



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 20 June 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

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

Nil.

6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Nil.

7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr David Clark

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 May 2023; and
- Closed Meeting of Council held 16 May 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 16 May 2023.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions submitted for public participation question time.

Mr Trevor Davey of Waterloo

Question one:

Is there a clear and concise policy for the Pyrenees Shire in regard to use of containers of general use and / or building a container house.

Response:

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

Shipping containers are classifiable structures under the Building Regulations 2018 and therefore subject to building permits.

Council recognise that shipping containers can provide for temporary storage solutions and has built capacity into our General Local Law 2019 that allows for the short-term use of shipping containers, subject to approval.

Council's approach to shipping containers is consistently applied and accords with the Building Regulations and the General Local Law. Further, our assessment of permanent shipping container usage consideration land use permit triggers identified within the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.

10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

10.1.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 22/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform councillors on the performance of the Pyrenees economy and activities of the Economic Development and Tourism team over the past quarter.

BACKGROUND

Data available from recent Australian Bureau of Statistics releases are provided in the tables below. They reveal that:

- Gross Regional Product in real terms reached an all time high of \$342.6M slightly ahead of \$341.19M in 2020
- Population rose slightly from 7,613 in 2021 to 7,645 in 2022. The population has increased by 785 people since 2012.
- Unemployment reduced from 4.3% in June 2022 to 3.7% at December 2022
- Residential building approvals in 2022 increased by almost 42% above figures for 2020 and 2021 to reach \$24.788M while non-residential building approvals dropped from \$6.42 in 2021 to \$5.72M in 2022, which was on par with \$5.45M in 2020. This activity in the construction sector is starting to be reflected in an increasing number of jobs.
- Business Numbers have increased from 848 in 2021 to 879 in 2022. This was driven by an increase in non-employed businesses which rose from 484 in 2021 to 537 in 2022.
- Job numbers across the Shire have risen from 1,870 in 2016 to 2,219 in 2023 while output has grown from \$523M to \$714M during this period

Table 1

Gross Regional Product

Gross Regional Product (GRP) is a measurement of the total of everything produced in the region. It only measures the final value of a product, but not the parts that go into it.

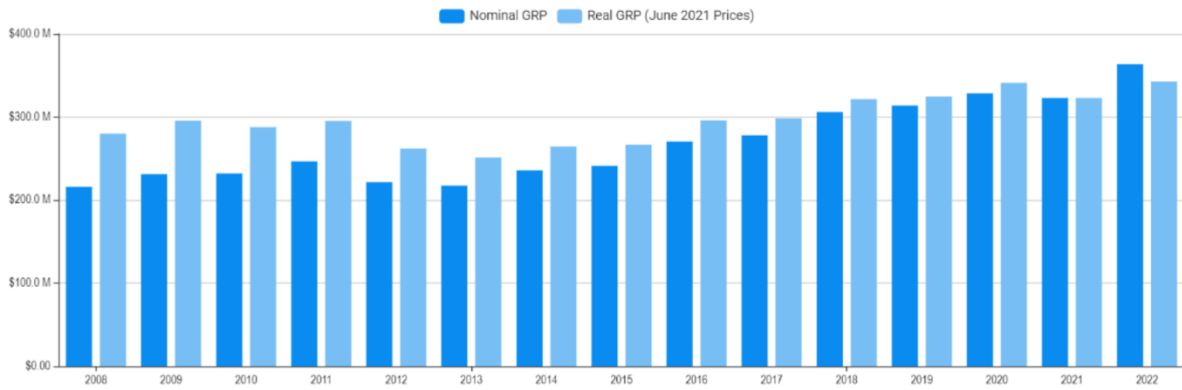
There are two measures of GRP

Nominal GRP is a measurement that shows growth but is also affected by the change in prices (inflation or deflation).

Real GRP only shows growth and prices will be based off a single point in time; the graph below reflecting prices based on 2021 values.

Pyrenees

Pyrenees GRP



Options: All Selected

Table 2

Population

Pyrenees

Population

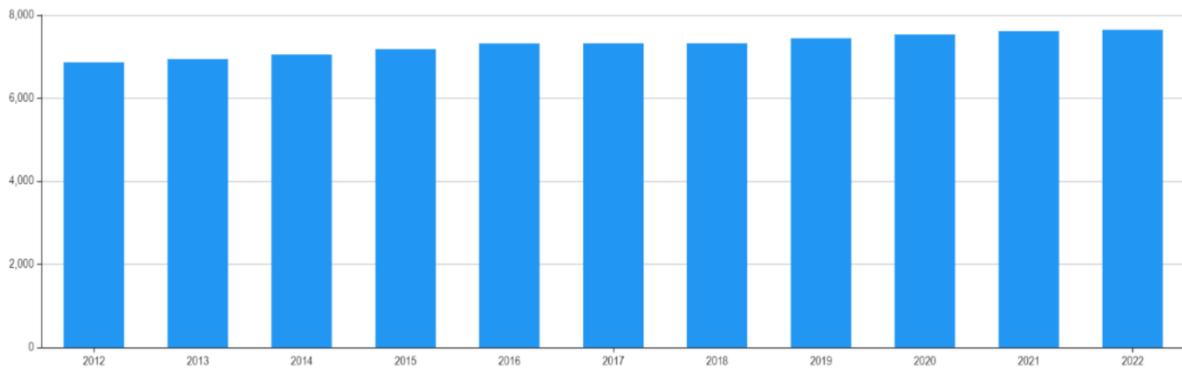
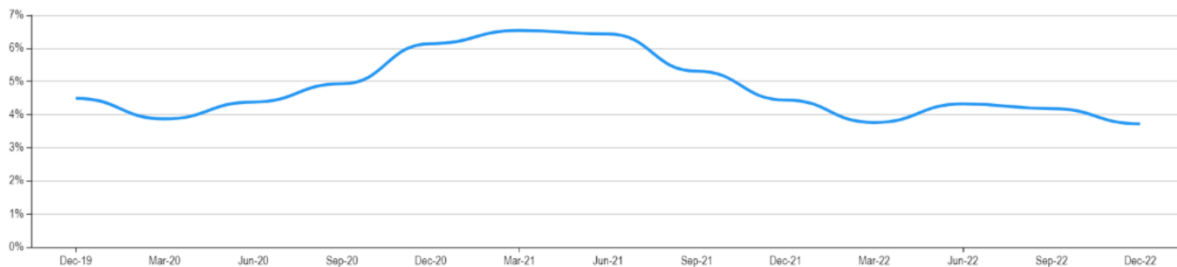


Table 3

Pyrenees

Unemployment By Quarter

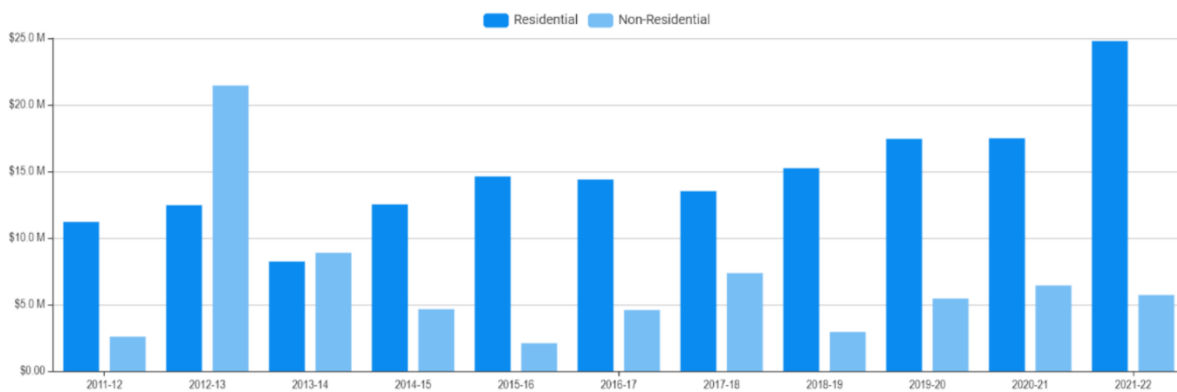


Benchmarks: None

Table 4

Pyrenees

Building Approvals by Value



Options: All Selected

Recent Economic Development Activities

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

- Continuation of the Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply Feasibility Study. GWMWater were engaged by Council in February to deliver the feasibility study as reported in recent months. Consultants engaged by GWMWater to undertake the study commenced work in early April and the feasibility is anticipated to be finalised by August. The project timelines have been extended until the end of 2023 to incorporate a business case which is expected by the project partners to be completed within original budget allocations for this project.
- Continuing work to deliver on the recommendations of the operational review for the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park including:

- Familiarisation with the new online booking system. The system went live at the end of March and trading results at this early stage indicate bookings have increased significantly. These details are explained in more detail in a separate council report on the caravan park.
- Continuing work on a Detail Design for a southern entry to the caravan park to understand the likely costs and approval pathways required.
- Commencing work on the Beaufort Linear Masterplan Project. Tenders for the study were opened 29 May 2023 and it is expected that the contract will be able to be awarded by the end of June. This project is jointly funded by a grant of \$85,000- from the Victorian Government and a \$25,000- contribution from Council
- The second round of Shop Façade Improvement Grants and sponsorship grants has been completed and officers have been involved in supporting successful grant recipients from rounds one and two of the Shop Façade Program.
To date there have been seven Shop Façade applications approved in round one and ten applications in round two amounting to a combined sum of \$68,642- from the original budget allocation of \$90,000-. One of the applicants has withdrawn their application amounting to \$3,750- meaning a residual pool of \$25,108- remains from the initial budget allocation.
 - The average grant amount approved for Shop Facades to date is \$4,038-. Based on this average it is proposed to reduce the limit of council's support from a maximum grant of \$5,000- to \$4,000- in the next grant round to allow a greater number of applicants to be supported
 - Four Façade projects have been completed
 - Three projects are under way
 - Nine projects are yet to commence
- A digital connectivity strategy and action plan is to be developed following recent meetings with representatives from Telstra. The aim of this work is to enhance digital literacy in the Pyrenees which lags behind other areas in order to improve connectivity of communities and industry productivity.

Events

Events continued strongly in Autumn 2023. After many cancellations due to flooding in Spring 2022 old favourites returned such as the Avoca Autumn Cup, Pyrenees Unearthed, the 121st Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally, Beaufort Truck and Car Show, Pyrenees Petanque Open Doubles Tournament, **Pyrenees Historic Vehicle Muster**, and the delayed Beaufort Agriculture Show, and once again Pyrenees Magic Tri Circuit cycle event returned enjoying the new route and home base at Summerfield Winery. Across the board event organisers excited to be back doing what they do best and drawing consistent crowds as expected from pre Covid.

Early in May the life of Cyril Callister the inventor of Vegemite was celebrated in the Beaufort Town Hall. The celebration of 100 years since the invention this event was widely promoted via a range of media featuring on ABC breakfast, Sunrise, WIN News, Courier to name a few. The event also launched the new Vegemite Museum. The Museum received a makeover and moved to the front of Servo@23. Opening hours have been extended Wednesday-Saturday and continues to draw a range of visitors.

The wide range of events in the Pyrenees Shire forms a wonderful base to encourage visitation to the region while locals can benefit from these experiences right on their doorstep.

The Tourism Impact Scenario from Remplan for the events in Autumn indicates the visitation from these events with day visits only delivered an expenditure of \$472,560.

Direct Impact	Domestic Day	Domestic Overnight	International	Total
Number of Visitors	7,160	0	0	7,160
Number of Nights	n/a	0.00	0.00	
Estimated Expenditure per Visitor per Day (\$)	\$66	\$121	\$44	
Total Estimated Expenditure (\$)	\$472,560	\$0	\$0	\$472,560

The following table represents an assumption regarding overnight visitation of 1,000 people who attended Pyrenees events.

Direct Impact	Domestic Day	Domestic Overnight	International	Total
Number of Visitors	7,160	1,000	0	8,160
Number of Nights	n/a	1.00	0.00	
Estimated Expenditure per Visitor per Day (\$)	\$66	\$121	\$44	
Total Estimated Expenditure (\$)	\$472,560	\$121,000	\$0	\$593,560

Tourism Impact Scenario

Name Lake Goldsmith May 2023

Duration 2 days

Direct Impact	Domestic Day	Domestic Overnight	International	Total
Number of Visitors	3,000	100	0	3,100
Number of Nights	n/a	2.00	0.00	
Estimated Expenditure per Visitor per Day (\$)	\$66	\$121	\$44	
Total Estimated Expenditure (\$)	\$198,000	\$24,200	\$0	\$222,200

Summary of Attendances:

Pyrenees Unearthed - 840

121st Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally - 3000

Beaufort Truck and Car Show - 700

Pyrenees Petanque Open Doubles Tournament - 100

Pyrenees Historic Vehicle Muster - 400

Pyrenees Magic Tri Circuit - 130

Beaufort agriculture show – 1000

Vegemite – 90

Avoca Autumn Races - 900

Tourism

Tourism activities since March have included:

- Ongoing participation in the working group activities to establish the Central Highlands Visitor Economy Partnership.
The new regional body Tourism Midwest Victoria has been incorporated and will become operational from 1 July.
An announcement of the independent chair is imminent at the time of writing this report and recruitment of skills-based board members from industry is reaching the final stages. Nominations for positions on the board closed on 9 June 2023.
- A visit to the Pyrenees by the City of Ballarat tourism marketing team was undertaken in late March 2023
- An Easter promotion ran throughout the month of April
- Content for the “Road to Red” winter marketing campaign has been completed and an industry launch held at Blue Pyrenees Estate on 7 June

Tourism Marketing Data

Tourism marketing relies more predominantly on digital means including social media these times.

The following table provides a comparison of the period from March to May 2023 compared to the same time last year for the Visit Pyrenees Facebook and Instagram pages.

		Mar-May 2022	Mar-May 2023
Page reach:-			
<i>The number of people who saw any content from our Page or about our Page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from people who interact with our Page and more.</i>	Facebook	24797	38147
	Instagram	3770	1820
Page Visits:-			
<i>The number of times viewers clicked through to our social page or profile.</i>	Facebook	991	1236
	Instagram	502	324

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The favourable results for growth of GRP, to a certain degree reflects the favourable seasonal conditions and commodity prices experienced in the agriculture sector in recent times which has made a significant contribution to increasing levels of output and jobs during this period. Fluctuating agricultural commodity prices which are currently trending downwards are likely to impact sales levels from this sector.

The March update on Economic Development indicated that Council efforts should also consider ways of improving the living standards of residents across the Shire.

Two methods of measuring this that were mentioned in the report were:

1. Median household income being benchmarked against the Victorian average and
2. Ranking of the Pyrenees on the SEIFA index of disadvantage

Since the previous Economic Development update of March, ABS have released the SEIFA index for the 2021 Census which places Pyrenees at a ranking of seventeen in Victoria.

- In 2016 Pyrenees was ranked 184 nationally and 17 within the state
- In 2021 Pyrenees was ranked 192 nationally and 17 within the state

Some of the current projects being undertaken by the Economic Development team to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the Pyrenees community include:

- The Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply project which will provide a broad range of economic, social and environmental benefits
- Redevelopment of the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park which is estimated to inject a further \$2M per year into the local economy and create new jobs both during construction and beyond
- The Beaufort Linear Masterplan. The proposal to develop a recreational link along the course of the Garibaldi Creek Beaufort is to encourage passive recreation, encourage visitors to visit more often and stay longer and to improve township amenity while providing environmental benefits

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

2c. Promote responsible development.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

In partnership with Northern Grampians Shire Council and Central Goldfields Council almost 3,000 letters were issued to landholders across the area of interest for the Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply project. Expressions of interest continue to be sought from landholders and while early indications from landholders are positive a further report will be made available to council once the feasibility study is completed.

Community engagement with Beaufort residents for the Beaufort Linear Project is anticipated to commence by late August.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information only.

CONCLUSION

According to recent ABS data releases population growth has continued to trend upwards in the Pyrenees and the Pyrenees economy has performed strongly over recent years as reflected by increases in Gross Regional Product, output and jobs.

While these indicators remain positive, the SEIFA index illustrates the Pyrenees community remains one of disadvantage and ongoing efforts are required by council with support from other agencies to improve living standards.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the report.

10.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

10.2.1. LEXTON FLOOD MITIGATION 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: 20/06/08

PURPOSE

This report aims to provide Council with an update on the progress of the Lexton Flood Study and flood mitigation works.

BACKGROUND

A report presented to Council in December 2022 identified that the flood impacts on the Lexton township are extensive and should be further investigated to implement mitigation actions and reduce impacts.

At this meeting, Council resolved to;

- Prioritise a funding application for a detailed flood study for Lexton.
- Work with the appropriate agencies to investigate and implement flood mitigations actions.
- Write to the authors of the petition and inform them of Council's proposed actions.
- Receives a further update report on progress of the matters raised in the petition by the June 2023 Council meeting.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

In February 2022, Council officers met with North Central Catchment Authority representatives and external contractors to further discuss the potential flood study for the Lexton township and works pertaining to the clearing of debris in the waterways surrounding Lexton. A range of flood mitigation measures were developed on site, and the following were implemented and are now complete:

- Slashing and trimming creek edges
- Removal of debris at creek locations
- Slashing and mowing of roadsides, streets, laneways, drains and reserves
- Rubbish removal and clearing of creeks, roadsides, drains, reserves and culverts

Council Officers continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these implemented measures and are committed to regularly reviewing and maintaining these strategies.

Council Officers continue to work with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) regarding the removal of the Burnbank Creek footbridge and are currently awaiting permission for this work to proceed. Council Officers were recently advised that works to remove the Burnbank Creek footbridge are likely to be completed within the next month.

Council officers have been working closely with relevant stakeholders to progress a flood study for Lexton and a recent State Government media release lists Lexton as one of the approved areas to receive new funding to fast-track flood planning. North Central Catchment Management Authority and Council Officers have provided the following information to DEECA to access this partial funding:

- A project scope including information of impacts, nominating the need for the work.
- A breakdown of the proposed project costs.
- A letter confirming the Pyrenees Shire Council's commitment to the project.
- Supporting information including a brief history of the work undertaken to date.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Since the flood events in late 2022, regular community engagement activities have been conducted by Council's Flood Recovery Team to ensure residents are informed of avenues available to them for assistance and support. These activities aim to foster community resilience and ensure that residents are supported and feel heard.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council has been advised that the Lexton Flood Study will be fully funded therefore posing no financial risk to Council apart from the potential future costs of mitigations investigated and recommended in the flood study. Mitigation actions vary in cost and often require a high percentage of own source funding from Council.

CONCLUSION

By engaging with stakeholders and prioritising regular reviews and maintenance, along with progressing a full flood study Council aims to enhance the resilience of the area against future flood events.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.2.2. ADOPTION OF TEN YEAR ASSET PLAN

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: 06/12/06

PURPOSE

A revision of the 10 Year Asset Plan has been undertaken following the first year of its adoption and is presented to Council for noting.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* (Act) requires Council to develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan (Plan) in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. The Plan requires a scope of at least the next 10 financial years.

The Plan must include information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council.

Council was required to adopt its Asset Plan by 1 July 2022. Thereafter the Plan is to be reviewed and revised and be adopted by 31 October in the year following a general election.

This Plan was prepared to meet these requirements of the Act and was adopted by Council in June 2022.

The 10 Year Asset Plan has now been reviewed after the first year with minor alterations reflecting the contextual changes with this passage of time.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The June 2022 revision to the Ten-Year Asset Plan includes minor changes only but, of significance, realigns projected budgets to the long-term financial plan, identifies works undertaken, reflects changes to asset condition and recognises impacts of external events. Additional information has been provided in relation to asset classes such as kerb and channel, and pathways.

The Ten-Year Asset Plan has been updated to include:

- revisions to the budget amounts to align with the latest long term financial plan;
- minor revisions to the listed projects based on changes to condition assessment;
- minor revisions to the order of works to reflect program efficiencies;
- a tabulated works program for kerb and channel;
- a tabulated works program for pathways; and
- Identification of the impact of the October 2022 flood event.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 10 Year Asset Plan - Revision June 2023 [**10.2.2.1** - 30 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of the Ten-Year Asset Plan is to reduce Council's financial risk through linking the forward planning of asset renewal to Council's Ten-Year Financial Plan. This will ensure expenditure on renewal works aligns with Council's resource allocation. The renewal of assets also manages and reduces risk associated with asset impairment and failure.

CONCLUSION

The Ten-Year Asset Plan is a statutory requirement of Council required by the *Local Government Act 2020*. The revised Ten-Year Asset Plan 2023-2032 is provided for noting by Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the revision to the Ten-Year Asset Plan taking into account the updates to the Plan.

10.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.3.1. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS UPDATE - MAY 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 May 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, road maintenance, pools, local laws, building maintenance and compliance matters. Service request data does not include customer complaints which are managed separately.

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

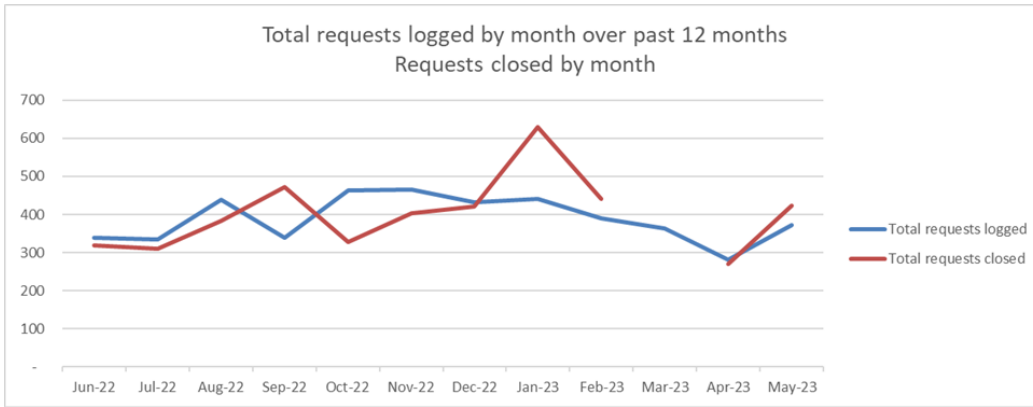
1. Logged and closed requests

372 CARs (Customer Action Requests) were logged in May 2023, 18 less than the previous month. Of these, 124 related to telephone messages.

424 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.

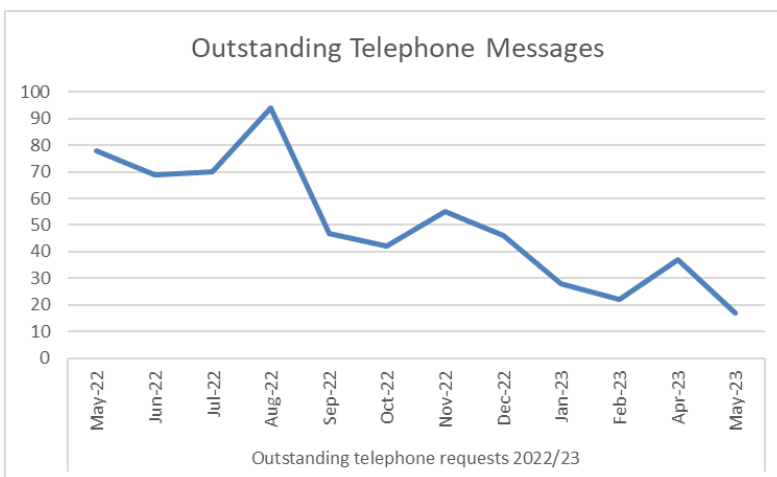
Year	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	% Change
Total requests logged	339	335	439	339	464	466	431	441	390	364	282	372	32%
Total requests closed	319	309	384	473	327	403	421	630	440		269	424	58%



2. Telephone requests

124 telephone calls were transferred into requests in May 2023, with 17 requests remaining outstanding at the end of the month. The following charts detail the downward trend in telephone calls remaining outstanding at the end of each month.

Outstanding telephone requests 2022/23											
May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	May-23
78	69	70	94	47	42	55	46	28	22	37	17



3. Open Customer Action Requests

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

At the end of May 2023, there was a total of 320 active or open requests. These include:

- 133 which are open and assigned for action
- 183 which are on hold awaiting resolution or action scheduling
- 2 which have been referred to budget
- 2 which are in progress – meaning that they are longer term case managed issues

Referred to budget – two requests have been referred to budget relating to:

1. 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 (Avoca Ward).

2. Culvert installation required in Spring Flat Road, Glenlofty, where the unsealed road was washed out (De Cameron Ward).

In progress – two requests are in progress, with initial contact made but resolution taking some time:

1. A discussion on changing the speed signs around the Amphitheatre Primary School. This matter is being managed by Engineering Services and a site visit to inspect the existing signs is planned.
2. Council officers are supporting a resident in Casuarina Court, Beaufort to gain postal deliveries at their address. Australia Post will not deliver to new sub-divisions until 50% of the properties are occupied. The officer has recommended that residents combine forces and write to Australia Post requesting a service delivery.

On hold – 183 requests were on hold as at the end of May. In general, these relate to matters that have had initial contact and require additional work or case management, or have been put on a schedule for action - e.g.,

- Complex local law matters, mostly relating to shipping containers or dog complaints.
- 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.

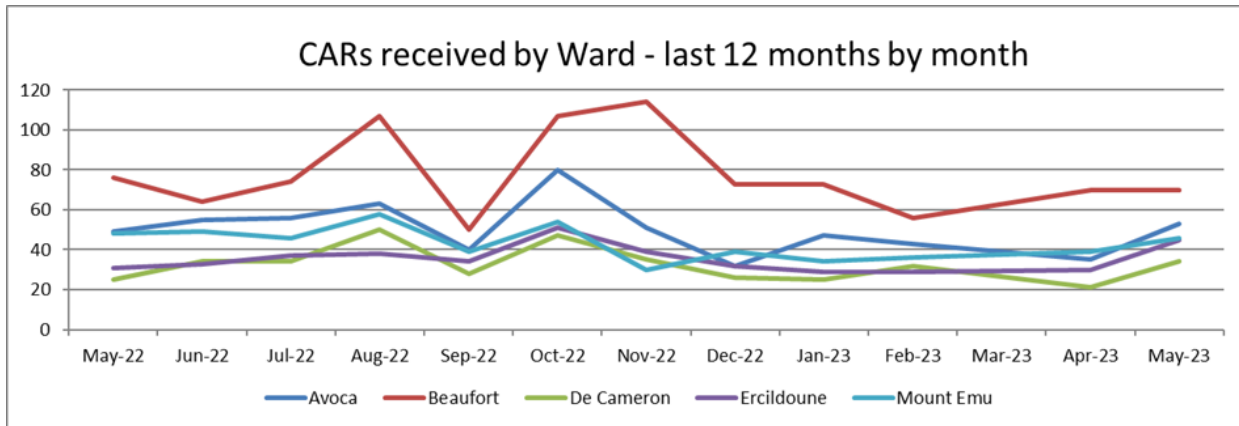
Of the non-telephone call requests received in May, the following represents those received and still open at the of the last month by Ward:

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	DeCameron Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mt Emu Ward
Number of requests received in May 2023 (previous month)	53 (354)	70 (70)	34 (21)	45 (30)	46 (39)
Requests received in May and closed in the same month (% of total received)	34 (645)	52 (74%)	18 (53%)	29 (64%)	25 (54%)
Requests received in May remaining open and assigned for action at the end of the month	15	14	11	11	20
Requests received in May on-hold awaiting final works or resolution	4	4	5	5	1
Requests received in May referred to budget	0	0	0	0	0
2021 requests re-opened for action (previous month)	(0)	0 (1)	(0)	(0)	1* (1)
Open requests from 2022 (previous month)	1 (3)	2 (4)	1 (3)	0 (4)	0 (3)
Total open (assigned) requests as at the end of May 2023 (previous month)	22 (20)	29 (54)	14 (18)	22 (33)	25 (25)

*Mt Emu 2021 request re-assigned for action relates to shipping containers at a Snake Valley property.

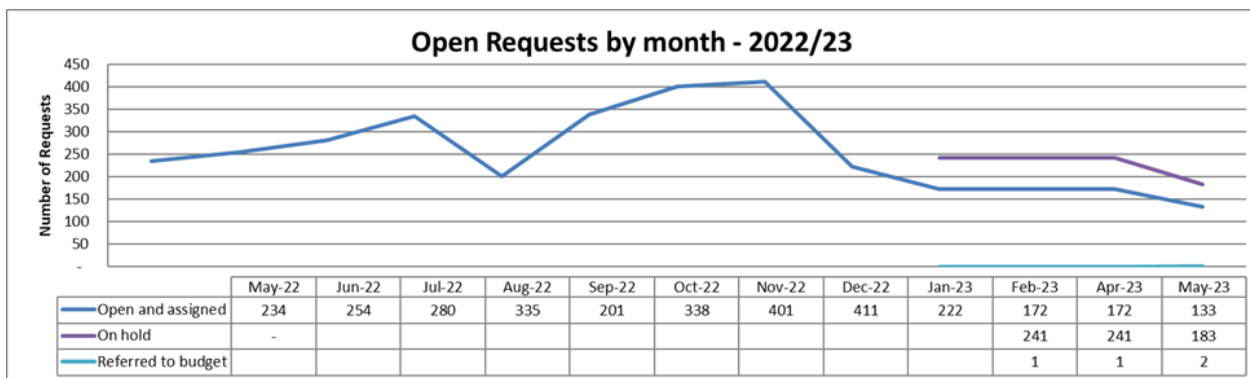
The following charts show the numbers of requests received by Ward per month for the past 12 months.

CARS by Ward received by month Rolling - 2022/23												
Ward	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	May-23
Avoca	49	55	56	63	40	80	51	32	47	43	35	53
Beaufort	76	64	74	107	50	107	114	73	73	56	70	70
De Cameron	25	34	34	50	28	47	35	26	25	32	21	34
Ercildoune	31	33	37	38	34	51	39	32	29	29	30	45
Mount Emu	48	49	46	58	39	54	30	39	34	36	39	46
Total by month	229	235	247	316	191	339	269	202	208	196	195	248

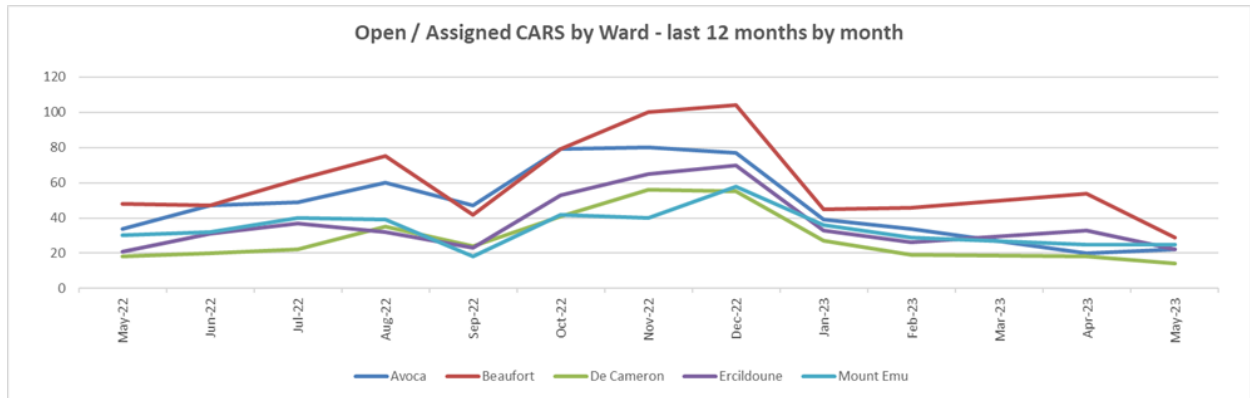


The following charts show the statistics for requests that remained open each month for the past 12 months. Over future months, these charts will start reflecting numbers of requests that are transferred to on-hold or referred-to-budget status.

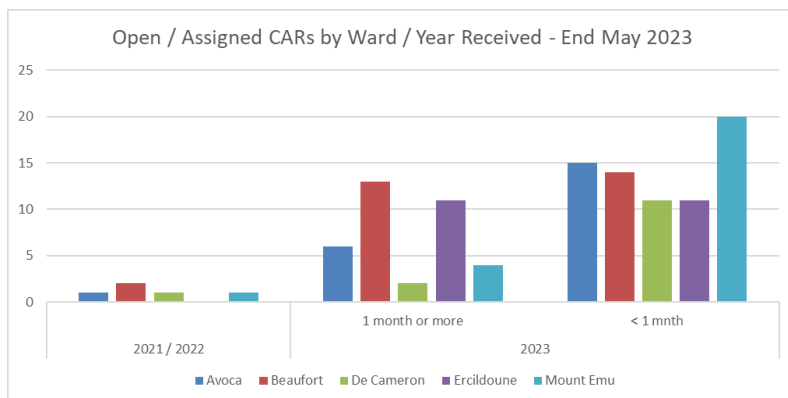
Open requests by age															
Year	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	May-23	% Change	On hold	Referred to Budget
2013															
2020	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-			
2021	25	24	21	20	16	15	12	12	-	-	2	4	100%	2	1
2022	208	229	258	314	184	322	389	399	131	45	19	115	505%	108	1
2023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	127	164	201	23%	73	-
Open and assigned	234	254	280	335	201	338	401	411	222	172	185	133	-28%	183	2
Currently on hold										241	190	183	-4%		
In progress												2			
Referred to budget										1	1	2	100%		
Total Closed		319	309	384	473	327	403	421	630	440	269	424	58%		
Total requests logged	372	339	335	439	339	464	466	431	441	390	282	372	32%		



Open Assigned Requests by Ward - 2022/23												
Ward	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	May-23
Avoca	34	47	49	60	47	79	80	77	39	34	20	22
Beaufort	48	47	62	75	42	79	100	104	45	46	54	29
De Cameron	18	20	22	35	24	41	56	55	27	19	18	14
Ercildoune	21	31	37	32	23	53	65	70	33	26	33	22
Mount Emu	30	32	40	39	18	42	40	58	36	29	25	25
Total by month	151	177	210	241	154	294	341	364	180	154	150	112



The following chart shows the open assigned requests by Ward as at the end of May 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			
	Apr-23	May-23	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	73	85	12
Streetlights	1	1	0
Drainage	23	14	-9
Footpaths /	6	2	-4
Park & Reserves	3	5	2
Roadside Veg	13	12	-1
Environmental Health	11	3	-8
Planning	6	1	-5
Bld maint	10	7	-3
Local Laws	45	33	-12
Cats	3	1	-2
Dogs	14	9	-5
Livestock	7	3	-4
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	2	1	-1
Bld Compliance	1	0	-1
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	0	0	0
Rates	16	3	-13
Natural Disasters	104	117	13
Pools	0	0	0
Council cleaning	3	0	-3
Litter	0	1	1
Design & Assets	0	0	0
GIS	0	1	1
Community	0	0	0
Rural Addressing	0	1	1
Road Naming	0	3	3
Telephone messages	37	17	-20
Total	378	320	-58

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risks are discussed in the body of the report.

CONCLUSION

The customer action request system remains an integral part of Council's reactive identification of issues that need attention. This report provides an update on customer action requests as at the end of May 2023.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.3.2. AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

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: 32/04/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update of the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting M005 held on Tuesday 23 May 2023.

BACKGROUND

Section 54 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires the Council to establish an Audit & Risk Committee. Council re-established its Audit & Risk Committee and approved the Audit & Risk Committee Charter under these provisions at its meeting in June 2020. The Act also requires an Audit & Risk Committee to develop and work to an annual work plan.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A meeting of the Council's Audit & Risk advisory committee was held on Tuesday, 23 May 2023. At the meeting, Ms Wendy Honeyman was elected Chairperson for the coming year.

Discussions at the meeting included:

- VAGO Audit Strategy for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.
- Financial matters
- Governance, risk and compliance updates
- Internal audit reports and current program
- Outstanding internal audit recommendations review

No disclosures of fraud or corruption, or compliance breaches, were made for the reporting period.

The Committee welcomed the new External Auditor – Johnsons MME – as appointed by the Victorian Auditor General's Office, and the company's Director, Mr Ryan Schischka.

Officer reports were presented to the Committee by the Chief Executive Officer and Director Corporate & Community Services. A financial report was provided by the Manager Finance.

Committee members expressed their pleasure at the re-appointment of AFS & Associates of Bendigo as Council's Internal Audit Provider for the period 2023-2026, acknowledging the business relationship that has arisen between the organisations over the past six years.

A performance review self-assessment was facilitated by AFS & Associates and the report was presented to the Committee. The overall average response score from the participants on a scale of 1 to 5 was 4.56 - a strong positive result with an increase from last year's average of 4.20.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

This report forms part of the Council's obligation to report on the Audit & Risk Committee activities to its community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023.05.23 - M 008 - Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - May 2023 [**10.3.2.1** - 27 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risk implications are discussed in the body of this report or within the attachments.

CONCLUSION

A meeting of the Council's Audit & Risk Committee was held on 23 May 2023. This report provides an overview of discussions at that meeting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.3.3. OUTSTANDING INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

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: 32/04/04

PURPOSE

This report provides the Council with an update against completion of recommendations from former internal audit reviews.

BACKGROUND

The Council's outstanding issues register details recommendations from past internal audit reviews that await implementation.

The Council's Audit & Risk Committee monitors the completion of past recommendations.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council's Internal Auditor (AFS & Associates) conducted a desktop review of the outstanding recommendations in March/April 2023. During that review, 14 agreed management actions were deemed to be satisfactorily addressed and closed.

Although considerable effort was made by officers to close a further 33 outstanding recommendations as part of the annual review, insufficient evidence was prepared in time for the review so could not be closed out by the internal auditor. Of these, officers accept that 27 will receive further action to enable sufficient evidence to be provided at the next review for closure. It was not fully understood by officers that the review was a desktop audit, so allowance was not made for full documentation to be provided, relying instead on provision at interviews.

In addition to the 14 recommendations closed during the review, the Audit & Risk Committee approved closure of a further six items from the outstanding list – all but 2 of the six items were assessed as a minor risk to Council and it was advised that any risk associated with non-completion of these items would be accepted.

A summary of outstanding recommendations is provided below:

- 68 recommendations from former internal audit reviews remain outstanding, relating to 14 audits.
- 33 items are from audits (8 audits) conducted over 2 years ago (2018 to 2020).
- 35 items relate to process documentation development or review which has been identified with the Audit & Risk Committee as a key workload issue for officers.
- Risk ratings of outstanding recommendations are:
 - High – 1
 - Moderate – 33
 - Minor - 34

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The Community is informed through the provision of this report to the Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk levels associated with individual recommendations arising from internal audit reviews are assessed individually as part of the report. Currently, 68 past recommendations remain outstanding of which 1 is rated as a high risk, 33 are rated at moderate risk, and 34 are rated at minor risk.

Two key risks exist regarding this report:

- The risk of missing opportunities for process or work practice improvement that would be achieved by completion of the recommendations, and
- The risk on staff workload / wellbeing through accepting recommendations from internal audit reviews that are assessed as of minor risk to the Council yet adds to the workload pressures of relevant officers. This risk will be evaluated when considering management response to future internal audit reports.

CONCLUSION

In March/April 2023, an internal audit review was conducted against the outstanding recommendations from past internal audit reviews. A significant effort was undertaken to provide enough evidence to close many outstanding recommendations, and 20 were closed during this review period.

In preparation for the next review in early 2024, and as part of consideration of tasks that can be stopped, effort will be made to further reduce the number of outstanding recommendations by:

- Obtaining appropriate evidence to show internal auditors that recommendations have been complied with.
- Reviewing outstanding recommendations rated as minor to ensure these are of sufficient benefit to Council to outweigh the workload imposed upon relevant staff.
- Applying a more robust management consideration process to future internal audit recommendations to ensure that they are of sufficient benefit to Council to outweigh the workload imposed on relevant staff, and to not accept those where Council is willing to accept the risk of non-completion.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

10.3.4. PROJECT UPDATE - JUNE 2023

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jerry van Delft – Project Management Facilitator

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

File No: 16/21/08

PURPOSE

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

BACKGROUND

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

Major projects are reported through the weekly community noticeboard and as provided in the summary below.

The Map function in the Dashboard is to be activated shortly. This will follow a meeting with the contractor in June.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Projects from the 2019/20 financial year will be archived on the Dashboard at the end of June.

Below is a summary of the current status of a selection of projects underway.

Beaufort Lake BBQ Shelter

A new multi-purpose BBQ shelter is being built at the Beaufort Lake Foreshore. The new shelter will feature a double electric barbecue and space for live performances. Work is expected to be completed mid-year.

Beaufort Transfer Station upgrade

Works including a new concrete slab service area are nearing completion. This new slab will arrange several skips and items to provide easy and safe access for patrons.

Drainage work

Planning is underway for drainage works to be undertaken at Pascoe St, Avoca. Planning for drainage works on the Waubra Talbot road is also underway.

Bridge works - Beaufort-Carngham Road

Works are underway to replace the bridge across Spring Hill Creek on Beaufort-Carngham Road (Bridge 11). Beaufort-Carngham Road will be closed until late July, weather dependent. A detour is in place.

Avoca EV carpark construction

Work will begin shortly and is due to be finished in August. This will upgrade the existing car park, creating eight more carparks, including two accessible carparks. An electric vehicle charging station is being installed at the same time.

Beaufort EV charging stations

Two EV charging stations are being installed at the Willoby Street carpark in Beaufort. These are due to be finished by the end of June and will take four vehicles. One is being installed by Council, the other by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Avoca footpath works

Pathway construction has been completed. The paths will link to a future pedestrian rail crossing on Homebush Road which is proposed to be constructed by VicTrack.

Beaufort Lake walking path

Construction on the western pathway is underway and will be completed soon. Work on the eastern pathway is underway.

Havelock Street toilet redevelopment

Council is renovating the public toilets in Havelock Street, Beaufort. Work has started. The facilities will be closed until early July. Portable toilets on the opposite side of Neill Street will be available during construction.

Gregory Street footpath works

A new footpath along Gregory Street, Beaufort, has been completed. The pathway links to Acacia and Casuarina Close.

Shared pathway, Beaufort

Work on a shared pathway between 12 Neill Street and 49 High Street in Beaufort is due to start in June.

Beaufort cricket practice nets

Construction is continuing on the cricket practice nets at the Goldfields Recreation Reserve. A storage shed will also be built to support the cricket club and Little Athletics. Works are expected to be finished mid-year subject to weather

Lexton Hub

The works have been completed and the equipment from the old clubrooms has been transferred to the new Hub. The old club rooms have been demolished.

Krupp Gun installation

The historic Krupp Gun, which was restored recently by the Beaufort RSL, will make a return to Bicentennial Park in Beaufort. Temporary fencing has been put up and a concrete slab will be laid soon.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

- 2a. Sustain and enhance unique character of our communities.
- 2b. Enhance the liveability and resilience of our communities.

Priority 4 - Economy

- 4b. Invest in road infrastructure to improve connectivity for commerce and community.
- 4c. Encourage and invest in assets and infrastructure for commerce and community.

Enabling Principles

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. That Council notes this report.

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

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
Tues. 2 May	Celebration Launch of the ‘Man who invented Vegemite’	Beaufort
Tues. 9 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 9 May	Cuppa & Chat	Cross Roads
Wed. 10 May	Flood Community Information Session	Lexton
Tues. 16 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 16 May	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Tues. 23 May	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Beaufort

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
Mon. 1 May	Meet Darren Chester, Federal opposition spokesman on Local Government	Melbourne
Wed. 3 May	Constituent Matter	Evansford
Thurs. 4 May	Smart Urban Futures Conference	Melbourne
Fri. 5 May	MAV Board Meeting	Melbourne
Tues. 9 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 9 May	Cuppa & Chat	Cross Roads
Wed. 10 May	Flood Community Information Session	Lexton
Mon. 15 May	Weekly Times story, Local Roads	Waubra
Tues. 16 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 16 May	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thurs. 18 May	CVGA Board Meeting	Virtual
Thurs. 18 May	MAV members security briefing	Virtual
Fri. 19 May	MAV State Council	Melbourne
Fri. 19 May	ALGWA Annual Conference	Cape Schank
Sun. 21 May	UMEC Landcare Network Meeting	Beaufort
Tues. 23 May	MAV Federal / State Budget Briefing	Virtual
Wed. 24 May	ALGA Board meeting	Canberra

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
Tues. 2 May	Celebration Launch of the ‘Man who invented Vegemite’	Beaufort
Tues. 9 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 9 May	Cuppa & Chat	Cross Roads
Wed. 10 May	Flood Community Information Session	Lexton
Tues. 16 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 16 May	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Fri. 19 May	MAV State Council	Melbourne
Tues. 23 May	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Beaufort
Fri. 26 May	RCV Committee Meeting	Virtual
Tues. 30 May	Landsborough Public Hall Committee Meeting	Landsborough

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
Tues. 2 May	Celebration Launch of the ‘Man who invented Vegemite’	Beaufort
Wed. 3 May	Parliament House Visit	Melbourne
Tues. 9 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 9 May	Cuppa & Chat	Cross Roads
Wed. 10 May	Flood Community Information Session	Lexton
Tues. 16 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 16 May	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thurs. 18 May	Naming Rules for Places in Victoria info session	Virtual
Thurs 25 May	PCC Community Meal	Beaufort

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
Tues. 2 May	Celebration Launch of the ‘Man who invented Vegemite’	Beaufort
Tues. 9 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 9 May	Cuppa & Chat	Cross Roads
Wed. 10 May	Flood Community Information Session	Lexton
Tues. 16 May	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tues. 16 May	Council Meeting	Beaufort

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

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	9 May 2023 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 4.30pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joe McCracken MP – Member for Western Victoria 2. Visitor Economy Partnership 3. LRCIP 4 and Capital Program 4. Strategic Planning Program 5. Creative Strategy 6. Aged Care Transition 7. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Tim Day (Acting Director Assets and Development Services) Michelle Richards (Acting Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Visitors	Joe McCracken MP – Member for Western Victoria (item 1) Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development & Tourism (item 2) Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning & Development (item 4 and 5) Eoghan McColl – Coordinator Planning Services (item 4) Martin Walmsley – Manager Community Wellbeing and Development (item 7)		
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	16 May 2023 commenced at 1.00pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GWM Water Briefing 2. Transmission Projects Update 3. Strategic Planning Program 4. Engagement Plan 5. Central Highlands Councils Victoria 6. LRCIP 4 and Capital Program 7. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari (from 1.15pm) Cr Tanya Kehoe (from 4.00pm)	Cr David Clark (from 1.15pm) Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Visitors	Mark Williams – GWM Water (item 1) Peter Vogel – GWM Water (item 1) Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning & Development (item 3) Tim Day – Manager Assets (item 6)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Robert Vance

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. BEAUFORT LAKE CARAVAN PARK - FEES AND CHARGES

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: 523046200

PURPOSE

This report seeks Councils endorsement of an increase in fees and charges to clients of Beaufort Lake Caravan Park.

BACKGROUND

Council received an Operational Review of the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park at the beginning of 2022. The report included a variety of recommendations with a number of these having been undertaken including:

- Completion of a masterplan which is being used to inform further development at the Caravan Park
- Migration of bookings to an online booking service which allows customers to directly book sites
- Developing a new website

Early indications are that bookings have increased significantly compared to previous years following the online system going live at the end of March.

The following table which excludes the 2020 and 2021 financial years due to the impacts of the pandemic is provided as an illustration of recent increases in turnover.

The installation of the Premium cabin in late 2021 will also have contributed to the increase in turnover.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23
Mar	24129	23395	28122	21162	27404
April	19112	16844	10845	17476	23247
May	15327	21132	36313	28591	39647
	58568	61371	75280	67229	90298
Ave 2017-22			65612		
Increase 2023 above average			24686		
% Inc			38%		

The consultant's report also recommended a review of the parks fees and charges and included:

- Comparisons to site fees at other caravan parks within 45 minutes of Beaufort
- Many accommodation providers and caravan park operators charge higher rates for peak seasons such as Easter, Christmas and public holidays which is not presently the case at Beaufort and
- To consider reviewing rental fees for the park's annual and residential clients.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Review included a comparison of fees and charges with various other caravan parks within 45 minutes travel time from Beaufort.

A comparison of fees listed in the report to six caravan parks of a similar size and location to Beaufort is summarized in the following table.

This table excludes comparisons with Big4 parks which were included in the Review but which are generally located in more highly populated areas, are of a larger scale, and offer additional facilities compared to smaller parks like Beaufort.

Site Type	Beaufort	Average of six local parks	Variance to average
Unpowered Site	15	25	10
Powered Site	30	32	7
Ensuites	40	35	- 5
Budget Cabin	80	97	17
Standard Cabin	90	97	7
Deluxe Cabin	120	122	2
Premium Cabin	135	133	- 2

Taking into account the comparisons of site fees provided above it is recommended that fees be increased from 1 July to:

1. \$20- per day for an unpowered site and
2. \$35- per day for a powered site

Due to the age and condition of the budget cabin it is not proposed to change fees for this site. The masterplan indicates this cabin will be replaced by a new cabin which caters for clients of all abilities. Funding was approved by the Victorian Government in late 2022 to assist with this installation.

A copy of the 2021 Operational Review has been circulated separately to this report for further details.

Further to the above there are a number of annual site holders and a residential tenant whose rental fees have not been reviewed in a number of years. These agreements entitle clients to access the parks' utilities such as power and water and other park facilities at no additional cost to their rental agreements.

Annual agreements for these clients are due for renewal as of 1 July. To accommodate the rising costs to council of operating the caravan park, correspondence has been issued to the above clients proposing rental increases of 3.5% in line with rates increases proposed under Councils rates cap for the 2023/24 year.

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

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The operational costs of the park have been continuing to increase and the proposed rental increases to accommodate these are in line with:

1. Comparable charges at nearby parks of a similar size and location and
2. The proposed rates cap in the instance of increase for residential and annual clients of the park

CONCLUSION

Increased fees and charges are necessary to ameliorate rising costs of operation while remaining comparative to prices provided by similar scale caravan parks.

Further analysis of charges over peak holiday periods is required at the time of completing this report and it is recommended to bring a further report to Council in this regard.

Cr Robert Vance / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Endorses the proposed increase in rental fees for residential tenants and those who occupy annual sites of 3.5% for 2023/24.
2. Endorses an increase in fees for unpowered and powered sites as recommended in this report.
3. Receives a further report by September 2023 which is to incorporate a review of fees during peak holiday periods.
4. Undertakes annual reviews of the park's fees and charges at the beginning of the 2024 calendar year

CARRIED

13.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.2.1. PREFERRED SUPPLIER. TERTIARY GRAVELS

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: Philip Diprose - Waste and Contract Administration Officer

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

File No: C2223-011

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on the tenders received for the public tendering of Contract C2223/011 Tertiary Gravels and consideration of their inclusion in the Preferred Supplier Panel for the supply and Transportation of Tertiary Gravels.

BACKGROUND

Council Officers sought expression via a public tender for contractors to become a preferred supplier for the supply and transportation of tertiary gravels.

The Tender was released to the market on 13 April 2023 with 737 notices sent out to relevant businesses. There were forty-eight documents downloaded from the tender portal by interested parties. The tender was closed on 24 May 2023 with four contractors providing a service or product offer.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The four electronic submissions at the closing of tender are listed below:

Contractor	Services
David Eldridge Pty Ltd	Quarry material. 20 mm Class 1,2,3 and 4 Crushed Rock products in accordance with VicRoads specifications. Non-descript, type A fill & aggregate. Transportation of quarry material.
Grampians Excavations	Quarry materials. Quartz gravel and Granitic sand. Transportation of quarry material.
Howell Contractors	Quarry materials. Local quartz gravel, oversize rock and beaching. Transportation of quarry materials.
McArdle Transport Pty Ltd	Bulk transportation services.

To be eligible for the Preferred Supplier Panel a Company must demonstrate the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- Confirmation of Public Liability Insurance,
- Work Health and Safety Management policy and processes,
- Environmental Management policy and processes.
- Appropriate Licences and Registration for vehicles and plant.
- Quality systems, policy and processes.

All successful preferred supplier contractors will be required to participate in regular reviews of performance and comply with Councils Contractor Management System that will maintain certificates, registration and licences for preferred suppliers.

Previous relevant experience and satisfactory performance in the areas of competency described for the pre-qualification level.

A successful Supplier will be asked to register with www.rapidglobal.com to place insurance, public liability and other relevant documents on Council's portal. The supplier will maintain and update the certificates to be compliant. Suppliers without current insurance will not be engaged.

A review of the submissions provided by the tenderers showed all are compliant with the tender requirements. Details of submission compliances and prices have been circulated separately to Councillors.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's financial and prudential risk is minimised by having a preferred supplier panel for goods and services that are essential to maintaining road assets.

CONCLUSION

Having a secure and reliable supply of appropriate gravel for use on Council roads is a core function of road asset management. This proposed preferred supplier panel provides surety for Council for the supply of tertiary gravels.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr David Clark

That Council accept all the submitting companies to be added to Pyrenees Shire Council's preferred supplier panel for the supply and delivery of tertiary gravels.

CARRIED

13.2.2. PA1988-12/A 543 TRAWALLA ROAD, BREWSTER - AMENDMENT TO BROILER FARM PERMIT

Presenter: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development Services

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

Report Author: Rachel Blackwell – Principal Planner

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

File No: PA1988/12/A

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider an amendment to planning permit PA1988/12 for the expansion of an existing 400,000 bird broiler farm to a 600,000-bird farm with the development of additional agricultural sheds on the subject land at 543 Trawalla Rd, Trawalla.

BACKGROUND

Planning permit PA1988/12 for the use and development of a broiler farm (400,000 birds) and development of one dwelling (managers residence) was issued on the 21 December 2012. The use and development have been implemented on the site in accordance with the permit and has been in operation for some time.

On 21 June 2022 an application was lodged to amend the above-mentioned planning permit to allow for the development of additional agricultural sheds on the subject land, to increase the number of birds to 600,000.

The Application was advertised, and Council has received three (3) objections. One (1) objection has been withdrawn.

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.

THE SITE

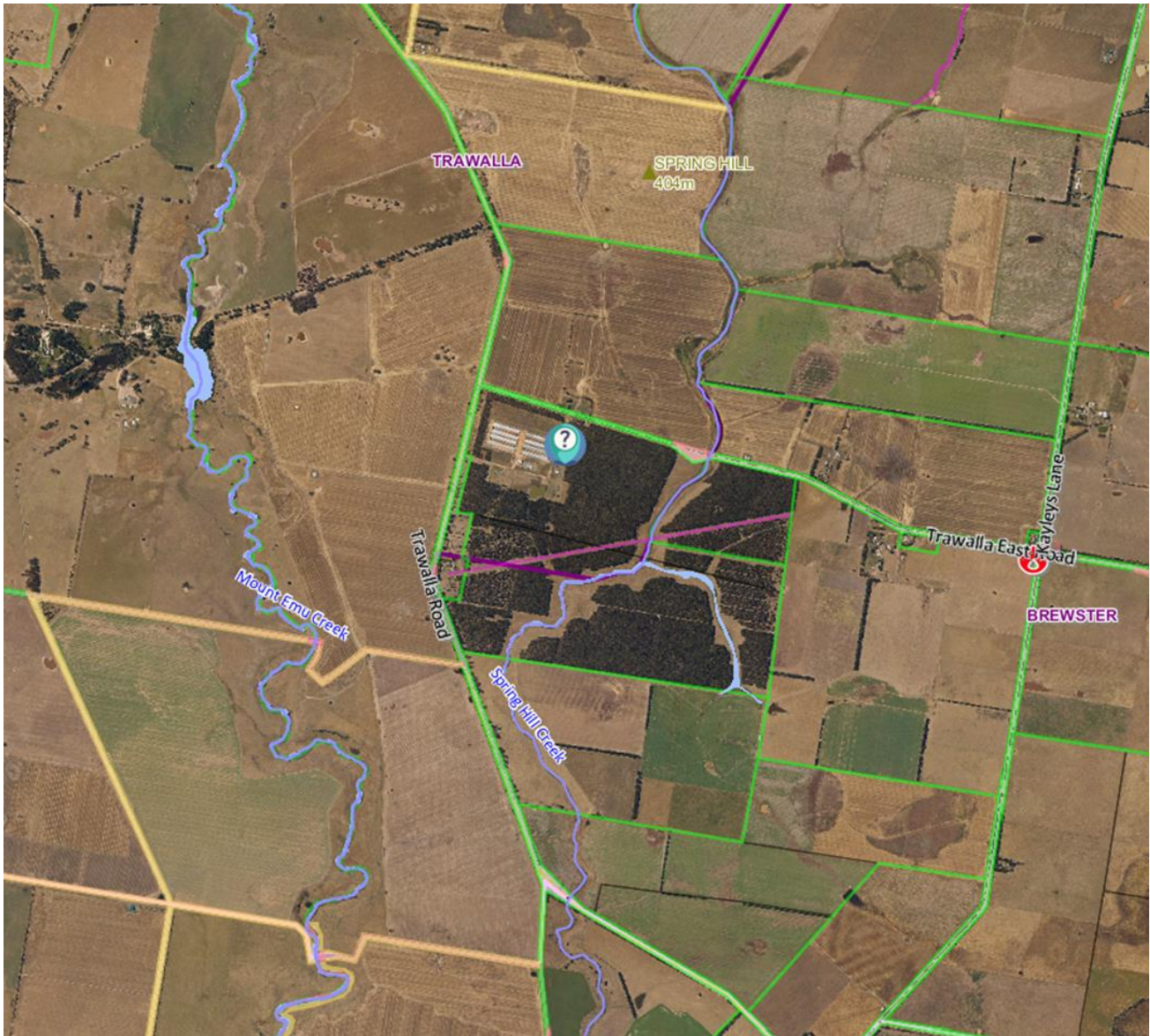
The subject site is located on the eastern side of Trawalla Road, Trawalla, to the south of Trawalla East Road, and 4.8km south east of Trawalla township.

The irregular shaped site has a frontage of approximately 1.5km to Trawalla Road and a depth of approximately 1.9km, giving an overall area of 224 hectares.

The subject site currently contains the existing broiler farm (8 agricultural sheds), associated infrastructure and a manager's residence. The portions of the site not used for the broiler farm comprise blue gum plantation. Spring Hill Creek runs through the property. A powerline also traverses the site.

Surrounding land use includes land in the farming zone used for agricultural purposes, grazing and cropping.

An aerial map and image of the site is below detailing the site context. Further details on the site context can be found in **Attachment 1**.



THE PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks to amend the existing planning permit to allow for the development of four additional agricultural sheds, resulting in an increase in the capacity of birds on the site from 400,000 to 600,000.

The key details of the proposal are as follows:

- The site currently supports an eight-shed intensive broiler farm with a permitted capacity of 400,000 birds with associated generator shed, water supply and fire protection system.
- The proposed broiler sheds would be the same size and form as existing, 160m x 17.6m, with a capacity to shelter up to 50,000 birds in each shed. The sheds are tunnel ventilated. The Permitted bird capacity as per the Broiler Code of Practice is 21.5 birds per sq metre. The proposed total capacity including the extension would be 600,000 birds in 12 conventional broiler sheds.
- There is an existing workshop and amenity building, a manager's house, the original house being used by the assistant manager. There will be no change to these facilities as part of this application.
- The applicant confirmed that a previous Farm B proposal is no longer applicable, and this application relates to the four proposed sheds only.

- This broiler farm currently produces chickens under the RSPCA Chicken Farming Standard and is audited regularly during the year.
- The broiler farm is currently subject to an Environmental Management Plan (Dec 2013) in accordance with Condition 1d) and 44 of the existing Planning permit (PA1988/12) This plan is required to be submitted and updated to reflect the current proposal and legislative requirements.
- Full details of the proposal are provided at **Attachment 2**.

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF APPLICATION

The application was required to be advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The following forms of advertising were undertaken:

- Notices sent to owners and occupiers of adjoining land (includes opposite).
- An A2 sign was placed on the land.

Council has received three objections in response to advertising. One objection has been withdrawn. The key issues raised in the objections can be summarised as follows:

- The expansion of the broiler farm would potentially increase the building exclusion area around the farm. Residents want certainty that the expansion of the farm will not preclude the potential for them to develop land for dwellings in the future.
- Increase in odour impact. A survey has not been undertaken to determine existing impacts.
- Increase in traffic during construction and relating to the ongoing use. Any traffic should be restricted to Trawalla Road and not nearby Kayley's Lane as per the requirements of the existing planning permit.
- Consideration of any increased run off to SpringHill Creek and impact to surrounding properties which also share this watercourse, impact to biodiversity of the area.

The applicant provided two written responses to objector concerns. The written responses were circulated to objectors for consideration. As a result, one objection was withdrawn. A copy of the applicant's response to objections is provided at **Attachment 3**.

On the 23 May 2023 Council officers arranged an on-site meeting with objectors for them to understand the existing broiler farm operation, the current proposal and for the applicant to address any concerns. The meeting was attended by the two objectors, the permit applicant, owner of the site, the site manager and Council officers. At the meeting the proposal was discussed, as were the concerns raised. There were no resolutions reached, however as a result of the meeting contact details were shared for the residents to contact the farm manager/owner directly in relation to any ongoing management issues to allow for these matters to be addressed in a timely manner.

The issues raised in the objections and discussed at the on-site meeting will be addressed throughout the discussion on the key issues relating to the proposal.

REFERRAL OF APPLICATION

The application was referred externally.

External Referrals

Referral/Section	Advice/Response/Conditions
Agriculture Victoria – S52	Agriculture Victoria conditionally supports the application

	<p>for PA1988/12A Use & Development of a Broiler Farm - Amendment to permit for development of agricultural sheds and increase in the number of birds (600000) and recommends that if a permit is granted that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The permit allows; The use and development of the land for a broiler farm with a farm capacity of 600,000 birds. • A condition is placed on the permit that; The farm must at all times comply with the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 (plus 2018 amendments), with the exclusion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Any requirement under Part 5. Classification of Broiler Farms, for an Odour Environmental Risk Assessment (Odour ERA). o Part 6. Odour Environmental Risk Assessment (Odour ERA). • Prior to the use and development commencing, the Environmental Management Plan and Site Plans be amended to address nominated RSPCA requirements, including stocking densities, as per RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standards - Meat Chickens Implementation date: 1 March 2020 or as amended and are endorsed and form part of any permit issued to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
<p>CFA – S55</p>	<p>CFA (Country Fire Authority) makes the following comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA notes that there is no formal referral requirement under Clause 44.06 based on land use. Broiler Farms are nested under Clause 73.04-3 Agricultural Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment under Clause 13.02-1s may not be specifically applicable as the development is not listed under the use and development controls however all applications under the Planning & Environment Act 1987 are required to consider this Clause. • CFA would recommend that bushfire protection measures be implemented under the broader 13.02-1s requirements and incorporate the protection measures as detailed in the Bushfire Management Statement within the application.
<p>EPA - S55</p>	<p>EPA is not a statutory referral authority under Section 55 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, since this proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) does not require a licence or works approval or amendment to a licence or works approval. b) is not proposed to be used for an industry or warehouse for a purpose listed in the table to Clause 53.10 for which the threshold distance cannot be met; and c) is not a proposed extractive industry intended to be used at a later date for landfill. <p>The application must be referred to EPA for comments pursuant to Clause 53.09 of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme, as the application aims to increase the capacity of an</p>

existing broiler farm to meet the requirements of a Special Class Broiler Farm (as specified in the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 plus 2018 Amendments). It is proposed to increase the capacity of the broiler farm to 600,000 birds from the existing permitted 484,352 birds.

Based on the information supplied, EPA understands the proposal involves the construction of four additional sheds (an increase total to twelve sheds), housing up to 600,000 birds. The application states the design has been made in accordance with the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 plus 2018 Amendments. The site is a 269.2ha Farming Zone tenement across three lots, 4kms south of the township of Trawalla. The closest sensitive receptor in separate ownership is approximately 1.5kms to the east.

A calculation from the Victorian Code recommends an 855m separation distance from sensitive receptors, which is successfully met by this proposal.

The operation is of contemporary design and operation with integrated measures to manage waste and ensure stormwater does not become contaminated and discharged from the property. The site has existing infrastructure and systems that will be expanded to accommodate the extra production.

Operational waste is regularly removed from sealed areas at the end of each shed and composted for application to pasture and soil improvement. The composting area is roofed and bunded to ensure stormwater is not contaminated.

EPA does not object to council issuing a planning permit for the application and makes the following comments concerning environmental risk and the responsibility of the duty-holder.

Assessment

The most significant environmental risks from free range poultry activities include odour, dust, and stormwater pollution. EPA considers each of these environmental risks to be low based on the management approach of the applicant and the large separation distance from sensitive receptors.

EPA considers the proposed activity can be successfully operated at the site using contemporary industry standards, enabling the applicant to comply with their legal obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 2017.

General comments

	<p>EPA recommends that council consider the following guidance in making its decision on the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for assessing odour – EPA Publication 1883 https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/aboutepa/publications/1883 • EPA Publication 1304.1: Stormwater and protecting our waterways https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1304-1 • Understanding your environmental obligations https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/newlaws-and-your-business/ <p>Recommended Permit Note</p> <p>The following permit note is recommended should Council decide to issue a planning permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amended Environment Protection Act 2017 came into effect on 1 July 2021. The amended Environment Protection Act 2017 imposes new duties on individuals and/or businesses undertaking the activity permitted by this permit. If your business engages in activities that may give rise to a risk to human health or the environment from pollution or waste, you must understand those risks and take action to minimise them as far as reasonably practicable.
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ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The proposal generally accords with the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) including the Municipal Planning Strategy of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. The key issues are as follows:

- Strategic Justification.
- Clause 53.09 – Poultry Farm
- Amenity Impacts
- Amendments to conditions of planning permit PA1988/12/A
- Strategic Justification

The site is located approximately 5km to the south east of the township of Trawalla. The site comprises land, which is zoned for farming purposes and is currently used and developed for a broiler farm. It is a strategic direction of Clause 02.03-3 Agriculture of the Municipal Planning Strategy to *“encourage the continuation of land use for agricultural purposes including the protection of agriculture and the encouragement of sustainable and diverse agriculture.”*

The agricultural use for the subject land for a broiler farm has been established by the existing planning approval. Given the site's location in the Farming zone it is considered that the site is suitable for use as a broiler farm and the expansion proposed by the amendment to the relevant planning permit. Existing infrastructure is provided both on the site and in the surrounding context i.e., roads etc. established by the existing permit to cater for the use and development, thereby resulting in sustainable land management and infrastructure provision.

The proposal is supported by the Planning Policy Framework at Clause 14 Agriculture, Clause 14.01-2S Sustainable Agricultural Land Use of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme where it is policy to *“facilitate ongoing productivity and investment in high value agriculture including the establishment and expansion of poultry farms in a manner consistent with the orderly and proper planning and protection of the environment.”*

The proposal to expand the existing broiler farm to comprise a Special Class Broiler farm will directly implement State and Local Planning Policy in relation to supporting sustainable agriculture. An assessment relating to the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms, as required under the planning scheme, is provided below. The proposal has also been reviewed in accordance with the Planning and Environment Guidelines for Establishing Meat Chicken Farms (2021). Both the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Agriculture Victoria are supportive of the proposal. The ongoing implementation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will ensure the ongoing efficient management of the site in accordance with the relevant State and Federal Legislation.

In relation to the development, Clause 15.01-6S Design for Rural Areas seeks to “ensure that development respects valued areas of rural character.” It is considered that the development of four more sheds consistent with the existing sheds associated with the broiler farm are of a siting, scale and appearance which protects and enhances the rural character of the site and surrounding farming environs.

The visual amenity of the area, including road frontages and rural areas surrounding the site will be maintained by the sympathetic siting of the sheds within an existing cleared area where they will be screened by existing bunding and native vegetation screen planting which is proposed to be maintained.

In summary, the expansion of the use and associated development are considered to provide for a high-quality response which positively contributes to sustainable and diverse agriculture, while ensuring that the visual amenity of the environment is maintained.

- Clause 53.09 – Poultry Farm

Clause 53.09 relates to Poultry Farms. It is the purpose of this clause to “facilitate the establishment and expansion of poultry farms, including broiler farms, in a manner that is consistent with orderly and proper planning and the protection of the environment.”

This clause applies to permit application to use land or construct a building or construct or carry out works for a poultry farm, including to increase the farm capacity of an existing broiler farm.

Pursuant to Clause 53.09-3 An application to use land or construct a building or construct or carry out works for a broiler farm must comply with the *Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 (plus 2018 amendments)*. An assessment against the code of practice is provided as **Attachment 4**.

The proposed expansion of the broiler farm is an acceptable outcome in the context of the farming zone as it will provide for the ongoing use and expansion of an intensive agricultural land use on land which is designated for agricultural purposes.

The proposed siting, design, height, and setbacks of the proposed sheds associated with the expansion are consistent with existing buildings and works on the site. Both the existing landscape screening to site frontages and proposed landscaping required as a condition of approval will seek to address visual amenity to surrounding properties.

The impacts of the use of the land and its expansion upon the surrounding area can be managed through the implementation and ongoing effect of the EMP for the site.

Environmental impacts associated with the proposal will be minimised. The development is subject to drainage plans for the existing sheds on the site where stormwater is currently drained into a dam system. This is set to continue, and a new drainage plan will be required via condition to address any additional stormwater drainage from the proposed sheds.

The relevant Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA) has been consulted and no concerns have been raised in relation to run off to Spring Hill Creek. The proposed buildings and works would be located at least 750 meters from the watercourse and the area of the land which is subject to flooding.

On balance the proposal complies with the relevant Code of Practice and will result in the expansion of an existing use that has considered environmental impacts and their management and will result in a suitable planning outcome.

- Amenity Impacts

The Pyrenees Planning Scheme requires the consideration of the effect on the environment, human health, and amenity of the area in planning decisions (Clause 65.01). It is a strategic Direction of the Municipal Planning Strategy to *"discourage development on land demonstrated to have serious environmental management constraints."* Clause 13.07 -1S of the Planning policy framework seeks *"to ensure that use and development of land is compatible with adjoining and nearby uses."* As such, consideration of issues raised in the objections including amenity implications must be considered.

Building Exclusion Area

The subject land is located within the Farming Zone, as is surrounding land within a 4.5 km radius, including objectors' properties. The principal purpose of the zone is to provide for the use and development for land for Agriculture. The use of the land for a broiler farm directly aligns with this. It is noted that non-agricultural uses including dwellings should not adversely affect the use of the land for agriculture.

On balance consideration also needs to be given to offsite impacts associated with the farm and if use and development were to occur on surrounding land in the future then this would need to be considered to determine if this use were compatible with agriculture.

Concern was raised by residents that the expansion of the broiler farm would increase the building exclusion area around it. Residents want certainty that the expansion of the farm will not preclude the potential for them to develop land for dwellings in the future.

As discussed above, the subject land and the surrounding area is within the Farming Zone and there are no buffer area controls relating to the existing broiler farm nor is it proposed to implement any additional controls via a planning scheme amendment. There is no building exclusion zone created by the broiler Farm, under the Victorian Broiler Code 2009 (including 2018 amendments). This application is for a Special Class Broiler Farm (600,000 birds) which exceeds the coverage by the code separation formula.

Any application for the use and development of land on the surrounding farming zone land would be subject to a planning permit process in accordance with the zone and any other relevant provisions of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. If a dwelling were proposed in proximity to the broiler farm an application would be advertised and as an adjoining owner, the broiler farm would be provided with the opportunity to make a submission and have any issues considered.

It is noted that none of the objectors' properties directly adjoin the broiler farm and are over 3km from the broiler sheds, so this is unlikely to be an issue in the future. The applicant has also provided an undertaking in correspondence in response to objections that they will not object to any future proposals.

Odour and Off-Site Impacts

Residents raised concerns regarding the impact of odour associated with the farm. At the on-site meeting residents indicated that the site is subject to an existing odour issue at times and are concerned that the odour impact may increase given the expansion and increase in the number of birds. It is however noted that the existing odour issue has not been noted to Council, the EPA, or the owner/manager during the 10-year operation.

Several factors determine the minimum separation distances needed between a broiler farm and sensitive land uses to manage amenity impacts. These include the type of neighbouring sensitive land use, local topographical features (terrain), land surface roughness between the farm and sensitive land uses, local climatic conditions, and the size of the facility.

Some management decisions and factors also influence emission rates, this includes feed and water management, stocking densities, litter type and amount used, and litter management. With the introduction of the RSPCA growing requirements and shed design, shed management is consistent between all operations.

Two odour modelling assessments were submitted with the application. This included reports prepared by GHD (2014) and Pacific Environmental Limited (2015) which included a survey undertaken in (2016). These reports were based on a much larger broiler farm proposal for Farm A and B which are no longer proposed. Since these assessments and the introduction of the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms the broiler industry has required improvements in odour management practices. This includes a reduction in stocking densities, rotary hoeing of floor bedding to keep it dry and odor free, covered composting of mortalities, no storage of spent litter on site, more tunnel ventilated and improved climate-controlled broiler sheds and frequent inspections by the RSPCA.

This application will result in the farm being classed a Special Class Broiler Farm (600,000 birds) which exceeds the coverage by the Code separation formula under the Broiler Code. The EPA who assesses the requirements of a Special Class Broiler Farm has approved the use of the new Agrifutures Planning and environment guideline for establishing meat chicken farms: Guide 1 Assessment guide; Guide 2 Applicant guide.

The assessment undertaken under the guide indicates that there are more than adequate separation distances to surrounding dwellings, including those that have raised concerns regarding odour. In addition to this it has been agreed that any concerns regarding the ongoing management including odour should be directed to the farm manager and/or owner to allow for these matters to be addressed in a timely manner. If odour is an ongoing concern in the future both Council and the EPA can also play a role any mitigation.

Traffic

Condition 22 of the current planning permit requires all heavy vehicles movements to and from the subject site must only be undertaken via Trawalla Road to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The operator is to inform all relevant transport contractors, particularly the processing company, that this restriction applies.

At the on-site meeting this matter was raised including some recent vehicles associated with the broiler farm using Kayley's Lane. The owner of the site indicated that all vehicles accessing the site are advised to use Trawalla Road only and on occasion this may occur due to a contractor not being given the correct instructions. Both the residents on Kayley's Lane and the owner/site manager agreed that if vehicles were to use Kayley's Lane and this was an ongoing concern then the site manager or owner was to be contacted directly to address. On this basis this condition will remain on the amended permit as it has an ongoing effect.

Impacts to creek and the biodiversity of the area.

Concern was raised about increased runoff to SpringHill Creek associated with the expansion and the impact to surrounding properties which also share this watercourse. There is also concern that biodiversity could be impacted if there was associated run off.

The development was originally subject to drainage plans for the existing sheds where stormwater is currently drained into a dam system. This is set to continue, and a new drainage plan will be required via condition to address any additional stormwater drainage from the proposed sheds. There is currently no runoff from the development into Spring Hill Creek and this is not proposed to change as part of the expansion.

The relevant Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA) has been consulted and no concerns have been raised in relation to run off to the Emu Creek Catchment. The proposed buildings and works would be located at least 750 meters from Springhill Creek and the area of the land which is subject to flooding.

- Amendments to conditions of planning permit PA1988/12/A

The original planning permit PA1988/12 was issued in 2012 for the use and development of a broiler farm (400,000 birds) and development of one dwelling (managers residence). The permit was subject to 50 permit conditions and five notes. Planning permit conditions on the original permit were extensive and addressed the following matters:

- Access Construction requirements including construction of Trawalla Road. Section 173 agreement required to facilitate. All access via Trawalla Road
- Drainage Plans
- Use of the dwelling as a caretaker's residence only.
- Landscape plans
- construction Management Plan
- Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Waste/Litter Management
- Referral authority requirements including CFA, Southern Rural Water
- Use to comply with code of Practice, EMP
- Design requirements
- Septic Tank Installation Requirements
- Amenity conditions including lighting, loading/unloading, vehicle noise suppression, noise emissions, offensive odor, and spray control.

It is proposed to amend the issued planning permit to revise the description of the proposal to the following:

- Use and Development of a broiler farm (600,000 birds) and development of one dwelling (caretakers' residence).

Several of the conditions of approval will also be amended to relate to the current proposal and to ensure that the permit allows for compliance with current relevant legislation and regulations. Many of the conditions have ongoing effect and will not be amended. If a permit condition has been addressed and is no longer required, it will be deleted.

A copy of the original issued planning permit, a DRAFT Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit is provided at **Attachment 5**.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

2c. Promote responsible development.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- Pyrenees Shire Council Plan 2021-2025
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Pyrenees Planning Scheme.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The application was required to be advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Consultation outcomes are included in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Aerial Photo [**13.2.2.1** - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 Plans [**13.2.2.2** - 9 pages]
3. Attachment 3 response to submissions [**13.2.2.3** - 5 pages]
4. Attachment 4 Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 [**13.2.2.4** - 23 pages]
5. Attachment 5 Existing Permit and NOD [**13.2.2.5** - 29 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's assessment of the application and management of the planning permit process has been partially met by the fees paid pursuant to the Planning and Environment Act 1987. There are no significant risks associated with the issue of an amended planning permit for this proposal.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council issue a Notice of Decision to Grant an amended planning permit subject to the following conditions:

Amended Plans Required:

1. Before the development commences, the following documents and plans must be submitted to and be approved to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be generally in accordance with the amended plans submitted to Council for consideration with the application, and must include the following:
 - a. A revised Environmental Management Plan (EMP), prepared by a suitably qualified environmental consultant, which includes the following:-
 - The Environmental Management Plan amended to address nominated RSPCA requirements, including stocking densities, as per RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standards - Meat Chickens Implementation date: 1 March 2020 or as amended and are endorsed and form part of any permit issued to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
 - How the approved measures as outlined in the Victorian Code for Broiler

Farms (2009 plus 2018 Amendments).

- An updated fire prevention plan for the broiler farm site.
 - An updated detailed complaints response procedure.
 - Updated contingency plans to deal with and the full range of emergencies and potential accidents.
- b. Revised Drainage plans as required by Condition 4).
- c. Landscaping plans required by Condition 11).

Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Responsible Authority, all buildings and works are to be constructed and or undertaken in accordance with the endorsed plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority prior to the commencement of the use.

LAYOUT NOT ALTERED

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

ACCESS CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

3. The surface of the internal car parking and loading areas and access lanes must at all times be constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority to prevent dust and fugitive drainage runoff. All internal access roads are to be constructed of a compacted sub base with suitably designed table drains to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The road shall be designed with a compacted layer with a camber to direct water run-off into the on-site drains.

DRAINAGE REQUIREMENTS

4. A revised Drainage Plan associated with the new development on site must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the layout shown on the endorsed site plan, showing all proposed stormwater collection and storage arrangements. The Plan must include hydrological computations for the sizing of all key elements of the drainage system. The design for the on-site drainage system should include the following features:-
- a. Drainage systems for over land flows and potentially contaminated runoff must operate independently of each other. In this connection, the finished floor levels of all broiler sheds must be at least 200 millimetres above adjacent ground level.
 - b. The sheds shall be provided with a piped drainage system designed to cater for a minimum of a 1 in 10-year storm event. All associated underground or surface drainage works that are considered necessary by the Responsible Authority shall be constructed in accordance with the plans, computations, and specifications submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority.
Such drainage works shall include the provision of an on-site stormwater detention system designed to the satisfaction of the Authority. No stormwater shall drain or discharge from the land to adjoining properties without the prior approval of the Responsible Authority.
 - c. A stormwater detention basin/dam must be provided for, with a spillway structure to cater for a 1 in 100-year storm event experienced in the whole catchment. The design of the spillway structure shall be such that regular ongoing maintenance of the structure is not necessary, to ensure the correct operation of the system or to prevent discharge from the site carrying sediment. It is a requirement that a 1 metre run-off surcharge capacity be provided for within the design of this dam. Computations must be provided demonstrating that a dam with a 10 mega litre capacity will be

adequate to retain all stormwater from the catchment during a 1 in 100-year storm event. Provision must be made for cut-off drains to be constructed between the collection dam and the existing dam to the south east.

- d. Unless otherwise approved by the Responsible Authority there must be no buildings, structures, or improvements located over proposed drainage pipes and easements on the property.
5. No stormwater shall drain or discharge from the land to adjoining properties without the prior approval of the Responsible Authority.
6. Apart from storm water, no material from the broiler farm operation is to be discharged into the drainage system, including the on-site retention dam without further approval of the Responsible Authority, the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority or Southern Rural Water.
7. All works required under Condition 4 shall be completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, prior to the use hereby approved commencing.

LAND OWNERSHIP

8. The existing dwelling on Lot 2 on PS 4319748 shall at all times while the use operates remain on the same lot as the broiler farm approved by this permit and be used for the purpose of a manager's residence with a broiler farm use on the site.

SECTION 173 AGREEMENT

9. The terms and conditions of the current Section 173 Agreement (Planning and Environment Act 1987) entered into by the landowner and Council will continue to have ongoing effect so as long as the use and development is in operation.

The Responsible Authority may release the owner from these obligations and/or vary the requirements upon the written request of the owner. The Responsible Authority must be satisfied that the release and/or variation to the agreement will result in a better planning outcome or that the agreement is no longer required.

All costs associated with the preparation, signing, lodgement, registration, amending and ending of the Agreement must be borne by the owner, including all notification costs and legal fees.

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY

10. Buildings and Works
The bushfire mitigation measures forming part of this permit or shown on the endorsed plans, including those relating to construction standards, defensible space, water supply, and access, must be maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and the relevant fire authority on a continuing basis. This condition continues to have force and effect after the development authorised by this permit has been completed.

LANDSCAPING PLAN:

11. The landscape plan must be amended to show the location and type of all proposed screen and other plantings and landscaping anticipated tree or shrub height and width at maturity, timetables for plantings and arrangements for maintenance of the landscaped areas. All trees and shrubs including the landscape plan must be indigenous to the locality. The landscape plan

must show:-

- a. The retention of existing plantation trees within the defined buffer areas shown on the site plan
 - b. The addition of any additional landscaping buffer screen planting along the northern and western frontages of the site to replace any removed or dead planting. This should include a mixture of shrubs species to ensure effective low-level screening of the broiler farm.
 - c. The plan must include a schedule of all proposed shrubs and ground cover, including their height at maturity (at planting and at maturity), their location, and botanical names.
12. All additional trees and shrubs included in the endorsed landscape plan must be planted prior to the commencement of the use of the new development and must thereafter be maintained in a healthy condition to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Any Dead or diseased trees must be replaced. In the circumstance where there are seasonal conditions that would be unfavourable to the establishment of the landscaping, the permit holder may apply in writing to the responsible Authority for an extension of time to complete the landscaping.

HEAVY VEHICLE ACCESS ROUTE:

13. All heavy vehicles movements to and from the subject site must only be undertaken via Trawalla Road to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The operator is to inform all relevant transport contractors, particularly the processing company that this restriction applies.

POWERCOR

14. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR).

Notes: Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.

15. Any buildings must comply with the clearances required by the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations. Any construction work must comply with the Energy Safe Victoria's "No Go Zone" rules.

*Notes: To apply for a permit to work go to our website:
<https://customer.portal.powercor.com.au/mysupply/CIAWQuickCalculator> and apply on line through the No Go Zone Assessment*

SOUTHERN RURAL WATER

16. The following requirements apply with respect to the storage and supply of water for the operation of the broiler farm:
- a. The extraction and use of groundwater from a bore or existing dams for purposes of providing a suitable and secure water supply for this development must be licensed in accordance with Section 51 of the Water Act 1989. This matter must be resolved prior to the commencement of any works.
 - b. The proposed storm water dam must be constructed in accordance with plans submitted and must not have a wall height exceeding 3.0 metres above natural ground level.
 - c. The dam must only be filled from direct roof runoff or from a licensed water source.
 - d. The dam must be constructed in accordance with a "turkeys' nest" design so as no natural surface water runoff can enter the dam.

- e. The dam must be clay lined so as there is no possibility of intercepting and storing sub surface water.
- f. The works must not interfere with any nearby waterway being a watercourse, drainage line or a natural channel with a regular flow.
- g. On completion of the works SRW must be advised so as a site inspection can be undertaken.

WASTE LITTER MANAGEMENT:

17. All waste litter material associated with the operation of the broiler farm use is required to be transported off-site within 2 days of the completion of the processing of each batch of chickens, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. No used litter may be spread or otherwise disposed of on the site. All trucks removing litter from the site must have covered loads to prevent any spread of litter.

USE CONDITIONS

18. The use and development approved by this permit must at all times be conducted in accordance with the requirements of:
 - a. The Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 (plus 2018 amendments), or as amended.
 - b. Environmental Management Plan endorsed as forming part of this permit.
 - c. Each of the permit documents (including endorsed plans).
to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

SHED DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

19. The poultry sheds must be designed and constructed using a tunnel-vented exhaust or such other alternative technology which complies with the requirements of the Broiler Code of Practice (2009 plus 2018 amendments), to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
20. The poultry sheds and all feed stores must be vermin and bird proof to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

CLADDING OF SHED BUILDINGS

21. All walls of the poultry sheds and other buildings hereby permitted which will be visible from beyond the site must be coloured or painted in non-reflective muted tones to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

EROSION PREVENTION MEASURES

22. Within 3 months of the completion of development works any areas exposed soils around the development site must be revegetated with suitable grass seed and ground covers in order to prevent erosion, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

SEDIMENT ON ROADWAYS

24. No material shall be permitted to be deposited or remain deposited on any road by construction vehicles or associated plant entering or leaving the land subject to this Permit. Any material deposited on the road shall be removed by mechanical or manual means to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION

25. Prior to the commencement of works, and finalisation of the dwelling location, septic tank and effluent line and absorption area details to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority shall be lodged with the Responsible Authority for approval.
26. The disposal system must be based on soil absorption tests which indicate satisfactory absorption rates are available at all times of the year. All wastes are to be treated and disposed of within the curtilage of the property in accordance with the Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management 2016 and the system regularly maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
26. The approved septic tank/effluent disposal system shall be installed concurrently with the erection of the dwelling and completed prior to the occupation of the premises. The required effluent disposal field(s) must not be located within 60 metres of any water course.

LITTER MANAGEMENT

27. Litter of a type capable of rendering droppings dry and inoffensive is to be used in all places where birds are kept. The litter must not exceed 15-30% moisture content. The broiler farm use authorised by this permit must be operated as a dry litter poultry operation only and all litter used must not exceed 15-30% moisture content. Wet litter must be either treated or removed from the shed or sheds immediately it is detected, in accordance with the approved Environmental Management Plan forming part of this permit.

HEAVY VEHICLE DELIVERIES

28. Except with the approval of the Responsible Authority, the delivery of feed and the delivery or removal of bird litter from the sheds may occur only between the hours of 6.00am and 9.00pm on any day other than on Christmas Day and Good Friday (on which days no such activities may occur). The only exception to this restriction would be in emergency situations when vehicle or plant breakdown or upset conditions in a shed or sheds themselves make it necessary for out of hour's truck movements to occur.

DEAD BIRD COMPOSTING:

29. All on-site composting of dead birds is required to be undertaken within purpose constructed three sided bays, having impermeable concrete floors and side/rear walls. The floors of the bays must be elevated above the surrounding ground level to prevent both the inflow of surface drainage waters and the discharge of liquid waste into the surrounding environment, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. All composting bays must be roofed and fitted with storm water collection facilities, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

The approved composting facility is required to be operated accordance with the endorsed plans.

30. All on-site composting is required to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in EPA publication 2050 Composting Mortalities on Farms (November 2022).

LIGHTING

31. All lighting must be designed, located, directed, and baffled to ensure that light does not spill or cause nuisance beyond the lot boundaries of the development.

LOADING AND UNLOADING OF VEHICLES:

32. The loading and unloading of vehicles and the delivery of goods to and from the premises must at all times be carried on entirely within the site.

VEHICLE NOISE SUPPRESSION

33. All vehicles used in the pickup and transportation of live birds after 10:00pm and before 7.00am must be fitted with high performance mufflers to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. All machinery operating from within the site during those hours must not have audible alarms or sirens other than any reversing beeper or other devices required for occupational health and safety.

NOISE EMISSIONS

34. Any noise emitted from the land must not disturb the amenity of the area and must comply with the Environment Protection Act 2017 (section 25, section 166, and section 168) and the Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (Part 5.3, Division 3) relating to commercial, industrial and trade premises.

EXTERNAL STORAGE

35. All goods and equipment must be stored out of view of so as not to be unsightly when viewed from nearby roads to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

AUDIT REQUIREMENT

36. On a biannual basis, an audit of the broiler farm facility must be undertaken by an independent accredited contractor approved by the Responsible Authority, to determine whether the farm is being managed in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) endorsed as forming part of this permit, and the auditing requirements contained within Section 8 of the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms (2009 Plus 2018 amendments). A copy of the plan must be provided to the Responsible Authority upon completion.

OFFENSIVE ODOUR AND CHEMICAL SPRAY CONTROL:

37. If at any time the Responsible Authority determines that the amenity of nearby residents is being adversely affected in the emission of an unreasonable level of odour from the site the permit holder must immediately and to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority take such action as is necessary to reduce those emissions to an acceptable level, which may include adjusting stocking density in the sheds, removing litter immediately, or any other actions reasonably required to rectify the emission of offensive odour.
38. The permit holder must use its best endeavours to avoid sanitizing sheds with odorous chemicals which give rise to offensive odours being detectible off site. Airborne sprays or chemical odours must not be transmitted beyond the site to the detriment of any person to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

LIQUID STORAGE

39. All liquid waste or fuel/chemical storage areas shall be located on a foundation structure incorporating a bund wall to contain any liquid waste or fuel spillage to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

EARTHWORKS

40. Earthworks must be undertaken in a manner that minimises soil erosion. Exposed areas of soil must be stabilised to prevent soil erosion. The time for which soil remains exposed and unestablished must be minimised to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN

41. All works on the land must be undertaken in accordance with the endorsed Construction Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

AMENITY IMPACTS

42. The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use or development through the:
- a. Transport of materials, goods, or commodities to or from the land.
 - b. Appearance of any buildings works or materials.
 - c. Emission of noise, artificial light, dust, wastewater, or waste products; or
 - d. The presence of vermin.

PERMIT EXPIRY – USE AND DEVELOPMENT

43. Development and use of land expires if:
- a) The development or any stage of it does not start within two (2) years of the date of this permit; or
 - b) The development or any stage of it is not completed within four (4) years of the date of this permit; or
 - c) The use does not start within two (2) years after the completion of the development; or
 - d) The use is discontinued for a period of two years.

The responsible authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within six months afterwards (for a request to extend the time to commence the development) or twelve months after the permit expires (for a request to extend the time to complete the development).

End of Conditions

CARRIED

13.2.3. LOCAL ROAD AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM - PHASE 4

Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development Services

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

File No: 32/13/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council about the projects to be funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Phase 4).

BACKGROUND

Council have previously received three previous rounds of LRCIP infrastructure funding with the most recent Phase 3 funding being \$2,789,842. Council endorsed several projects under that phase of the program and works are currently nearing completion on those projects.

In May 2023, the Commonwealth advised of a Phase 4 of the program with Pyrenees allocation being \$2,199,542. From 1 July 2023, Council will be able to access funding, with projects to be delivered by 30 June 2025.

The program guidelines are yet to be published but are expected to be similar to those of phase three with eligible projects described as follows:

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

Examples of locations include parks, playgrounds, footpaths, roads and sporting fields, with possible projects including:

- *Closed circuit TV*
- *Bicycle and walking paths*
- *Improvements to community facilities*
- *Repairing and replacing fencing*
- *Improved accessibility of facilities and areas*
- *Landscaping and beautification works*
- *Picnic or BBQ shelters at community parks*
- *Public art associated with an eligible project*
- *Playgrounds/skate parks*
- *Noise and/or vibration mitigation measures; and*
- *Off-road car parks (sporting ground/community facilities).*

Eligible Local Road Projects are projects that involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments. Local governments are encouraged to consider works that support improved road safety outcomes.

Ineligible expenditure is detailed as follows:

- *Costs associated with preparation of works schedule*
- *Costs incurred in the preparation of reporting documentation including audit requirements*
- *General administration, overheads, staff salaries not connected to funded projects*
- *Subsidy of ongoing administration such as electricity, phone or rent*
- *Commencement ceremonies, opening ceremonies or other event*
- *Transport planning studies*
- *Road rehabilitation studies*
- *Plant/ capital equipment purchase*
- *Land purchase*

- *Training*
- *Public Liability Insurance*
- *Retrospective costs*

The funding from this grant is made up of 2 components:

LRCIP 4a **\$1,394,921** **General community infrastructure**

LRCIP 4b \$804,621 Road specific infrastructure

Due to there being a road specific infrastructure component, it is essential that there are projects that qualify as such and that meet or exceed the funding amount. The balance of funds can be used for general community infrastructure.

It is proposed that the following principals should apply to the selection of projects:

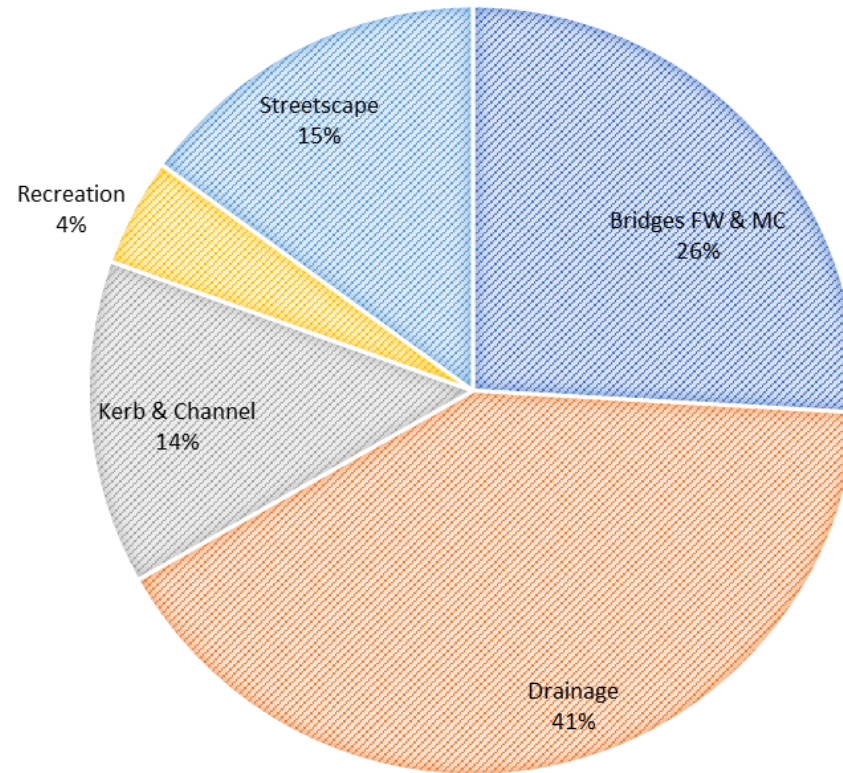
- Asset renewal and contributing to the 10 Year Asset Plan
- Addressing areas of need
- Funding is distributed to different communities and localities within the municipality
- Addressing projects that Council would otherwise struggle to fund
- Projects that reduce financial burden on Council into the future.
- Funding budget initiatives and pipeline projects.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The following list of projects have been nominated by officers and workshopped by Councillors and are now presented for Council consideration and endorsement:

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	ASSET CLASS	ROADS	BUDGET
Bridge Rail Renewal (2 x bridges)	Carngham-Lake Goldsmith Road & McKinlay Street Landsborough	Bridges FW & MC	Yes	150000
Floodways – Dovecott	Evansford	Bridges FW & MC	Yes	50000
Floodways – Horwills Lane	Natte Yallock	Bridges FW & MC	Yes	120000
Major Culverts – Spring Flat Road x 2	Crowlands	Bridges FW & MC	Yes	250000
Stormwater – Astbury Street Extension	Avoca	Drainage		350000
Stormwater – High Street Median works	Avoca	Drainage		200000
Stormwater – Pound Lane additional drain	Avoca	Drainage		350000
Kerb & Channel renewal	Avoca	Kerb & Channel	Yes	200000
Kerb and Channel new – Livingstone Street (320m)	Beaufort	Kerb & Channel	Yes	100000
Netball / Tennis court resurfacing – 8 courts 4 locations	Various	Recreation		100000
Tree Removal	Snake Valley	Streetscape		80000
Streetscape and drainage works	Redbank	Streetscape		250000
			TOTAL	2,200,000

ASSET CLASSES BY PERCENTAGE



COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

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

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

1.2 - Maintain and renew Council's facilities and built assets in line with community service needs

1.4 - Maintain, develop and renew the public amenity of our townships in consultation with our communities.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

The projects listed in this report provide for community benefit through improvements to infrastructure and amenity.

Cr Robert Vance / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council endorses the following projects to be nominated for funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program- Phase 4 :

Description	Location	Budget
Bridge Rail Renewal	Carngham-Lake Goldsmith Road & McKinlay Street Landsborough	150000
Floodways – Dovecott	Evansford	50000
Floodways – Horwills Lane	Natte Yallock	120000
Major Culverts – Spring Flat Road x 2	Crowlands	250000
Stormwater – Astbury Street Extension	Avoca	350000
Stormwater – High Street Median works	Avoca	200000
Stormwater – Pound Lane additional drain	Avoca	350000
Kerb & Channel renewal	Avoca	200000
Kerb and Channel new – Livingstone Street (320m)	Beaufort	100000
Netball / Tennis court resurfacing – 8 courts 4 locations	Various	100000
Tree Removal	Snake Valley	80000
Streetscape and drainage works	Redbank	250000
	Total	2,200.000

CARRIED

13.2.4. PETITION - NORTHERN END OF HIGH STREET - AVOCA

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

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

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

File No: 2660

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of a letter and petition expressing concern over the state of the northern end of High Street, Avoca.

BACKGROUND

Officers received a letter and petition dated 12 June 2023 from Sue Allan of Avoca.

The petition contained a number of photos of High Street infrastructure and vegetation north of the railway line and predominately north of Astbury Street. The petition contained seven signatures and stated:

“We the undersigned have concerns about the overgrown state of the northern end of High Street Avoca Vic 3467.”

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

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

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

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

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023.06.12 - Northern End High St Petition - Redacted [13.2.4.1 - 29 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

Cr Robert Vance / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Receives the petition;
2. Requests a report to be presented to a future meeting of Council on the matter contained in the petition.

CARRIED

13.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.3.1. ADOPTION OF 2023 24 BUDGET TEN YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN AND REVISED REVENUE AND RATING

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: 32/26/04

PURPOSE

This report presents to Council the 2023/24 Proposed Budget, Revenue and Rating Strategy and 10 Year Financial Plan for consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires the Council to prepare a budget for the upcoming financial year and 3 subsequent financial years. In preparation of the 2023/24 Budget Council reviewed the 10 Year Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Strategy.

The preparation of the budget begins with Officers preparing the operating and capital components of the budget during January and February. The various components of the budget are then prepared and discussed with the Council at informal briefings. A proposed budget is then prepared in accordance with the Act and the following steps are followed to review and adopt the budget in June: -

1. Officers to prepare the annual budget in accordance with the Act and submit the “proposed” budget to Council for approval in “principle”.
2. Council is then required to give 28 days' notice of its intention to adopt the proposed budget and make the budget available for inspection at its Offices.
3. Individuals have the right to make a submission on any proposal contained in the budget and any submission must be considered before adoption of the budget by Council.
4. Council is to formally adopt the budget after receiving and considering any submissions from interested parties.

The budget is required to be adopted by 30 June each year and is prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

This report also includes detailed information about the rates and charges to be levied and other financial information which the Council requires to make an informed decision about the adoption of the budget. The budget includes consideration of several long-term strategies to assist Council in considering the Budget in a proper financial management context.

These include: -

- 10 Year Financial Plan;
- Revenue and Rating Plan; and
- Borrowing Strategy
- Council Plan

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

1. Council received one submission for the 2023/24 Budget which was considered by Council at its Briefing meeting on 6 June 2023. Work is underway to make minor adjustments to specific fees and charges referenced in the submission.
2. The proposed 2023/24 Budget has been prepared taking into account the Victorian Governments Rate Cap of 3.50%.
3. The proposed budget and 10 Year Financial Plan have been prepared considering the latest economic factors to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the Council.
4. The Revenue and Rating Strategy has been reviewed ensuring the equitable distribution of rates across the municipality.
5. Property revaluations are completed annually and, although the Council's rate increase is 3.50%, actual rate increases of individual properties are impacted by changes in property valuations across the municipality. The effect of this is that individual rates can vary from the rate cap set by the Victoria Government.
6. The proposed budget has included a capital budget that is considered sustainable for both the 2023/24 financial year and for the next 10 years.
7. It is proposed that Council borrow \$1,00,000 which will be used for the funding of redevelopment of the Beaufort Caravan Park and allowance for strategic capital works projects.
8. The waste management charges have been increased to cover the cost of the delivery of the service.
9. An adjustment to the Revenue and Rating Plan was undertaken following receipt of the annual property valuations. The most significant adjustments proposed were:
 - the reduction of the rating differential for rural properties from 70% to 67% of the general rate (having regard to the significant increase in valuation of farm properties).
9. Public notice of the proposed Budget, Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan was given in accordance with Councils Engagement Strategy through notice in the Pyrenees Advocate and an opportunity was provided for members of the public to make submissions including through the Engagement Hub on Councils website.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 10 Year Budget 23 -24 [**13.3.1.1** - 30 pages]
2. Council Budget 23-24 [**13.3.1.2** - 59 pages]
3. Revenue-and- Rating- Plan 23-24 [**13.3.1.3** - 49 pages]
4. Fees 2023-24 [**13.3.1.4** - 17 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications have been considered within the 2023/24 Proposed Budget, 10 Year Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Strategy.

CONCLUSION

This report presents the 2023/24 Proposed Budget, 10 Year Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Strategy for consideration and adoption. It is considered that these strategic documents enable the Council to deliver its essential services and projects in line with the Councils vision.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Resolves it has considered all submissions and presentations made to Council.
2. Acknowledges the contribution of submitters to the budget process and thank them for their contribution.
3. Authorises officers to provide a formal response to each submitter.
4. Pursuant to Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020, adopts the proposed 2023/2024 Budget as attached.
5. Adopts the proposed 10 Year Financial Plan 2023/24 -2032/33 as attached.
6. Adopts the proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2023-2027 as attached.
7. Adopts the Fees and Charges as attached.
8. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give notice of the decision to adopt such budget.
9. Discloses that as at 30 June 2023 the total amount borrowed by Council is \$563,555.
10. Projects that \$1,000,000 will be borrowed during the 2023/24 financial year.
11. Projects that \$129,081 will be redeemed during the 2023/24 financial year.
12. Projects that the cost of servicing the borrowings during the 2023/24 financial year will be \$32,296.
13. Projects that as at 30 June 2024 Council borrowings will total \$1,434,474.
14. Proposes that the rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied for the 12 month period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 are:

	Budget
Type or class of land	2023/24
cents/\$CIV	
General rate for rateable residential properties	0.212309
General rate for rateable commercial properties	0.244137
General rate for rateable industrial properties	0.244137
General rate for rateable vacant non-farm land properties less than two hectares	0.552003
General rate for rateable non-farm vacant land properties between two hectares and forty hectares	0.488275
General rate for rateable non-farm vacant land properties greater than forty hectares	0.329043
General rate for undevelopable land	0.212309
General rate for rateable farm properties	0.142247
Recreational properties	0.212309

15. Proposes that no municipal charge be declared; and
16. In accordance with the provisions of section 171 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council will waive 50% of the Rates levied for the 2023/24 year on properties where the property is classified as Recreational for rating purposes.
The objective of this waiver is to provide financial assistance to those sporting and recreational clubs that are required to pay rates.
17. Proposes to levy a Waste Facilities/Disposal Charge of
 - \$251.00 for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 on improved properties.
 - \$100.00 for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 on unimproved properties.

- Owners of “farm rated” properties will pay a maximum of three “unimproved charges” for farm rate properties upon application.
18. To levy a Kerbside Garbage, Recycling and/or Green Waste collection service of \$556 on those properties receiving a service in the Beaufort and Avoca kerbside collection districts for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024
 19. To levy a Kerbside Garbage and Recycling collection service of \$556 in the other urban townships and rural areas for the period 1 July 2022to 30 June 2023.
 20. That the general rates and service charges referred to in this recommendation shall be levied by the service of a notion on each person liable to pay such rate or charge in accordance with s.158 of the Local Government Act 1989.
 21. That the rates and charges declared by the Council for 2023/24 financial year must be paid as follows:
 1. By four instalments made on or before the following dates:
 - i. Instalment 1 - 30 September 2023
 - ii. Instalment 2 - 30 November 2023
 - iii. Instalment 3 - 28 February 2024
 - iv. Instalment 4 - 31 May 2024
 2. By a lump sum payment made on or before 15 February 2024.
 22. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to levy and recover the rates and charges in accordance with the Local Government Acts 1989 and 2020.

CARRIED

13.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.4.1. COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY 2023

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: 44/10/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey report and to consider the key findings.

BACKGROUND

Each year Local Government Victoria (LGV) coordinates and auspices a state-wide local government community satisfaction survey throughout Victorian local government areas.

Although participation remains optional, questions are relevant to the mandatory local government performance reporting obligations and information gained informs Council's Annual Report.

Key objectives of the survey are to assess the performance of the Pyrenees Shire Council as perceived by its community, across a range of measures; and to seek insight into ways to provide improved or more effective service delivery. When coupled with previous data, the survey provides a reliable source of the community's views since 1998.

The survey was conducted in February/March 2023 and Pyrenees Shire Council's results are benchmarked against the state-wide average and the average for small rural councils.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The attached report contains detailed survey outcomes, with results shown as scores out of 100. A summary of Pyrenees Shire Council performance, as perceived by its community through the survey, is provided below.

Summary of Pyrenees Shire Council performance



Services	Pyrenees 2023	Pyrenees 2022	Small Rural 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
Overall performance	55	57	55	56	Aged 35-49 years	Aged 50-64 years
Value for money	48	51	49	49	Avoca, DeCameron residents, Aged 18-34 years, Women	Aged 50-64 years
Overall council direction	43	49	47	46	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
Customer service	62	63	65	67	Mt Emu residents	Beaufort, Ercildoune residents
Art centres & libraries	70	68	73	73	Aged 18-34 years	Mt Emu residents
Waste management	69	69	66	66	Aged 65+ years	Aged 18-34 years
Recreational facilities	65	68	67	68	Avoca, DeCameron residents	Beaufort, Ercildoune residents, Aged 35-49 years
Appearance of public areas	65	68	71	67	Aged 35-49 years	Mt Emu residents
Family support services	63	64	62	63	Mt Emu residents, Aged 35-49 years	Aged 50-64 years

Significantly higher / lower than Pyrenees Shire Council 2023 result at the 95% confidence interval. Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 8

Summary of Pyrenees Shire Council performance



Services	Pyrenees 2023	Pyrenees 2022	Small Rural 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
Emergency & disaster mngt	62	65	66	65	Avoca, DeCameron residents	Aged 18-34 years, Beaufort, Ercildoune residents
Enforcement of local laws	61	59	61	61	Aged 35-49 years, Aged 18-34 years, Women	Aged 65+ years
Elderly support services	60	68	66	63	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
Bus/community dev./tourism	57	60	61	59	Aged 35-49 years	Aged 50-64 years
Community decisions	50	53	52	51	Mt Emu residents, Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years, Avoca, DeCameron residents, Men
Consultation & engagement	50	51	53	52	Aged 18-34 years	Men
Sealed local roads	44	50	44	48	Avoca, DeCameron residents	Aged 50-64 years, Beaufort, Ercildoune residents
Unsealed roads	35	39	38	37	Aged 35-49 years, Avoca, DeCameron residents	Aged 18-34 years

Significantly higher / lower than Pyrenees Shire Council 2023 result at the 95% confidence interval. Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 9

At the time of writing this report, a thorough assessment has not yet been completed, and some general observations about the results and factors influencing the results are contained below:

- There has been a continuation of a decline in several areas when compared with the last ten years.
- Overall, there has been a decline across the sector and the small rural council average in most areas measured
- Council continues to perform well in waste management when compared with the state and small rural average.
- Council’s lowest performing areas relate to both sealed and unsealed roads
- There has been a significant decline in elderly support services, and overall Council direction

Significant events that may have contributed to the results include:

- The major flood event of October and November 2022 which impacted on the road network, and the appearance of public areas and recreation facilities.
- The decision of Council to exit from home-based aged care services.
- Financial pressures impacting on Councils capacity to deliver services.
- An incorrect perception that Highways and Arterial roads are part of the Council managed road network – requiring further community education.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

It is intended that the results of this survey be published on council’s website.

ATTACHMENTS

1. J 01207 CSS 2023 Pyrenees Shire Council Report [13.4.1.1 - 102 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of Council receiving this report.

CONCLUSION

The 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey provides insights into community perceptions about the relative importance of various council services and its performance which is also an opportunity for Council to better understand the communities' expectations to learn and improve.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr David Clark

That Council:

1. Publishes the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey report on its website.
2. Uses the results of the survey to reset performance targets for its Council Plan where appropriate.
3. Uses the results of the survey to review specific areas for improvement.
4. Undertakes targeted Community consultation and engagement in the second half of 2023 on sealed local road management.

CARRIED

13.4.2. AVOCA ARTS & GARDENS INC. REQUEST FOR ART ACQUISITION

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: 06/08/12

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council in relation to the purchase of a painting from Avoca Arts and Gardens titled 'At the Going Down of the Sun'.

BACKGROUND

A request has been received from Avoca Arts and Gardens Inc. for Council to purchase a painting for inclusion in Council's Art collection.

In the past, Council has provided support to the Avoca Art Show with an acquisitive art prize however due to Covid, this support has not been provided in the last four years due to show cancellations.

Council last purchased an acquisition prize from the Avoca Art Show in 2019 valued at \$750. Due to Covid, the 2019 Art Show was the last show held in Avoca.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Chris Orr, a Maryborough based artist and one of Gallery 127's most successful painters has framed a painting that was on display in the Gallery for some months which is titled 'At the Going Down of the Sun'. Avoca Arts and Gardens Inc. have indicated that it represents the only painting, that they are aware of, which has a historical pictorial record into perpetuity, that will acknowledge the Avoca War Memorial's 100th anniversary.



The purchase of this artwork would provide an opportunity to publicly acknowledge Covid's impact on the arts and Council's ongoing support for artists and Gallery 127.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

Enabling Principles

a. Motivate and inspire community involvement

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Purchase the artwork of Chris Orr 'At the Going Down of the Sun' for a purchase price of \$990.00 (incl. GST).

CARRIED

13.4.3. PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING & SERVICE DELIVERY

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: 44/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to support a submission to be made to the parliamentary inquiry into local government funding and service delivery.

BACKGROUND

In May 2023, the Victorian Legislative Assembly resolved:

That this House requires the Economy and Infrastructure Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 30 June 2024, on local government funding and service delivery in Victoria, including but not limited to –

- 1. the effects of cost shifting from the state and federal governments to local councils in an examination of vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances;*
- 2. whether local councils are adequately delivering on their core service delivery objectives;*
- 3. the overall revenue structure of local government;*
- 4. whether the existing revenue structure is sustainable and appropriate or if alternative models of funding would be more sustainable and appropriate; and*
- 5. any other related matters.*

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council's financial sustainability is a significant risk to be managed. Council is financially vulnerable due to the limited revenue raising capability, and the reliance on government grants to deliver core services and for the renewal of its assets.

There is an opportunity, through the Parliamentary Inquiry, to shine a light on these vulnerabilities and to advocate for a fairer funding model to ensure small rural councils are sustainable into the future.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The Inquiry will invite submissions from the general public as well as from Councils.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial sustainability is one of Councils significant strategic risks to be managed.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed that Council uses the opportunity of the inquiry to shine a light on issues impacting on Councils long term sustainability, and its ability to deliver services to our rural communities.

Cr Robert Vance / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. Makes a submission to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry into local government funding and service delivery.

CARRIED

13.4.4. SUBMISSION - MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

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: 30/22/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Councils support of a submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

BACKGROUND

Council have received communication from the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water:

“... outlining how the Australian Government is working to manage Australia’s water better for the future and how council and the community can contribute to this work.

In the recent budget the government invested \$197.1 million in projects that provide safe, reliable and secure water for regional and remote communities. A safe and reliable water supply is essential for the health and wellbeing of communities and the strength of local economies.

The budget also delivered further investment for the Murray-Darling Basin. Funding was committed to fix the broken water market, help First Nations participate in water planning and decision-making, and deliver the first review of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

The Albanese Labor Government committed at the last election to deliver the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in full, including the 450GL of additional environmental water.

The Australian Government wants to consider all innovative ideas to deliver the Murray–Darling Basin Plan in full.

The Basin Plan sets the amount of water that can be taken from rivers for industry, agriculture, and community use, while leaving enough to restore and maintain a healthy environment and river system. In the face of an increasingly harsh climate, full delivery of the Basin Plan is more important than ever.

The Basin Plan includes two different water recovery targets; one that bridges the gap between historic overuse and a sustainable level of use, and one that enhances environmental outcomes. Efforts to return water for the environment are behind schedule and may result in shortfalls.”

Two opportunities have been provided for input on the Basin Plan. A 5-week public consultation process has been launched for Basin communities and stakeholders to submit innovative ideas and options on how the Plan can be delivered. Concurrently, workshops will be held with representatives from key stakeholder groups in the Basin to further explore and test ideas collaboratively will be hosted.

The consultation provides the opportunity to formally contribute ideas to delivering the Basin Plan’s 450GL water recovery target and to supplement estimated shortfalls in gap bridging water efficiency projects.

At the conclusion of the consultation, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will publish public submissions on their website and produce a summary report of consultation outcomes.

The Australian Government will then review ideas submitted in the consultation on their ability to:

- contribute towards the water recovery targets or achieve Basin Plan flow targets more efficiently
- secure value for money
- provide enduring environmental outcomes
- minimise socio-economic impacts
- provide other co-benefits (economic, social, environmental, cultural)
- be supported and implemented effectively by Basin state and territory governments.

Viable submissions will be further considered by the Minister for future program and policy development.

The consultation timeline is as follows:

Public Consultation to hear ideas - to 29 May 2023

Public Webinar – 20 June 2023

Consultation close – 3 July 2023

Release of report – August 2023

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council in conjunction with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water has commenced a process to deliver a feasibility study and business case for the proposed Southwest Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Pipeline which lies within the Murray-Darling Basin. This is a significant project, and an opportunity to for government to deliver on the objectives of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (MDBP).

It is suggested that Council consider making a submission to the invitation on the MDBP to draw attention to the proposed pipeline project to assist in future advocacy for government funding support for the infrastructure should the feasibility plan and business case be achieved.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The proposed pipeline project has been the subject of considerable community engagement and landowner support.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FACTSHEET Have Your Say - Murray- Darling Basin Plan [13.4.4.1 - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications in making the submission.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed that a brief submission be made to this invitation on the MDBP highlighting past drought events and the need for a reliable water source for agriculture as well as Councils proposal for the Pipeline including the economic and environmental benefits of the proposal.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr David Clark

That Council:

1. Supports a submission be made to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

CARRIED

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Vance

- On May 19th had the privilege of attending the MAV State Council meeting, it was a very intense day, our fellow councillor, the chair of the MAV, Cr Clark had his hands fairly well full most of the day, but it was a very informative meeting with more than 100 oppositions put forward and we got through about 78 of them. Well done to Cr Clark, the MAV certainly provide a great service for councils throughout Victoria.
- Chaired the AGM of the Landsborough Hall Committee, the previous meeting that was chaired had three people in attendance, this one had about nine in attendance, things are on the improve as far as the Hall Committee is concerned.
- Attended the Cuppa and Chat at crossroads, it went well.
- Took part in the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 23 May via zoom.
- Attended a Rural Councils Victoria meeting via zoom on 24 May. The upcoming summit to be held in Echuca was discussed. There was also a fair bit of discussion around forward planning, it is highly unlikely that Rural Councils Victoria is going to be funded anymore by the State Government. Over the past four years RCV has received funding and it is highly unlikely that the money is going to be forthcoming following the budget.
- Would like to officially announce that the Landsborough Larder is going to open tomorrow morning at 8.30am, looking forward to it. A lot of work has been put into the old building and councillors will be pleasantly surprised when they go into the building, it has been completely transformed and is wonderful.

Cr Kehoe

- Last month I was able to attend the celebration of the man who invented vegemite. It was an incredibly joyful event and a significant milestone for Beaufort, putting Beaufort even more securely on the map. I am thoroughly enjoying the book; it is very well written.
- Attended the Lexton Flood Recovery community meeting. It was a great opportunity to meet community members and to learn so much about trauma management and the effects of trauma in so many ways, that the effects of traumas can continue for quite some time. The effect on communities and that Lexton had been through so much over the past few years. It was a great location, we received great feedback and looking at how we can support communities in the future.
- Related to emergency risk management, yesterday we had our first Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) meeting with the MEMPC and others in the community. The first set of protocols were dealt with yesterday, it was a lengthy meeting of about 4.5 hours. We looked into assessing requirements for emergency situations, the ones we looked at were relating to pandemic, extreme temperatures and mass gatherings. It is really important as these processes are vital to protecting our communities. These can be quite arduous meetings and a huge thanks to all of those emergency organisation representatives who were there and gave so much to the meeting. We learnt a great deal through that meeting and how to improve those services. Thanks also to the council representatives who gave their time to review this essential documentation.
- Attended the councillor Cuppa and Chat a couple of weeks ago at Glenpatrick. Glenpatrick is a beautiful part of our shire and is stunning. I will definitely be heading up there to camp at some stage. Thank you to the two beautiful ladies that represented their community, I learnt so much for myself because I hadn't actually been to that reserve and it is a true gem.
- The Uniting Church has been quite topical in Snake Valley. The Uniting Church has been looking at selling the Carngham Uniting Church which has created a lot of angst in the community. There are many community members that have connections to the church which was gifted to the community

many years ago. I have attended a number of meetings looking at options that may prevent it happening or looking at other ways that it can be protected. It is in the initial stages but there is a lot of people providing a lot of impact and a lot of negotiations happening.

Cr Clark

- Like any rural councillor in Pyrenees or anywhere in rural Victoria, roads have been a highlight for the last month.
- Attended meetings with Central Highlands Greenhouse Alliance and Highlands LLEN last month.
- Attended the flood recovery meeting at Lexton which was a really good night.
- Attended constituent matters in Evansford, Beaufort, Waubra, Glenbrae and Lexton which have been really useful.
- MAV have had a state budget and a federal budget since we last met, both of them were quite benign in an operational sense but quite significant in a capital sense. That will be an issue for us as council going forward because that capital money is where we can provide for projects in the community and for some of the drainage works we have talked about tonight.
- Provided some more stories on aged care, again using the Pyrenees as an example because we are exiting from aged care in the next couple of weeks.
- Attended Canberra last week, it was really good.
- Attended the Cuppa and Chat in Glenpatrick. The day after the Cuppa and Chat I was launching the old and not alone campaign in Melbourne which is a campaign about using existing resources for older people to support them to do what they do and I used Joan who we met at the Cuppa and Chat as an example, at the age of 97 and living the great life she is in Glenpatrick.

Cr Ferrari

- Attended the Councillor Briefing sessions and cuppa and chat at Crossroads and Glenpatrick. It is a great little spot out there and I would also like to get over there to camp for a couple of days.
- Attended constituent meetings, most matters discussed related to roads, that is not unusual. As Mr Nolan alluded to in our community satisfaction survey, out in the country where we've got a couple of thousand kilometers of roads, they are always going to be high on the agenda and high on the discussion list.
- Attended meetings with the Beaufort Secondary College, they continue to impress me with their work up there. They are not just teachers; they are really highly engaged with the students and have a genuine commitment to see those students progress and continue to be educated properly.
- Have attended discussions with the Beaufort Cricket Club regarding the building of the new nets, it is progressing despite the weather conditions and should be on time for completion. Attended meetings with Community House regarding some projects around town.

Cr Eason

- Attended the man who invented vegemite event and it was lovely, the event was well attended which I think helps add to Beaufort and the Vegemite Museum.
- Attended Parliament House early in May. Met with three Ministers, it is always nice to be heard and we will see if anything comes of those visits.
- Attended the Flood Recovery meeting in Lexton, it was very good. It is amazing how if you are not involved in some of these emergencies that occur you do not fully understand the impact, it is only when you sit down and listen to the experts that you understand these impacts can last for years and

years. It is eye opening to understand the mental health elements that can come from floods or fires or any of those sorts emergencies.

- Attended the PCC community meal a couple of weeks ago in Beaufort, it was a wonderful event attended by seniors from all round the shire and a lovely meal was provided, it is the type of thing we do for seniors in the shire and it is something that we hope will be continued under the new providers to support our local community.
- Attended the NGA last week in Canberra, it was an interesting couple of days. We spoke to some politicians and hopefully something might come of that.

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 Damian Ferrari / Cr Tanya Kehoe

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 - Supply and delivery of one horizontal discharge body truck
- 15.2 - Rating Matter
- 15.3 - Goldfields Electrical and Oval Lighting

CARRIED

The live streaming of Ordinary Meeting of Council 20 June 2023 stopped at 7:21 pm to consider confidential items.

The live stream re-commenced at 7.27pm and the Mayor chose to report on confidential items discussed in closed Council which are noted below:

- Supply and delivery of one horizontal discharge body truck
- Rating Matter
- Goldfields Electrical and Oval Lighting

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council 20 June 2023 closed at 7.28.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

2023

Mayor Cr Ron Eason