



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6:00 pm Tuesday 16 August 2022
Council Chambers
Beaufort Council Offices,
5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort

Wadawurrung Country

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

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1. WELCOME

Mayor Cr Ron Eason welcomed all to the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor: Cr Ron Eason

Councillors: Tanya Kehoe, David Clark, Damian Ferrari

Chief Executive Officer: Jim Nolan

Director Asset and Development Services: Douglas Gowans

Director of Corporate and Community Services: Kathy Bramwell

EA to CEO and Councillors: Chantelle Sandlant (minutes)

Communications Officer: Rebecca Stewart, Noel McKeegan (livestreaming)

2. STREAMING PREAMBLE

Mayor Cr Ron Eason read the livestream preamble.

3. OPENING PRAYER

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

Amen

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

5. APOLOGIES

Councillor Robert Vance

6. NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

7. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr Damian Ferrari

That the Minutes of the:

- Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 July 2022; and
 - Closed Meeting of Council held 19 July 2022,
- as previously circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising (items taken on notice) from the previous meeting held 19 July 2022.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Tony Briody of Lexton

Question one:

'Thanks for allowing us to address Council. There's a couple of things that I would like to mention but first of all we are really disappointed with the response from the Pyrenees Shire in regards to a demo we had in Ballarat and I know that you were notified but no one turned up and it was really sad because I don't know whether its the people concerned with and even ourselves that are trying to fight this powerline and to go underground of course but the situation is that maybe its falling on deaf ears and even ourselves feel that this is happening a lot and its really frustrating and its hard for everyone to get the message across and even back in the old days the Council represented all the people in the shire but I feel like were not getting heard and its real sad and I'm just disappointed with the Pyrenees Shire in relation to investigating into going underground. I've got a document here that was made public today and it's from the community consultation group and it outlines the proposal of the line going from Bulgana right through to Waubra then going on to Sydenham but it outlines everything about it which is really good but there's also another statement made by the Moorabool Central Highlands power alliance that I would like to read out.'

Mayor, Cr Eason requested Mr Briody ask his first question.

Question from Mr Briody:

'My first question is why haven't Pyrenees Shire made it public that were investigating about going underground, has anything been done? can you give us a response to that?'

Response:

Mr Jim Nolan thanked Mr Briody for the question and provided the following response:

'This is a matter of importance to Council. Council considered a report at the May Council meeting in respect of the West Vic Transmission Network Project. I am happy to provide some feedback to you about some of the engagement since then. First thing to note is that there has been a name change to this project, it is now called the Western Renewables Link Project and Council continues to engage with AusNet in relation to the project, that is on a range of matters in relation to the project not just about the underground matter, which is certainly a topic of conversation, but is part of that engagement. CEO's within the length of the proposed route have a virtual meeting with AusNet on a regular basis. The last meeting was last Friday. We have representation on the Technical Reference Group (TRG) and we certainly look to share information with the community about matters relating to the project. Obviously there's a meeting coming up on the 22nd August and it is intended that Council have representation at that meeting, which is being initiated by AusNet and that is an avenue for some of those further questions from the community to be asked to AusNet.

In respect of the concerns that the community has raised, including the concerns around the underground line, we have brought those matters to the attention of the Planning Minister and certainly the report that was produced in the Pyrenees Advocate in July after the march in Ballarat has been brought to the attention of the Minister. We provided a copy of the relevant article to the Minister so that the Minister is aware. To that extent we are certainly in this space and we are

certainly engaging with AusNet and others around the issue. In respect of specifically the underground service option, I am mindful that certainly Moorabool Shire Council did some work in this space and engaged an independent consultant specialist to do an assessment of that as a viable option. That was certainly provided to AusNet and AusNet then provided their own assessment and that publication, as you would be aware, is available on the AusNet website or the project website and that responds to a range of relevant factors that relate to undergrounding of the transmission line and to that extent there have been some further discussions with AusNet on that publication.

Council is not in a position to undertake its own investigation, we don't have the relevant expertise in that but we do rely on the State to undertake the appropriate level of investigation on the issue to ensure that there is appropriate consideration of underground as an option and that has been Council's position to advocate to the State to undertake that work. It is not considered appropriate that rate payers funds be used on functions that essentially are the responsibility of the State and Council will continue to advocate for proper consideration of that as an option and model going forward, as we will continue to advocate to ensure that the concerns of the residents of the Pyrenees Shire are well and truly understood by the State Government. You have assurance from this Council Mr Briody that Council is certainly advocating and with the community in terms of ensuring the best overall outcome is achieved.'

Mr Briody asked:

'Do you think AusNet will think favorably of going underground or did they give any indication of their thoughts about the matter of going underground?'

Mr Jim Nolan's response:

'Further to that question, the AusNet position is made clear in their fact sheet in terms of the initial work that they did. In this point in time the technical work is still being undertaken, they are still doing investigation works, they are still gathering data, they are still preparing information to support their Environmental Effects Statement. To that extent they are still in that space of identifying and looking at ways to mitigate the impacts so it is a work in progress. I have not been given any indication from AusNet that underground is a viable option for them at this point in time, other than a particular siting where it may be an appropriate means of resolving an issue but that doesn't happen to be in the Pyrenees Shire.'

Mr Briody asked:

'What I was going to ask, could I mention a few things that was mentioned by the Moorabool people. The document is produced by AusNet and provided to members of the community consultation group and not shared with the wider community. It provides a clear and damning picture of the catastrophic and generation impacts of this project in the future. Carving out a 100 meter plus wide path of destruction of this construction phase that will last up to two years. The construction phase depicted here emphasises the huge impact to agriculture, in place of infrastructure ie. roads, the environment and don't forget the quiet enjoyment of the land. The noise impact of the land and the compaction of subsoil layers. The removal of quality soil, vegetation and fauna will be irreversible. This project will accelerate Victoria's extinction of endangered flora and fauna.

There's a few things I reckon they left out there, ones the devaluation of the properties along the line, the people that live along the line, I don't know if Council has thought about those people but

even in Lexton there's Forest road with a house going to be demolished and also woolsheds up at Amphitheatre. Apart from that the one thing that they did leave out was the fire impact on those powerlines. We are in a highly prone area in Lexton and two years ago we had an enormous fire at home and it started in parallel with the power lines and the CFA and DWELP and all the different organisations were absolutely marvelous and they did a marvelous job, planes came up from Avalon and dropped retardant on the south side of the powerlines but when we asked them to shut the power off and also to put retardant on the north side of the powerlines they wouldn't do it because they were not allowed to go near the powerlines for safety reasons. We couldn't have any trucks, choppers, bulldozers or graders or anything near the powerlines. Later on that night the wind changed and we were really lucky to save Lexton, I don't know how the hell we did it but we did and a miracle that we did and we stopped it on a ridge line just north of the granite hill. How we stopped it there I don't know but we did. Unfortunately north of that, the powerline of course we couldn't get any break in or retardant down and it jumped the Amphitheatre - Lexton road and in that it impacted a fire truck and two utes and they could have been killed. They were in danger and those people were lucky to be alive. I often wonder if that fire had continued to burn on it probably would've burnt out a couple of thousand acres. But what I'm trying to get at is, how much do you value your life, people have got to go out and fight these fires and 100 years nearly to the day we had a terrible fire and my dad always watched with the south west change and we were aware of it but we didn't have the problem 100 years ago of the powerlines, and that powerline plus communication wasn't real flash we really had trouble there and it's sad but we were just lucky that no one was killed and Lexton wasn't burnt out but my argument is, I've been doing a bit of homework on underground lines and in Canada, even though they've got 12 million more people than Australia they are going to start a project to be finished in 2025, it's going underground for 350 miles and it's going underground and under the Hudson river and another river I can't think of but what I'm trying to say is that they can do it, it costs more, we know that, but how much do you value lives and properties and we were so lucky with this fire we really were. So do you see what I am trying to get across?'

Response from Cr Eason:

'Tony I do, and your intent is admirable, I have no problem at all with what you are saying. From my point of view, please be aware that every opportunity we have to make presentations to the State Government is used, we don't ignore what is going on. As the CEO said, they meet regularly as CEO's to discuss the line, we make representations to the State Government and we do that on behalf of the people of the Pyrenees Shire. We're not out there marching up and down Burke street or whatever and I don't want you to think that we are not doing anything. We discuss it around this table on a regular basis so it may look like to yourself or other people that the Pyrenees Shire isn't doing anything, we are, we're doing everything we possibly can to inform ourselves of what's going on, to get a better understanding of what may be available and to pass that onto the State Government because the people that make the decisions on this are the State Government. So we're doing everything we can and I'm sorry if that looks like we're not doing anything but we certainly are.'

Response from Mr Briody:

'That's good to hear and I realise that the voting powers are in the cities and unfortunately I don't know if they care about people out in the country, sometimes I wonder but maybe that's just my impression of what is happening. All I can ask is try hard and keep at it and if we try hard and do our best, at least we've had a go. Whether we're successful or not remains to be seen but we've got to do our best. Thanks for letting us come along.'

Response from Cr Eason:

'Thanks for coming along tonight and we hope we've helped you a little.'

Ms Pam Weller of Beaufort

Mr Douglas Gowans tabled an addendum to a submission from the last meeting.

Ms Weller presented to Council at the last meeting a submission regarding the Krupps gun and since that time Ms Weller and her group that she is representing have done some further work on a plan which Mr Gowans has tabled on her behalf for Council consideration. Mr Gowans will make a commitment to Ms Weller to have some further discussions with her on this topic.

10. ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1.1. CUSTOMER ACTION REQUESTS JULY 2022 UPDATE

Kathy Bramwell – Director Corporate and Community Services

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

File No: 16/08/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on requests made through the Customer Action Request System (CARS) for the month of July 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Council has operated an electronic Customer Action Request System (CARS) for many years enabling residents to lodge service requests. Requests can be lodged in person, via telephone, via Council's website or by using a smart phone "Snap Send Solve" application.

Service requests are received for operational issues regarding maintenance, pools, local laws, building maintenance and compliance matters.

Work commenced in late 2021 to identify complaints that may have been input as a customer action request and process them accordingly, to ensure appropriate and timely responses to our community.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

335 CARs were logged in July 2022, 11 less than the previous month. Of these requests 143 related to telephone messages.

309 CARs were closed in the month, leaving a total of 280 outstanding, of which 70 related to telephone messages.

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

	Avoca Ward	Beaufort Ward	DeCameroon Ward	Ercildoune Ward	Mt Emu Ward
Number of requests received in July 2022 (previous month).	56 (55)	74 (64)	34 (34)	37 (34)	46 (49)
Requests received in July and closed in the same month (% of total received).	39 (70%)	39 (53%)	22 (65%)	21 (57%)	19 (41%)
Requests received in July outstanding.	17	35	12	16	27
Outstanding requests from 2020.	0	1	0	0	0

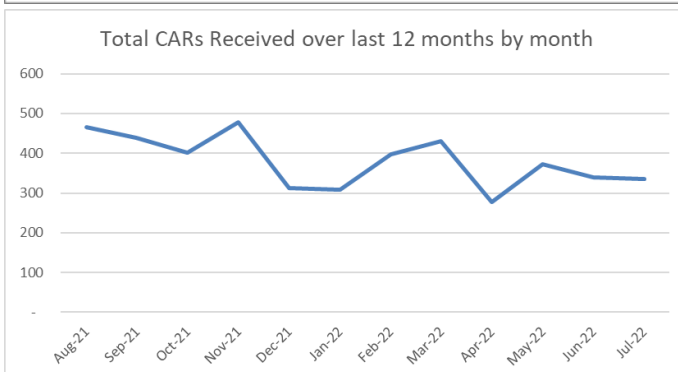
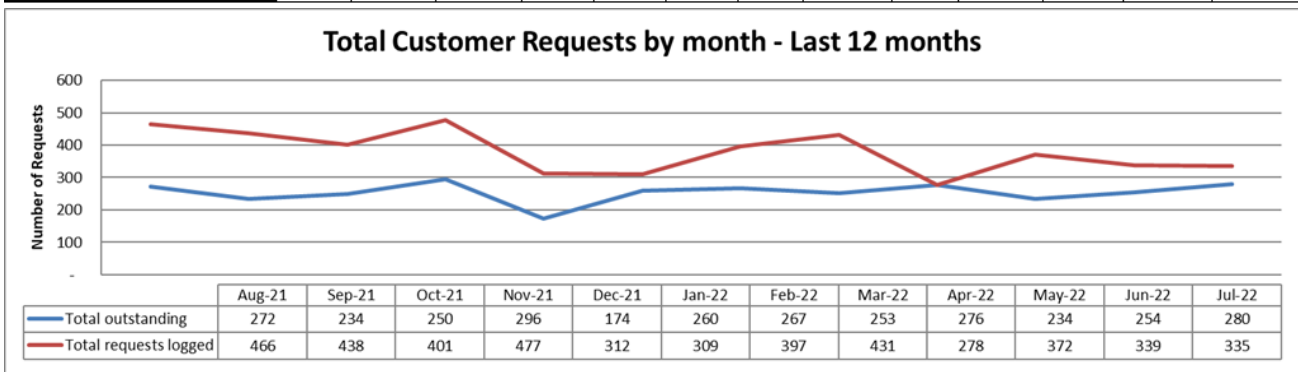
Total outstanding requests as at the end of July 2022 (previous month).	49 (47)	62 (47)	22 (20)	37 (31)	40 (32)
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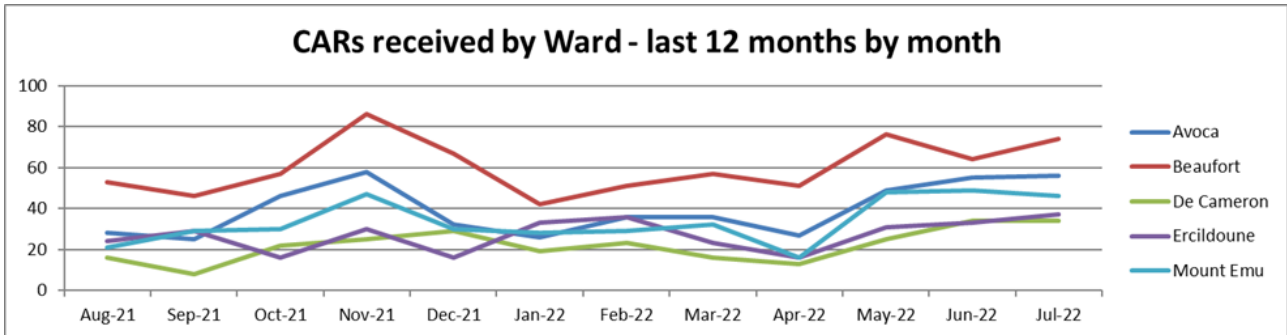
Analysis:

- At 280, outstanding CARs numbers remained below the target to maintain the total number of outstanding CARs below 300. However, this is starting to edge towards the maximum target and a focus is being placed on resolution and closure.
- The number of outstanding CARs increased by 26 from the previous month. Outstanding Ward related CARs increased by 23 and outstanding telephone calls by 3; notwithstanding a small reduction in CARs logged for the month (from 339 the previous month to 335 in July).
- 1 request remains outstanding from 2020, relating to long-term drainage issues.
- Workload stresses continue regarding staff absences due to COVID, flu and other viruses, impacting on addressing of outstanding CARs.
- Checks of requests made during July identified no matters that need to be registered and monitored as service complaints.

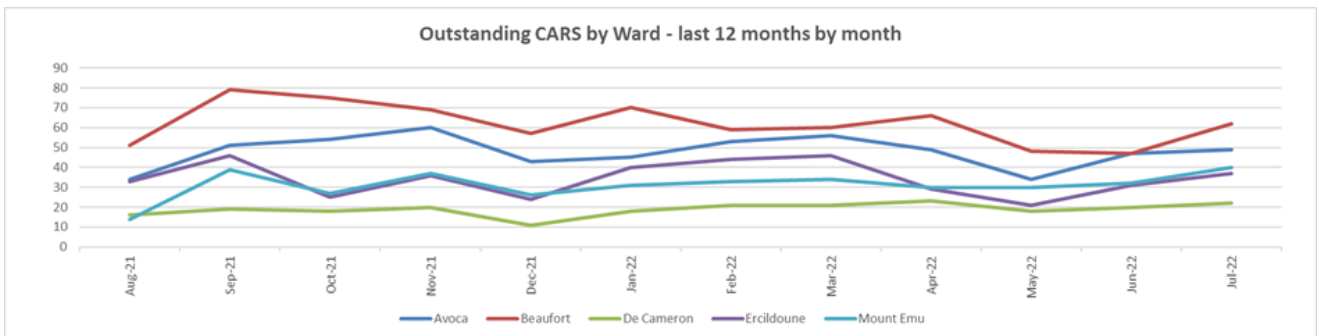
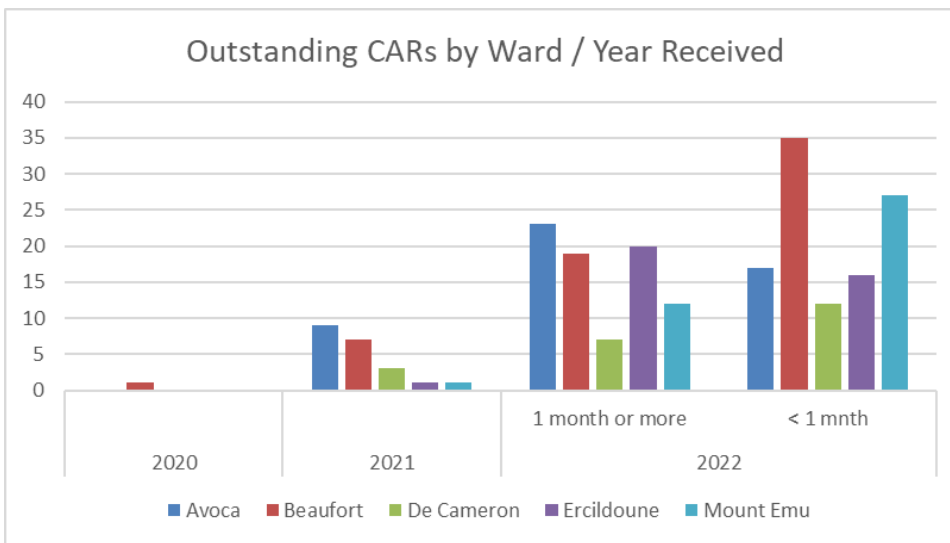
The following graphs display requests received by Ward/month and totals received for the last 12 months.

Outstanding requests by age													
Year	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	% Change
2019	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	0%
2020	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0%
2021	266	231	247	293	171	148	124	115	82	25	24	21	-13%
2022	-	-	-	-	-	109	140	135	191	208	229	258	13%
Total outstanding	272	234	250	296	174	260	267	253	276	234	254	280	10%
Total requests logged	466	438	401	477	312	309	397	431	278	372	339	335	-1%





The following charts display outstanding cars by Ward/year received and the trend lines of outstanding CARs numbers over the last 12 months of requests received by Ward.



The following table provides greater detail of the areas where outstanding requests remain, showing the functional areas and numbers of requests still outstanding, as of end July 2022.

Open Requests Type			
	Jun-22	Jul-22	Change
Roads & Rd Maint.	52	65	13
Streetlights	2	2	0
Drainage	19	19	0
Footpaths / Kerb&Channel	6	4	-2
Park & Reserves	3	3	0
Roadside Veg	16	20	4
Environmental Health	2	4	2
Planning	16	29	13
Bld maint	11	17	6
Local Laws	15	10	-5
Cats	0	0	0
Dogs	9	9	0
Livestock	2	2	0
Parking	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	1	1	0
Bld Compliance	3	3	0
Waste Management	0	0	0
Local Government Act	0	0	0
Rates	18	9	-9
Natural Disasters	0	0	0
Pools	0	0	0
Council cleaning	1	2	1
Litter	2	3	1
Design & Assets	3	2	-1
GIS	4	0	-4
Community Wellbeing	0	4	4
Rural Addressing	0	2	2
Road Naming	0	0	0
Telephone messages	69	70	1
Total	254	280	26

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 – People

1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Financial and reputation risks apply with the receipt and timely resolution of customer action requests. Financial because of the need to address requests from the community where resource and budget capacity allows, reputation because of the adverse reaction within the community when it is perceived that insufficient attention or priority is provided to such requests – e.g., where a timely response is not received or where a request is not recognised as a complaint.

CONCLUSION

The customer action request system remains an integral part of Council’s reactive identification of issues that need attention. 2022 sees ongoing review of how the system is used, including finding proactive ways to improve speedier resolution and reporting against progress. This report provides a statistical overview of requests received and actions during July 2022.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes this report.

11. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**11.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS - JULY 2022**

Cr Damian Ferrari – Beaufort Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr David Clark – Ercildoune Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Fri 22	MAV - Interface Meeting	Virtual
Tue 26	MAV - Advocacy Update	Virtual
Thu 28	MAV - Special Board Meeting	Virtual

Cr Robert Vance – De Cameron Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort
Thu 21	Timber Towns Victoria General Meeting	Virtual

Cr Ron Eason – Avoca Ward		
Tue 12	Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee	Virtual
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

Cr Tanya Kehoe – Mount Emu Ward		
Tue 12	Councillor Cuppa and Chat	Landsborough
Tue 12	Councillor Briefing Session	Avoca
Tue 19	Opening of Cr O'Connor Park	Beaufort
Tue 19	Councillor Briefing Session	Beaufort
Tue 19	Council Meeting	Beaufort

12. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS - JULY 2022**

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	12 July 2022 commenced at 2.00pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	RTC Room, Avoca Information and Community Centre		
Items Discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action Items 2. Planning Matter 3. Rating Issue 4. Community Satisfaction Survey 5. Krupps Gun Location 6. Potential for future rail link connections between Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo 7. Aged Care Service Provision 8. Agenda Review 		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Nil		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services) Katie Gleisner (Manager Planning and Development Services) Glenn Kallio (Manager Finance)		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

MEETING INFORMATION			
Meeting Name	Councillor Briefing Session		
Meeting Date	19 July 2022 commenced at 1.30pm and closed at 5.30pm		
Meeting Location	Beeripmo Centre, 1-3 Lawrence St, Beaufort		
Items Discussed	9. External Relationships 10. Annual Communications and Engagement Plan 11. Service Gaps 12. Aged Care Reform 13. Action Items 14. Agenda Review		
ATTENDEES			
Councillors	Mayor Cr Ron Eason Cr Damian Ferrari Cr Tanya Kehoe	Cr David Clark Cr Robert Vance	
Apologies	Kathy Bramwell (Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Staff	Jim Nolan (Chief Executive Officer) Douglas Gowans (Director Assets and Development Services) Martin Walmsley (A/Director Corporate and Community Services)		
Visitors	Nil		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES			
Item No:	Councillor making disclosure	Particulars of disclosure	Councillor left meeting
Nil			

Cr David Clark / Cr Tanya Kehoe

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

CARRIED

13. ITEMS FOR DECISION

13.1. ASSET AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

13.1.1. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN - 2022-2026

Presenter: Douglas Gowans - Director Asset and Development Services

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

Report Author: Katie Gleisner – Manager Planning and Development Services

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

File No: 02/06/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022 – 2026, for consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND

Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (The Act), Council must prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan, which is renewed every four (4) years.

Council's previous Domestic Animal Management Plan expired in 2021, however an extension of time was granted by the Minister in accordance with section 68A(1B) of the Act.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (the Plan) outlines Council's services, programs and policies, whilst providing high level strategic direction to the management of dog and cat issues in the community.

Council is responsible for developing a plan which:

- promotes responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats in the community
- protects the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats
- identifies a method to evaluate whether the animal management services provided by them are adequate
- outlines the training programs for their Authorised Officers to ensure these Officers are capable in administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act.

The Plan provides information on the daily operation of the Council, the current programs Council has in place and the policies the Council has adopted for the following standards of animal management to:

- promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats;
- ensure that people comply with the Act, the regulations and any related legislation;
- minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
- address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
- encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;
- minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
- effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the Act and the Regulations.

The Plan identifies the current local laws and orders made under the Act and reviews them for effectiveness.

Community consultation will be undertaken during elements of implementation of any initiatives or actions identified that have the potential to impact the broader community. An example of such an activity would be the creation of an updated 'off-leash' Order that controls where dogs can be exercised off leash.

Feedback on the Plan is collected by officers on an ongoing basis which is used to inform Council's annual review of the Plan.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2022-2025 Pyrenees DAM P- Final Draft [13.1.1.1 - 34 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is not expected to be any financial implications associated with this decision.

CONCLUSION

Adopting the attached draft plan will satisfy Council's legislative obligations, whilst ensuring that the management of domestic animals in the Shire promotes and encourages responsible pet ownership and ensures community safety.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr David Clark

That Council:

1. Adopts the proposed 'Pyrenees Shire Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026'.

CARRIED

13.2. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.2.1. RISK MANAGEMENT

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: 16/24/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the updated Enterprise Risk Register as at the end of the financial year 2022.

BACKGROUND

Effective risk identification and management is an integral part of business management and good governance. Risk management comprises of several elements, including business continuity, enterprise or business risk management, and occupational health and safety (OHS).

Council maintains an Enterprise Risk Register, reconfigured in 2021 to focus on the whole of organisation risks. Under the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework, risk management reports must be provided to Council at least every six months. This report forms part of that compliance obligation. The last report to Council on risk management was provided in March 2022.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

A comprehensive review was undertaken of the Pyrenees Shire Council Enterprise Risk Register in June 2022. This review built upon the work started in 2021 to build an Enterprise Risk Register that fully reflects the high-level risks of the organisation including both strategic and operational risks and included workshops with Councillors and members of the senior leadership team.

This report provides details of the Enterprise Risk Register that comprise Strategic Risks and Operational Risks rated as Extreme or High that are provided for the Council's oversight. A copy of the register is attached for Council consideration.

The register includes:

- 17 risks that are rated as High, with no risks assessed as Extreme.
- 5 risks are considered effectively controlled, with further control being limited through external factors. Although these risks are still rated as High, it is assessed that the associated residual risks should be accepted and monitored.
- 12 risks are assessed as requiring further treatment and control. Appropriate controls have been input into the register.

Progress against these planned treatments will be reported in the next risk report to Council.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

1a. Prepare for emergencies and ensure community safety.

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

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 4 - Economy

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

Enabling Principles

b. Provide transparency and accountability

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

1. PSC Council Risk Register 20220805 [13.2.1.1 - 5 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

All risk implications are included in the risk register attached.

CONCLUSION

The risk report has been provided to the Council as part of its regular risk management reporting regime. This report follows the full annual review of Council's Enterprise Risk Register and seeks Council adoption of the updated register.

Cr Tanya Kehoe / Cr David Clark

That Council adopts the submitted Enterprise Risk Register for 2022, representing those risks that are rated as Extreme or High.
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CARRIED

13.2.2. UPDATE TO GOVERNANCE RULES

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Michelle Richards – Manager Governance, Risk and Compliance

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

File No: 16/24/12

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and endorse the updated Governance Rules following the mid-term review conducted in August 2022.

BACKGROUND

The original Governance Rules commenced on 1 September 2020 and replaced the former Local Law No.1 which was rescinded in 2020. Following this mid-term review, these Governance Rules 2022 commence on 16 August 2022 and replace the original Governance Rules dated 1 September 2020.

The objectives of these Governance Rules are:

1. To provide for the orderly conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees and provide procedures for fair and open decision-making, and
2. To detail the proceedings for the election of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and the Chairperson of any delegated committees.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

When online Council meetings became a necessity during the Pandemic, the Victorian Government approved temporary changes to the legislation to allow Council meetings to take place online.

With the making of the Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022, the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires a council to update its Governance Rules to provide for participation by councillors in council meetings by electronic means of communication. The legislation also makes permanent the need to live stream any meeting that is held solely by electronic means. The Minister for Local Government issued Good Practice Guidelines to support Council in making these changes.

Version 1.1 of the Governance Rules has been amended in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Minister in Section 10.1.

The Council can also make other changes considering experience since the adoption of the Governance Rules in August 2020. Legal advice received regarding not influencing discussions when a conflict of interest is declared has resulted in additions being made in this regard in the Governance Rules sections 8.2(d), 8.3(d), and 8.4(d).

A copy of the V1.1 Governance Rules 2022 is attached for Council consideration, with amended sections highlighted in yellow for ease of identification. Adoption of this document is now requested.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

- b. Provide transparency and accountability

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. DRAFT POLICY Governance Rules 2022 V1 1 (1) [**13.2.2.1** - 45 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

With these temporary rules expiring at the end of August it is a Victorian Government requirement that all councils across Victoria review and update their governance rules by 1 September 2022. This change will give councils the flexibility to hold meetings in a way that best supports good decision-making.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr David Clark

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the updated Governance Rules 2022.

CARRIED

13.3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13.3.1. NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES ASSOCIATION FUNDING

Presenter: Kathy Bramwell - Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Report Author: Martin Walmsley – Manager Community Wellbeing and Development

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

File No: 36/02/02

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for council to consider advocating for a permanent funding arrangement by the Victorian government for Neighbourhood Houses.

BACKGROUND

Council has recently received a letter from Jane Grimwood, Network Manager, Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses expressing concern about the long-term sustainability of Neighbourhood Houses and seeking Council support for advocacy to the Victorian government to ensure funding of Neighbourhood Houses be made permanent. Neighbourhood Houses operates their services from Beaufort from the council managed Resource Centre.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The letter is attached and in part copied below:

“Across Victoria, there are 16 Networks that support over 400 Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria.

The role of a Neighbourhood House Network is to facilitate regional collaboration, provide individualised support to staff and volunteer committees of management, and advocate on regional issues and needs.

As well as Pyrenees Shire, the Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses also covers the Hepburn Shire, City of Ballarat, Moorabool Shire, and the Golden Plains Shire local government areas.

I am writing to you, five months out from the Victorian State Election, to make you aware of the serious threat to funding experienced by 194 Neighbourhood Houses and 16 Neighbourhood House Networks.

In just two years, we could see a dramatic cut to local support services and community development, and significant job losses across our sector. As a Network organisation, Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses is directly under threat. As you may or may not be aware, almost all Victorian Neighbourhood Houses and Networks receive core funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), known as Neighbourhood Houses Coordination Program (NHCP) funding.

In 2018, after a massive advocacy campaign supported by constituents in your local government area, the State Government made a \$21.8 million investment across four years in recognition of

the inadequacy of funding for many Neighbourhood Houses and the need for additional Neighbourhood Houses to support local communities. This additional funding supported:

- *167 Neighbourhood Houses to increase their coordination hours to 25 hours a week*
- *(there are 16 Networks which provide tailored support to the Houses within their regions); and*
- *27 Neighbourhood Houses started receiving NHCP funding for the very first time*

At the time of this announcement, it was not made clear by the State Government that, unlike existing Neighbourhood House funding, this new funding would be non-recurring and would indeed lapse in four years time.

*In the recent May budget, the sector was relieved to see that the funding had been extended – however we have now learnt that this is **only secure for two years**, up until June 2024. We are very concerned by the State Government’s apparent lack of commitment to securing this funding on a permanent basis. Failure to do so risks:*

- *closure of up to 27 Neighbourhood Houses including four Aboriginal run Neighbourhood Houses and 12 in rural Victoria*
- *reduction of over 77,000 hours annually of paid employment almost entirely impacting women*
- *loss of 154,000 hours of Neighbourhood House activity annually impacting 189 communities*

All data collected has demonstrated what a solid return on investment this additional funding has provided for local communities in the last four years. A recent report prepared for DFFH found that the return on each dollar of the lapsing funding, under pandemic affected conditions, was between \$2.47 and \$3.42. Further, under projected normal conditions, it is anticipated these Neighbourhood Houses would generate a return of between \$5.43 and \$8.72 for each dollar of lapsing funding invested in these Neighbourhood Houses.

The report also found that, despite the third wave of COVID-19 and interruptions with lockdowns, there were over 33,000 visits and 3,278 activities run at these Neighbourhood Houses in just four days. In this same time period, they managed 13 tonnes of food relief and despite density limits, over 4,750 people undertook health and physical activity classes.

They substantially exceeded every performance measure including coordination hours, activity hours and open hours.

More broadly speaking, Neighbourhood Houses provide hundreds of services to local communities right across metro, regional and rural Victoria, despite an already shoe-string budget and limited resources. Across the sector:

- *We employ over 5,000 Victorians, the vast majority of which are women*
- *Around 200,000 Victorians access a Neighbourhood House in an average week; equating to 10 million visits a year*
- *We are one of the biggest providers of early childhood services, particularly childcare, and adult community education in the state*
- *In 2020, for every \$1 of NHCP funding we received, we generated \$22.05 in community value; and*

- *During COVID-19 restrictions in August last year, despite operating at a reduced capacity, Neighbourhood Houses were still able to deliver \$1.1 million a day in community value*

The work of Neighbourhood Houses contributes to the objectives of Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan, with significant impact on the quality of life for Victorians. This includes combatting loneliness and social isolation, mental and physical health and wellbeing, and poverty and disadvantage. They support people from a diverse range of backgrounds including disability, migrant and refugee communities, people experiencing family violence, and help people gain core skills for employment. Importantly, they strengthen community pride and belonging

We would appreciate Council writing a letter to the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Colin Brooks MP urging him to intervene to make this non-recurring funding permanent."

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter - Neighbourhood House Funding - PSC - 18-07-2022 [**13.3.1.1** - 3 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk to the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Houses Association which in turn risks the ongoing provision of services provided through the Beaufort Neighbourhood House.

CONCLUSION

A commitment to on-going funding by the Victorian government for Neighbourhood Houses is necessary for them to plan for the delivery of services in the Pyrenees shire and the region.

Cr Damian Ferrari / Cr Tanya Kehoe

That Council:

1. writes to the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Colin Brooks MP urging him to intervene to make the non-recurring funding for Neighbourhood Houses permanent.

CARRIED

13.3.2. SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR SERVICE

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: 58/12/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction in respect of advocacy regarding the School Crossing Supervisor program.

BACKGROUND

The Victorian government, through Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) provides funding support to Victorian councils to provide a school crossing supervisor service at approved locations based on a 50/50 funding model. The aim of the program is to provide safe crossing points for children going to school in high traffic locations.

Pyrenees Shire Council provides supervision at two crossings, both located in Beaufort.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The City of Monash wrote to Victorian councils seeking support for a statewide advocacy campaign due to the current funding subsidy not keeping up with the cost of the delivery of the service and falling well below 50% of the actual cost of the service. Many of the Victorian metropolitan councils manage several hundred crossings each and heavily subsidise the program. While rural councils manage fewer crossings, rural councils' financial contributions generally exceed 50% of the cost based on survey responses received from councils (refer attached presentation).

The general focus of the Monash lead campaign is based on the following.

- Victorian Government financial support for councils to provide the service has gradually, but significantly, decreased over time making it unsustainable to continue in its current form
- costs to councils are increasing each year
- The program is no longer fit for purpose and needs to change
- There is a need to reform the way road safety around schools is managed

Monash has advised that the costs for participating in the campaign will be around \$1,500 for rural/peri-urban Councils and \$3,700 for others.

The direct costs for Pyrenees to provide the service in 2020/21 was \$25,897

Hidden costs associated with the service, including administration, management recruitment HR payroll etc. as reported are estimated in the order of \$11,500

The amount received from the Victorian government for the service in 2020/21 was \$12,340

Monash is seeking a response from councils to the following question:

Will your council commit, in principle, to a campaign highlighting local government's concern about the sustainability of the program and seeking reform to the way road safety around schools is managed?

In principle support has been provided to date subject to formal direction from Council.

Council may wish to consider, in the first instance, advising the Department of Transport that it is considering the matter to provide an opportunity for the department to respond to the situation.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Enabling Principles

c. Use resources efficiently and effectively

ATTACHMENTS

1. SXS presentation to local government (3) [13.3.2.1 - 15 pages]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

The net cost to Council is outlined in the report above.

CONCLUSION

The City of Monash has sought Victorian councils to support an advocacy campaign to address the current funding model for the school crossing subsidy program because of the increasing costs to councils.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Writes to the Department of Transport advising that it is considering the matter of the School Crossing Subsidy Program, seeking to be engaged in dialogue on the matter.
2. Provides in principle support to Monash City Council for an advocacy campaign, but that Council does not provide a financial contribution to the campaign due to Council managing just a small number of crossings relative to larger metropolitan councils.

AN ALTERNATIVE MOTION WAS PUT FORWARD

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Writes to the Department of Transport advising that it is considering the matter of the School Crossing Subsidy Program, seeking to be engaged in dialogue on the matter.
2. Provides in principle support to Monash City Council for an advocacy campaign, and that Council provide a \$200 financial contribution to the campaign due to Council managing just a small number of crossings relative to larger metropolitan councils.

CARRIED

13.3.3. FUNDING APPLICATION - BEAUFORT 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: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 23046200

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a funding application for works at the Beaufort Caravan Park.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 February 2022, Council considered a report on the Beaufort Caravan Park. The report tabled the Operational Review undertaken by Innoviv and which was completed in January 2022 and made a case for infrastructure upgrades to the facilities which was the subject of an application under the Building Better Regions Fund seeking \$1M for a \$2M project and requiring \$1M in funding to be sourced from Council or other funding partners.

Council resolved as follows:

That Council:

- 1. Endorses in principle the Beaufort Caravan Park Operation Review undertaken by Innoviv and its recommendations.*
- 2. Endorses the application for funding under the Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 for infrastructure improvements to the Beaufort Caravan Park and commits to meet the co-contribution of \$1M.*
- 3. Investigates other funding partners including the state government to assist in meeting the co-contribution amount.*
- 4. Gives further consideration to the management options recommended in the Operational Review once the outcome of the BBRF funding application is known.*

At the time of preparing this report, Council has not been advised of the outcome of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) application from the Commonwealth.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Another application has now been prepared seeking \$500,000 funding through the Victorian Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF). Applications are due on 17 August 2022. Funding is available on a 4:1 (state : local) basis. The application is sought to undertake a portion of the infrastructure works identified in the Operational Review that can reasonably be deemed to be “shovel ready” which is a requirement of the fund.

Should this application be successful, it will reduce the amount that Council is required to commit as a co-contribution for the BBRF application (should the BBRF application be successful).

Should the BBRF application be unsuccessful then the RIF application will stand alone but for the reduced scope of works.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council is required to meet a co-contribution for the application based on a \$4: \$1 (\$state: \$local) ratio.

CONCLUSION

Council endorsement of the RIF application is sought.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Endorse the application for funding for the Beaufort Caravan Park under the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

CARRIED

13.3.4. FUNDING APPLICATION - RURAL WATER PIPELINE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Presenter: Jim Nolan - Chief Executive Officer

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

Report Author: Jim Nolan – Chief Executive Officer

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

File No: 32/13/08

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement for a funding application for a feasibility study and business case for a rural water pipeline in the Northeast Pyrenees region.

BACKGROUND

In 2021 an application was lodged by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMW) under the Victorian government Investment Fast Track Fund. The application sought \$300,000 for a \$445,000 project for a feasibility study and business case for a rural water pipeline in the Northeast Pyrenees region, leveraging \$145,000 in kind and cash contributions from several partners to the project including Pyrenees Shire Council.

The application was unsuccessful in part due to the fund being significantly over subscribed.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Following discussions with the funding body, Regional Development Victoria, and the other project partners, it was considered appropriate that an application from Pyrenees Shire Council for the project be considered.

At the time of preparing this report, an application under a new round of the Investment Fast Track Fund was being prepared for submission by 17 August 2022.

The application is for a feasibility study and business case similar to the earlier application but for a larger project area including an expansion to the west towards Glenorchy, Beasleys Bridge and Elmhurst.

While Council is the applicant on this occasion, GWMW will provide the technical input and support for the engagement of suitable contractors to undertake the work, and eventually, should an infrastructure project be feasible and delivered, GWMW would be the asset owner and manager of the pipeline.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 3 - Environment

3b. Foster a climate change resilient community.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

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

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council has previously committed cash and in-kind towards the project.

As the applicant, council will have the added responsibility for delivery and acquittal of the grant should it be successful.

CONCLUSION

Council endorsement of the application is sought.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Endorses the submission of an application for funding through the Investment Fast Track program for a feasibility study for the expanded Northeast rural pipeline project.

CARRIED

13.3.5. AVOCA CAR PARK EXTENSION PROJECT

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: 58/16/06

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council about the future of five trees in the vicinity of the proposed carpark extension in Avoca.

BACKGROUND

Council has set aside funds to construct an extension of the southern car park in the central median in Avoca and to install an EV charging station there following community engagement on the matter.

A design to achieve that objective has been prepared based on the concepts outlined in the previously adopted Avoca Streetscape plans. Works are scheduled to be undertaken in the current financial year.

The proposal identifies five trees to be removed from the site. There has been some concern raised in the community about the removal, and this report is to bring the concerns to Council's attention and seek direction on the matter before any work commences.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The five pine trees comprise three semi-mature trees (approximately half the size of a fully mature tree or more) located on the east side, and two smaller trees on the west side located under an existing overhead powerline.

At the time of the preparation of the streetscape plans, the tree species was considered to be inappropriate in this location due to the size and potential to impact on road assets in particular concrete kerb, road pavement and utilities. The plans recommend the removal and replacement of scarlet oak and silky oak trees sited to accommodate the future car park.

Notice of the proposed removal was given and feedback expressing concern has been provided through a letter to the editor and verbally at the community information session on 8 August and directly to the Mayor. Those opposed to the removal state that the trees add value to the streetscape, provide habitat for birds and provide shade and cooling. Any replacement trees would likely require many years to reach the same level of maturity.

The matter has been discussed through a Councillor Briefing and before any works commence, Council direction is sought on the following options:

1. Proceed with the tree removal and construction as planned, and plant replacement tree species in suitable locations within the precinct.
2. Progressively remove the trees over several years, modify the construction plans to suit, and plant replacement tree species in suitable locations within the precinct as other trees

- are removed. Potentially removing the two smaller trees and one or two of the larger trees now leaving one or two larger trees for removal at a later time.
3. Remove only the two small trees and retain the three larger trees making the changes necessary to the construction design to suit which may include not laying concrete kerb in this or pavement within the immediate vicinity of the trees to avoid expected damage. Plant oak trees to replace the pine trees to be removed.
 4. Retain all existing trees, and modify the construction plans to suit. Undertake any necessary pruning to accommodate car parking and tree health and community safety.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Priority 1 - People

- 1c. Improve accessibility and inclusivity.

Priority 2 - Place

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

Priority 3 - Environment

- 3a. Continue being an environmentally progressive organisation.

Priority 4 - Economy

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. Avoca Streetscape Amended Concept Plan adopted by Council [**13.3.5.1** - 1 page]

FINANCIAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is a cost to remove the trees which has been provided for in the project budget. Retaining these trees in this location will inevitably cause damage to the built road infrastructure requiring repair and replacement. The trees will likely also require pruning and maintenance in future and there will be a significant cost to remove in years to come.

Cr David Clark / Cr Damian Ferrari

That Council:

1. Proceed with the tree removal and construction as planned, and appropriate plant replacement tree species in suitable locations within the precinct.
2. Continue to provide information to the community throughout the construction about the works and the reasons for Councils decision to remove the trees.

CARRIED

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Tanya Kehoe

- In the Mt Emu ward with the weather, farmers are bunking down. Hopefully crops are benefiting from the rain as long as they are not getting waterlogged.
- Bridge 32 is still our major construction in the area on the Carngham Streatham Road, works are continuing, hopefully it will soon be completed. Thanks to the commuters and the local residents for their patience during this time.
- The weather has also impacted roads and we have had a number of our workers getting out to these issues but make sure that you contact council via phone or particular through our CARs online through Council's website to log any road issues so we can get to them.
- Be safe travelling at the moment in these weather conditions and I am hoping everyone is keeping warm and safe.

Cr Damian Ferrari

- Unfortunately missed the Briefing and the cuppa last week due to other commitments.
- Had the pleasure of attending the opening of O'Connor Park which was really good and a fitting tribute to Michael and his commitment that he has displayed to this council and community.
- Attended meetings with the RSL and further discussions regarding the Krupps gun location. Discussions are ongoing. Commend the RSL for continuing to communicate with Council so that we can come up with a solution and thank Pam Weller for forwarding the updated plans which we will have a look at and have further discussions with the RSL. Confident that we will come up with a solution in relation to the location of the Krupps gun and also the infrastructure that is going to cover it.
- Attended meetings with the Beaufort Cricket Club regarding the pending cricket nets and the project, discussions are ongoing.

Cr David Clark

- Attended the briefing in Landsborough which was very well represented by the community.
- Met with our new Local Government Minister, Minister Horne in Beaufort which was really nice.
- Attended the opening of O'Connor Park, it was a fantastic.
- Attended the school crossing supervisors meeting.
- Met with the opposition spokesperson of local government Richard Riordan and was really proud to support MAV and CASBE through their Environmentally Sustainable Design Principals for Planning launch which there were 24 councils involved, including Pyrenees.
- Busy with MAV working on a new set of rules
- Due to the rain, experiencing a few challenges around some of our roadworks and grading. Have visited Raglan, Ercildoune and Waterloo in the last week or so looking at spots where more work will need to be undertaken when it dries a little bit.

- In regard to the Western Renewables Link, the Western section, the section from the Waubra sub-station back to the west to Bulgana, draft plans and siting is getting pretty close for landholders and may soon have plans for access tracks and siting towers. It is expected when plans are available and people can actually see what it is going to be, Council will get some more input from landholders. The east section from the Waubra sub-station across (approximately three kilometers before it goes into the City of Ballarat) there is approximately 6-10 landholders potentially affected in Pyrenees Shire. After meeting with an affected resident in relation to AusNet, they are a significant way behind, there are some draft routes for where the line will go but there is a fair bit of confusion around that, there has been a fairly limited amount of interaction with the community.
- Intending on attending the meeting with AusNet in Waubra next week to find out more information, there may be a need for further discussions and representations.

Cr Ron Eason

- Attended the Senior Citizens AGM in Avoca and elected their new office bearers, they asked me to pass on their appreciation for having the works completed, that they will be back in the hall soon.
- Attended the funeral of Councilor Tony Driscoll with Mr Nolan and Cr Clark to represent the Pyrenees Shire. Cr Driscoll was a friend of this shire and worked very heavily with Council on a number of occasions.
- Attended a very pleasant meeting with six young lads from the Avoca Primary School. A while ago the Avoca Primary School wrote to Council and asked if a pump track could be installed in Avoca or to create one out in the bush. The students have said they are here to help and provided a very detailed drawing in pencil of the track. The students were very proud of their work and it was happily accepted. Thank you to these young men for the work that they have provided for Council, they've done a great job.

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council 16 August 2022 closed at 7:31 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting confirmed _____

2022 Mayor Cr Ron Eason