:

1. Notes this report and
2. Receives a further report no later than October 2023

**CARRIED**

## **13.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **13.2.1. ROAD REGISTER INCLUSION**

**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:** 58/02/02

#### **PURPOSE**

Council is requested to consider the inclusion of the road identified in this report on its Register of Public Roads.

#### **BACKGROUND**

It is proposed to add a road to Council's Register of Public Roads to formalise access to a property off Redpath Road, Avoca.

All properties within the municipality should have legal access to the road network. However, not all properties have constructed roads within road reserves that link to the constructed road network. A road reserve without a road is sometimes referred to as a "paper road". These road reserves may be impassable to a vehicle due to terrain, vegetation or surface conditions but equally may already have a track that can be traversed by a vehicle.

Council's Register of Public Roads defines the hierarchical classification of the road, and the associated level of service and maintenance Council provides under its Road Management Plan.

#### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Council has received a request regarding access to a property off Redpath Road, Avoca. The property previously had access via private land, but due to a change in ownership of the private land and the installation of new fences, historical access has been denied.

In this case there is an unnamed road reserve that comes off Redpath Road and provides legal access to the property. However, there is no existing vehicle track through the road reserve and it will be necessary to undertake some civil works and vegetation clearing to create a road.

There is no dwelling on the property and therefore there is no requirement for this to be an all-weather track suitable for emergency vehicle use. As a consequence, it is proposed that the classification of the road will be Local Access 3.

Local Access 3 roads are a class of roads that can be described as dry weather tracks, fire tracks, 4WD tracks or 2 wheel tracks providing access to properties without dwellings or to crown land reserves. Local Access 3 roads will generally be natural surface tracks though may have some formation and gravel pavement. Council does not routinely inspect Local Access 3 roads and would only undertake maintenance at its discretion.

The cost of the construction and maintenance will remain with the property owner. The property owner will also be responsible for obtaining permissions to remove vegetation and pay any fees, charges and offsets associated with vegetation clearance.

Where a dwelling is proposed to be constructed at a future date, it would become a requirement of the development application to construct an all-weather road suitable for emergency vehicle usage. The cost of this work would also be the responsibility of the developer. Council would thereafter take responsibility for maintenance of the road in accordance with its Road Management Plan.

It is proposed to bring this new road onto Council's register of public roads to enable the process of road naming to commence. The location of the road is indicated by the red line on the plan below from point A1 heading south from Redpath Road to A4, a total length of approximately 990 metres.



### COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Under the *Road Management Act 2004 s19* a road authority is required to keep a register of public roads which defines those roads for which they are the coordinating road authority. The register must include amongst other things: (a) the name of the public road, or if unnamed, a description which enables the particular road to be easily identified; (b) the date on which the road became a public road; and (c) the classification of the public road.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Engagement with adjoining property holders will be undertaken when road naming is commenced.

### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

When a road is added to Councils Road Register it is assigned a road hierarchy type which determines the service level, maintenance inspection frequency and construction standard. For a Local Access 3 road the service level is natural surface without formation and there would be no obligation on Council to maintain the road. For a Local Access 2 road the service level would be all-weather access suitable for emergency and waste management vehicles. Construction would typically involve the grading and compaction of 100mm depth of approved gravel with associated roadside drainage. Ongoing maintenance would entail ensuring the standards of the Road Management Plan are met.

### **CONCLUSION**

Council is asked to consider adding these roads to its register of public roads and approve the commencement of the road naming process.

### **Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari**

That Council:

1. Includes Unnamed Road, Avoca in its register of public roads with a classification of Local Access 3.
2. Approves commencement of the process of road naming.

### **CARRIED**

### **13.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

#### **13.3.1. PROPOSED ROAD NAMES: GRANVILLE LANE - BUANGOR/MIDDLE CREEK**

**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:** 2353

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to adopt a unique name for a road which is currently unnamed and services two rural properties.

Road - Proposed name – Granville Lane – Buangor/Middle Creek.

The current access for two properties identified is via Jimmy Smith Road (L1 of TP78806 and 47A Sec 6 Parish of Buangor) and Ferntree Gully Road (L1, 2 and 3 of TP887357), and an unnamed road.

Two properties were notified of the proposed name for the unnamed road. Only one phone conversation was had clarifying the details of the letter. No objections were received.



## BACKGROUND

The above unnamed road is currently being used as primary access to two properties. There is interest by one of the landowners in addressing their property along the correct road (as it is currently listed as fronting Ferntree Gully Road (from which there is no access) is what began this proposal. This road is currently listed in both Vicmap Transport (State Government Road map of Victoria) and Councils Road Register as “unnamed.”

One of the landholders submitted a naming proposal in August 2022 however the name put forward did not pass the Naming Rules principle in relation to duplication within a certain physical area and they were encouraged to submit again. In December 2022, a further submission was received with three names and once again two of the three did not meet the Duplication Principle.

The third one was Granville Lane, and this does meet all the Principles in the Naming Rules for Places (2022). A request was made to the submitter for more detailed background supporting this name.

The following is an excerpt from a letter supplying information in support of Granville Lane supplied by Irene and Len Green: -



*In our conversation before Christmas, we discussed the options of naming the road and it was at your recommendation that the road may be named Granville Road (Lane) in memory of our ancestor Granville Walton Green.*

*At your request I am now supporting our application with a snapshot of the life of Granville.*

*Granville was born in Penshurst Victoria on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1879 to parents Frederick Cooper Green and Jessie Marion Green. Granville was one of five children.*

*In 1864, at the age of eleven, Frederick Green travelled by ship from England to Melbourne as a cabin boy, where he joined his mother Hanna Green, who had travelled earlier to Melbourne in 1858.*

*Hannah married George Fisher in 1860 and settled in Ballarat district teaching gold miners how to read and write. Hannah gained notoriety in the Ballarat district when her poems were published in a book called the Bool of Original Poems by Hanna Fisher. This book is now notable as one of our early literature treasures, and a copy is kept in the State Library as reference to the literature of the times.*

*Granville followed in the family footsteps and became a schoolteacher. Whilst he was teaching in Bombala NSW, he met and married Violet May Velt. Granville and Violet travelled to many schools and raised a family of five children: Dorothy, Russel, Ethel, Charlie, and Joyce.*

*He was regarded as a fine gentleman, who enjoyed sport, and joined local cricket and football teams in his earlier days. When he moved to the Beaufort District, it was in the capacity of Headmaster of the Middle Creek School.*

*Deciding to settle in the district, he purchased a block of land at the foot of Mt Cole, on the Ferntree Waterfall Road and settled there with his family.*

*Granville was an entrepreneur, who purchased land in Melbourne and elsewhere. He was often seen riding his pushbike to the railway station in Beaufort to catch the train to Melbourne.*

*After he retired from School Teaching, he assisted with teaching Correspondence School in Melbourne. Upon his departure from Middle Creek State School, Granville donated two large twin wall clocks in 1922. One clock was presented to the Middle Creek School, and the other was presented to the Middle Creek Hall. Upon the closure of the school, the clock was given to Beaufort State School Number 60 for safekeeping. It is now in the archives at Beaufort Secondary College to the best of our knowledge.*

*The land has remained with the Green family since Granville's passing in 1948. It has been passed down through the generations and over the years has grown in size as additional acreage has been added. Len Green is the current and proud owner of a section of what is still known as the Green's farm. Our son's name is Scott Granville Green, and so the name Granville is still relevant today.*

*It is therefore our request that the access road to the property be given the name Granville Road in recognition of our ancestor.*

Both immediate landholders have been advised in writing that Council has proposed a name for their road, and that if they do not support that name to please respond within the 30-day timeframe required.



Landholders were also advised that if their property entrance were along the currently unnamed road their address would change once a road name was allocated.

Council has had no formal objections or responses and only one verbal contact to clarify the context of the letter.

Once adopted, Council then submits the name to Geographic Names using the online Victorian Edit Service for formal consideration and approval. Only after that approval can Council formally place signage, change addresses, and use the new name.

### **ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Creating unique road names and addresses is important for public safety and the delivery of goods and services to all properties. With the difficulty of adding a new road name that is not a duplicate, the name 'Granville' that is unique in the area, and yet has some local historical relevance seems appropriate for this road.

Additionally, unique road names are required for the Municipal Public Road Register as each road needs a unique name to clearly identify which road requires maintenance or improvement, to reduce the risk of Council or contractors working on the wrong road and to provide high standard of customer service by being able to clearly identify which road customers have concerns with.

This section of road is of a very rural nature and joins onto Bushland at both ends, therefore the road type will be "Lane."

### **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

Council Policy: Principles on Road Naming

Geographic Place Names Act 1998

Road Management Act 2004

Standards Australia AS/NZS 4819:2011 Rural and urban addressing.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

### **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Risks identified in not naming the roads according to the principles.

1. Increased possibility of emergency service vehicles not locating a property
2. Increased difficulty clearly identifying road asset.

Costs to Council after adoption by Geographic Names

1. Administration to change property addresses, requiring letters to landholders, editing council systems, editing Vicmap Address
2. Purchase and installation of one street blade on poles at T intersections of currently unnamed road and existing named road.

## **CONCLUSION**

Road 1 - Proposed name – Granville Lane – Middle Creek/Buangor

Two properties (2 Landholders) consulted by letter – resulting in one phone call to clarify and no objections.

As there were no objections, Council proceeds with supporting this road name so it can be lodged with Geographic Names for approval and adoption.

### **Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari**

That Council:

1. Adopts Granville Lane as the road name for the road accessing properties consisting of L1 of TP78806 and 47A Sec 6 Parish of Buangor and L1, 2 and 3 of TP887357 between Jimmy Smith Road and Jenny Clayton Track

**CARRIED**

### 13.3.2. PROPOSED ROAD NAME: DAVIES (DAVIS) COURT - SNAKE VALLEY

**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:** Diane Daniell – Rural Addressing and Road Name Project Officer

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

**File No:** 1573

#### PURPOSE

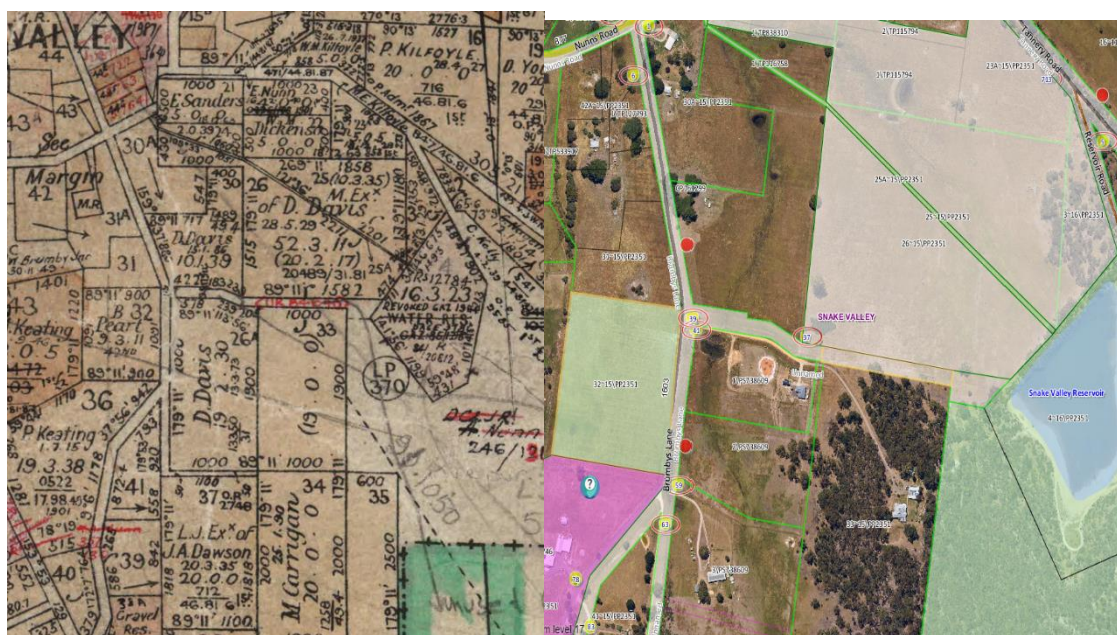
The purpose of this report is to update Council with the status of the road name originally proposed at the January meeting as Davis Court –Snake Valley.

#### BACKGROUND

The road name was approved by Council at the January meeting, and the name was in the process of being lodged with Geographic Names, to be registered when a submission was received from an interested member of the public who had seen the minutes of the meeting online.

Parish Plan excerpt

Map excerpt



The submission questioned the spelling of the name Davis from the parish plan, as the interested party was a relation of the landholders of that time. They believed that the parish plan annotation was wrong and should have been Davies. The documentation they supplied was lodged with the standard naming submission for consideration by Geographic Names.

#### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council has been advised that after checking the submission and documentation at the Titles office, Geographic Names have advised there is convincing evidence that the name on the parish plan should have been Davies and that with confirmation from Council the proposal can be resubmitted with the correct spelling.

Since there were no other objections to the original proposal by the public and the corrected name of Davies (only a change to the spelling of the name) not the intent of the proposal, which was to name the

road after one of the families that owned land in the area, that the proposal be resubmitted with Council approval with the correct spelling of Davies Court.

#### **COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES**

Publication of Council Meeting Minutes.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

#### **CONCLUSION**

As Geographic Names have validated the concerns in the submission from a member of the public and advised that it was a spelling mistake, the Council support the correct spelling of Davies Court for this road.

#### **Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari**

That Council:

1. Adopt Davies Court as the road name for the road accessing CA 26, 33 of Section 15 Parish of Carngham and Lot 1 of PS738609.

**CARRIED**

### 13.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

#### 13.4.1. SUBMISSION - INQUIRY INTO THE 2022 FLOOD EVENT IN VICTORIA

**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:** 28/14/50

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about an inquiry into the 2022 flood event in Victoria and seek support for a submission to be made to the inquiry.

#### BACKGROUND

Victoria's major floods of October 2022 are subject to a parliamentary inquiry. On 22 February 2023, the Legislative Council agreed to the following motion:

'That this House requires the Environment and Planning Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 30 June 2024, on the state's preparedness for and response to Victoria's major flooding event of October 2022 (the Flood Event).'

The Committee is calling for public submissions for the Inquiry.

"The inquiry will look into the flood event as a whole and the areas affected. It will consider what caused or contributed to the flooding and the adequacy and effectiveness of early warning systems. Emergency services, government policy, flood mitigation strategies, the Flemington Racecourse flood wall and the Victorian Planning Framework will also be key to the inquiry."

The official terms of reference include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) causes of and contributors to the Flood Event;
- 2) adequacy and effectiveness of early warning systems;
- 3) resourcing of the State Emergency Service, the adequacy of its response to the Flood Event and the adequacy of its resourcing to deal with increasing floods and natural disasters in the future;
- 4) implementation and effectiveness of the 2016 Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy in relation to the Flood Event;
- 5) location, funding, maintenance and effectiveness of engineered structures, such as floodwalls, rural levees and culverts, as a flood mitigation strategy;
- 6) Flood Event as a whole, including but not limited to, the catchments and floodplains of the —
  - a) Avoca River;
  - b) Barwon River;
  - c) Broken River;
  - d) Campaspe River;
  - e) Goulburn River;
  - f) Loddon River;
  - g) Maribyrnong River;
  - h) Murray River;
- 7) the 2007 decision of the Minister for Planning to approve the construction of a flood wall around Flemington Racecourse and whether the growing impacts of climate change were considered;
- 8) the implications for future planning decisions including —

- (a) how the Victorian planning framework can ensure climate mitigation is a consideration in future planning decisions;
  - (b) how corporate interests may influence decision-making at the expense of communities and climate change preparedness; and
- 9) any other related matters.

The Committee is accepting written submissions until Monday 5 June 2023 and information about the inquiry can be found at <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/floodinginquiry>

### ISSUE / DISCUSSION

It is proposed that Council makes a submission to the inquiry with the view to providing Pyrenees experience of the event and matters relevant to the inquiry. Council's submission is proposed to include the following matters:

- The large geographical area of the Pyrenes Shire, and its unique characteristics, including being in the upper catchment of several river systems which requires particular preparation and response where there is little opportunity for warning or notification.
- The vulnerability of communities, and the lack of presence of an SES in our shire and the reliance of Council and other local measures to be in place for the response phase.
- Challenges around communication involving the control agency and the location of the Incident Control Centre, and the ability to adequately resource the emergency functions needed with a widespread event.
- Challenges with initial impact assessment and inadequacy of the transition to recovery documentation and information needed for Council to undertake its recovery responsibilities.
- Access to expertise and support for a small rural council in the context of a widespread disaster.
- Management of communication and messaging at a local level, and adequacy of available information.
- Understanding the impact and secondary impact assessment capability.
- The financial cost of damage to public infrastructure.
- Adequacy of infrastructure and systems to protect communities and assets.
- Documenting and record keeping of assets and impacts and evidence to support claims for funding.
- The administration cost associated with financial claims.
- Building resilience in communities, mitigation work and what that looks like in Pyrenees
- Relief and recovery

In the submission, it is proposed to document what worked well in the response, relief and recovery stages, as well as the lessons learned.

### 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

b. Provide transparency and accountability

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Community members have the opportunity to contribute to Council's submission, should they wish, and comments are to be submitted to Council by Friday 26 May 2023. Alternatively, community members can make their own submission by visiting <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/floodinginquiry>

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## **FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications in making a submission.

## **CONCLUSION**

Given Council's recent experience with the 2022 flood events in October and November, and the long history of flooding events in the Pyrenees municipality, it is suggested that Council supports making a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry.

## **Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari**

That Council:

1. Notes the terms of reference for the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 flood event; and
2. Makes a submission to the Inquiry.

**CARRIED**



## 14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

### Cr Clark

- Attended a number of broader matters with MAV that apply to Pyrenees.
- Attended the meeting with school crossing supervisors, it was a very interesting meeting, we only have two in Pyrenees, but a number of other Councils have 100 or more. It is supposed to be 50/50 partnership split between us and the State but the last time it was a 50/50 split was probably back in 2016, we did get a little inquest into this last year, but it is certainly not a 50/50 split at the moment.
- Met with Opposition Spokesperson on Local Government Peter Walsh and the Flood inquiry that was just mentioned was part of that discussion, also the pending inquiry into Local Government costs and service deliveries was another part of that discussion.
- Meet with Minister Kilkenny on planning matters, that is an ongoing issue in the sector in terms of planning reform from the State.
- In terms of the groups I represent from Council, attended the Central Highlands Greenhouse Alliance and Highlands LLEN meeting in April.
- Met with constituents in Brewster, Stoneleigh, Evansford, Lexton and Waubra.

Cr Clark asked Mr Jim Nolan, if the letter had been sent to the Planning Minister in response to the resolution around the Brewster Wind Farm?

Mr Jim Nolan confirmed that the letter had been sent.

### Cr Kehoe

- Attended the Brewster community wind farm meeting and site visit which was very enlightening and an important part of that process in understanding where and what is happening there.
- Privileged to attend three Anzac Day services on Anzac Day, attended a beautiful dawn service which was well attended and well prepared at Snake Valley, thank you to all those involved. Attended the Beaufort mid-morning service, again that was a beautiful service and well attended, it was a lovely day. I also attended the Anzac Day service at Stockyard Hill, the first service there was held last year, this year was a great day where they ran some lovely family events, and it was well patronised by the local community. Martha Haylett also attended, and it was a lovely afternoon. Thank you to all of those community groups for the beautiful services to remember those men and women who served us and protect the life that we have now.
- Very delighted to attend the book launch for the biography of Cyril Callister our vegemite inventor, it was incredible to meet the family and there were some beautiful people that attended that day as well. It was a beautiful event, well organised and it was highly entertaining to hear those beautiful stories and anecdotes about a family that has a great connection here.
- It was a privilege to attend the Lexton flood recovery meeting last week. It was great to catch up with the locals there and the speakers were incredible experts in their field. The greatest learning I had was about the learnings of the trauma and the impact on individuals and communities, particularly looking at the impact later on and the delayed impact. Also looking at the impacts from not only the financial and physical impacts but that psychological impact and being given really practical and great ways to move on towards recovery of those communities and getting individuals in contact with where they need to go. A huge thank you to all those council officers and all the other experts that were part of that event, thank you to them for putting it on and to the community members who were able to attend because that will reverberate into their communities.

### Cr Ferrari

- Attended the usual meetings.

- Attended the Brewster community wind farm meeting and again thank those landholders that took a couple of hours or more out of their day to show us around and be a bit more intricate in that presentation so that you could get a really good visual and informative perspective of what their issues are. That was really valuable.
- Attended the Anzac Day ceremonies, I was pleased to see everyone at these ceremonies, but I was very pleased to see a lot of younger people getting involved in the Anzac ceremonies and that spirit because they are going to carry those ceremonies on for many years to come. The secondary school students actually participated in the ceremony at Beaufort and read out the poem 'In Flanders Fields' so they actually participated in the ceremony which I thought was really great. I would also like to thank the council staff who put some work into getting the park looking as best as it possibly could for the day.
- Attended some meetings with constituents specifically regarding planning matters.
- Had some discussions with Lake Goldsmith committee members regarding some issues they are facing that really stem from the floods, they are going through some issues and hopefully we can get some resolution to those.

#### Cr Vance

- Attended the dawn service at Landsborough, there was a great attendance, once again they roll up from all around the whole region. The highlight of the day once again was our piper who drives all the way from Tarnagulla to participate in the dawn service and once again, two or three thousand cockatoos that joined in with the piper just as daylight arrived, it's something to remember. Martha Haylett also attended the dawn service.
- Attended Stoneleigh for the cuppa after our briefing session.
- On 27 April attended a virtual meeting of Timber Towns Victoria. A couple of things of interest came out of that meeting. One which was the sad one, the Swifts Creek community have almost left the town, they have been sourced by timber companies in Tasmania and New South Wales and all of the workers from the mills and the truck drivers that were bringing the timber out of the now closed forest have moved on for employment elsewhere, Swifts Creek is now a ghost town. The TYRES report was launched on 9 May. There is an upcoming forum on Wednesday 3 August at Portland that is going to go over three days. On Wednesday arrive and have a look around the board of Portland, on Thursday there will be a day trip to Mount Gambier to view forestry manufacturing and on Friday September 1 the AGM will be held. It will be an opportunity to show off the greater green triangles and the processes that they go through, Portland is still a main exporter of pine logs and chips, it is a major industry down there so it will be very interesting.
- On 28 April attended our Rural Councils Victoria virtual meeting. There was quite a deal of business dealt with, but the main conversation was the upcoming forum on 14 July which is being held in Echuca. I've volunteered the services of our CEO or Manager Assets and Development to give a presentation on Correa Park and how we went about developing the estate, the rural councils group are very keen to hear about that. Rural Councils are going to be advocating for the removal of the minimum grants to our city cousins. As we are aware, the minimum grant goes to all councils in Victoria but I believe the minimum grant is based on population and the city cousins receive a lot more money than the smaller rurals.

#### Cr Eason

- Attended the Brewster community wind farm meeting onsite and thank those farmers and locals that showed us around and gave us an understanding of what they think is going on, it is important sometimes to be onsite, it gives us a much better understanding.

- Attended a meeting with Sarah Mansfield, Member for Western Victoria as a new member of parliament she has some interest as a previous councillor, she is looking at things from our lens to a certain extent in regard to how she can help councils which is very good to hear.
- Attended the Cave Hill Creek junior camp opening, this is one of the organisations within our shire that do a wonderful job, bringing in children from all over and giving them an opportunity to learn and grow and work together as a group.
- Attended the Central Highlands Councils Victoria AGM.
- Attended the Snake Valley Golf Club irrigation system opening. Our staff were highly praised for the work that they put into providing technical information and how to go about things, please pass on thanks for that.
- Attended a couple of Anzac services, it was wonderful to see the kids there, the Girl Guides led us in the National Anthem, the children were laying wreaths and participating in various ways throughout the day, the children will be the ones that carry on that tradition.

## 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 Robert Vance / Cr Damian Ferrari**

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 - Management of Municipal Transfer Stations

15.2 - Goldfields Electrical and Oval Lighting

15.3 - Internal Audit Service Provider

15.4 - Bituminous Surfacing Collaboration Tender

**CARRIED**

***The live streaming of Ordinary Meeting of Council 16 May 2023 stopped at 6.46pm to consider confidential items.***

***The live stream re-commenced at 7.07pm and the Mayor chose to report on confidential items discussed in closed Council which are noted below:***

- 15.1 - Management of Municipal Transfer Stations
- 15.2 - Goldfields Electrical and Oval Lighting
- 15.3 - Internal Audit Service Provider
- 15.4 - Bituminous Surfacing Collaboration Tender

## 16. CLOSE OF MEETING

Ordinary Meeting of Council 16 May 2023 closed at 7.11pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

2023

Mayor Cr Ron Eason