



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Monday 19 May 2025

Council Chambers

Beaufort Council Offices,
5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort

Wadawurrung Country

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. WELCOME	3
2. STREAMING PREAMBLE	3
3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	3
4. APOLOGIES.....	3
5. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS	3
6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	3
7. BUSINESS ARISING	3
8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.....	4
9. ITEMS FOR NOTING	5
9.1. Corporate and Community Services	5
9.1.1. March 2025 Financial Report.....	5
10. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS	7
10.1. Councillor Activity Reports - April 2025	7
11. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS	9
11.1. Assembly of Councillors - April 2025	9
12. ITEMS FOR DECISION	12
12.1. Economic Development and Tourism	12
12.1.1. Beaufort Lake Caravan Park.....	12
12.2. Asset and Development Services.....	16
12.2.1. Maintenance Regime of Council Owned and Managed Facilities	16
12.3. Corporate and Community Services	22
12.3.1. Delegations	22
12.3.2. Annual Report - Community Asset Committees.....	24
12.3.3. Insurance	27
12.3.4. Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure.....	36
12.3.5. Human Rights & Responsibilities Policy.....	37
12.4. Chief Executive Office	38
12.4.1. Projects Update May 2025	38
12.4.2. Engagement Plan 2025	43
13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS	44
14. CLOSE OF MEETING	47

1. WELCOME

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe welcomed all to the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Tanya Kehoe

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

Chief Executive Officer: Jim Nolan

Director Asset and Development Services: Douglas Gowans

Director of Corporate and Community Services: Jacinta Erdody

EA to CEO and Councillors: Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

Senior Communications Officer: Fiona Henderson

Manager ICT: Scott Wright

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

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Simon Tol

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 April 2025
- Closed Meeting of Council held 28 April 2025 and
- Special Meeting of Council held 12 May 2025

as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

7. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising (items taken on notice) from the previous meeting held 28th April 2025.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Trevor Davey of Waterloo

Question one:

I was wondering if the council have somebody, or something or knowledge of who manages or maintains all of the Anzac memorials within the Shire, right across every subdivision. I have spoken to RSL House, and they said directly go out to the suburbs. If a list could be combined because there is major management issues around maintenance. I am sure the Council would like to have all the proud people be honoured by having them done up and cleaned. So, I was wondering if someone could get that list and maybe I can help them get it done. Thank you.

Response:

Cr Kehoe thanked Mr Davey for the question and provided the following response:

I do know it is a pertinent issue, particularly with some of the RSL's losing membership or friends of the RSL's maybe needing to look at new ways in being assisted in that.

Response:

Mr Nolan thanked Mr Davey for the question and provided the following response:

Thank you for your question, happy to take that on notice and certainly work with you on that but perhaps we can bring a report back to a future meeting of Council to clarify responsibilities.

9. ITEMS FOR NOTING

9.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

9.1.1. MARCH 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Glenn Kallio – Manager Finance

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

File No: 32/08/18

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an update on the financial performance for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025.

BACKGROUND

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

The attached financial report for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025, is a component of ensuring the accountability of the Council's operations. In line with good governance, it forms part of the public accountability process and reporting and includes the following Financial Statements.

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

For the period ending 31 March 2025, there are no significant financial issues. Minor issues that have been recorded relate to:

1. Rates collection has slowed over the last 2 months. At the current rate it is expected that an additional \$100,000 will be added to the outstanding balance by year end. The next stage of legal action is being started.
2. Council is predicted to record an improved operating result due to additional income that will be recorded as discussed in the next two points.
3. Additional income recorded in the forecasts due to programs being carried over from 2023/24.
4. Additional funds have been allocated to the Roads to Recovery program which was not included the original budget.
5. The level of outstanding grants is significantly less than previous years because of projects being finalised. A review on the progress of these grants will be carried out to allocate grants to income over the coming weeks.
6. Additional government grants have been received before any expenditure has been recorded, as such, these funds have been recorded in the balance sheet under trust.

7. Council has received advance funding for the next phase of the October 2022 flood rehabilitation works. This will significantly assist Council as it will not have to fund these works in the first instance.
8. Cashflow and working capital remain strong year to date. Cashflow has been boosted by the receipt of the flood grants in advance.
9. Capital works program is currently ahead of schedule.
10. The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program phase 4 program has been revised and approved.
11. A review of forecasts will be carried out over the next few weeks.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. Finance Report - Council [9.1.1.1 - 20 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications are provided within this report and the attachment.

CONCLUSION

The review has ascertained that the financials for the 2024/25 year are operating within Council's 10-year financial plan.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council receives and notes the Financial Performance report for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025, and the projected forecasts for the year.

CARRIED

10. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**10.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - APRIL 2025**

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
4 April 2025	Meeting with Bernardine Atkinson	Virtual
5 April 2025	Pyrenees Unearthed	Avoca
6 April 2025	Beaufort Walkfest	Beaufort
7 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
9 April 2025	Dr Anne Webster – Avoca Streetscape Announcement	Avoca
11 April 2025	Meeting with Dan Tehan	Virtual
14 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
23 April 2025	ESVF Community Advocacy Meeting	Beaufort
25 April 2025	Anzac Day Event	Snake Valley
25 April 2025	Anzac Day Event	Beaufort
25 April 2025	Anzac Day Event	Stockyard Hill
25 April 2025	Anzac Day Event	Lake Goldsmith
28 April 2025	Beaufort Secondary College Anzac Day Event	Beaufort
28 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
28 April 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Simon Tol – Ercildoune Ward		
7 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
14 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
23 April 2025	ESVF Community Advocacy Meeting	Beaufort
25 April 2025	Anzac Day Event	Lexton
28 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
28 April 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort
April	Constituent Meetings	Lexton Waubra Raglan

Cr Megan Phelan – De Cameron Ward		
5 April 2025	Pyrenees Unearthed	Avoca
6 April 2025	Photography Competition / Exhibition	Moonambel
7 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
14 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
25 April 2025	Anzac Day Event	Landsborough
28 April 2025	Meeting with Martha Haylett MP	Avoca
28 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
28 April 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw – Avoca Ward		
5 April 2025	Pyrenees Unearthed	Avoca
7 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
9 April 2025	Dr Anne Webster – Avoca Streetscape Announcement	Avoca
14 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
23 April 2025	ESVF Community Advocacy Meeting	Beaufort
25 April 2025	Anzac Day Event	Avoca
28 April 2025	Meeting with Martha Haylett MP	Avoca
28 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
28 April 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
7 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
14 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
23 April 2025	ESVF Community Advocacy Meeting	Beaufort
25 April 2025	Anzac Day Event	Beaufort
28 April 2025	Council Briefing	Beaufort
28 April 2025	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Simon Tol

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

11. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - APRIL 2025**

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	7 April 2025 - commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 7.30pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. Climate Change / Environment (CVGA) 2. Planning Permit Application PA243108 – Canico Lane 3. Budget 4. Councillor Only Discussion (closed at 8.30pm)		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan		
Apologies	Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer		
Staff	Kathy Bramwell - Acting Chief Executive Officer Douglas Gowans - Director Assets and Development Services Shane Walden - Acting Director Corporate and Community Services Glenn Kallio - Manager Finance (item 3)		
Visitors	Annika Kearton, CVGA (item 1) Maree Trebble (item 2) Vincent McDonald (item 2) Shirley Brown (item 2) Kaylene Baird (item 2) Geoffrey Flynn (item 2) Sean Flynn (item 2)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	14 April 2025 - commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 7.20pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. BEES Project & Waubra North (Nyaninyuk Wind Farm) 2. Budget 3. Council Plan 4. April Council Reports		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw		Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan
Apologies	Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer		
Staff	Kathy Bramwell - Acting Chief Executive Officer Douglas Gowans - Director Assets and Development Services Shane Walden - Acting Director Corporate and Community Services Rachel Blackwell – Manager Planning and Development Services (item 1) Ella Duniam – Planning Officer (item 1) Virginia McLeod – Planning Services Lead (item 1) Glenn Kallio - Manager Finance (item 2)		
Visitors	Jacqueline Pertz, Acciona (item 1) Abbie Sutton, Acciona (item 1) Alex Nguyen (item 1)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	28 April 2025 - commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.45pm		
Meeting Location	Council Chamber, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	1. Burke Street Beaufort Subdivision 2. Budget 3. Kerbside Collection Service – Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) 4. April Council Reports 5. Councillor Only Discussion		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Rebecca Wardlaw Cr Simon Tol Cr Megan Phelan		
Apologies	Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer Kathy Bramwell - Acting Chief Executive Officer		
Staff	Douglas Gowans - Director Assets and Development Services Shane Walden - Acting Director Corporate and Community Services Rachel Blackwell – Manager Planning and Development (item 1) Virginia McLeod – Planning Services Lead (item 1) Glenn Kallio - Manager Finance (item 2) Daniel Potter - Manager Engineering (item 3)		
Visitors	Pam and George Lingard (item 1) Steph Durant (item 1)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil.			

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Simon Tol

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED

12. ITEMS FOR DECISION

12.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

12.1.1. BEAUFORT LAKE CARAVAN PARK

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Ray Davies – Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

File No: 523046200

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on phase one of the redevelopment of Beaufort Lake Caravan Park, and to recommend the parks fees for the 2025/26 financial year.

BACKGROUND

As a result of recommendations from an operational review of the park completed in early 2021 Council completed a masterplan for improvements to the park which were estimated to cost \$3.84 million in 2023.

The Council has received assistance of \$500,000- from the Victorian Governments' Regional Infrastructure Fund to install new cabins at the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park to commence the proposed redevelopment with Council committing an equivalent sum of \$500,000- in matching funds therefore providing an overall budget of \$1million to complete Phase 1 of the redevelopment.

Planning approval to proceed with the development of the park was endorsed by the Council at the June 2024 Council meeting.

Phase one of the project includes installation of:

- One cabin which will provide universal access to all under the Disability and Discrimination Act
- One Duplex facility encompassing two units (each of them comprising two bedrooms)
- One block of four studio apartments and
- Associated works required under conditions of the planning permit. These included establishing crushed rock pads for the new cabins, upgrades to electrical, plumbing and wastewater services, road, stormwater and drainage works.

The tenders for construction of the new accommodation facilities were approved by Council in September 2024 with contracts being formalized in October. Civil works associated with the development commenced last November.

The block of four new studio apartments has been installed and was commissioned at the beginning of April.

The Disabilities cabin was delivered to site on 22 April and the Duplex facility on 29 April. Electrical, plumbing and carpentry works are being completed at the time of writing this report to prepare these units for use.

All drainage, stormwater, wastewater and electrical upgrades to the parks power system have now been completed with a concrete crossover under construction at the time of developing this report being the final stage of civil works.

While this first phase of development is coming to a conclusion, the masterplan for redevelopment of the remainder of the park includes:

- Five additional new cabins,
- One further apartment block
- A new camp kitchen and recreation room,
- DDA compliant amenities block,
- refurbishment of ensuite blocks,
- decommissioning of some ensuites to make way for new powered sites,
- Upgrades to the internal road network and
- A southern entry from Skipton Road.

A copy of the redevelopment plan accompanies this report.

Further to the development phase, the parks fees are now due to be reviewed for the 2025/26 financial year.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Redevelopment

The completion of phase one of the redevelopment will leave an estimated \$2.8 million in works to conclude the remaining phases of redevelopment.

Council has previously sought funding through the Commonwealth and Victorian governments and will continue to pursue external funding sources to complete further development at the park.

Caravan park fees and charges

The parks fees and charges are currently due for review and the following recommendations are made after examining fees charged by six parks within 80 kilometres of a similar size and location.

Table 1 outlines the baseline fees proposed for sites at the Beaufort Lake Caravan Park.

Table 1

Site Type	BLCP current fees	Average of prices at other parks (incl peak rates)	Lowest price at other parks	BLCP variance to average	BLCP proposed base fee for 2025-26	NRMA Big4 Ballarat low season
Unpowered Site	\$20.00	\$33.60	\$20.00	\$13.60	\$30.00	\$41.00
Powered Site	\$36.00	\$43.13	\$30.00	\$7.13	\$40.00	\$43.00
Drive through powered site	NA	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ensuites	\$41.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$4.00	\$45.00	\$61.00
Budget Cabin	\$82.00	\$110.00	\$95.00	\$28.00	\$95.00	\$125.00
Standard Cabin	\$93.00	\$125.83	\$105.00	\$32.83	\$120.00	\$133.00
Deluxe Cabin	\$123.00	\$157.14	\$130.00	\$34.14	\$135.00	\$153.00
Premium Cabin	\$139.00	\$154.33	\$138.00	\$15.33	\$145.00	NA
DDA 2 BR	New	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$145.00	\$176.00
Studio cabin	\$120.00	\$136.00	\$105.00	\$16.00	\$120.00	\$119.00
Duplex	New	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$145.00	\$0.00

The fees in the past have remained constant throughout the year, i.e. there has been no provision in the past to charge higher rates for weekends, off shoulder season or peak holiday periods like Christmas, Easter and long weekends.

Charging higher rates at peak holiday times is a standard practice in the accommodation industry and this report proposes to establish base rental rates with delegation to be provided to the Manager Economic Development to set higher rates during peak periods including weekends school and public holidays in consultation with the Caravan Park Caretaker.

The park also caters for a small number of annuals sites and three permanent residents.

The agreements held for these clients outlines that the park owner can increase the rental fees by the amount of CPI on an annual basis from 1 July. It is therefore recommended that rates which apply to these sites increase by 3.0% which is in line with the Fair Go Rates Cap applying to council rates.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The redevelopment of the park was advertised to the general public during the application for planning permit phase.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Beaufort Lake Caravan Park Development Plan [**12.1.1.1** - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The project is being completed with the support of the Victorian Government's "Regional Infrastructure Fund" and Council who are each contributing \$500,000 towards the overall project budget of \$1 million. To acquit the full funding amount, Council is required to provide evidence of expenditure of at least \$1M, and it is forecast that this will be achieved in the current financial year and within 3.4% of the minimum total expenditure. The civil works completed during phase 1 have also laid the groundwork in preparation for future accommodation installations.

It is recommended that Parks fees and charges for 2025-26 apply as follows: -

- Base level fees apply to accommodation and site fees per Table 2.

Table 2

Site Type	BLCP proposed base fee for 2025-26
Unpowered Site	\$30.00
Powered Site	\$40.00
Drive through powered site	NA
Ensuites	\$45.00
Budget Cabin	\$95.00

Standard Cabin	\$120.00
Deluxe Cabin	\$135.00
Premium Cabin	\$145.00
DDA 2 BR	\$145.00
Studio cabin	\$120.00
Duplex	\$145.00

- Further to the above table it is recommended that the Manager Economic Development and Tourism be delegated authority to determine rates for high visitation periods including weekends, school holidays and public holidays.
- Thirdly it is recommended that site fees for permanent residents and annual site holders be increased by an amount equal to the Victorian Governments Fair Go Rate Cap increase for 2025-26 of 3.0%.

CONCLUSION

The construction of the \$1 million phase one of Beaufort Lake Caravan Park redevelopment is nearing completion. The entire redevelopment of the park was estimated to cost \$3.84 million in 2023, and external sources of funding are being actively sought to implement the next phases of development.

An increase in fees and charges is proposed for 2025-26 to accommodate rising costs as recommended in this report.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Continues to seek means of funding of the next stages of development at the park.
2. Endorses the proposed base level fees for 2025-26 and for increases to charges for annual sites and permanent residents as recommended in this report
3. Delegates authority to the Manager Economic Development to establish rental rates for weekends and peak holiday periods.

CARRIED

12.2. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

12.2.1. MAINTENANCE REGIME OF COUNCIL OWNED AND MANAGED FACILITIES

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Douglas Gowans – Director Assets and Development

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

File No: 06/12/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's input into the current public open space maintenance regime.

BACKGROUND

The regular vegetation management of Council owned and managed open space is essential for maintaining the safety, functionality and appearance of public spaces. Mowing and slashing are key components of this maintenance, reducing fire hazards enhancing visibility access and improving the overall amenity of urban and rural areas within the Shire.

The current maintenance regime has been established based on seasonal growth patterns, community expectations and operational capacity. This regime aims to ensure consistent upkeep of township areas while managing natural vegetation growth on the outskirts.

Council also undertakes garden bed maintenance where there are established plantings. This is generally restricted to Beaufort and Avoca and based on seasonal requirements.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Mowing within township boundaries is conducted on a regular basis to maintain public amenity, safety and aesthetic standards. The current regime ensures a minimum of 20 mowing cycles per year, distributed strategically throughout the growing season to address vegetation growth and seasonal conditions for identified prescribed areas.

On the outskirts of the townships, where vegetation is less intensively managed but still requires control for fire risk mitigation and accessibility, a slashing program is in place. This involves a minimum of 12 slashing cycles per year, scheduled to balance growth control with environmental considerations. 95% of township slashing is undertaken by Council employees. Beyond the township slashing areas Council undertakes roadside fire slashing up to two times per year in the lead up to the fire season and midway through the fire season as required.

Mowing

Beaufort

105 of the 116 mowing locations in the Beaufort township are completed by Council's works officers, with the remaining 11 mowing locations maintained by external contractors. Council maintained mowing in the township of Beaufort is budgeted for up to 20 times per year to an optimal service standard height of under 50mm and to a total area of 111,494m², whilst contractors manage the mowing of a total area of 17,998m² up to 12 times per year at an optimal service standard height of under 150mm.

Avoca

85 of the 86 locations in the township of Avoca are maintained by Council's works officers totalling 98,701m², allowance for up to 20 times per year at an optimal service standard height of under 50mm.

Where external contractors are responsible for one area of 449m², this area is maintained up to 12 times per year at under to an optimal service standard height of under 150mm.

Council has maps of each town where township mowing maintenance is undertaken. The below maps provide some examples of where township mowing occurs.

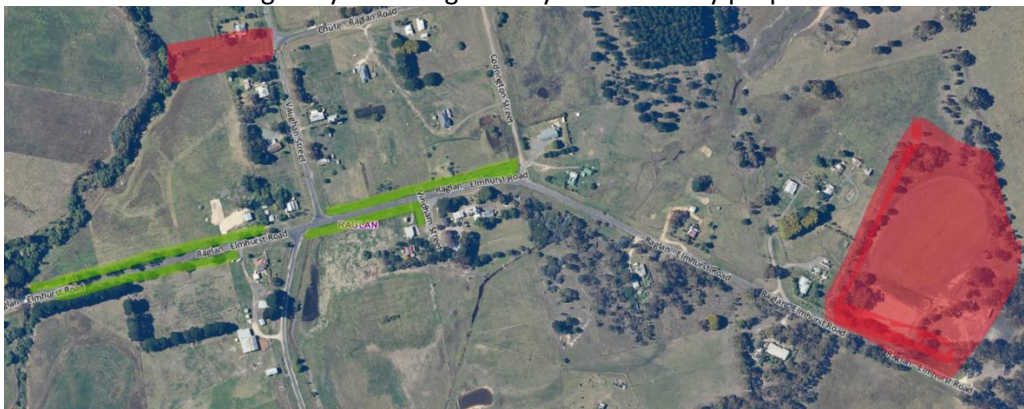
Amphitheatre

The image below depicts the current township mowing in Amphitheatre. The bright green highlighted area indicates Council maintained mowing confined to Bailey Street and Bakery Park.



Raglan

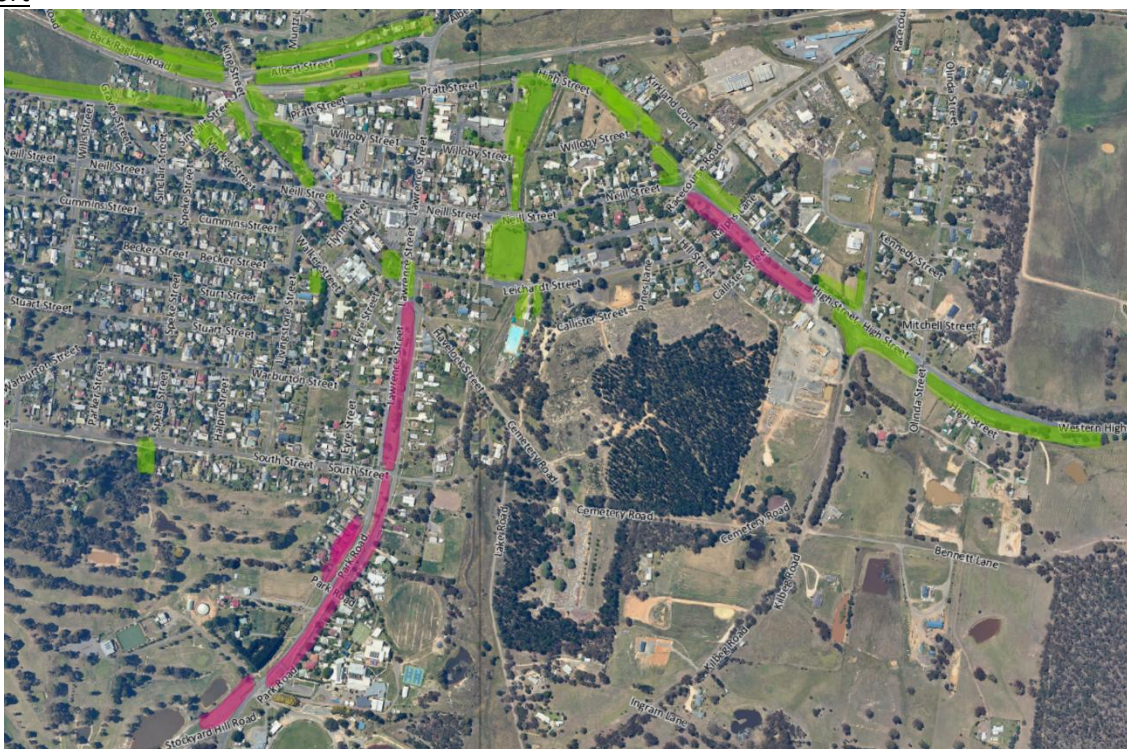
The brighter green areas in the image below depict the township mowing in Raglan and area cuts in red. Area cuts are undertaken less regularly and are generally for fire safety purposes.

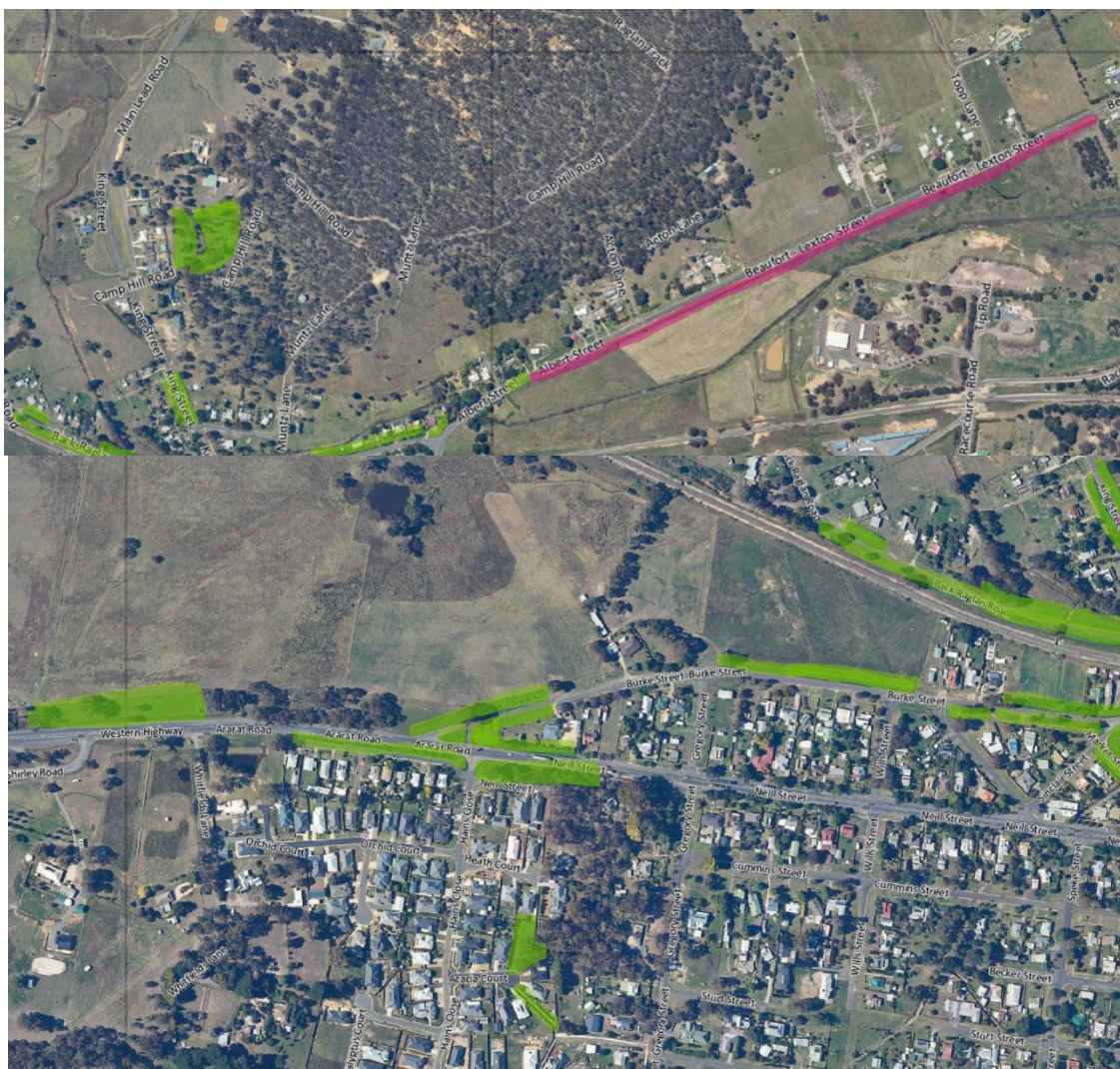






Beaufort





COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

Enabling Principles

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's current maintenance regime requires investment to ensure effective vegetation management across the Shire. Council's current township maintenance budget is \$1.3M and includes all reserve maintenance, township mowing, roadside maintenance and playground maintenance. Council currently employs three township maintenance personnel, one that is predominantly based in Beaufort, and looks after Beaufort, Snake Valley, Lexton and Waubra. One that is based in Avoca looks after Avoca, Moonambel, Landsborough and Amphitheatre. The other one is shared between the two depots.

CONCLUSION

Council's maintenance regime is designed to support the presentation and safety of public areas while aligning with resource availability and seasonal demands. Regular review of the frequency and effectiveness of these operations is undertaken to ensure continued service quality.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council:

1. Notes the report.
2. Investigate opportunities to redirect contractor resources to internal maintenance staff resources where there is an economic best value outcome.

CARRIED

12.3. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.3.1. DELEGATIONS

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Dean Miller – Manager Governance and Performance

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

File No: 16/20/08

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council adoption of revised Instruments of Delegation from the Pyrenees Shire Council to Members of Council Staff.

BACKGROUND

Section 11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides Council with the power to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer, via Instrument of Delegation, any power, duty, or function of a council under the Act other than one prohibited by section 11(2).

Section 11(7) requires a council to review all delegations made under the *Local Government Act 2020* within 12 months of a general election.

A range of other legislation also allows a council to delegate powers, duties, and functions under those Acts or Regulations to council staff.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The following Instruments of Delegation were reviewed in February 2025, using information provided through Maddocks Lawyers' service that monitors legislative change and provides updates on changes relevant to local government to support compliance.

- S5 Instrument of Delegation – Council to Chief Executive Officer
- S6 Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff

This review included changes required through:

- Introduction of new legislation or amendment of existing legislation
- Changes in officers responsible for authorised powers, duties, or functions

Documents are provided to the Council for adoption.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Management and review of Instruments of Delegation is a matter of compliance and does not require community engagement. The review was completed in collaboration with relevant members of staff.

ATTACHMENTS

1. S5 Instrument of Delegation to Chief Executive Officer May 2025 [**12.3.1.1** - 6 pages]
2. S6 Instrument of Delegation Council to Members of Staff 2025 (1) [**12.3.1.2** - 95 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* and other legislation to accurately record any delegation of powers, duties, or functions to the Chief Executive Officer and other members of council staff to allow for proper and lawful administration of Council's functions and operations, without which all functions and operations would require daily resolution of the Council.

CONCLUSION

Lawful operation of Council administration requires delegations of authority to be authorised by the Council. It is good practice to review delegations at regular intervals or when significant changes occur. Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2020* it is required that a council must review delegations within 12 months of a general election.

Amended Instruments, once approved, will remain in force until further reviews are conducted in the future.

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and other legislation referenced in the attached Instruments, resolves that:

1. The members of council staff referenced in the Instruments S5 and S6 as attached, be authorised as set out in the Instruments,
2. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to sign the Instruments on behalf of the Council, and
3. The Instruments come into force immediately after the Instruments are signed by the Chief Executive Officer and any former Instruments are rescinded.

CARRIED

12.3.2. ANNUAL REPORT - COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Dean Miller – Manager Governance and Performance

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

File No: 16/16/04, 16/16/10, 16/16/20, 16/16/24, 16/16/26, 16/16/28.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an Annual Report to the Council in relation to the activities and performance of its six Community Asset Committees as required by Section 47(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

BACKGROUND

Council has established the following six Community Asset Committees through formal Council resolutions. Individual members have been appointed to the Committees by Council resolution and through an Instrument of Delegation made by the Chief Executive Officer. In future, new Committee members can be appointed under delegation by the CEO without a Council resolution.

COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE	DATE ESTABLISHED
Beaufort Community Bank Complex	18-Aug-2020
Brewster Hall	18-Aug-2020
Landsborough Community Precinct	18-Aug-2020
Snake Valley Hall	18-Aug-2020
Waubra Community Hub	18-Aug-2020
Lexton Community Hub	21-Feb-2023

The six Community Asset Committees are responsible for managing assets for, and on behalf of, Council.

They were created under Section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020, and as such, they are a legal extension of Council, and Council is legally liable for all of their activities. It is important, therefore, that these Committees are accountable to the Council and to the general public for their stewardship of the assets that they manage, and that they act at all times in accordance with their *Instrument of Delegation* and the *Community Assets Committee Governance and Operational Manual*. This accountability is exercised by virtue of Section 47(6) of the Local Government Act 2020 which requires the Chief Executive Officer to submit an annual report to the Council in relation to the activities and performance of Community Asset Committees.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The inaugural members of each Committee were originally appointed by a formal resolution of Council. Over time, some members have resigned from, and new members have joined, these Committees. It appears that the new members have not been officially appointed either through a Council resolution or under delegation by the CEO. This matter will be addressed as part of the 2024-25 report which will be presented to Council in October 2025.

Council's *CAC Governance and Operational Manual* requires the Committees to table an Annual Report (which includes, inter alia, a list of any conflicts of interest that have been declared during the year) at their respective Annual General Meetings. It appears that these requirements have generally not been met since the Committees were created. In coming weeks, and months, Council officers will meet with the Committees to provide guidance and support in relation to their 2024-25 reporting obligations to improve performance, accountability, and compliance with their reporting obligations. This is not to be taken as a criticism of the hard-working volunteers who devote their time and energy to the Committees, but rather an acknowledgement that Council can do more to assist them to meet their responsibilities.

Council officers have commenced a review of the *CAC Governance and Operational Manual*. A draft of the updated document will be provided to the Committees for their input and feedback prior to adoption.

Beaufort Community Bank Complex

The Committee's AGM was held on 10 September 2024 and the Minutes are included as **Attachment 1**. The President's Report is included as **Attachment 2**. The Committee reported total income for the year of \$27,693 and total expenditure of \$34,749 resulting in an operating loss of \$7,056. At 30 June 2024 the Committee's bank account and term deposit total \$28,539.

Brewster Hall

It appears that the Committee has not met since its AGM in September 2021. The Committee has provided a report on its activities for 2023-24, and this is included as **Attachment 3**. The Committee's bank balance is currently \$2,327.

Landsborough Community Precinct

The last meeting of the Committee was 4 or 5 years ago. In the absence of a functioning Committee, Graeme Sandlant has been managing the assets which include the Resource Centre, Caravan Park, amenities block, playground and BBQ on a voluntary basis.

Mr Sandlant has provided a report of his activities for 2023-24, and this is included as **Attachment 4**. He recorded operating income of \$36,052 and expenditure of \$14,939 resulting in an operating surplus of \$21,113. The Committee's bank balance at 30 June 2024 was \$1,957.

During the year, Mr Sandlant transferred \$40,000 from the retained earnings of the Committee to Council which sits in a trust account controlled by Council. The purpose of the trust account is to set aside funds for the future replacement of assets, and the current balance is \$140k.

In coming weeks and months, Council officers will be meeting with Mr Sandlant and other members of the Landsborough community to discuss options for the future management of the precinct.

Lexton Community Hub

The Committee was created by Council in February 2023, and its inaugural AGM is scheduled for July/August 2025. A report of the Committee's activities for the 2023-24 year is included as **Attachment 5**.

For the year ended 30 June 2024 the Committee recorded income of \$17,416 and expenditure of \$19,962 resulting in an operating loss of \$2,546. The Committee's bank balance at 30 June 2024 was \$5,679.

Snake Valley Hall

The Committee's AGM was held on 19 August 2024 and the Minutes are included as **Attachment 6**. The President's Report for 2023-24, which provides an excellent summary of the Committee's activities for that year, is included as **Attachment 7**. The Committees' bank balance at 30 June 2024 was \$6,684.

Waubra Community Hub

The Committee's AGM was held on 13 August 2024 and the Minutes are included as **Attachment 8**. The Committee reported income of \$19,444 and expenditure of \$23,451 resulting in an operating loss of \$4,007 for the 2023-24 financial year. The Committee's bank balance at 30 June 2024 was \$1,697.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Strategic Objective 3 - We will engage with communities to provide responsive, efficient services that enhance the quality of life of residents and promote connected, active, and resilient communities.

3.3 - Community Development – Supporting communities to build connections, capacity, and resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 [12.3.2.1 - 2 pages]
2. Attachment 2 [12.3.2.2 - 1 page]
3. Attachment 3 [12.3.2.3 - 1 page]
4. Attachment 4 [12.3.2.4 - 1 page]
5. Attachment 5 [12.3.2.5 - 2 pages]
6. Attachment 6 [12.3.2.6 - 4 pages]
7. Attachment 7 [12.3.2.7 - 1 page]
8. Attachment 8 [12.3.2.8 - 2 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

A number of Committees are still struggling in the aftermath of Covid-19. Changes to Council staff on the Committees in recent years have made it difficult to achieve full compliance with the Act. Council's new Manager Community Wellbeing and Partnerships, and Manager Governance and Performance, are committed to supporting all of the Community Asset Committees to address these issues. Further work will be undertaken with the Landsborough community and the Waubra Community Asset Committee to explore alternative management models that suit Council's and the community's needs.

Cr Simon Tol / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council

1. Notes this report and its attachments, and
2. Writes to each of the Community Asset Committees thanking their members for their ongoing contribution to the management and maintenance of important community assets.

CARRIED

12.3.3. INSURANCE

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - Acting Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Dean Miller – Manager Governance and Performance

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

File No: 38/02/08

PURPOSE

This report presents options for Council relating to a strategic review of Council's insurance program. It includes consideration of:

- Discontinuing insuring assets on Crown Land controlled by local committees of management under the control of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) (SECTION A);
- Discontinuing insuring private assets owned by clubs and community groups (SECTION B);
- Changing the basis of insurance on some assets from full replacement value to either a lower replacement value, indemnity only, or not at all (SECTION C);
- Changing the amount of deductibles paid (sometimes referred to as excess) for each insurable event (SECTION D); and
- Using the insurance premium savings to create an Asset Replacement Reserve (SECTION E).

The primary objectives of this review are to:

- End the current arrangement whereby Council assumes the costs and risks of insuring assets that Council has no ownership or control over;
- Reduce insurance premiums by:
 - Lowering the insured value on assets that, if destroyed, will be replaced with something less substantial or not at all;
 - Not insuring assets where there is no insurable risk; and
 - Minimising the impact on future premiums by not insuring (and not making claims in respect of) assets that are not worth insuring.
- Use the annual savings in insurance premiums to establish a reserve that could be used for the future replacement of assets.

BACKGROUND

Council has a suite of insurance arrangements that are purchased through Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT) including a product known as the *Imapp Discretionary Trust* brokered by JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd. This product covers the replacement value of buildings, other structures and contents, and currently costs \$224k per annum in premium. Council insures about 600 assets including buildings, other structures (gazebos, fences, tennis courts, BBQ shelters, etc) and contents worth \$89 million. Included in this list are assets worth \$19 million on Crown land and private land that Council does not own or manage. Council has insured these assets for many years. The cost to insure these assets in 2024-25 was \$42,713.

Table 1 below provides a summary of Council's current asset insurance premium based on 2024 valuations.

Table 2 shows the current premiums paid by Council in relation to assets managed by local committees on behalf of DEECA.

It must be said at the outset that reductions in insured values will not automatically reduce premiums proportionally. In other words, if the value of an asset is reduced by 50 percent, we cannot assume that the premium in respect of that asset will also be reduced by 50 percent. The premium amounts shown throughout this report are only a guide in relation to the current premium.

Table 1: Total Premiums for Buildings and Contents Insurance

ASSET MANAGER	2024 PREMIUM
Council	\$125,986
Crown Land Committees on behalf of DEECA	\$42,713
Community Asset Committees on behalf of Council	\$45,229
Private (note this only includes Beaufort Scout Hall)	\$1,771
Leased Land (eg, Victrack buildings) *	\$9,061
Total	\$ 224,760

*Note: Council leases buildings from other organisations such as Victrack for the benefit of community groups. Most, if not all, of the lease agreements, require Council to insure the buildings. These leased assets are not the subject of this report.

Table 2: Building and Contents Insurance Premiums relating to DEECA Committees

ORGANISATION	2024 PREMIUM
Beaufort Historical Society	\$1,976
Carranballac Cricket Reserve	\$1,931
Crownlands Public Hall and Recreation Reserve	\$2,717
Evansford Hall	\$1,749
Glenpatrick Hall	\$231
Glenpatrick Recreation Reserve	\$353
Lake Goldsmith Hall	\$647
Landsborough Public Hall	\$2,898
Landsborough Recreation Reserve	\$2,825
Lexton Public Hall	\$2,013
Moonambel Public Toilet, Gazebo and Shade Sail	\$293
Moonambel Public Hall	\$2,164
Moonambel Recreation Reserve	\$5,974
Moonambel Tennis Complex	\$277
Mount Emu Tennis Courts	\$15
Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve and Public Hall	\$6,664
Raglan Public Hall	\$963
Raglan Recreation Reserve	\$434
Redbank Public Hall	\$1,241
Snake Valley Recreation Reserve	\$7,348
Total	\$42,713

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Council's Audit and Risk Committee was briefed verbally on this proposal at its meeting on 25 March 2025. Although the Committee was not presented with a formal report, it gave in-principle support for the undertaking of a review.

SECTION A: DEECA ASSETS MANAGED BY LOCAL COMMITTEES

In 2023 Council commissioned a report from Resilience Co to review the insurance program in relation to Crown Land Assets managed by DEECA-appointed committees. The report was received in November 2023 and is included as an Attachment. It revealed a lack of financial support from DEECA for its local committees of management across the State. DEECA does not insure any property managed by its committees of management. It only provides cover through the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) for public and products liability, professional indemnity, and personal accident for volunteers. The Resilience Co report identified most, but not all, of the risks to Council of continuing to insure DEECA assets as well as the risks to Council of ending the program. These risks are identified below. It made 15

recommendations (referred to as ‘opportunities’) should Council continue the program of insuring DEECA assets. It is not the purpose of this Council report to discuss these individual recommendations, but simply to make the point that these recommendations come at a considerable cost to Council that are currently unbudgeted and beyond the means of Council to fund, given its significant resource constraints.

Considerations for Not Insuring DEECA Assets

1. **Cost Shifting:** The annual cost to Council of insuring DEECA buildings and contents is approximately \$43k. The Resilience Co report states this figure at \$63,052, however that was based on data provided by Council at the time, which has since been refined. This is a typical example of where cost shifted from the State to Local Government. Council has no legal obligation whatsoever to insure these assets. In fact, DEECA committees of management also have no legal obligation under the *Crown Land Reserves Act 1978* to insure their assets. DEECA employs 6 staff across the State to support 1,150 voluntary committees of management that manage 1,450 Crown land reserves. It has a small budget for public safety works but nothing for ongoing maintenance or upgrades. Local Governments across Victoria have raised the issue of a lack of maintenance and upgrade funding for many years. The majority of the 11 councils in the Grampians region have either ceased insuring DEECA assets or are considering doing so.
2. **Claims Deductibles:** In addition to the premium, Council pays \$1k in deductibles every time a claim is made, including on the DEECA assets.
3. **Claims Frequency and Costs:** the *number* and *value* of claims, including claims in respect of DEECA assets, impact on future premiums. This is particularly disadvantageous to Council because Council has no role or responsibility to inspect or maintain these properties. The 2022 flood claim, which resulted in a \$2.3 million claim, is a case in point.
4. **Rejected Claims, due to:**
 - a. **Lack of Maintenance and Records:** Council has been, and continues to be, seen as responsible for the replacement of DEECA assets in the event of rejected insurance claims, or to fund the shortfall of partially accepted claims. This occurred in relation to the old Lexton Hall some years ago. The floor was water-damaged, and the insurance claim was rejected on the basis that Council did not have maintenance records. Many of DEECA assets that Council insures are subject to natural disasters including fire and flood. It is likely that claims on DEECA assets will continue to be rejected in the future by insurance companies due to Council not being an active manager of the assets.
 - b. **‘Junk Insurance’:** Many DEECA assets do not have an insurable risk, and therefore insurance is a waste of money. For example, it is difficult to envisage a scenario in which a court surface, oval, or bowling green could ever sustain damage that is insurable. Most of the damage to these types of assets is typically the result of normal wear and tear which is specifically excluded under the policy. In short, insuring these types of assets does not provide value for money. This applies to Council assets as well, and this is discussed in Section C of this report.
 - c. **Under Insurance:** DEECA assets are highly likely to be under-insured because of a lack of inspections and valuations. This presents two risks to Council: firstly, it could raise a liability on Council to meet the full cost of replacement. Secondly, it is open to insurers to honour the cost of any claim only partially on fully insured assets on the basis that other assets in Council’s portfolio are underinsured. This could have disastrous consequences in the event of a large multi-million-dollar claim and is precisely the reason Council reviewed its insured values last year and again this year. Under-insurance is widespread in local government. As a result, commencing this year, JLT is physically inspecting all local government assets, including those in Pyrenees Shire, that are valued above \$400k to ensure that all assets are adequately insured.

- d. **Lack of an Insurable Interest:** There is a risk that claims in relation to DEECA, and private assets could be rejected by insurers because Council does not have an 'insurable risk' at common law. The Resilience Co report alludes to this risk.
- e. **Officer Time:** Each time a claim is made in relation to a DEECA asset, Council officers spend a considerable amount of time preparing and submitting claims and liaising with JLT over lengthy periods of time. The 2022 flood is a good example. This takes valuable resources away from Council's core activities for the community.

Risks of Not Insuring DEECA Assets

The risks of discontinuing insurance on DEECA property were identified by Resilience Co in its report, and include:

- DEECA Community Committees of Management have generally identified that they would be unable to financially sustain the cost of their own insurance due to limited income. This could have implications for the security of their assets and the committees' ability to fund ongoing maintenance of their assets.
- There is a perceived inequity between DEECA Community Committees of Management and Council-controlled Community Asset Committees (CACs) should the current program cease; and
- There is an implied expectation from the DEECA committees that Council would rebuild a damaged asset simply because Council insures it, even if a claim is not accepted by the insurers for any of the reasons identified above.

Options Available to Council

Option 1A: Exit Insuring DEECA Assets on 30 June 2025

Exiting the program for the 2025-26 financial year would leave little time for the DEECA committees to find alternative insurance, and to prepare financially for the extra cost.

Option 1B: Exit Insuring DEECA Assets on 30 June 2026 (recommended)

This option would allow one year for DEECA committees to source alternative insurance and to prepare for the extra cost. This is the recommended option. If adopted by Council, officers will advise DEECA and the local committees of management of the decision and assist the committees to source alternative insurance.

Option 1C: Transition to an exit of Insuring DEECA Assets over two years

This option would involve a two-year transition period over 2025-26 and 2026-27, or 2026-27 and 2027-28. DEECA committees would reimburse Council 50 percent of the cost of the premium in the first year and be responsible for their own insurance in the second and subsequent years.

Other Issues

Council receives little or no recognition from the State Government or the community for insuring DEECA assets. Furthermore, the insurance cost overstates Council's corporate overheads in the annual financial statements and annual budget because it does not represent an insurance cost relating to Council's assets. It is, in reality, a 'community grant' to these committees of management, even though they have not had to apply for it.

If Council decides to continue with the program of insuring DEECA assets, this report recommends that the cost be accounted for as a community grant. This will also give Council the opportunity to be appropriately recognised for its contribution and ensure transparency on this funding.

SECTION B: ASSETS OWNED BY PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS

'Private organisations' are those clubs, associations and community groups that use Council and DEECA buildings. The only private building that Council insures is the Beaufort Scout Hall at a cost of \$1,761.

Council also insures a large number of privately-owned contents that are in buildings managed by Council, Community Asset Committees and DEECA. The cost is unknown because of a lack of data on the insurance register however it is likely to be thousands of dollars per annum.

Most of the risks identified in Section A above apply to private assets also, namely: paying the claims excess, the impact of claims on future premiums, the lack of maintenance and records, junk insurance, under-insurance, lack of an insurable interest, and officer time involved in managing 'non-Council' claims.

Options Available to Council

Option 2A: Exit Insuring Private Assets on 30 June 2025.

Exiting the program for the 2025-26 financial year would leave little time for private organisations to find alternative insurance, and to prepare financially for the extra cost.

Option 2B: Exit Insuring Private Assets on 30 June 2026 (recommended)

This option would allow one year for private organisations to source alternative insurance and to prepare for the extra cost.

Option 2C: Transition to an exit Insuring Private Assets over two years

This option would involve a two-year transition period over 2025-26 and 2026-27, or 2026-27 and 2027-28. Private organisations would reimburse Council 50 percent of the cost of the premium in the first year and be responsible for their own insurance in the second and subsequent years.

SECTION C: COUNCIL ASSETS – BASIS OF INSURANCE

This section of the report recommends that the assets in Tables 3, 4, and 5 below are insured based on:

- lower value replacement, but higher than indemnity;
- indemnity (only covers removal of debris and no replacement); and
- not at all.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 below list the assets and their current insurance premiums for each category.

Insure for Lower Value Replacement

Insuring an asset for a lower replacement value suits a scenario in which a new, but smaller structure would be built in the event of total loss of an asset. This could be suited to locations where new structures that have been completed in recent years have made older structures less popular or redundant, or in areas of population decline the asset has minimal usage.

Table 3 Lower the Replacement Values

ASSET DESCRIPTION	2024 VALUATION	REVISED VALUATION
Beaufort Lake Caravan Park – Laundry	\$ 165,000	\$ 80,000
Beaufort Band Rotunda	\$186,188	
Lexton Community Centre & Rural Transaction Centre	\$ 1,001,600	\$ 500,000
Moonambel Recreation Reserve - Pavilion	\$ 2,374,240	\$ 1,000,000
Snake Valley War Memorial	\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000
Waubra Recreation Reserve & Bowling Club – Netball Court & Shelter	\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000
Total	\$4,027,028	\$1,680,000

Insure for Indemnity Only

Insuring an asset for indemnity will cover Council for the costs of removing debris and is typically 10 percent of the replacement value. Assets in this category could include buildings that have little or no use, and a total loss would have minimal or no impact on the community or on Council's operations.

Table 4 Indemnity Only

ASSET DESCRIPTION	2024 VALUATION	INDEMNITY VALUATION
Beaufort Historical Society (former Court House)	\$ 785,321	\$ 78,000
Beaufort Park Lake - Boathouse	\$306,000	\$30,000
Total	\$1,091,321	\$108,000

Cease Insuring

As with DEECA assets, many of Council's assets do not have an insurable risk, and therefore insurance is not providing value for money. It is difficult to envisage any scenario in which a court surface, oval, bowling green or swimming pool could ever sustain damage that is insurable. Most of the damage to these types of assets are typically the result of normal wear and tear which is specifically excluded under the policy.

Many of Council's low valued assets are also recommended for no insurance on the basis that it costs more money in staff time managing an insurance claim than the value of the actual asset. Of the 46 assets in this category, 41 are valued at \$50k or less, and 26 are valued at \$20k or less. The average of these 67 assets is only \$19,500. Council's budget could easily accommodate a total loss of one of these assets in any given year.

Table 5 Cease Insuring

ASSET DESCRIPTION	2024 VALUATION	2024 PREMIUM
Amphitheatre Infant Welfare Centre Carport	\$ 8,726	\$ 22
Avoca Children's Centre - Shed	\$ 3,966	\$ 10
Avoca Recreation Reserve Cricket Shed	\$ 6,425	\$ 16
Avoca Recreation Reserve Netball Shelter	\$ 28,000	\$ 70
Avoca Recreation Reserve Pétanque Shelter	\$ 25,000	\$ 63
Avoca Recreation Reserve Shed	\$ 22,438	\$ 56
Avoca Recreation Reserve Tennis Shelter	\$ 15,000	\$ 38
Avoca Senior Citizens Centre - Historical Engine Shelter	\$ 20,000	\$ 50
Avoca Swimming Pool - (large, medium, and small pools)	\$820,000	\$ 2,063
Avoca Swimming Pool - Shed	\$ 42,000	\$ 106
Bakery Park BBQ Shelter/Rotunda	\$ 13,500	\$ 34
Beaufort Band Rotunda - Info Shelter	\$ 4,500	\$ 11
Beaufort Beggs St BBQ Shelter	\$ 120,000	\$ 302
Beaufort Community Resource Centre - Covered Walkway	\$ 47,867	\$120
Beaufort Council Depot - Carport	\$ 12,000	\$30
Beaufort Goldfields Recreation Reserve - Machinery Shed Id-139	\$ 24,115	\$61
Beaufort Goldfields Recreation Reserve - Shed Near Tanks Id-134	\$ 19,945	\$50
Beaufort Goldfields Recreation Reserve - Tennis Pavilion	\$ 27,764	\$70
Beaufort Lake Caravan Park - BBQ Shelter 1	\$ 50,000	\$ 126

ASSET DESCRIPTION	2024 VALUATION	2024 PREMIUM
Beaufort Lake Caravan Park - BBQ Shelter 2	\$ 35,000	\$ 88
Beaufort Lake Caravan Park - Car Ports X 2	\$ 28,557	\$ 72
Beaufort Lake Caravan Park - Double Garage	\$ 31,200	\$ 79
Beaufort Park Lake - BBQ Shelter & BBQ	\$ 12,000	\$ 30
Beaufort Park Lake - Lake Shelter	\$ 5,621	\$ 14
Beaufort Senior Citizens Centre - Fencing	\$ 1,000	\$ 3
Beaufort Senior Citizens Centre - Garage	\$ 4,488	\$ 11
Beaufort Swimming Pool & Squash Centre - Squash Court	\$ 187,200	\$ 471
Beaufort Swimming Pool & Squash Centre - Fencing	\$ 15,400	\$ 39
Beaufort Swimming Pool & Squash Centre - Shade Shelters	\$ 32,000	\$81
Beaufort Swimming Pool & Squash Centre - Swimming Pool	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 4,906
Beaufort Transfer Station - Dump Platform & Earthworks	\$ 20,000	\$ 50
Beaufort Transfer Station - Office	\$ 17,678	\$ 44
Landsborough Resource Centre - BBQ Shelter & BBQ	\$ 11,967	\$ 30
Landsborough Swimming Pool - Inground Swimming Pool	\$ 210,000	\$ 528
Landsborough Swimming Pool - Inground Toddlers Pool	\$ 55,000	\$ 138
Landsborough Swimming Pool - Kiosk	\$ 45,691	\$ 115
Landsborough Swimming Pool - Shade Frame 1	\$ 44,876	\$ 113
Landsborough Swimming Pool - Shade Frame 2	\$ 5,077	\$ 13
Landsborough Transfer Station - Office	\$ 12,692	\$ 32
Lexton Community Centre & Rural Transaction Centre - Shed	\$ 40,000	\$ 101
Snake Valley Community Hall - BBQ Shelter & BBQ	\$ 1,870	\$ 5
Snake Valley Transfer Station - Office	\$ 16,998	\$ 43
Waubra Rec Reserve & Bowling Club - Shade Shelters	\$ 3,366	\$ 8
Waubra Rec Reserve & Bowling Club - Shed	\$ 18,698	\$ 47
Waubra Rec Reserve & Bowling Club - Tennis Pavilion	\$ 11,219	\$ 28
Wotherspoon Reserve - BBQ Shelter & BBQ	\$ 12,000	\$ 30
Wotherspoon Reserve - Information Shelter	\$ 1,700	\$ 4
Total		\$10,421

SECTION D: DEDUCTIBLES

For each insurance claim under the Jmapp policy, Council pays a deductible (also known as the 'excess') of \$1,000. As part of the review of Council's insurances, officers obtained modelling from JLT to determine whether it would be economically viable in the long term to use the money from a reduction in premiums to establish a self-insurance fund.

Council requested two scenarios based on increasing the deductible to \$25k and \$50k. The modelling indicates that a deductible of \$25k would result in a premium saving of only \$5,500 and a deductible of \$50k would only save \$10,660.

This represents relatively small savings for a large deductible increase. This is due to the claims history (including DEECA assets) which is characterized by a large number of claims with relatively small values. If Council's claims represented a higher frequency and less severity, the impact would be more marked. For this reason, no change to the deductibles is recommended.

SECTION E: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSET REPLACEMENT RESERVE

Significant annual savings could be made if the ideas in this report are implemented. Rather than use these savings for day-to-day operational expenditure, it is recommended that the savings be set aside in an accounting reserve for the future replacement of assets. In the second and subsequent years, that is, 2026-27 onwards, the amount set aside annually in the reserve should be indexed annually in line with the CPI.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Resilience Co consulted with DEECA Committees of Management in 2023, and a summary of the feedback is included in this Council report.

The report's author has advised DEECA's Grampians Region regional manager that Council is undertaking this review. The DEECA regional manager understood Council's reasoning and advised that other councils in the region have either ceased insuring DEECA assets or are considering doing so.

If Recommendation 1 is supported by Council, officers will undertake further engagement with DEECA officers and Community Committees of Management over the next 12 months to explore opportunities for Council support of local committees.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resilience Report [12.3.3.1 - 23 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The savings to Council are estimated at up to \$60k per annum. The precise figure will not be known until the insurance renewal program for 2025-26 is finalised by JLT and will depend on the cost of reinsurance. If the recommendations are adopted, Council will no longer wear the risks associated with insuring assets it does not own or control. There are potentially new, but minor, risks associated with the recommendations that are outlined in the body of this report.

CONCLUSION

Over recent years, Council's finances have become more constrained due to rate capping, natural disasters, and large increases in insurance premiums. From 2022/23 to 2023/24 premiums for asset insurance rose 30 percent. The increase from 2023/24 to 2024/25 was 37 percent. These increases are unsustainable, and the

recommendations contained in the report are aimed at reducing costs without exposing Council to unnecessary risk and reducing the risk to Council of insuring assets that we have no control over.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Advise DEECA Community Committees of Management of Council's intent to cease insuring their assets on 30 June 2026;
2. Advise Community Groups of Council's intent to cease insuring their contents in Council buildings on 30 June 2026;
3. Adopt the revised insured values as per Table 3 commencing 1 July 2025;
4. Adopt the revised indemnity values as per Table 4 commencing 1 July 2025;
5. Cease insuring the assets identified in Table 5 commencing 1 July 2025;
6. Use the annual savings in insurance premiums to establish a reserve of \$150,000 for the future replacement of assets; and
7. Notes that any financial support for insurance premiums in respect of DEECA Community Committees of Management will be accounted for as a Community Grant.

CARRIED

***Note that table 4 in the Agenda has been amended in these Minutes to remove the Beaufort Rotunda and to reflect the Council resolution above.*

12.3.4. COUNCILLOR INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - 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 seeks Council adoption of the draft Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure.

BACKGROUND

Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) provides for a Councillor Conduct Framework. Section 140 of the Act and regulation 12A of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 provide for the requirement for all councils to have in place a Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure for dealing with alleged breaches of the Model Code of Conduct.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Local Government Act 2020 requires councils to have in place a Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure as detailed in the attached ***Fact Sheet: Councillor Conduct Framework***.

A Procedure has been drafted that is in accordance with those produced by other Victorian councils and is attached for Council consideration and adoption.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

No community engagement is required.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure (1) [12.3.4.1 - 8 pages]
2. Fact Sheet- Councillor Conduct Framework [12.3.4.2 - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Pursuant to the Victorian Councillor Conduct Framework, all councils are required to have in place a Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure. Not doing so would be a breach of legislation.

CONCLUSION

Under the Councillor Conduct Framework, set out in local government legislation and regulation, councils are required to have in place a Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure. A procedure has been developed and is now attached for the Council's consideration and adoption.

Cr Rebecca Wardlaw / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council adopts the Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure.

CARRIED

12.3.5. HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES POLICY

Presenter: Jacinta Erdody - 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 seeks the Council's adoption of a revised policy on implementation of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

BACKGROUND

Victoria adopted the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (the Charter) with effect from 1 January 2009. The purpose of the Charter is to protect and promote human rights by recognising that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights. The Act applies to the Victorian Public Sector, including local government. Implementation of the Act and Charter is governed by the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

The Charter sets out the basic rights, freedoms and responsibilities of all people in Victoria and helps guide the relationship between government and the people. The Charter requires public authorities, such as Victorian state and local government departments and agencies, and people delivering services on behalf of government, to act consistently with the human rights in the Charter.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The policy was revised in accordance with the regular policy review schedule and it was considered that no changes were required.

The policy is provided for Council consideration and approval.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. Human Rights Responsibilities Policy 2025 [12.3.5.1 - 3 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Policy on Human Rights and Responsibilities was reviewed in accordance with policy review schedules and no changes were made.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Megan Phelan

That Council adopt the updated Policy on Human Rights and Responsibilities.

CARRIED

12.4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

12.4.1. PROJECTS UPDATE MAY 2025

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: 16/21/08

PURPOSE

This report's purpose is for the Council to receive an update on key Council projects.

BACKGROUND

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

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

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Project Milestone status is available on the project's dashboard. The dashboard is updated monthly. Below is a summary of the status of a selection of projects underway or recently completed.

Linton Carngham Road

Road construction works have been completed. Line marking will be carried out the next time the contractor is available.

Eurambeen Raglan Road, Raglan

Road construction works have been completed. Line marking will be carried out the next time the contractor is available.

Footpath works, Landsborough

A footpath has been constructed on the east side of McKinley Street, Landsborough, linking the existing path on Burke Street through to the bridge.

Bridge strengthening and new barrier installation - Bridge 107 – McKinlay St, Landsborough

The strengthening and guardrail replacement for bridge 107 on McKinlay Street, Landsborough is underway with the works to be complete by July 2025.

Redbank Streetscape

Roadworks in the vicinity of the Redbank Hall are scheduled to be undertaken in the next six weeks including kerb and channel, outstands for tree planting, some planning and path work.

Rutherford Street, Avoca – kerbing

Kerb renewal and expansion has commenced in Avoca from the High Street / Camp Street intersection up to Rutherford Street and back down High Street on Davy Street.

Beaufort Lake Caravan Park

The 4 motel units were delivered to the site on Tuesday 4 March and were commissioned at the beginning of April. The all-abilities cabin was delivered 22 April and the duplex facility on 29 April.

As of 5 May, trades had started to connect the utilities and complete finishing touches to the cabins before furnishings can be added ready for commissioning. The final civil works involving concrete access paths to the cabins will also be finalised at this time.

Southern Wimmera Northeast Pyrenees (SWNP) Pipeline Project

The Feasibility study and Business Case have been substantially completed and a project variation approved to undertake further engagement with Traditional Owners. Advocacy for capital project funding has commenced.

Beaufort off-leash dog park

Funding of \$111,000 from the Victorian Government has been approved for an off leash dog park in Beaufort. The funding agreement was being finalised at the time of preparing this report, and planning the delivery of the project has commenced.

PS60 Old Beaufort Primary School Master Plan and Early Works Project

The initial survey continues to be open for residents and community groups to advise what is currently used for community space and activities, and to identify gaps in availability that can inform the project.

Martha Haylett MP officially launched the project on Monday 12 May 2025, in person at the school itself, attended by interested members of the community, including the BPS60 Committee who have worked for many years to get the old school refurbished as a useful community asset.

Targeted consultation and a second survey are being planned. The second survey will seek ideas on potential uses for the site that could form a sustainable management model for the future.

Avoca Recreation Reserve Flood Mitigation Community Session

Consultants Water Technology shared the proposed levee options and the proposed mitigation and feasibility options with Avoca community and the user groups of the Avoca Recreation Reserve at a community meeting on Wednesday 12 March 2025.

Flood Damaged Infrastructure Repair Works

Works to repair flood damaged infrastructure is near completion in the Beaufort South and Snake Valley areas. Contractors will be working on the remaining flood damaged infrastructure on the following roads over the next couple of months:

Wills Road	Weary Jone Lane	West Boundary Road
Snake Valley Chepstowe Road	Snake Valley Mortchup Road	

Works have commenced in the Lexton and Glenbrae areas with contractors working on the following roads over the next couple of months:

Rifle Range Road	Black Bottom Road	Jones Road
Skene Street	Racecourse Road	Lobb Road
East Mount Mitchell Road	Yalong Road	Mile Creek Road
Armstrongs Lane	West Street	Butler Road
Hobby Horse Lane	Forest Road	Dawsons Road

Works have commenced in the Waterloo and Raglan areas with contractors working on the following roads over the next couple of months:

Smiths Lane	Adamthwaites Lane	Kays Road
-------------	-------------------	-----------

Rutherfords Lane	Barbers Road	Marias Lane
Nuggety Lane	Racecourse Road	Broadbent Court
Neill Street	Livingstone Street	Back Raglan Road
Guys Road	Panthers Lane	Wilkinsons Road
King Charlie Lane	Graveyard Hill Road	Stars Road
Red Hill Road	C Waldrons Road	

Works commenced on the Lower Wimmera Bridge this week and is anticipated to be completed by the end of May 2025.

Works are at or near completion in the Mt Lonarch, Glenlogie and Amphitheatre areas. Contractors have completed work on the following roads:

Lexton Ararat Road	Amphitheatre Road	Gallaghers Road
The Glut Road	Richardsons Road	Mount Lonarch Road
Arthurs Lane	Bells Lane	Collins Lane
Cowans Lane	Kruss Road	Mills Lane
Andersons Road	Richards Lane	Mountain Hut Road

Works will commence shortly on the following roads in the Mt Lonarch, Glenlogie and Amphitheatre areas:

Wardlaws Lane	Fords Road	Mitchell Road
Gollops Lane	Greenhill Creek Road	Barrys Road
Lillicur Road		

Packages of repair works have now been approved, and all work is to be completed by 30 June 2026. Council is making good progress on having the work completed by this date and in addition to the work listed above, the following work will also be completed:

- Bridges in Glenpatrick, Amphitheatre, Elmhurst, Redbank, Mt Emu, and Beaufort
- Culverts in Snake Valley, Lexton, and Beaufort
- Floodway in Lexton
- Replacement of guardrail
- Other works in Landsborough, Homebush, Avoca, Hopes Lane

Living Libraries Project

The Living Libraries Project Control Group has been convened, and planning has commenced for delivering enhancements to Beaufort and Avoca library spaces and services.

Safer Together – Bushfire Resilience Project

Council has commenced the Safer Together – Bushfire Resilience Project which will run from 2025 to 2027. This project includes developing a fire-wise planting guide, running landscaping workshops, establishing a fire-wise garden, running an expo for fire-wise resilient building and developing township community resilience plans. The first part of the project is the planting guide, and work has commenced with Landcare on this.

Rural Council Transformation Project

This shared project with Central Goldfields Shire Council has finished the procurement process with Council approving contracts for implementing new systems for finance, rates/ revenue, and customer relationship management. Staff engagement and implementation will start after the contracts are signed.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Amendment C52pyrn Flooding

This project progressed to a formal planning scheme amendment with Council support at the March meeting. The amendment will seek to incorporate several completed flood studies into the Pyrenees Planning Scheme.

Public consultation for the amendment was scheduled for May. We will be pausing the public consultation sessions based on advice from the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and public consultation is now planned for July/August 2025 pending consent from the Minister for Planning.

We will continue to keep the Council updated as we receive more advice from the Department.

Improving the Planning Service

At the February Council meeting, it was agreed that to help the planning team understand how to improve its service delivery, a customer feedback survey will be offered to all recent and future permit applicants. The survey has been prepared and will go live on the engagement hub shortly. The survey will run for a three-month period with results and feedback reported to the Council.

Planning and Development Community Visits

In order for us to improve our engagement and profile within the local community we are proposing a series of community drop-in sessions in townships throughout the shire. We are proposing that sessions be held on the last Thursday of each month within a relevant township throughout the shire. An all-day session will be held in Avoca at the information centre.

At the sessions, the community will be invited to visit us to assist with any planning, building, environmental health, local laws questions or any other council-related items they may wish to discuss.

Some tentative dates and locations for the sessions have been scheduled and these will be communicated when available. The sessions will be advertised via our public notices, website, and social media pages.

Pyrenees Framework Plans

We are preparing an amendment to incorporate the Snake Valley, Waubra and Lexton framework plans into the Pyrenees Planning Scheme. Officers are currently reviewing the plans based on new flooding and bushfire information and updates will be made shortly for future consultation in the second half of 2025 prior to progressing a formal planning scheme amendment process.

Planning Scheme Review

Council has undertaken a review of the Pyrenees Planning Scheme to ensure contemporariness and satisfaction against Council's legislative requirement under s12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. This includes acknowledgement of the new strategic planning program which will be taken forward by the Council in the coming months.

The planning scheme review and program will not be subject to public consultation. It is, however, important to note as it will likely result in future projects based on the priorities of the council and our local community.

Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)

We are starting the review of the new 4-year DAMP which is required to be finalised by the end of 2025 as required by the Domestic Animals Act. The plan outlines Council's services, programs, policies, and management of domestic animals in the community under the Act.

Upon review of the plan, community consultation will be undertaken with residents and other relevant stakeholders.

Local Laws Review

Local Laws are set by local councils to address issues and protect the health and safety of the community. The laws within a Local Law address areas not well covered by State or Federal legislation.

We are beginning the process of reviewing our Local Law to ensure the new document includes changes in legislation and reflects contemporary issues experienced by our local community.

As part of the review, we will be seeking community feedback to inform the development of our new Local Law. This will be used to provide us with a better understanding of any current and emerging issues and provide an opportunity for the community to share ideas to improve the local laws in the Pyrenees.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

This report provides an update on various projects underway within the Pyrenees shire.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That:

1. Council notes the progress of projects contained in this report.

CARRIED

12.4.2. ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2025

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: 16/24/18

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for the Annual Engagement Plan.

BACKGROUND

In July 2022, Council considered and adopted a revised Engagement Policy and Strategy 2022-2025.

The Strategy provides for an annual Engagement Plan to be prepared identifying the specific activities for engagement over the next year.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

An annual plan has been prepared with specific engagement activities listed for the rest of 2025 which is attached for Council endorsement.

This is a dynamic document which will need to be amended in response to changing circumstances.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- a. Motivate and inspire community involvement
- b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

1. Engagement Plan draft 2025 V1 [**12.4.2.1** - 18 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is important to ensure the Council undertakes an appropriate level of engagement as outlined in the Council Plan and in order to meet community expectations. This plan will ensure that Councillors are aware of upcoming communications that may generate enquiries from residents.

CONCLUSION

A draft annual plan of engagement activities has been prepared for Council consideration.

Cr Megan Phelan / Cr Rebecca Wardlaw

That Council endorses the Community Engagement Plan 2025 and its activities as presented.

CARRIED

13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Ferrari

I attended the usual council briefings and council meetings.

I would like to mention that I did attend the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund community advocacy meeting, which was really really well attended from people, not just locally but across the municipality, probably even wider. I thank all of those who attended, and I thank David George, for his passion and his commitment to organising that so well-done David 'Rocky' George.

There is still a way to go with that, we all know that, there are still a lot of things in the pipeline, I just urge people in the community to understand this is not just directed at farmers, it's everybody that is a ratepayer and everybody that pays rates, you are going to get an increase on your rates so don't think it is just directed at the farmers. Yes, they are getting a massive hike, but everybody is going to have to pay more than they should be paying so please find out more about it, search the web, speak to someone about it because it is so important that we all get behind this and try and get knocked on the head.

I also had some meetings with BPS60. They are a really passionate group; in fact, we have another meeting tomorrow. The work that they do behind the scenes, just to keep things going is just incredible and bear in mind, we've got some progress at the moment with the BPS60 old school which is great, but they have been at this for 10 years so you know, any lesser people would of said oh well and thrown their hands up and said that they have had enough, but they didn't, they persisted and it is starting to pay off for them so I just can't speak highly enough of their commitment to that.

I had some meetings with constituents about a range of things.

I would like to mention one significant event that is coming up in Beaufort on May 31st, the Beaufort Football Netball Club have been lucky enough through the Carlton Draught process to have the football great legend Tom Hawkins, the ex-Geelong player, he is going to be playing a game for Beaufort on the 31st of May, it will be just such a significant day, he is an icon in the football world, it will be just such a great day. I'm sure it's going to be well attended but I urge everyone to get up there, have a look, see him play, support the locals, support the Football Club and the Netball Club, and just have a great day. We are looking forward to it. I do thank the council, there is a lot of organising still going on, but I thank the council and the council officers that have already put in a fair bit to help us with that day and make it a success and they are continuing to do so thank you. I just urge everyone to get up there and hopefully we can have a win for the day.

Cr Tol

I have been involved with all of the normal council briefings and meetings.

I think the most significant thing that I've been involved with over the last few weeks is the ESVF levy which is an absolute joke. It was quite moving today; I drove back from Adelaide this morning and to see the number of CFA overalls hanging on the fence was incredible. Now we are batting above our weight in the Pyrenees Shire, but Rob Armstrong got a go on the project a little while ago, David George took it up and then John Draught took it up over at Ascot and then we followed up the following week with a public awareness run down to Melbourne on Friday and another one on Tuesday. It is a difficult situation being in the Council, I had a hat on sideways being a farmer, a business owner and a councillor, but at the end of the day, we are here to represent our constituents and get the word out to them. I know there has been 3 or 4 suicides in the last two weeks over this, so we have to represent our people and go into bat. I know that they have passed it, but we can still keep trying. I know there is another run tomorrow morning and I think that will be quite a large turnout, they are talking 3 or 4 thousand people and probably up to 200 CFA vehicles. As Cr Ferrari said, it's not just about the farmers or the CFA, it's about everyone that owns a

rateable asset, they are all going to get slugged and it was quite interesting to read in the Herald Sun today, on page 11, there's an outcry in Melbourne, that they have to pay an extra \$49.00 for bin, you don't have to go to far to find people that are paying 10's of thousands of dollars extra.

Cr Phelan

Very similar to others, I've also been at the regular Council briefings and meetings. I wasn't able to attend the emergency services meeting that was in Beaufort, but I have certainly been having conversations with lots of residents and just want to echo what Cr Ferrari and Cr Tol have both said about the huge angst in the community, it's about the significant impact on all of the community, whether people are residents in townships or they're farmers, there's angst about some of the CFA members and some of the brigades going offline, angst about the understanding that that's actually what needs to happen to get the attention of government. I also want to really acknowledge that fellow councillors are on farms and suffering, really experiencing this in a way that is very different to what I experience it, I look at my garden dying but that is in no way comparable to watching stock die, just the prolonged impacts of drought and the costs and I see how much it's impacting you but also all of our residents. The bill has passed the parliament but the fight is not over, we do need to continue to raise awareness as both Cr Ferrari and Cr Tol said, this is not an issue just for farmers, this is an issue for all Victorians and I think there is not understanding that residents, all residents, will have a 99% increase, that's going to be a lot more than the cost of \$49.00 for an extra bin.

Hopefully we will get to a point, once that awareness is raised, where people will be thanking the CFA and thanking the farming community that are actually highlighting how significant this is.

Cr Wardlaw

Many of you may be aware that I have done a couple of Facebook posts, one is just a little video on my farm which is very very dry, very barren, and I am not going to go into it, but basically it has had 3,200 views which is quite remarkable and 99 percent of the people were supportive and really took what I was trying to get across. I'm concerned about mental health, very much so, knowing that a lot of the men will not seek help and just slowly get more and more down and we really don't want to see any more suicides. We are a very small farm and I can tell you now, ours will go up by about \$10,000, that's a lot, that's a lot to find when you're already struggling. That's my point with the whole thing and I won't go any further with that.

Yesterday I went to the Avoca truck hand over at the CFA shed and they were all so fantastic, they were so supportive of each other, but it was just a very sombre event and it shouldn't be, it should have been a much more joyous occasion, to receive a, I think, \$450,000 truck or something, and you could just see that they are all struggling with the 'what if's'.

We have all been working a lot on the Council Plan, which is now available for you all to look at online and see what you think. Please go and look at it and give us your feedback.

I did have a meeting with Martha Haylett a couple of weeks ago and we discussed things like the safety in our town, we've been having a few problems with break in's and stealing so we discussed all of that and hopefully she's going to talk to the police minister about a few things for us. We also discussed our football oval in town and where it is located and she mentioned that I think Clunes, are shifting their football oval, the whole thing, they have got a grant or something to shift it and I thought don't forget Avoca next time you are looking for things. Hopefully something will come of that, whether we mitigate or whether we shift but we need funding to do that, and I have been advocating for that as well.

Cr Kehoe

I'm going to get to the ESVF levy, but quickly on a lot of things that have been happening in the Mount Emu ward. I would just like to touch on the Council Plan and we please ask for your participation, this is a plan

where we want to serve you and to be able to meet those community needs but I do implore you if you can, just take that time to be able to comment on that.

The Snake Valley community got together and held its inaugural historical weekend a couple of weekends ago, it was the same weekend that Lake Goldsmith ran again an amazing steam rally. The historical weekend was amazing, and it highlighted our brilliant little Historical Society, who's outreach is not little at all, it's actually quite extensive. They were open on the Sunday. On the Saturday the Carngham Uniting Church had a beautiful organ recital, those ladies also ran a cake bake stall while the election was happening in hall nearby. St Brigid's catholic church, the catholic community, had a little trash and treasure stall and a raffle and it was just a beautiful coming together of community and I think it just shows just how amazing our communities are, that they want to showcase our beautiful little towns and their communities and also doing this in such a beautiful way where they work together.

On the football note, Tom Hawkins is coming, I was watching the kids yesterday at the Lightning Premiership, the Central Highlands one and what a fun day it was it was and what a beautiful sign again where we've got some of our Beaufort boys that were playing for the other teams that didn't have enough kids playing and I'd like to highlight again, my Jack is in the team, the little under 12's, and they won the spirit award again, the sportsmanship award for the second year in a row, so just to put it out there, we've got some beautiful kids in our community. Just the general coming together of so many clubs, and other people coming to support the younger ones, again I can't say how amazing it is that these sort of sporting communities are the communities that hold our communities together.

That brings me to the next very important point, that was on Friday, going to the Municipal Association of Victoria's meeting, after going to the dinner first, after trying to get into Parliament House, yet again, although I didn't have a ticket and it wasn't actually open, but standing there as there were people in that room deciding the fate of so many people and so many regional people on this Emergency Services and Volunteer Funds levy bill. It was just incredibly moving at the time and there was so much anxiety happening and watching it online, if anyone has seen the discussion on the bill, it's really important to be able to check out online, our plea to the government to realise what an impact that is going to have on us. On Friday, after we found about the bill, I stood up in the meeting and spoke about the impact this levy was going to have on us, because not only, as every councillor has just said, this bill will not just impact us, it won't impact one resident, it will impact every resident. Not just every regional resident and certainly our amazing farming community who will be impacted both financially and mentally exponentially but the ricochet effect of that, on every other resident in Victoria. It will be just absolutely devastating, and I think that's the message we need to get out there. We understand that if there is this deficit, that the state needs to find the money for or if SES truly does need that money, we want to be very clear though, understanding already consolidated revenue and the current levy are there to support our emergency services, this is an added on levy, but if there is a necessity, which we understand there must be, then we implore and we will be fighting for a fairer distribution of that.

At the moment we feel very much, and we know, that that burden will be taken on by people such as our communities and hence having the honour to lead that first that town hall meeting that we had, there was over 170 people that attended that meeting and that was a very short notice, but in the talk during the meeting, also before and after, again that heartfelt, to get back to that angst, that worry, that people are already feeling that they won't be able to pay that levy and then that further burden that us, as local government will have to be getting that from our community, for it just to then go to state and us not to be able to have control over that.

We're feeling very frustrated with that, and we really would like to be able to work with government to get a fairer, more equitable way forward. In light of that, we thank all of the community members that have advocated for themselves and for their other community members through meetings, through protests, through emailing. As Cr Wardlaw just mentioned about the amount of likes she's had or shares of her

current post on Facebook, our post on the Mayoral page, that has hit over 60,000 likes or shares and we know that other regional communities would have had that uptake as well. That is how important and how pertinent this issue is to us, and we will be continuing to move on that and to fight for a fairer distribution. In light of the budget that will be ratified tomorrow by parliament, from there we will look at exactly how that will impact us and be able to look at how we will be able to move forward as well.

I will be meeting with other Mayors in the region on Wednesday to look at how we can further unite to understand how we can protect and support our residents in light of this bill and how this will impact them, we are very much committed to that, all of us councillors.

I don't need to repeat what has already been said, but we are here to be able to support. I do urge, those regional people in particular, in light of suicides that we've heard about, do reach out if you are feeling at all like you are struggling, there are opportunities to receive financial counselling if you need, there are options available for that and we might actually highlight some of those on our website, but make sure you do. There is Lifeline and Beyond Blue, all of those organisations are there or simply reach out to the council if you need to be put in contact with someone. We know the pressure on our residents and community, and we know this is impacting everyone, not just our farmers, every resident in our community, please know we are here to support, and we will work through this together and aim to support every one of you. I just can't reiterate that enough. Do know that we will be continuing to advocate for you in this area, it is certainly not finished yet, but we will be interested to see the budget when it goes to air tomorrow and we will keep the community updated.

Cr Phelan

I did forget to mention of an excellent initiative driven by the Historical Society in Landsborough, on Sunday 25th, we have the launch of the Pyrenees Rail Heritage project in Crowlands, so essentially following the trail of the old Pyrenees railways, they've got signage at I think it is the seven old stations, so a fantastic initiative of the Landsborough Historical group and I look forward to being at that launch.

Cr Kehoe

If people can look on the MAV website, there has been a motion, and the MAV will be addressing government on this. One of the motions that came out of the State Council meeting, which is where I was on Friday, is a consolidated motion of councils opposing being the collector of the levy, also to look at other aspects such as an equitable funding model, improving transparency and communication, also to conduct an ongoing economic impact assessment, so understanding or adjusting how that's distributed or how that's proportionately paid by ratepayers and also to ensure an equitable fund distribution when the funds do go back into communities. You may view that on the MAV website or contact council if you would like a copy of that motion. Thank you to all of the community banding together as we do when things affect our community or affect our way of life and so again this is one that we will continue to work together on.

14. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19 May 2025 closed at 7:25 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

2025

Mayor Cr Tanya Kehoe