



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 10 December 2024

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 Tanya Kehoe welcomed all the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Tanya Kehoe

Councillors: Rebecca Wardlaw, Megan Phelan, Damian Ferrari, Simon Tol

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)

Communications Officer: Rebecca Wardlaw

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe read the livestream preamble.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

4. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Cr Tanya Kehoe declared of conflict of interest (direct) in relation to item 12.2.6 - Planning Permit PA24040.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Damian Ferrari

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 November 2024; and
- Closed Meeting of Council held 19 November 2024,

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

7. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the previous meeting held 19 November 2024.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gary Swan of Brewster

Question one:

Could council please advise if they have received any minutes from RE Future for the community meetings of October 10 and 17. No residents have received any.

Response:

Mr Douglas Gowans thanked Mr Swan for the question and provided the following response:
RE Futures has advised that minutes are currently being prepared and will be prepared and will be shared with the community when finalised.

Question two:

Could council provide any update on the decommissioning of the 'Met' mast as indicated by RE Future from community meetings of October 10 and 17.

Response:

Mr Douglas Gowans thanked Mr Swan for the question and provided the following response:
Advice from RE Future is that arrangements are being made to remove the mast during December or January. The exact time is not known at this point because the company is specialised in the field and the works are dependant on weather conditions and other factors.

Trevor Davey of Waterloo

Question one:

I wanted to say this today, being the last council public meeting before Christmas this year or the end of the year. For those who don't know me, my name is Trevor, I own a company called Siltforce, which is in Australia, New Zealand and China and I've lived in the Pyrenees since owning my land in 2014. As an environment person I've spent a lot of time and I've only missed a few public meetings I think in 10 years, I can't remember but I think I've only missed about four.

My passion for the Shire Council is actually unlimited and this is for the benefit of the people that have never heard me say this before. I wanted to welcome the new councillors, personally, to your community position to support the Pyrenees Shire community and the council, the council executives and the staff as they navigate these really difficult times that we are in. Our new councillors are not the board of directors, they are community voted members that act on behalf of the community in those matters that require good judgement, honesty, transparency and integrity. In the environment science I had worked in the USA, Canada, Singapore, South Africa, Japan, New Zealand and more and all of the states in Australia and mainly work with about 26 councils in Victoria. At Pyrenees council we are blessed with a solid cohesive executive team, I have never seen one in any other shire and that's the truth, and we're so blessed with a team that is led well and always supported each other.

New councillors, I ensure every experience you gain from them will be worth every effort you make. Our time for petty differences and personal influences and in-differences are over. With great responsibility comes great power, the power of integrity as a councillor. I take the opportunity to welcome the challenge and excitement that you guys have got in front of you, it's fantastic and I am sure you are going to enjoy it. I wanted to remind you of those great words that President Roosevelt said years ago, when everything was in crisis, he said that great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people. Have a good Christmas.

Response:

Mayor, Cr Kehoe thanked Mr Davey.

George Kirsanovs of Beaufort

Question one:

Car parking on the old school oval, is there a process if a group or an organisation wants to use that for car parking to conduct some sort of event in the district so it's a simple question, is there a process and if there is, what is it please?

Response:

Mr Douglas Gowans thanked Mr Kirsanovs for the question and provided the following response: Council has recently come into the possession of the old Beaufort school oval. Council purchased that site a number of years ago but we've only recently finalised that purchase. Council has in the meantime been able to work with the previous owners of that land to use it for particular public events and we've helped facilitate that so I think if parking is for some one-off events, I think the process that we would ask any community member to go through would be through our events team and Melissa Dimond is the key contact for that process, if someone has got a particular use. That land has been identified in the Beaufort Linear Masterplan as a public open space area, that is not to say that it can't be used for some one-off event type purposes but it has been identified as public open space and does form part of the flood area for the creek reserve that comes down from the Beaufort lake. Those things do put some limitations on the land but in terms of answering your question, Melissa Dimond would be the best contact to facilitate any one-off use.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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: 16/24/12

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise that Councillors have individually stood and affirmed their commitment as Councillors by reciting either the Affirmation or Oath of Office and signed the Affirmation or Oath Statement.

BACKGROUND

Under section 30 of the Local Government Act 2020, a person elected to be a councillor is not capable of acting as a councillor until they have taken the oath or affirmation of office.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

At the Statutory Meeting of Council held 12 November 2024, Councillors individually stood and affirmed their commitment as Councillors by reciting either the Affirmation or Oath of Office and signed the Affirmation or Oath Statement.

Following this meeting, officers became aware that additional wording was included in the original Affirmation and Oath Statements and as a result, all Councillors have been provided an opportunity to recite the Affirmation or Oath of Office and sign the Affirmation or Oath Statement in accordance with the requirements of Part 2 of the Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018.

A copy of the signed Affirmation and Oath Statements will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The *Local Government Act 2020* provides that: -

Section 30:

Oath or affirmation of office

- 1) A person elected to be a Councillor is not capable of acting as a Councillor until the person has taken the oath or affirmation of office in the manner prescribed by the regulations.
- 2) The oath or affirmation of office must be—
 - (a) administered by the Chief Executive Officer; and
 - (b) dated and signed before the Chief Executive Officer; and
 - (c) recorded in the minutes of the Council, whether or not the oath or affirmation was taken at a Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| 1. That Councillors note this report. |
|---------------------------------------|

CARRIED

10. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**10.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - NOVEMBER 2024**

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
12/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 1	Beaufort
12/11/2024	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
15/11/2024	Beaufort Agricultural Show Art Opening	Beaufort
16/11/2024	Snake Valley Historical Society Book Launch	Snake Valley
17/11/2024	Beaufort Agricultural Show	Beaufort
19/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 2	Beaufort
19/11/2024	Ordinary Council Meeting	Beaufort
20/11/2024	Maddocks Governance Briefing – Mandatory Training	Beaufort
22/11/2024	Cyril Callister Vegemite Event	Beaufort
25/11/2024	Mag Dam Committee Meeting	Snake Valley
27/11/2024	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Virtual
29/11/2024	GBAC Meeting	Ballarat
Cr Simon Tol – Ercildoune Ward		
12/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 1	Beaufort
12/11/2024	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
19/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 2	Beaufort
19/11/2024	Ordinary Council Meeting	Beaufort
20/11/2024	Maddocks Governance Briefing – Mandatory Training	Beaufort
20/11/2024	Waubra Primary School Pen Presentation	Waubra
Cr Megan Phelan – De Cameron Ward		
12/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 1	Beaufort
12/11/2024	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
19/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 2	Beaufort
19/11/2024	Ordinary Council Meeting	Beaufort
20/11/2024	Maddocks Governance Briefing – Mandatory Training	Beaufort
Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
12/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 1	Beaufort
12/11/2024	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
19/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 2	Beaufort
19/11/2024	Ordinary Council Meeting	Beaufort
29/11/2024	Constituent Meeting	Beaufort
Cr Rebecca Wardlaw – Avoca Ward		
12/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 1	Beaufort
12/11/2024	Statutory Meeting	Lexton
19/11/2024	Councillor Induction Briefing – Day 2	Beaufort
19/11/2024	Ordinary Council Meeting	Beaufort
20/11/2024	Maddocks Governance Briefing – Mandatory Training	Beaufort
27/11/2024	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Virtual

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

11. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - NOVEMBER 2024**

12th ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS - NOVEMBER 2024

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing – Induction Day 1		
Meeting Date	12 November 2024 commenced at 10.30am and closed at 5.00pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	<div> <div>1. Introductions</div> <div>2. Provision of IT Equipment</div> <div>3. Statutory Meeting Overview</div> <div>4. Mayoral Election Overview</div> <div>5. Mayoral Election Discussion</div> <div>6. Information Folders</div> <div>7. Meeting Schedule</div> <div>8. Current Issues</div> <div>9. Effective Communications</div> <div>10. Administrative Items</div> <div>11. Personal Interest Forms and Councillor Code of Conduct</div> <div>12. The Organisation</div> </div>		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	<div>Cr Tanya Kehoe</div> <div>Cr Damian Ferrari</div> <div>Cr Rebecca Wardlaw</div>		<div>Cr Simon Tol</div> <div>Cr Megan Phelan</div>
Apologies	Nil.		
Staff	<div>Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer)</div> <div>Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services)</div> <div>Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services)</div> <div>Chantelle Sandlant (EA to CEO and Councillors) - item 1, 6</div> <div>Scott Wright (ICT Manager) - item 2</div> <div>Michael Lacey (ICT Officer) - item 2</div>		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name		Councillor Briefing – Induction Day 2	
Meeting Date		19 November 2024 commenced at 10.30am and closed at 5.45pm	
Meeting Location		Council Chamber, Beaufort	
Items Discussed		<div>1. Reflections on the first week</div> <div>2. Governance Matters – Decision Making and Meeting Protocol</div> <div>3. Governance Matters – Policies and Procedures</div> <div>4. Committees and Councillor Representation</div> <div>5. Professional Photography</div> <div>6. Economic Development</div> <div>7. Brewster Windfarm Proposal</div> <div>8. Waubra Planning Matter</div> <div>9. Moloney Road Assessment Report</div> <div>10. Beaufort Recycled Water Project</div> <div>11. Other matters for discussion</div> <div>12. Councillor only time</div>	
ATTENDEES			
Councillors		Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari (from 12noon) Cr Rebecca Wardlaw	Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan
Apologies		Nil.	
Staff		Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Ray Davies (Manager Economic Development & Tourism) - item 6 Rachel Blackwell (Manager Planning and Development) - item 8 Virginia McLeod (Senior Planner) - item 8	
Visitors		Nil	
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left / returned to meeting
8	Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cousin is owner of land which is subject of the application.	Left 2.33pm Returned 3.31pm

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name		Councillor Briefing – Maddocks Councillor Induction Mandatory Training	
Meeting Date		20 November 2024 commenced at 11.00am and closed at 1.00pm	
Meeting Location		Council Chamber, Beaufort	
Items Discussed		1. Local Government Fundamentals 2. Councillor Conduct Obligations 3. Councillor Integrity Obligations	
ATTENDEES			
Councillors		Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Rebecca Wardlaw	Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan
Apologies		Cr Damian Ferrari	
Staff		Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services)	
Visitors		Mark Hayes - Maddocks	
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left / returned to meeting
Nil.			

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

12. ITEMS FOR DECISION

12.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

12.1.1. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY ACTION 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: 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: 60/10/02

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement of the Pyrenees Digital Connectivity Action Plan.

BACKGROUND

Since February the Economic Development and Tourism unit have been working in partnership with representatives of Telstra, NBN and Regional Tech Hub to document a Pyrenees Shire Digital Connectivity Plan.

The aim of the plan is to improve both digital (internet and mobile phone) connectivity and digital literacy for the Shires residents.

Digital literacy of communities is monitored through the Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII) which is administered by the Social Research Centre at Australian National University.

The following table provides a comparison of digital literacy of the Pyrenees community with neighbouring Councils, state and national levels.

ADII Score				
National	State	Pyrenees	Northern Grampians	Central Goldfields
73.2	74	67.9	67.2	65.6
Access Score				
72	73	67.6	66.5	66.2
Affordability Score				
95	95	94.3	94	93.8
Digital Ability Score				
64.9	66	56.6	55.7	53.4
Total Index scores have been classified into four groups: Highly excluded (45 or below), Excluded (above 45 and below 61), Included (61 and below 80) and Highly included (80 and above).				

Council has been actively engaging with telecommunication providers and government agencies for many years to seek better connectivity for the Pyrenees Community.

While telecommunications remain a responsibility of the Commonwealth, Council has in the past and can continue to play an advocacy role for funding of new infrastructure and digital education programs.

Council has had success with installations under the Commonwealth Governments Mobile Telecommunications Black Spot program with upgrades having been implemented at Landsborough, Moonambel and Lexton.

Council has also submitted projects under the Victorian governments “Connecting Victoria” Program which has been aimed at fast tracking mobile and broadband connectivity.

The <https://www.vic.gov.au/find-a-project> website indicates that eight projects across the Shire have been completed to date and three are in progress.

The eight projects completed to date are:

- A mobile upgrade by Optus at Amphitheatre
- NBN rollout at Beaufort
- Mobile upgrade at Landsborough by Telstra
- Mobile upgrade at Landsborough West by Telstra (border with Northern Grampians Shire)
- Mobile upgrade at Lexton by Optus
- Mobile upgrade at Mena Park by Telstra
- Mobile upgrade at Moonambel by Telstra
- Mobile upgrade at Waubra by Optus

The three projects in progress at this time are:

- NBN Broadband project for Lexton forecast for completion 25/26 Q2
- NBN Broadband project for Waterloo forecast for completion 25/26 Q2
- NBN Broadband project for Skipton forecast for completion 25/26 Q1

There is a further Telstra mobile project in Corangamite Shire near Snake Valley forecast for completion 24/25 Q2. While this project is not in the Pyrenees Shire it will benefit Pyrenees Residents.

Council has also completed WiFi installations under the Commonwealth Governments “Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters” (STAND) program at:

- Amphitheatre Recreation Reserve - 9 School Street, Amphitheatre
- Avoca Recreation Reserve - 55 Faraday Street, Avoca
- Barkly Hall - 1314 Redbank-Barkly Road, Barkly
- Brewster Hall - 349 Kayleys Lane, Brewster
- Carngham Recreation Reserve - 73 Chepstowe-Snake Valley Road, Snake Valley
- Carranballac Hall - 6667 Glenelg Highway, Carranballac
- Crowlands Hall - 49 Wright St, Crowlands
- Evansford Community Centre - 17 School Road, Evansford
- Goldfields Recreation Reserve - 39 Park Road, Beaufort
- Lake Goldsmith Hall - 4 Cushing Road, Lake Goldsmith
- Landsborough Recreation Reserve - 10 Forestry Road, Landsborough
- Lexton Hall - 19 Lexton-Ararat Road, Lexton
- Lexton Recreation Reserve - 1 Prince Street, Lexton
- Moonambel Recreation Reserve - 6190 Stawell-Avoca Road, Moonambel
- Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve - 26 Reserve Road, Natte Yallock
- Raglan Hall - 4 Codrington St, Raglan
- Redbank Hall - 57 Navarre Street, Redbank
- Snake Valley Hall - 875 Linton-Carngham Road, Snake Valley

- Trawalla Hall - 119 Rodgers Drive, Trawalla
- Waubra Recreation Reserve - 2066 Sunraysia Highway, Waubra

Commonwealth funding for ongoing operational costs of the abovementioned installations under the STAND program is due to expire in December 2025. Consultation with Committees of Management regarding these installations is required to understand their value to these communities and whether an extension to funding may be required.

Market share of telecommunications devices

A Digital Communications Market Report 2022-23 published by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Can be found at <https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/communications-market-report-2022-23.pdf>

The report includes data on what percentage of the Australian market is shared by telecommunications retailers for mobile phone services and retail non NBN internet connections.

According to the report, in 2022-23 Telstra had an estimated 43% market share for mobile phones (unchanged since 2020-21) with Optus holding 29%, (30% in 2020-21 and 2021-22). The data provided is for the entire nation and it is reasonable to expect a higher percentage of Telstra and Optus phones are used in rural locations such as the Pyrenees.

The market share for most but not all of the retail market for non-NBN fixed broadband services excluding non-NBN fixed satellite access technologies reveal that market percentages at June 2023 were:

- Telstra 38%, down from 55% at June 2020
- TPG Telecom 44%, up from 27% in 2020
- Aussie Broadband 9%
- Others 8%

It is noted from the ACCC report that Telstra and Optus provide a significant market share in mobile phones in Australia and have each completed recent installations locally as mentioned earlier in this report.

Digital Connectivity Program

A survey of Pyrenees residents was held in June 2024 to understand the connectivity experiences of residents across the Shire. There were 95 responses to the survey which highlighted areas requiring improved connectivity and the need for improved education to increase digital literacy and connectivity.

A series of digital roadshow drop in events occurred at the end of May at Cross Roads CFA shed (west of Beaufort), Moonambel and Lexton. Members of Telstra, NBN Co, Regional Tech Hub and Agriculture Victoria attended these sessions to respond to enquiries from Pyrenees Shire residents.

A workshop with council staff was also held at this time to help inform the Pyrenees connectivity strategy.

This workshop included information and feedback about considerations for telecommunications infrastructure when land is being subdivided, during emergency events and to support communities in times of natural disasters.

The drop-in sessions, survey results and conversations with telecommunications agencies have highlighted there is an ongoing need for:

1. Education about telecommunications technology that is already available and how to access it (Telstra, NBN Co and Regional Tech Hub have been instrumental in this)
2. An improved understanding of the functionality of smart phones and computer technology. "Get Techy" sessions hosted at Pyrenees libraries include representation by Council staff. These sessions are being well attended and the demands for them will continue as technology continues to evolve.
3. Supporting the transition from the 3G network which has had implications for 3G based agricultural technology and businesses using 3G EFTPOS machines,
4. A better understanding by residents of the need to upgrade hardware as systems migrate to 4 and 5G, improved satellite and wireless aerial systems become available and growing demands for greater download speeds on computers and other digital devices.
5. Affordability of telecommunications for lower income households in the Pyrenees.

Current Commonwealth Funding Initiatives

There are presently grant opportunities open for telecommunications providers under the Commonwealth Governments "Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia".

Under this initiative there is funding available under the "Mobile Network Hardening Program Round Three" and "Mobile Telecommunications Program Round Eight".

Mobile Network Hardening Program

The Australian Government is providing **\$20 million** (GST exclusive) for Round 3 of the **Mobile Network Hardening Program** (the **Program**) to strengthen the resilience of mobile network communications in regional, remote and peri-urban Australia.

The Program provides co-funding to Mobile Network Operators, Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers and Network Management Providers to increase the resilience of mobile telecommunications infrastructure to assist communities during and after a natural disaster or emergency. Round 3 is funding projects located in areas impacted by, or at risk of a natural disaster of the Program, and located in regional and remote Australia and the peri-urban fringe of 19 capital and major regional cities.

Round 3 funding will be delivered in two streams:

- a **\$10 million** (GST exclusive) '**Regional and Remote Australia**' stream for projects that deliver Resilience Upgrades in regional, remote and very remote Australia; and
- a **\$10 million** (GST exclusive) '**Peri-Urban Fringe**' stream for projects that deliver Resilience Upgrades in the peri-urban fringe of capital and major regional cities.

Council has nominated Avoca and Beaufort be considered by Telstra under this program due to both locations being identified as relief centre locations in the Municipal Emergency Management Plans in the event of natural disasters such as fires and floods.

Mobile Black Spot Program

The Mobile Black Spot Program (the MBSP) is a government initiative that invests in telecommunications infrastructure to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

The Government is providing up to \$55 million (GST exclusive) under Round 8 to co-fund projects with mobile carriers and tower companies that deliver new and improved mobile coverage and competition in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia that are prone to Natural Disasters, including bushfires, cyclones and floods.

The focus on areas impacted by, or at risk of, Natural Disasters reflects the increasing exposure of many regions to these events, and the need for communities to access resilient mobile communications services during and after these events.

Council has nominated the Stoneleigh – Yalla Y Poora area southwest of Beaufort as an area requiring attention. The Telstra mobile coverage map also indicates this is an area requiring improvement.

While Moonambel and Lexton have been beneficiaries of MBSP previously, officers continue to receive feedback that there is poor connectivity in these areas as well as Glen Logie and Mount Lonarch. While the proposed NBN tower at Lexton and the emergence of smart phones with satellite capabilities may help address some of these issues, Telstra have been requested to give further consideration and investigation for these parts of the Shire.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Pyrenees Digital Connectivity Plan will be subject to regular revision as new telecommunications infrastructure such as satellites and wireless aeriels are installed, and digital technology evolves and improves.

The plan encompasses advocacy required to address telecommunications black spots and resources required for delivery of educational programs.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

- 1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.
- 1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.
- 1d. Promote health, wellbeing, engagement and connection.
- 1e. Improve social outcomes.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

A survey of Pyrenees residents was held in June 2024 to understand the connectivity experiences of residents across the Shire.

A series of digital roadshow drop in events occurred at the end of May in areas identified as having telecommunications challenges. These locations were Cross Roads CFA shed (west of Beaufort), Moonambel and Lexton. Members of Telstra, NBN Co, Regional Tech Hub and Agriculture Victoria attended these sessions to respond to enquiries from Pyrenees Shire residents.

The Economic Development Team are also taking individual enquiries from businesses and residents who are seeking improved connectivity.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Pyrenees Shire Engagement Plan to improve Digital Connectivity June 2024 V1 L [12.1.1.1 - 18 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

While there is no additional cash cost to Council in implementing this plan, there is a component of officer time and that of councillors and the CEO in advocating for installations of technology.

There is also officer time spent by library staff in guiding residents on the use of digital devices.

CONCLUSION

Through the consultation that has occurred this year it is understood that there is an ongoing need for:

- Improved telecommunications infrastructure, particularly in the southwestern area of the Shire
- Education of communities about existing infrastructure and technology that can support better connectivity with services which are already available
- Ongoing education of residents through programs like Get Techy and the support provided by members of the Pyrenees library team.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council:

1. Notes this report and endorses the Pyrenees Digital Connectivity Plan and its actions and
2. Continues to advocate on behalf of communities where improved connectivity is required.

CARRIED

12.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

12.2.1. BEAUFORT GOLF CLUB REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY WATER

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 Asset and Development Services

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

File No: 523046250

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider whether to renew the expired Agreement for use of Water from Beaufort Lake for Beaufort Golf Course for an additional period of one (1) year following a verbal request from the Beaufort Golf Club.

BACKGROUND

On 17 October 2014 Council commenced a 10-year agreement with the Beaufort Golf Club for the irrigation use of water from the Beaufort Lake. The Agreement for use of Water from Beaufort Lake for Beaufort Golf Course is attached to this report and water provision is subject to the following conditions:

- The ability to supply irrigation water to the Beaufort Golf Club (BGC) from Beaufort Lake will rely entirely on the surface water levels of the lake. No water will be drawn for BGC irrigation when the lake drops below the agreed level.
- The water will only be taken from the lake at a seasonal time where it will have the least impact on the lake levels.

The attached agreement expired on 17 October 2024.

The Beaufort Lake provides exercise and recreation resources in an accessible location for all. The lake is home to many native wildlife species and an important water resource for migrating waterbirds at various times throughout the year.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

On 01 November 2024, Council Officers were notified that the Beaufort Golf Club were unable to pump water from their recycled storage tanks due to a power connection issue and therefore sought Council consideration for the use of “emergency” irrigation water from the Beaufort Lake.

Central Highlands Water (CHW) is aware of the requirement for Powercor to attend the Beaufort Golf Course site to finalise the connection and operation of the new recycled water pumps. The CHW representative advised the delay is due to issues between the energy retailer and Powercor. However, Central Highlands Water has recently informed Council officers that good dialogue is now occurring, and all are hopeful of a timely resolution. Central Highlands Water has liaised directly with the Beaufort Golf Club to implement an interim water supply arrangement.

Council Officers have had further contact with BGC who have informed that even though there is a CHW interim arrangement for water supply, this is not keeping up with demand and the majority of water is being lost to evaporation. BGC still would like Council to consider providing a further allocation of water to the BGC from the Beaufort Lake.

Council holds a license to utilise the water from the lake for irrigation purposes and the ability to remove up to 30 megalitres per year which equates to 10% of the lake’s capacity. Due to the particularly dry winter and spring seasons, lake levels are currently very low and are below 50% of full supply level.

Council has recently been notified by Southern Rural Water, that provides the irrigation license, that there will be restrictions coming into force due to the dry conditions in the Mt Emu Creek catchment that will limit the previous allocations.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

1. Beaufort Golf Club/Pyrenees Shire Council - Beaufort Lake water use agreement [**12.2.1.1** - 8 pages]
2. 2024.11.28 - Mt Emu Creek Irrigation Schedule [**12.2.1.2** - 3 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The lack of access to the onsite water resources at the Beaufort Golf Club creates a significant risk of total loss of greens due to underwatering. Rectification and in some cases replanting and reseeding of the greens and surrounding gardens would require a significant financial investment to recover. Council has been informed that the cost to reinstate the green is in the order of \$40,000 – \$50,000 per green.

Similarly, the irrigation use of the Beaufort Lake water for the Golf Club presents an equal risk from an environmental perspective, impacting on the various wildlife that rely on the lake. The negative effects on the community space and the recreational use of the Beaufort Lake precinct stand to have a significant impact on Council's reputation.

CONCLUSION

Both the Beaufort Golf Course and the Beaufort Lake and surrounding precinct are significant tourism drawcards for the Pyrenees Shire, enhancing the livability of the local community.

The Beaufort Golf Course is an important community asset, and due consideration should be given to how best to support the Beaufort Golf Club in the current dry seasonal conditions that are being experienced.

If Council were to support irrigation water to be taken from the Beaufort Lake, Council should consider entering into a one-year agreement based on the previous agreement conditions.

OFFICER RECOMENDATION

That Council:

1. Decline the request to utilise Beaufort Lake water to water the Beaufort Golf course due to the current dry seasonal conditions.
2. Continue to work with Central Highlands Water and Powercor on behalf of the Beaufort Golf Club to expedite the resolution of the power connection issues for the recycled water pump.

AN ALTERNATIVE MOTION WAS PUT FORWARD

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council:

1. Decline the request to utilise Beaufort Lake water to water the Beaufort Golf course due to the current dry seasonal conditions.
2. Continue to work with Central Highlands Water and Powercor on behalf of the Beaufort Golf Club to expedite the resolution of the power connection issues for the recycled water pump.
3. support a limited supply of water from the lake to support the Beaufort Golf Club greens in the event that all other sources of water are exhausted.

CARRIED

12.2.2. SAFER LOCAL ROADS & STREETS PROGRAM (SLRSP) 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: Daniel Potter – Manager Engineering

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

File No: 58/02/02

PURPOSE

This report seeks the Council's endorsement on the proposed projects to submit for the TAC funded 'Safer Local Roads & Streets Program' (SLRSP).

BACKGROUND

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC), in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), have developed the Safe Local Roads and Streets program to support the development and delivery of road safety infrastructure projects on local roads. This \$200 million program is designed to integrate local governments' priorities with a Safe System approach with each local government being allocated \$2 million of funding.

The program is delivered with each council progressing through a 6-month project development period and an 18-month project construction period. As per the below flowchart, Pyrenees Shire Council has been developing projects over the past 6 months with the program starting in May 2024 with the Road Safety Risk Workshop, the Intervention workshop being completed in August 2024 and the projects currently required to be submitted in December 2024 with an extension granted from November to enable this report to be presented to council.

During the 6-month project development period, extensive work has been completed to prepare the current project list which has been developed to a stage where they have received preliminary support from both TAC & DTP.

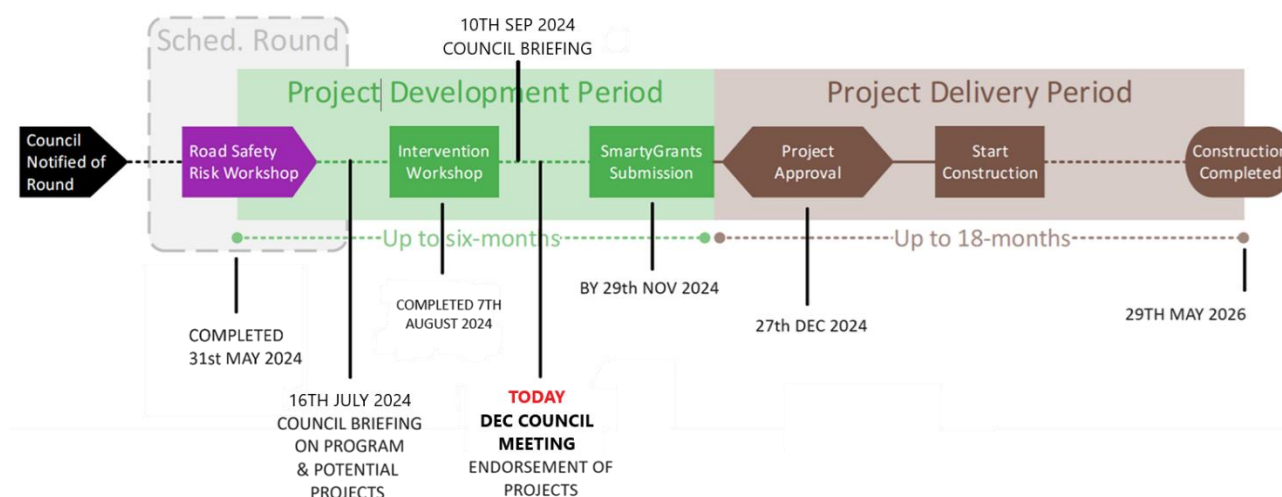


Figure 1: Flowchart of the SLRSP stages

The key areas the program is targeting are:

- Low speed and mixed-use roads/streets
- Intersections
- High speed local roads

The following is a summary of the type of projects that are eligible under this funding:

- Speed limit reductions,
- Local area traffic management (LATM) eg. Speed humps, road narrowing, etc.
- Pedestrian improvements eg. Wombat crossings, shared zones, etc,
- Bicycle lanes / separated shared paths,
- Intersection improvements.

The following is a summary of the type of project that is **NOT** eligible for this funding:

- Works on arterial roads
- Works primarily aimed at improving traffic operations/capacity
- Non-infrastructure projects such as community education campaigns (these may be done as part of a larger project)
- Mass-action footpath building (gap filling as part of a larger project is permitted)
- Mass-action shoulder sealing/widening
- Maintenance work
- Red light and speed cameras
- Interim works

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

With various data sources and software platforms, an extensive list of projects was developed. The main sources of data used to identify projects included Road Crash Statics, Road/Intersection Risk scoring completed by DTP on council roads, current speed data captured from newer vehicles (older than 2018), and general previous enquiries about road safety/speed limits, etc. received from the community.

As a part of the project development, 19 sub-projects have been identified to be funded within the Pyrenees Shire Councils \$2 million allocation. These 19 projects have been grouped into 4 main projects. These 4 main projects are:

- Speed limit reductions & associated infrastructure,
- Local area traffic management,
- Shared paths and,
- Mt William Rd Intersection Realignment.

A summary of each of the 19 sub-projects is included below.

Project 1 - Speed limit reductions & associated infrastructure – Various Locations:

1A – Kings St, Beaufort – Speed Limit Improvement. Cost estimate: \$40,000

Scope:

- Install 'Gateway' Treatment
- Convert current 60km/h zone to 50km/h zone including changes to speed limit signs/locations
- Add additional speed limit signs/repeaters



1B – Raglan - Speed Limit Improvement. Cost estimate: \$75,000

Scope:

- Reduce speed on Eurambeen-Raglan Rd to 80km/h on approach to Raglan,
- Reduce speed on Chute-Raglan Rd, Vaughan St, Codrington St & Simpson St to 60km/h,
- Realign intersections of:
 - Simpson St/Vaughan St/Wilkinson St including new seal,
 - Chute-Raglan Rd/Codrington St and retain as unsealed.



1C – Waubra - Speed Limit Improvement. Cost estimate: \$10,000

Scope:

- Reduce speed on Waubra-Talbot Rd & Beaufort-Waubra Rd to 60km/h on approach to Waubra.



1D – Snake Valley - Speed Limit Improvement. Cost estimate: \$20,000

Scope:

- Reduce the speed on Linton-Carngham Rd to 80km/h for the sections that are 100km/h.
- Reduce the speed on Laurence Dr to 60km/h.
- Reduce the speed on Cochrane Dr to 50km/h.
- Add additional signage to Pittong-Snake Valley Rd



Scope:

- 24 of 70



1F – Amphitheatre - Speed Limit Improvement. Cost estimate: \$5,000

Scope:

- Additional signage on Amphitheatre Rd to 60km/h.
- Linemarking and signage update for the rail crossing.



1G – Trawalla - Speed Limit Improvement. Cost estimate: \$5,000

Scope:

- Reduce speed under the freeway underpass and past Trawalla Primary School to 60km/hr.
- Maintain the timed 40km/h school zone.

- Reduce speed over the rail crossing on Langi Kal Kal Rd



1H – Evansford - Speed Limit Improvement. Cost estimate: \$290,000

Scope:

- Speed limit changes to Waubra-Talbot Rd (70km/h to 60km/h) & Hasties Rd (100km/h to 60km/h)
- Additional speed signs.
- Realignment of 4 x Y-intersections, including Clunes-Evansford Rd, School Rd, Lexton-Evansford Rd & Stud Farm Rd.



Project 2 – Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Projects – Various Locations:

2A – Burke St, Beaufort – LATM Project. Cost estimate: \$325,000

Scope:

- Intersection realignment of Burke St & Sinclair St.
- Speed control devices along Burke St including speed humps and intersection improvements



2B – Homebush Rd, Avoca – LATM Project. Cost estimate: \$50,000

Scope:

- Install Gateway Treatment
- Install traffic calming
- Additional signage



2C – South St, Beaufort – LATM Project. Cost estimate: \$50,000

Scope:

- Construct traffic calming along the length where lighting is present. Typically, every 150-200m's.

2D – Gregory St, Beaufort – LATM Project. Cost estimate: \$50,000

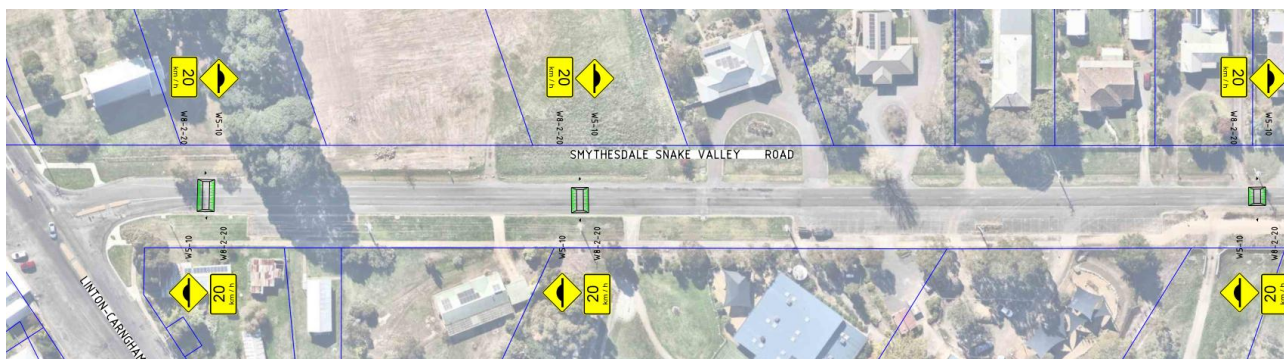
Scope:

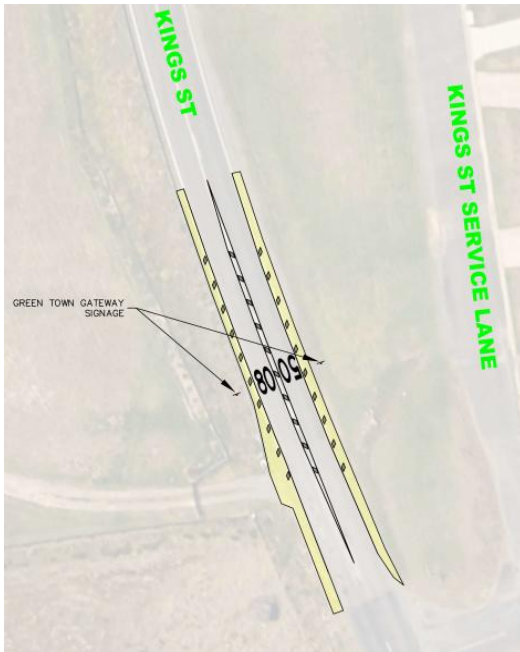
- Construct traffic calming along the length. Typically, every 150-200m's.

2E – Smythesdale Snake Valley Rd, Snake Valley – LATM Project. Cost estimate: \$100,000

Scope:

- Construct traffic calming along Primary School frontage
- Gateway treatment as entering 50km/h zone.





2F – Duke St, Avoca – LATM Project. Cost estimate: \$125,000

Scope:

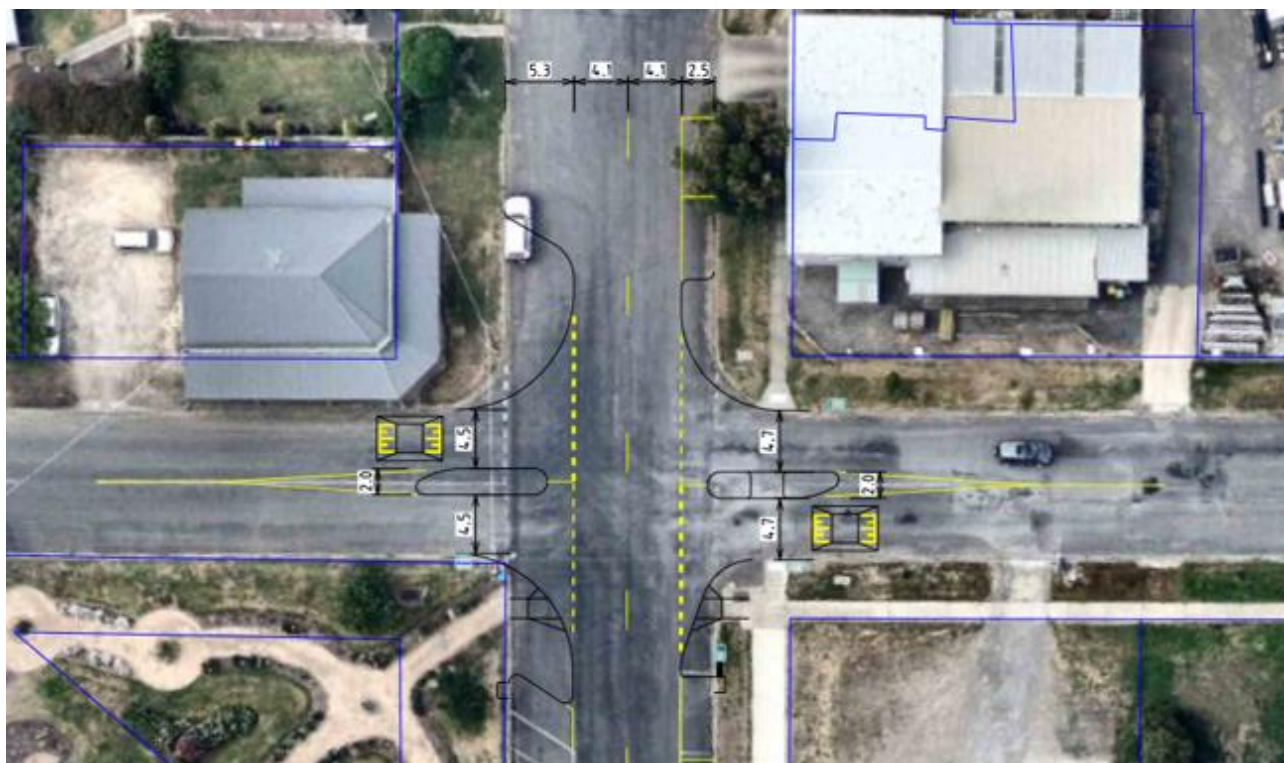
- Installation of intersection improvements eg.kerb outstands and/or raised road platform at 2 intersections. (Barnett St & Boyce St)
- Complete missing gap of footpath between Barnett St & Boyce St.



2G – Willoby St/Livingstone St Intersection, Beaufort – LATM Project. Cost estimate: \$125,000

Scope:

- Construct kerb extensions to improve sight lines
- Mountable pedestrian islands



Project 3 – Urban/Pedestrian Improvement Projects – Two Locations:

3A & 3B – Gregory St, Beaufort & Western Hwy, Beaufort – Urban/Pedestrian Improvement Project. Cost estimate: \$200,000

Scope:

- Construct Shared Use Path (SUP) along the western side of Gregory St,
- Construct SUP along the north side of the Western Hwy to extend the shared path network to Olinda St (eastern-most street in Beaufort urban area),
- Construct footbridge over channel.



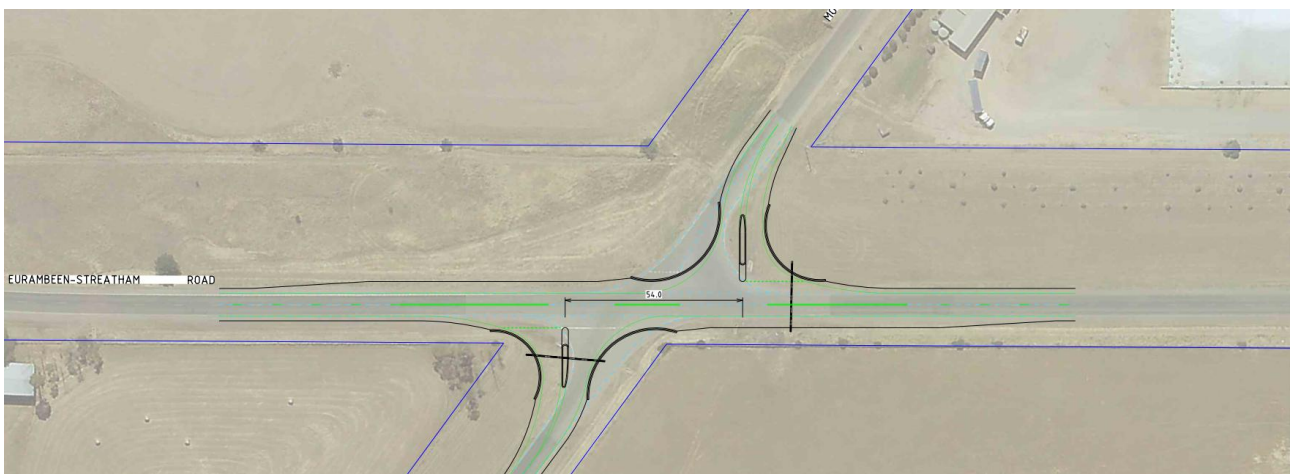


Project 4 – Mt William Rd Intersections Improvements – Two Locations:

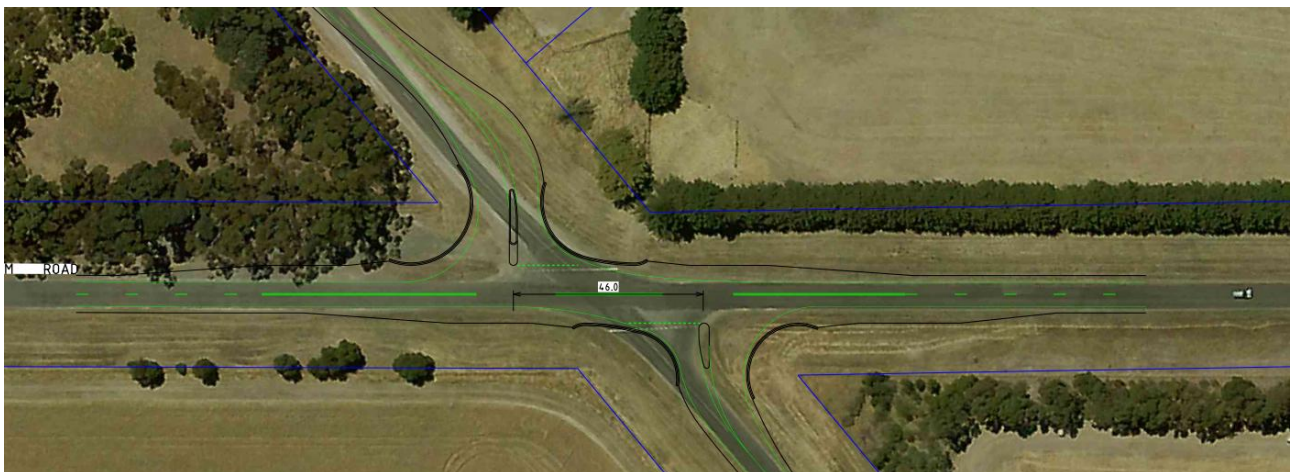
4A & 4B – Eurambeen-Streatham Rd/Mt William Rd & Carngham-Streatham Rd/Mt William Rd. Cost estimate: \$500,000

Scope:

- Realign Mt William Rd to provide a staggered T-intersection to improve safety and remove the see-through effect. Funding doesn't include the Ararat Rural Shires side of the Eurambeen-Streatham Rd intersection.



Eurambreen-Streatham Rd/Mt William Rd.



Carngham-Streatham Rd/Mt William Rd.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

A number of these project locations and proposed treatments have been raised by the community to Council.

Additional community engagement will occur after the projects have confirmed funding.

ATTACHMENTS

1. SLRSP - Project List - Dec Council meeting [**12.2.2.1** - 2 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The SLRSP external funding covers all aspects of the projects including the program development/project selection, investigations, design, project management and construction.

The main risk to the delivery of the full 19 sub-projects is capacity/available resources to efficiently and cost-effectively develop, design, project manage and construct all the 19 sub-projects without reducing the scope.

CONCLUSION

The Safer Local Roads and Streets program provides an opportunity to treat several road safety issues within Pyrenees Shire Council that would not normally be funded. These projects would not normally be funded as they typically don't meet funding criteria, or their cost benefit score isn't as high as other State or Local Government projects.

The 19 sub-projects have been selected out of a list of 75 potential projects as they meet the funding requirements outlined by TAC & DTP while still providing an improvement to road safety and the community within Pyrenees Shire Council.

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council endorses the road safety projects listed in this report for submission to TAC.

CARRIED

12.2.3. LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (LRCIP) REVISION

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 Asset and Development Services

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

File No: 58/08/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the progress of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) Phase 4 that is due for completion by June 2025, and for Council to confirm a revised allocation against existing projects.

BACKGROUND

Council has previously received three rounds of LRCIP infrastructure funding with several projects under these phases completed. 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 was able to access funding, with projects to be delivered by 30 June 2025.

Program guidelines for eligible community infrastructure projects involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements of Council owned assets (including natural) that are accessible to the public, examples of locations include parks, playgrounds, footpaths, roads and sporting fields. Eligible local road projects involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments.

In a report presented to Council in June 2023, Council resolved to endorse the below list of projects.

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

The funding for the LRCIP grant is made up of two components:

LRCIP 4a	\$1,394,921	General community infrastructure
LRCIP 4b	\$804,621	Road specific infrastructure

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

During the design investigation phase of the Pound Lane Drainage project, Council was required to undertake a cultural heritage assessment due to the project's proximity to the Avoca River. This assessment uncovered significant cultural heritage finds resulting in the need to manage the risks relating to obligations under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act. Therefore, reconsideration of the project's benefits and evaluation of the consequences of the project not proceeding was required. Whilst the project was intended to provide an overflow pathway during major floods, this requirement has been partially mitigated through the drainage improvements along High Street. A key concern in delivering the project as originally scoped is the need to enter into a negotiated agreement with the Traditional Owner Group of the Dja Dja Wurrung. This may take a number of months to finalise and would jeopardize the funding timelines.

Council Officers are recommending to Council to reallocate the funds that were assigned to the other approved LRCIP projects and where there can be further benefits achieved within the funding timeline. The reallocations include the following projects.

- Avoca Streetscape Amenity and Avoca Kerb and Channel have been revised to include Rutherford and Russell Streets kerb and channel improvements.
- McKinlay Street Landsborough Bridge Rail Renewal has been expanded to include an approach footpath from Burke Street, see attached drawing.
- Livingstone St Beaufort has been revised to accommodate full streetscape works which includes kerb and channel, underground drainage, pavement and seal works

Of the 14 projects four projects are complete which include Stormwater High Street Median Works Avoca, Floodways – Dovecott Lane Burnbank, Floodways - Halls Lane Natte Yallock and Major Culverts – Spring Flat Road, Crowlands. Additionally, two projects are substantially completed which include Stormwater – Astbury Street Extension and the Tree Removal in Snake Valley. All other works have either had designs completed or are at procurement stage.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

Enabling Principles

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

1. P01 A - Preliminary pathway McKinlay Street Landsborough [12.2.3.1 - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

By reallocating funding against already existing projects, Council ensures funding timelines for all projects will be met.

CONCLUSION

The reallocation of the projects provide for community benefit through improvements to infrastructure and amenity within the funding timeline.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council endorse the reallocation of existing projects.

CARRIED

12.2.4. MCKINLAY STREET BRIDGE, LANDSBOROUGH

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 Asset and Development Services

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

File No: 3860

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide further information relating to a petition received that was presented to the November Council meeting in relation to the community seeking repairs on the McKinlay Street Bridge in Landsborough.

BACKGROUND

In November 2024, Officers received a petition from several members of the Landsborough Primary School staff and parents, seeking urgent repairs on the McKinlay Street Bridge in Landsborough.

The petition contained six (6) signatures and stated:

"Pyrenees Shire – Can you please fix the bridge in McKinlay Street, Landsborough."

Council were informed of the petition at the November Council meeting and of the programmed works to repair the McKinlay Street Bridge guardrail at

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council Officers had previously identified the McKinlay Street Bridge guardrail improvements as part of its regular condition surveys and further damage was caused by a vehicle breaking through the existing guardrail. Council has put in place temporary measures such as reduced speed and installed water filled barriers to prevent further risk.

The McKinlay Street bridge has been previously identified as having load limitations and is currently rated at under 30 tonnes. Council has designed a renewal for the guardrail which requires a deck overlay for strengthening, undertaking this work will remove the load limitation.

Further the deck overlay allows for the installation of a modern Australian Standard guardrail which will provide for a better standard of vehicle and pedestrian protection.

Council intends to publish the design plans and specifications out to market in the coming weeks for response in early 2025 which will likely result in works being undertaken by the end of the financial year.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The McKinlay Street Bridge update published in the Landsborough & District News on Friday 15 November is attached and states that new guard railing work has been scheduled for repair and that temporary measures are currently in place.

ATTACHMENTS

1. P01 A - Preliminary pathway McKinlay Street Landsborough [12.2.4.1 - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the programmed works on the McKinlay Street Bridge is through Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP). There may be an opportunity for the LRCIP project to enable an approach footpath from the west of the site to be included in these works.

CONCLUSION

The McKinlay Street Bridge is a key route for students and the wider school community who access the Landsborough Primary School and the programmed works ensuring the safety of all pedestrians and addressing the community concerns.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council write to petitioners to inform of the proposed McKinlay Street Bridge works and timing.
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CARRIED

12.2.5. BURKE STREET SUBDIVISION ROAD REALIGNMENT

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: 0835

PURPOSE

This report is for Council to consider approval of the proposed realignment of unmade roads at 26 Burke Street to enable consent to be sought from Minister administering the Land Act 1958 for the road deviations.

BACKGROUND

Pyrenees Shire Council has acquired land at 26 Burke Street, Beaufort with the intent of sub-dividing the land for purpose of promoting the growth of residential housing to support key worker accommodation and to promote affordable housing in regional areas. This development will assist Council to deliver on its goals of economic growth within the municipality.

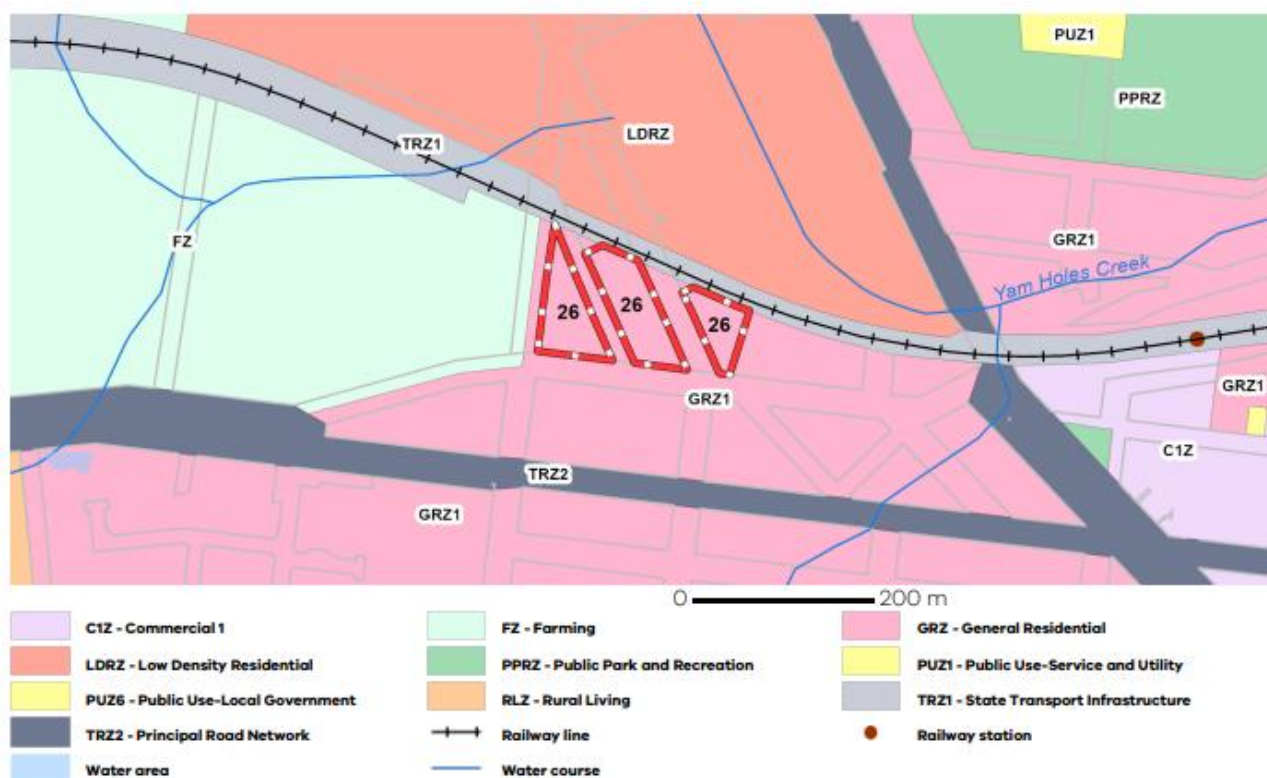


Figure 1: Beaufort planning zones showing the subject land bounded by the red line.

The subject land is currently accessed by three roads that were created by the original layout of government roads in 1863. In 1870, part of these roads and adjacent freehold land was acquired for the purpose of a railway. This rendered the roads to be discontinuous with their extensions beyond the railway land, and consequently ineffective for contemporary urban design.



Figure 2: Early survey plan showing land title boundaries prior to excision for the railway line.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Pursuant to Schedule 10 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may deviate a road through private land, Crown land or land held under licences under the *Land Act 1958*.

Under Schedule 10 (2) (2) (b), where a proposed road deviation would result in the vesting of land in a Council under section 207B(2A) requires the consent of the Minister administering the *Land Act 1958*.

The proposed realignment provides a road layout that facilitates effective property access and enables the adjacent freehold land to be better utilised to meet Council's economic development goals. These goals also support Federal and State housing initiatives that seek to increase the availability of housing in Australia and specifically in Victoria. Pyrenees Shire Council has been recognised for its contribution to these policy initiatives through being awarded Victorian Government funding to build key worker accommodation. The realignment of these roads is essential to deliver this commitment.

The road realignment will enable subdivision of the land into more than 30 allotments of varying sizes. Ten allotments have been identified for the construction of key worker accommodation. The proposed deviation is shown in the plan below.



Figure 3: Proposed road realignment.



COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

There have been several articles in the local newspaper about the proposal to develop land on Burke Street for residential development following the announcement of the successful application for Victorian Government funding to build key worker accommodation.

Once the enabling constraints to sub-division of this land have been resolved, Council will undertake a community consultation process detailing the elements of the project.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The viability of this project is dependent on resolving the re-alignment of the roads. One of the highest project risks revolves around the resolution of the internal roads enabling property access and egress for residents, visitors and emergency services.

CONCLUSION

The development of the land at 26 Burke Street is a unique opportunity for Council to promote economic development within the municipality generally, and more specifically within Beaufort. Council is in a position to provide 10 houses for key worker accommodation supporting a range of local services, industry and enterprise. The re-alignment of roads within the site at 26 Burke Street is essential to these outcomes.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council:

1. Resolves to seek the consent of the Minister administering the *Land Act 1958* to deviate the unmade roads at 26 Burke Street, Beaufort in accordance with Clause 2 (2) of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989. The plan of road deviation is to be in accordance with plan prepared by Beveridge Williams, surveyor reference 2302078.

CARRIED

12.2.6. PLANNING PERMIT PA24040

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: Rachel Blackwell – Manager Planning and Development Services

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

File No: PA24040

Cr Tanya Kehoe declared a conflict of interest in this report and left the meeting at 6.35pm.

Cr Simon Tol nominated Cr Damian Ferrari to take the Chair. Cr Damian Ferrari took the Chair.

PURPOSE

This report's purpose is to inform the Council about the drafting of Planning Permit PA24040, and to seek a decision by Council in respect of the conditions for the permit.

BACKGROUND

The Council resolved to issue Planning Permit PA24040 subject to appropriate conditions for a two-lot subdivision of land at 325 Waubra Talbot Road, Waubra at its Ordinary Council meeting on the 19 November 2024.

This report contains a set of drafted conditions and explanatory comments for each.

Once decided, the planning permit will now be issued in accordance with the delegations provided for by the Schedule of Delegations (February 2023).

The delegate is responsible for ensuring the planning permit meets the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) and the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.

The delegate also ensures that the planning permit is drafted to enable compliance with the decision taken by Council and contains other operational conditions.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Conditions of the draft Planning Permit provided to Council to inform the decision taken on 19 November 2024 are provided and discussed below:

PLANNING PERMIT


Pyrenees
Shire Council

Permit No: PA24040
Planning Scheme: Pyrenees Planning Scheme
Responsible Authority: Pyrenees Shire Council
Address of the Land: Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 310387T.
 at Lot 2 325 Waubra-Talbot Road Waubra Vic 3352
The Permit Allows: Two Lot Subdivision

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY TO THIS PERMIT:

Compliance with documents approved under this permit

1. At all times what the permit allows must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of any document approved under this permit to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Endorsed subdivision plans – no changes required

2. Before the plan of subdivision is certified under the Subdivision Act 1988, plans must be approved and endorsed by the responsible authority. The plans must:
 - a) be prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority
 - b) be drawn to scale with dimensions and submitted in electronic form
 - c) be generally in accordance with the plans forming part of the application.

Formal Plan of Subdivision

3. The formal plan of subdivision lodged for certification must be in accordance with the approved plan and must not be modified except to comply with statutory requirements or with the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Discretionary conditions 1-3

State standard recommended conditions to legally enforce the permit, provide for endorsed plans that form part of the permit, and ensure the *Subdivision Act 1988* process to create the subdivision is consistent with the Council decision. (Writing Planning Permits – Model Conditions DTP 2023)

Section 173 Agreement

4. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Responsible Authority, prior to Statement of Compliance being issued, the owner must enter into an agreement with the Responsible Authority pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 to provide the following:
 - a) The owner of the newly created lot will notify and have any prospective purchasers of the property duly acknowledge, that they have been made aware of, and accept, that the property is located in the Farming Zone where neighbouring agricultural activity may give rise to amenity impacts.
5. Prior to Statement of Compliance being issued, an application must be made to the Register of Titles to register the Section 173 agreement on the title to the land under section 181 of the Act. The responsible authority will not release Statement of Compliance until the agreement has been registered at the titles office and a dealing number assigned confirming that the agreement has been registered.

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.

Discretionary conditions 4-5

Conditions recommended by Planning Department.

A responsible authority may enter into an agreement with a landowner pursuant to section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act to bind the owner in respect of the future use and development of the land. Such agreements are typically used where planning issues need to be addressed beyond the expiry of a

subdivision permit. Once executed, a section 173 agreement is normally registered on title to the land. If registered, the agreement will also bind future land owners, including the owners of any new lots created by a subdivision.

Such agreements are often required by a permit condition however they can also be voluntarily entered into by permit applicants prior to any permits being issued and outside the permit application process. (Using Victoria Planning System – Chapter 8 Agreements DTP 2024)

Access

6. Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance, vehicle access to Lot 1 must be upgraded or constructed in accordance with IDM standard drawings, plans and specifications set under an approved Road Excavation Permit (Vehicle Crossing Permit) to the satisfaction of the Pyrenees Shire Councils Engineering Department.
7. Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance any redundant vehicle crossings must be removed, and the nature strip reinstated to the satisfaction of the Pyrenees Shire Councils Engineering Department.

Discretionary conditions 6-7

Standard conditions recommended by Council Engineering Department. Conditions implement the standards of the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM).

The council is a member of the Local Government Infrastructure Design Association. The Association has membership of 44 councils from rural and regional Victoria. The Association developed the IDM commencing in 2004 to provide clearly documented requirements for design and development of infrastructure statewide. All 44 Councils implement the IDM through planning permit conditions, engineering permits and council-funded works.

The requirements for access to be upgraded to IDM standard protects council managed roads and provides safe access to private property. The condition requiring access to be upgraded to IDM standard is equitably required on all subdivision and development permits where vehicles will be accessing the road network.

Central Highlands Water

8. Any plan lodged for certification will be referred to the Central Highlands Region Water Corporation pursuant to Section 8(1)(a) of the Subdivision Act.

Goldburn-Murray Water

9. Any Plan of Subdivision lodged for certification must be referred to Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation pursuant to Section 8(1)(a) of the Subdivision Act.
10. Stormwater from the site must be discharged to a legal point as nominated by the Responsible Authority. All infrastructure and works to manage stormwater must be in accordance with the requirements of the Responsible Authority.
11. The existing on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems for proposed new Lot 1 must be wholly contained within the boundaries of the new lot created by subdivision. 4. All construction and ongoing activities must be in accordance with EPA Publication 1834.1 Civil Construction, Building and Demolition Guide (September 2023).

Mandatory conditions 8-11

Conditions of referral authorities, required by *Planning and Environment Act s.62(1)*.

Section 55 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act) requires that a responsible authority give a copy of an application to every person or body that the planning scheme specifies as a referral authority for

that kind of application. All referral and notice requirements are specified in clause 66 of planning schemes. (Planning Practice Note 54 Referral and Notice Provisions DTP 2023)

Telecommunications

12. The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:

- a) a telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
- b) a suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunication facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network (NBN) will not be provided by optical fibre.

13. Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:

- a) a telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to
- b) telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and a suitably qualified person that fibre ready telecommunications facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.

Mandatory conditions 12-13

Conditions required by Clause 66.01-1 – Mandatory Conditions for Subdivision permits of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme and required by *Planning and Environment Act s.62(1)(a)*.

A permit for subdivision must contain the following conditions:

The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:

- *a telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and*
- *a suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunication facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.*

Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:

- *a telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and*
- *a suitably qualified person that fibre ready telecommunication facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the*

National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre. (Pyrenees Planning Scheme last updated by VC263 on Friday 22 November 2024)

Subdivisions that do not require referral

14. The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity, and gas (where it is proposed to be connected) services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time.
15. All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.
16. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.

Mandatory conditions 14-16

Conditions required by Clause 66.01-1 – Mandatory Conditions for Subdivision permits of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme and required by *Planning and Environment Act s.62(1)(a)*.

A permit granted to subdivide land in a manner that does not require referral under Clause 66.01 must contain the following conditions:

The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity, and gas (where it is proposed to be connected) services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time.

All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created.

The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act. (Pyrenees Planning Scheme last updated by VC263 on Friday 22 November 2024)

Expiry – Subdivision

17. This permit as it relates to development (subdivision) will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
 - a) The plan of subdivision has not been certified under the Subdivision Act 1988 within 2 years of the issued date of this permit.
 - b) A statement of compliance is not issued within 5 years of the date of certification.

In accordance with Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, an application may be submitted to the responsible authority for an extension of the periods referred to in this condition.

Discretionary condition 17

Expiry of conditions is set by s68 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The condition is included in all planning permits to assist the permit holder. It is the state standard best practice to include expiry conditions on the permit. (Writing Planning Permits – Model Conditions DTP 2023)

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

- 3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. P A 24040 DRAFT Planning Permit - 2024-11-08 T 085732.651 [12.2.6.1 - 4 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

No identified financial or risk implications.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. That Council notes this report.
2. That Council issues a permit with the conditions as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

Cr Tanya Kehoe returned to the meeting at 6:40pm and resumed the chair.

12.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.3.1. PROCUREMENT POLICY

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: 16/24/12

PURPOSE

This report is for the Council to consider and adopt the revised Procurement Policy.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), the Council is required to prepare and adopt a Procurement Policy which specifies the principles, processes and procedures applying in respect of the purchase of goods and services by the Council, including for the carrying out of works. A Procurement Policy must seek to promote open and fair competition and provide value for money.

Pursuant to the Act, a Procurement Policy must include the following:

- a. the contract value above which the Council must invite a tender or seek an expression of interest,
- b. a description of the criteria to be used by the Council to evaluate whether a proposed contract provides value for money,
- c. a description of the process to be undertaken in inviting a public tender or expression of interest, and
- d. any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

The format of the Procurement Policy follows that collaboratively co-designed by council representatives some years ago to ensure it meets the requirements of the Act.

Council must review the Policy at least once during each 4-year term of the Council.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The existing Procurement Policy has been reviewed and revised to ensure alignment with the MAV (Municipal Association of Victoria) Best Practice Procurement Guidelines 2024. The revised Policy retains much of the former document, regarding layout and content, that were developed collaboratively with other councils to maximise a consistency of approach across the sector.

Feedback and consultation on the revised Policy were conducted with key staff, members of the Risk Management Committee, and members of the Council's advisory committee – the Audit & Risk Committee. At its meeting on 27 November 2024, the Audit & Risk Committee recommended that the Council adopts the updated Procurement Policy.

Changes made to the policy include:

- Section 1.2 - new section inserted providing an overview of the procurement cycle. A full guideline on the procurement cycle will be produced to support the policy.
- Section 4.1 - a review of the principles was conducted, strengthening the principles but with no fundamental change in content or intent.
- Section 5.3 - change in aggregate spend control monitoring from the existing 1 year to a 3-year period. This provides alignment with the length of the majority of contracts.
- Section 5.4 - strengthened content on contract variations.

- Section 5.5 - input an explanation of the insurance application of the policy.
- Section 5.9 - new section input on the use of procurement agents.
- Section 6.0 - strengthened parts within the Ethics and Probity section.
- Section 8.6 - new section inserted on contracts aggregation benefits and length of contracts.
- Section 9.0 - new section inserted on breaches.
- Section 12.0 - updated definitions / glossary.

Feedback was sought on whether the local benefit criteria weighting should be increased from the existing 10%. Officers determined that 10% remained sufficient and requested strengthening of the definitions around the term 'local'.

No change was made to procurement thresholds. The Policy is supported by duly authorised Financial Delegations.

This Policy is supported by the following procedural documents:

- Procurement via Tender Procedure
- Procurement via Purchase Order Procedure
- Supplier Panel Procedure (under review)
- Guidelines – The Procurement Cycle (under development)
- Fraud & Corruption Framework
- Acceptance of Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy
- Conflicts of Interest Procedure
- Project Management Framework
- Risk Management Framework

Formalising the Council's contract management framework is underway that will complement the Procurement Policy and supporting framework.

The Council's consideration and adoption of the revised Procurement Policy is now requested.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Internal engagement was conducted with key staff, including staff involved in procurement activities, members of the risk management committee and Audit & Risk Committee.

No external engagement was conducted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. V5 0 Procurement Policy 2024 DRAFT [12.3.1.1 - 30 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial and compliance risks arise if the Council does not impose strong controls on procurement processes within the organisation, including the risk of fraud and corruption. The Procurement Policy follows an industry-devised format and clearly articulates the rules around different levels and values of procurement, including the threshold above which a tender or EOI process must be conducted.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, the Procurement Policy has been reviewed and revised to strengthen the financial control implemented by the policy. This report provides an overview of the review and changes made, and the Council's consideration and adoption of the policy is now requested.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council considers and adopts the Procurement Policy 2024.
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CARRIED

12.3.2. RECOVERY UPDATE

Jane Bowker – Recovery Coordinator

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

File No: 28/14/50

PURPOSE

This report is an update to the Council and community on recovery activities arising from the October / November 2022 flood events and the February 2024 fire event. This report relates to activities between October 2022 and November 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Council approved the Pyrenees Flood Recovery Plan at its meeting on 21 February 2023. The recovery plan for the Bayindeen Rock Road bushfire was also approved by Council at its meeting on 16 April 2024. Quarterly updates are provided to Council on both events at the same time. It is noted that the key recovery environments (social, built, economic, natural and coordination/administration) and many actions are the same in both plans.

Both recovery plans provide a full summary (current at the time of the plan being written) of its respective event and are designed to evolve over time as information changes. With the community at its core, the plans include actions to coordinate recovery and resilience initiatives to ensure individuals, communities and businesses recover well. Oversight of completing the actions in the plans is the responsibility of the Recovery Team with support from other Council staff and recovery agencies.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council's staff who work in recovery are continuing to provide support to residents for both the Oct/Nov 2022 floods and the 2024 fire. Council is responsible for relief and recovery and support in partnership with other recovery agencies such as Emergency Recovery Victoria, Ballarat Community Health, Red Cross, Disaster Relief Australia and local service groups. Residents have received support for wellbeing, clean-up, insurance matters, legal matters, rebuilding, fencing, financial, fodder etc.

The attached Recovery Plans Summary of Review details the status of recovery actions. Most of the actions in the plans are ongoing (orange) and will be for quite some time. Some of the key outcomes since the last report are:

- The newly formed Disaster Recovery/Resilience Network, consisting of agencies and community members, is meeting to collaborate on longer-term recovery and resilience building initiatives.
- The Community Resilience and Recovery Program Team through Ballarat Community Health (BCH) is available to provide more in-depth support particularly psychosocial support.
- The BCH Team is visiting residents with Council's Community Recovery Officer to provide outreach support.
- Regular meetings with DEECA are held to coordinate recovery efforts on private and public land.
- The Heart Project (Healing with Art) was very successful with 30 people attending each session. This project was organised by some local artists and provided artistic relief for all those affected, in anyway, by the recent bushfires.
- Information sessions/training such as Gender and Disaster Training, Insurance and Legal Help Information Session have been held. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training was held on 30 Nov / 1 Dec.
- Council has supported recovery initiatives such as art classes to promote healing, working dog session and farmer health checks which have been successful as they have enabled people to connect and speak about their experiences.
- Council's Bushfire Recovery Planning Program is assisting residents through the planning and building process.

- The investigation into flood mitigation options at the Avoca Recreation Reserve is progressing well. This project will be completed next year with a plan developed identifying several options to build resilience to future flood events.
- Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is back in the Pyrenees supporting residents with clean-up after the fire.
- Council was successful in receiving funding under the Safer Together Program to build bushfire resilience through developing a firewise planting guide, firewise display gardens and landscape workshops. These elements will assist residents in building resilience to bushfire. This project is about to commence and will operate over 2025/2026.
- Preparation for the fire season is underway with CFA household preparedness sessions being held in Snake Valley and Avoca. Council is working with the CFA to schedule more sessions.
- Meetings with the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority have commenced to identify projects to build flood resilience.

Other notable matters include:

- Council staff have submitted packages of work to the State Government for approval to finish the repairs to flood damaged infrastructure. These packages, known as certified estimates, are currently being assessed and approved. On the ground works will recommence once the tender process is complete. Council staff are working closely with the State Government to progress the approvals.
- Assessments of fire damaged infrastructure such as guardrail, guideposts and signage are complete. Repair works have been packaged up and submitted to the State Government for approval. Once approved, on the ground works will be completed.
- Council is working with community and contractors on the hazardous tree removal.
- Ongoing support, in partnership with recovery organisations, is provided to primary producers with grants, fencing, stockfeed, education on farming business etc. Drought is becoming an issue for many primary producers and residents in the Pyrenees. Support under the Drought Support Package is available to Pyrenees primary producers.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

Priority 2 - Place

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Residents, farmers, sporting/recreation groups, community organisations and business owners continue to be contacted by recovery support organisations such as Council, Ballarat Health Service, Recovery Hotline Team, DEECA and AgVic as part of providing ongoing support. Support is ongoing for anyone affected by the floods and/or fire, in any way, when they are ready.

There has been continued engagement with government agencies and organisations in planning and coordinating the relief, recovery, and resilience efforts. Consultation and engagement will continue for however long it takes to ensure the community is fully supported in their recovery.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 10.12.2024 - PSC Recovery Plans Status Report [**12.3.2.1** - 23 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Progress on Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) claim assessment for recovery activities by the State Government is progressing well now. Council staff are working closely with the assessors to maximise Council's reimbursement for emergency-related expenses.

- Flood - 39 claims submitted to the value of \$11,974,896
- Fire – 7 claims submitted to the value of \$2,381,259

Council has received just over \$4m in advances for \$12m worth of **flood-related** expenses, \$1m for \$2.9m worth of 2024 **fire-related** expenses, and \$100K for expenses related to the 2023 **storm event**. Expenses include infrastructure repairs, hazardous tree removal, recovery staff, recovery activities, and repairs claimable under insurance, through several funding streams.

Financial reporting for recovery activities is complex due to the many funding streams involved. For example, some costs ineligible for reimbursement through the DRFA scheme, can be claimed under the State Government Council Support Fund; and some expenses can be covered by the Community Recovery Officer funding and the Recovery Hub funding. Council must contribute the first \$35,000 of reimbursements under the DRFA scheme, and can claim this back from Local Government Victoria.

In relation to DRFA, not all claim elements will be approved for payment and Council is expected to share some of the costs. There are costs that Council will have to absorb, such as DRFA betterment contribution, insurance excess, smaller infrastructure repairs, and small repair work on community buildings to work in with insurance. At this stage we do not know what the final amounts will be until the State has completed the assessments related to these emergencies.

Council has submitted requests for a further funding advancement against the DRFA packages.

Council is eagerly awaiting an announcement for funding under the Council Support Fund for fire related expenses. Council received \$500K for flood related expenses.

Below is a snapshot (as at 30/09/2024) of the entire funding summary. It should be noted that some of the 'Actual Out-of-Pocket' costs and 'Claims Ineligible' may be claimed under other funding sources.

	ACTUAL INCOME	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL OUT-OF- POCKET	TOTAL ESTIMATE	CLAIMS APPROVED	CLAIMS INELIGIBLE	AWAITING ASSESSMENT	NOT YET CLAIMED
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Flood October 2022	4,043,421	5,608,100	(1,564,679)	12,298,262	1,184,500	525,389	10,366,883	221,490
Bayindeen Fire 2024	1,000,000	1,881,252	(881,252)	2,989,452	67,102	12,334	2,055,917	854,099
Storm 2023	100,000	30,029	69,971	30,029				
TOTAL	5,143,421	7,519,381	(2,375,960)	15,317,743	1,251,602	537,723	12,422,800	1,075,589

There has been a significant risk to public safety caused by the consecutive, concurrent and compounding emergency events in the Pyrenees over the last 12 years (floods 2011, 2016, 2022, fires in 2019 and 2024, COVID 2020-2023). There has been widespread damage to public and private assets, the environment and substantial personal hardship caused to individuals, community organisations and businesses.

Council faces significant financial risk if the recovery effort is not managed well and requires ongoing support from the Commonwealth and State Governments. Council staff continue to advocate to state and federal government for ongoing funding to support community recovery activities, infrastructure repairs and recovery staff.

Though Council has received some funding in advance, the level of expenditure Council has incurred results in Council having to cashflow \$2.37 million as at September 30 2024, this being a significant level of funds for a municipality of this size.

CONCLUSION

Progress has been made in key recovery areas as detailed in the summary report. Council officers are active with recovery and resilience-building initiatives for community and managing the repair of infrastructure. Recovery is a big task and takes time, and efforts have been appreciated. Council officers would like to thank all the community members, businesses, and organisations that have helped with the recovery efforts so far.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council

1. notes the progress made against required recovery actions in the Flood Recovery Plan and Bushfire Recovery Plan; and
2. continues to advocate to government in respect of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and for further funding to provide long-term support for individuals, communities and businesses to recover well and build resilience.

CARRIED

12.3.3. RATES WAIVER - HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

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: 52/04/02

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council consideration and approval of a request to exempt payment of the rates charges for the Snake Valley & District Historical Society Inc (Assessment No. A126), 1019 Smythesdale-Sanke Valley Road, Snake Valley.

BACKGROUND

Until 2022, rates on premises occupied by historical societies in Victoria were paid by Working Heritage, previously known as the Mint Inc, who managed all the unused courthouses in Victoria.

In 2022, management of such properties was transferred to the occupying societies following a change in registration status and from the year 2022/23 rates' responsibility was transferred to those historical societies.

The former Council approved rates waivers for the Beaufort Historical Society in June 2024, and for the Avoca Historical Society and Landsborough Historical Society in August 2024. At their meeting of August 2024, the Council resolution included a requirement for *"Council officers to investigate other historical societies in similar circumstances and provide a future update to the Council"*.

One further historical society is rated on properties within the Pyrenees Shire:

- Snake Valley and District Historical Society Inc – Assessment No. A6126, 101 Smythesdale-Snake Valley Road, Snake Valley

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

It is acknowledged that historical societies provide an invaluable resource to the shire and beyond as custodians and promoters of precious local history. Societies manage large collections of community documents and photographs with small membership bases and limited resources or income.

The importance of the shire's historical societies was recognised by the Pyrenees community during the development of the Community Vision 2031 in Priority 1 – People, which stated *"By 2031 in Pyrenees Shire our history is preserved, acknowledged and recorded."* and is included within Priority 1 of the Council Plan 2021-2025 as a strategic goal to *"Support our community groups, including historical societies, preserve and understand our region's history"*.

In accordance with the Council resolution of August 2024, one additional historical society that pays rates was identified and a request was received from the Snake Valley & District Historical Society for a similar waiver to be granted for their organisation.

The Society has an outstanding rates balance of \$599.28.

Council officers are, therefore, seeking the Council's approval to provide an exemption to charge rates for the Snake Valley & District Historical Society on the applicable property, wiping off the outstanding debt already owing and granting an exemption for the next three years (ending rates period 2026-2027) after which the situation will be reviewed and brought back to the Council for a decision thereafter.

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Requests from community members of historical societies have requested rate waivers due to limited income opportunities.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

A minor financial implication is imposed by this requested resolution.

CONCLUSION

Changes to property management in 2022 has caused rate charges, and all other running and minor maintenance costs, to be imposed directly on the historical societies within the shire, with little opportunity for those societies to receive the revenue needed to pay those charges due to management by volunteers and small membership bases. The Council has formerly resolved to waive charges for three of the four historical societies within the Pyrenees shire, and this report requests a similar waiver to be applied to the remaining society.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. Waives the current rates debt for the 2024/25 financial year in the amount of \$599.28 for the Snake Valley & District Historical Society Inc (Assessment No. A6126).
2. Grants an exemption against issuing rates notices relating to assessment number A6126 for the years 2025-26 and 2026-27 inclusive.
3. Requires council officers to report back in early 2026 providing a status update on the circumstances around this matter to facilitate a decision on potential rates exemptions after that time.

CARRIED

12.3.4. 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 the Council with an update of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting M013 held on 27 November 2024.

BACKGROUND

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A copy of the Draft Minutes from the Meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 27 November 2024 is attached for Council information.

A brief overview of the issues considered by the Committee is provided below:

- The CEO provided an overview of topical issues faced by the Council.
- Financial report as of September 2024.
- The draft procurement policy revision was provided to the Committee for final feedback. The Committee recommended that the new draft policy be adopted by the Council.
- Emergency recovery and resilience update.
- A post-2024 election governance schedule, detailing the matters that must be addressed in the next 12 months.
- Approval of the 2025 meeting schedule and workplan.

Independent Membership

The tenure of Independent Member of the Committee, Mr Brian Keane, ends on 29 November 2024 after four years on the Committee. Recruitment for a replacement is underway.

2025 Audit & Risk Committee Workplan

S 54(3) of the Local Government Act 2020 requires the Committee to adopt an annual work plan and a work plan for 2025 was endorsed by the Committee. The work plan is attached to this report for Council approval.

Tabled document

The following was tabled at the meeting and is attached for Council information.

- Industry update on reports and publications of interest to councils.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2024 11 27 DRAFT M 014 MINUTES Audit Risk Committee Meeting 27 November 2024 [**12.3.4.1** - 28 pages]
2. ARC Workplan 2025 Draft [**12.3.4.2** - 2 pages]
3. Industry Update 27.11.24 [**12.3.4.3** - 4 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial and risk matters are addressed in the body of the report.

CONCLUSION

A meeting of the Council's Audit & Risk Committee was held on 27 November 2024. This report provides an overview of discussions at that meeting.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council:

1. notes the information contained in this report and its attachments, and
2. approves the 2025 Audit & Risk Committee work plan.

CARRIED

12.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

12.4.1. 2025 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

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: 16/17/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to decide on the meeting schedule for Council meetings and briefing sessions for 2025.

BACKGROUND

A 2025 schedule of meetings has been prepared in consultation with Councillors and is detailed in this report.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The schedule contains dates for Ordinary Council meetings held monthly as well as Assemblies of Councillors (Briefing Sessions) and the annual Statutory Meeting.

January - All January Meetings Optional			
14th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
21st	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
21st	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
February			
4th	Strategic / Presentations Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
11th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
18th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
18th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
March			
11th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
18th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
18th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
April			
1st	Strategic / Presentations Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
8th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
15th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
15th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
May			
13th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
20th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
20th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
June			
3rd	Strategic / Presentations Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
10th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
17th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
17th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
July			
8th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
15th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
15th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
August			
5th	Strategic / Presentations Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
12th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
19th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
19th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
September			
9th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
16th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
16th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
October			
7th	Strategic / Presentations Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
14th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
21st	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
21st	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
November			
11th	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
11th	Special & Statutory Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Lexton
18th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
18th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort
December			
2nd	Briefing	4.00pm - 7.00pm	Beaufort
9th	Briefing	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Beaufort
9th	Council Meeting	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Beaufort

Strategic / Presentations Briefing: For presentations from external parties and strategic discussion.

Notice of meeting dates is available on Council's website and is published in Council's Noticeboard available in the Pyrenees Advocate and Maryborough Advertiser each week.

The Ordinary Council and Statutory meetings are livestreamed providing the community, who are unable to attend in person, the ability to view the meetings in real time, provide an awareness of how Council meetings are conducted and to reach a wider audience.

Should circumstances require a change to Council Meeting dates, or the need for additional Council Meetings, then this can be done by giving appropriate note in accordance with the Governance Rules.

The attached meeting schedule provides for an optional Council Meeting to be held in January if required. At the time of preparing this report, there are no urgent matters to be decided in January, and therefore it is suggested that an Ordinary Council Meeting not be held in January. If an urgent need arises, a Special Council Meeting can be called in accordance with the Governance Rules.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT - Option 1 - 2025 Council Meeting Dates [**12.4.1.1** - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council has made provisions in its 2024-2025 budget to meet the costs associated with the meetings.

CONCLUSION

Subject to Council's agreement to the meeting schedule, it is proposed that public notice be given in accordance with Council Policy – Governance Rules 2023 of the Council Meetings.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the meeting schedule for 2025, as detailed in this report; and
2. Not hold an Ordinary Council Meeting in January 2025 unless an urgent need arises.
3. Gives public notice, in accordance with Council Policy – Governance Rules 2023, of the proposed Council Meeting dates.

AN ALTERNATIVE MOTION WAS PUT FORWARD

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council:

1. Not hold an Ordinary Council Meeting in January unless an urgent need arises.
2. hold the next Ordinary Council Meeting on Monday 17 February 2025.

CARRIED

12.4.2. MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 44/04/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to nominate a substitute delegate on the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is a membership association and the legislated peak body for Victoria's local councils.

The MAV was formed in 1879, with the [Municipal Association Act 1907](#) officially recognising MAV as the voice of local government in Victoria.

The MAV purpose is to advocate for local government interests; build the capacity of councils; protect and support the viability of councils; promote the role of local government and deliver insurance services to local government.

MAV's role is to:

- Represent and advocate local government interests
- Promote the role of local government
- Build the capacity of councils
- Facilitate effective networks
- Provide policy and strategic advice
- Support councillors
- Provide insurance and procurement services.

MAV has a set of Rules which were reviewed and revised in 2022, and a Strategic Plan 2021-25 which was developed is reviewed in consultation with its members.

MAV has a Chief Executive that leads a skilled organisation to provide services to members, and a Board elected by the members.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council at its Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 November 2024 resolved to appoint Mayor, Cr Kehoe as Councils MAV representative.

Under MAV Association's Rules, appointment of a substitute delegate is required by Rule 7.1, therefore appointment of both a delegate and substitute delegate is required.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The Pyrenees Councillor Delegate for MAV participates in and votes at State Council meetings.

MAV undertakes many engagement events and activities to maintain close connection with its members.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The annual membership fee with MAV for Pyrenees is \$22,506.

CONCLUSION

In line with the MAV Association's Rules, Council is to determine a substitute delegate to the MAV Committee for the 2024/2025 term.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Nominates Cr Wardlaw as a substitute delegate to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) committee for the 2024/2025 term.

CARRIED

12.4.3. GRANTS DURING ELECTION PERIOD

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: 32/13/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for two grant applications lodged during the election period.

BACKGROUND

During the Election period, two funding applications were submitted for programs which closed during the election period.

Tiny Towns Fund

An application was submitted for the Avoca Sculpture project. This project was identified in the Avoca Streetscape plans which were endorsed by Council. The proposed sculpture is intended to replace the display of wine barrels that marked the entrance to the central part of the town. The barrels were removed within the past year due to them reaching the end of their useful life and becoming unstable.

Council also provided a letter of support for an application under this program by the Trawalla Hall Committee for renovation works to the hall kitchen.

Off Leash Dog Park

An application was submitted for an Off-leash dog park in Beaufort. The matter of an off-leash dog park has been reported to Council previously following a community petition. The Beaufort Linear Project, which has recently been endorsed by Council included an off-leash dog park as one of the elements for activation. The proposed location for the park is at the norther end of the Beggs Street Park.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The intent of both applications, if successful, is to continue to invest in developing our townships. Both funding applications require a financial co-contribution by Council as detailed below.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

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

The Avoca structure project has the support of Avoca Arts and Gardens Inc. and Advance Avoca. The project was identified in the Avoca streetscape plans which were the subject of a community consultation process.

The off-leash dog park has been the subject of community engagement through the Beaufort Linnear project development.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

A financial summary of each application provided below:

Avoca Sculpture Project:

Funding Sought:	\$37,500
<u>Council contribution:</u>	<u>\$ 12,500</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$50,000

Off-Leash Dog Park:

Funding Sought:	\$111,000
<u>Council contribution:</u>	<u>\$ 13,000</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$124,000

Should the applications be successful, Council will be required to provide the Council contribution in its 2025/26 Budget.

Alternatively, Council could choose to withdraw the application or choose not to accept it once announced.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council:

1. Endorses the funding applications made for the Tiny Towns – Avoca Sculpture project and for the Beaufort Off-leash dog park project.

CARRIED

13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Wardlaw

The beginning of my role as Councillor, I have hit the ground running basically, as you could imagine November / December is a busy time of year for everybody anyway. As I mentioned in the last meeting, I was at Remembrance Day in Avoca laying the wreath. We've had, as you can see through our activity reports, we've been to councillor induction briefings, statutory meetings, ordinary council meeting last month and mandatory training. I've also been to the Audit & Risk Committee meeting which I did virtually. I was lucky enough to go to the Bigibila Christmas Market representing everyone that was there. There were probably 75% locals from the whole shire that had come so it was fantastic.

On the first of December I assisted in setting up the Christmas decorations in town including the big Christmas tree that has lights flashing and the reindeers so that was really good. It was an enjoyable experience; we had many tangled-up items and it took us about an hour and half to untangle things and ten minutes to put them up.

This Wednesday coming up, I've got a lunch at the Senior Citizens in Avoca where I have been asked to say the prayer and I've got the pen presentation on Thursday night at the Highland Society and then on the 21st of December we've got our Christmas town party on the Avoca river flat.

Cr Phelan

I won't repeat some of the induction and statutory meetings that Cr Wardlaw has already mentioned though I will add that I was very happy to see and sit and have a glass of new release rosea at the Bigibila Christmas market with Cr Wardlaw and just to say how impressive it was to see that turn out, we think close to 400 people so there is clearly a real appetite in the community for that sort event. Fantastic event and great to see the effort they went to.

I also had a pen presentation for the Pyrenees Cluster at Lexton Hub on 2nd December, there was six children graduating and finishing up year 6 so very small in number but that did provide the opportunity for principals to speak about the journey that each one of those students has taken and it was a really moving event. Great to think those young children are going to be heading off now to secondary school.

Tomorrow evening, I will be at the Moonambel Committee of Management meeting for the Moonambel Recreation Reserve tomorrow so looking forward to seeing how that goes.

Cr Ferrari

Again, the induction and briefing days we've been to. Also, I went to the Cyril Callister vegemite forum which was very enlightening, and I would just like to say well done to Liza for her great work there and commitment, she's battled on with that and it's really really successful so well done Liza.

I attended the Beaufort Football Netball Club AGM, they've got a strong team to lead the club next year, they didn't do so well this year on the football field but the netballers did really really well, they've recently won a lightning premiership in Ballarat so the netball is looking really good again and I know that the team have been very busy behind the scenes trying to get a bit more spark on the football ground so they've made a few signings so hopefully we turn things around but I do say please people in Beaufort support your football and netball club, it's really important for the town and it's a good social outing for those people and it's a great place for people to meet, not just to watch the football game but to catch up with old friends and have a chat.

As we know council will be closing for short time over the Christmas period so, please check the Pyrenees Shire website for more specific information, you won't get left in the lurch if you need something, there will be some information on there, how you go about accessing that.

Myself and trustee helpers will be providing the Christmas lunch on Christmas Day again, bookings are at the libraries or at the Pyrenees Community House, it will be starting at 11:30 with dinner served, all going well, by midday, we look forward to doing that.

As this is the last meeting before we have a little short break, I would just like to wish all present and across the municipality a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Cr Tol

So there has been 7 council meetings and inductions since we started this task which has been interesting. I attended a pen presentation at Waubra which was fantastic, and I will be attending one again tomorrow night at Trawalla.

Last week we had a meet up with Anne Webster in Avoca which was terrific, she was very enlightening on a few things. We were there early so I went to the Avoca Primary School art show at the Art Gallery, I think the theme was dogs. They have done a fantastic job. That art gallery up there, run by volunteers is fantastic. Marg and Hugh do a brilliant job.

The Waubra football club has recruited very well, I have handed in my resignation as president which I have been for the last nine years, and it is in very capable hands there so I think Waubra will still be on top of Beaufort this year, time will see.

The most important thing in the social calendar this year is the Springs Hotel second anniversary of being open which is a community owned pub and it has been fantastic for the community, lots of employment, and it is just bringing a lot of people to the town, it has been a destination point for travellers.

Cr Kehoe

I think already spoke about the Beaufort Ag show and the art show opening that I went to last month, incredible, again so many people putting so much effort in and brings community together just like Cr Ferrari said about our football clubs and Cr Tol, they really are important events to be able to get together. We've had training and inductions.

I attended the Cyril Callister event, I think there's just so many exciting things to come from that, it's really watch this space and again Liza and co, it's incredible and it is going to be so much fun and really put us on the map through such an identifiable product that we have that has come right from here.

I had a Mag Dam Committee meeting last month, Mag Dam is an incredibly beautiful spot in Snake Valley and it is a very refreshed and ready committee to utilise such a beautiful asset that we have there.

I had a GBAC meeting, it was great to meet the other CEOs and Mayors of the Greater Ballarat Councils, really good things, we are going to be advocating really strongly over the next 12 months to really grow our region and to get that funding and get those opportunities that we need.

We also had the Councillor Cuppa and Chat at Snake Valley last week, that was beautifully attended, and I was so excited to be able to show that area off to new councillors that may not have been there and how incredibly proud of that area I am and I hope you enjoyed yourselves. I know that the responses from residents, they were just absolutely wrapped that we were there, and we were hearing what they needed to say. We had residents from across the shire, it wasn't just Snake Valley people there so again, thank you for your time councillors and exec for being there.

I also had a pen presentation at Snake Valley Primary School, Woody Yallock Snake Valley Campus, again there were six beautiful kids there, they are the absolute heart and soul of our communities and so proud

of those kids for what they have done and taken those opportunities as they move into the next part of their education.

I was at the Twilight Christmas market, and I was given the job of judging some very beautifully decorated Christmas Trees, the pressure was on. It was an incredible community event there was delicious food and products and music galore, and we had local girls playing there as well as some incredible talent, incredibly well done and congratulations to the whole team who put that on.

I have coming up, Christmas Carols in Snake Valley, an awesome event which will be on this Saturday if you are not busy from 4pm to 8pm. There's picnics, activities and beautiful hymns at the Carngham Uniting Church.

I have the hospitals Annual General Meeting coming up as well.

I also had the Beaufort Secondary College final meeting at the beautiful Flywheel last night, again an incredible secondary college, we are so blessed with the school and the commitment that the teachers and the students put in, it really is a great little community.

Tomorrow night I have the Beaufort Primary School concert, that will be super exciting.

Note bin changes over Christmas, the details are on our website, and you can check that out or ring the offices if you are worried about which bins are being collected over that period.

Finally, I will be the same as Cr Ferrari and really wishing all residents a really happy and very safe Christmas, be careful on the roads, do enjoy this time and enjoy the weather. I know farmers will be busy and I wish you all well with harvest but do have a lovely Christmas season. Thank you for all of your support as we have started as this new council, and I am very excited about the new year.

14. 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 Megan Phelan

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 - Australia Day Awards

15.2 - Legal Matter

CARRIED

The live streaming of Ordinary Meeting of Council stopped at 7.11pm to consider confidential items.

The live stream re-commenced at 7.55pm and the Mayor chose to report on confidential items discussed in closed Council which are noted below:

- *Councillors discussed and awarded Australia Day Awards.*
- *Councillors discussed a legal matter.*

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

The Ordinary Meeting of Council closed at 7.56pm.

CARRIED

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

2024

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe