



# **COUNCIL MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday 13 April 2022**

**Commencing at 7:00pm**

**Wycheproof Supper Room**

**367 Broadway, Wycheproof**

**Wayne O'Toole  
Chief Executive Officer  
Buloke Shire Council**



**5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

NIL

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NIL

**10. MEETING CLOSE**

**NEXT MEETING**

THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 2022 AT 7:00PM.

**Wayne O'Toole**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Nil

**7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS****7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES**

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GO/05/04

**MOTION:**

That the Council note the report of Councillor Assembly Meetings held 2 and 16 March 2022.

**MOVED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**SECONDED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**CARRIED.**  
**(R036/22)**

- Attachments:**
- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 2 March 2022
  - 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 16 March 2022

**KEY POINTS/ISSUES**

Transparency is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

The Local Government Act 2020 (The Act) Section 9 (2) (i) provides that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

In accordance with Section 57 of The Act, Council at its September 2020 Ordinary Meeting, adopted a Public Transparency policy, designed to improve public transparency in Council's decision making processes and to assist the community in understanding the information that is accessible to them.

As per the Council Meeting Schedule adopted 10 November 2021, Councillor Briefings are held for Councillors to meet to consider matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision or for the exercise of delegation.

A record of the Councillor Briefings held on 2 and 16 March 2022 is attached for public information.

## 7.2 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** CR/13/01

Cr Pollard and Cr Stewart arrived in the Council Chamber 7.04pm during the discussion of this item, prior to the recommendation being put.

### PURPOSE

This report acknowledges and congratulates community persons and/or groups for their success in being recognised for a significant achievement or for being a recipient of an honourable award.

The report also informs Council of any letters of congratulations or any particular recognition of achievement that Council has received or been awarded in the past month.

### MOTION:

That the Council acknowledge and congratulate the persons and/or groups mentioned in the report for their achievements.

**MOVED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**SECONDED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**CARRIED.**  
**(R037/22)**

**Attachments:** Nil

### RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Australian Curriculum	Wycheproof P12 College	2021	Top NAPLAN results in the State for 2021
	Cr Carolyn Stewart	2022	selected to attend the Grain Growers on Board Director Program.
Longerenong College	Charlie Cox of Berriwillock	1 April 2022	Graduating in Apprenticeship Program
Longerenong College	Rory McClelland of Sea Lake	1 April 2022	Graduating in Apprenticeship Program
Longerenong College	Rylee McGarry of Nyarrin	1 April 2022	Graduating in Apprenticeship Program
Longerenong College	Cooper Roberts of Nandaly	1 April 2022	Graduating in Apprenticeship Program
Longerenong College	Brody Weir of Berriwillock	1 April 2022	Graduating in Apprenticeship Program

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose for Recognition</b>
Curyo Country Fire Authority Unit	Gordon Braine		Awarded life membership for his service to the Curyo CFA Unit
Curyo Country Fire Authority Unit	Richard Ferrier		Awarded life membership for his service to the Curyo CFA Unit
Curyo Country Fire Authority Unit	Roger Lehman		Awarded life membership for his service to the Curyo CFA Unit
Curyo Country Fire Authority Unit	Ken Rickard		Awarded life membership for his service to the Curyo CFA Unit
	Maddie Marks Birchip		Selected in the Bendigo side for Women's Football

### 7.3 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GO/06/06

#### PURPOSE

This report notes and records correspondence initiated by Council and informs the Council of the responses received from this correspondence.

#### MOTION:

That the Council notes the record of correspondence initiated by Council and the responses received.

**MOVED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**SECONDED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**CARRIED.**

**(R038/22)**

**Attachments:** Nil

#### TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Sent/to be sent to	Sent	Response	Purpose of Letter/Response
Write to local Federal member and State members expressing concern for people who are sitting outside the legal status of vaccination currently in place. Urging for a review.	Ms Louise Staley MLA	20/12/21	23/12/21	Acknowledged Council's proactive work to unite the Shire. Advised that the National Liberals have been calling for consistent National Cabinet approach to mandate vaccines and passports, however the Andrews Government has flagged the retention of vaccine passports until 2023. Will continue to address inequities and call on the State Government to address the issues impacting our community.
Above letter	Mr Stuart Grimley MLC	20/12/21	22/12/21	Acknowledged letter and will look into it further.
Above letter	Mrs Beverley McArthur MLC	20/12/21		
Above letter	Ms Ali Cupper MLA	20/12/21		
Above letter	Dr Anne Webster MP	20/12/21		

Council Initiative	Sent/to be sent to	Sent	Response	Purpose of Letter/Response
<p>Write to Min of Transport Infr, Jacinta Allan and Minister for Roads and Roads Safety, Ben Carroll seeking urgent attention to continue to advocate to the resp auth for upgrade of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The rail crossing nth of Lalbert on the Donald-Swan Hill Road; and</li> <li>2. The rail crossing north-east of Charlton on the Boort-Charlton Road.</li> </ol>	The Hon Jacinta Allan Minister for Transport Infrastructure	10/3/22		
Above letter sent to Hon Jacinta Allan	The Hon Ben Carroll MP Minister for Roads and Road Safety	10/3/22		

## 7.4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

**Author's Title:** Planning Officer

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** LP/09/01

### PURPOSE

This report provides information on planning applications under consideration by staff and the status of each of these applications.

### MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on planning applications under consideration by staff and the status of each of these applications.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID VIS

**SECONDED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**CARRIED.**  
**(R039/22)**

**Attachments:** Nil

### LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA967/21	Corack Road, Wycheproof (Lot 1 PS658906)	02/12/2021	Construction of a dwelling	Permit Issued
PPA968/21	Donald-Swan Hill Road, Corack East (CA 1 Section C Parish of Corack East)	10/12/2021	Installation of solar panels	Permit Issued
PPA969/21	Sproats Lane, Donald (Lot 5 PS76601)	16/12/2021	Two lot subdivision of buildings	Permit Issued
PPA970/21	Anderson Avenue, Wycheproof (Lot 2 PS63654)	28/12/2021	Three-lot subdivision of land	Permit Issued
PPA972/22	Best Street, Sea Lake (Lot 2 PS811802)	04/03/2022	Café and restaurant liquor licence	Notice of application
PPA973/22	Horace Street, Sea Lake (Lot 1 PS44867)	15/03/2022	Construction of a fence in Heritage Overlay	Permit Issued

## 7.5 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

**Author's Title:** Statutory Administration Support

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** DB/14/01

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 March 2022 to 31 March 2022.

#### MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 March 2022 to 31 March 2022.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID VIS

**SECONDED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**CARRIED.**

**(R040/22)**

**Attachments:** Nil

### LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Permit No.	BAMS Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20220009	6579607961919	Grandview Street, Wycheproof	Relocatable Dwelling	03/03/2022
20220027	6645067249110	Borong-Charlton Road, Charlton	Machinery Shed	22/03/2022
20220028	6429068037025	Corack Road, Wycheproof	Garage/Storage Shed	22/03/2022
20220029	1172376321748	Birchip-Wycheproof Road, Narraport	Swimming Pool & Safety Barrier	23/03/2022

### LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE SURVEYOR

Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20220022	Railway Place, Wycheproof	Removal of redundant fire hydrant serving existing train station	18/02/2022
20220025	Birchip Road, Nullawil	Eighteen (18) Light Towers	04/03/2022
20220026	Mildura Way, Charlton	Nine (9) Light Towers	04/03/2022

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 8.1 POLICY REPORTS

#### 8.1.1 COMPLAINTS HANDLING POLICY

**Author's Title:** Director Community Development

**Department:** Community Development

**File No:** CM/14/22

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Council and Community Leadership

#### PURPOSE

To adopt the Complaints Handling Policy which provides a clear framework for Council to receive and manage complaints.

#### SUMMARY

Council has an obligation under the *Local Government Act 2020* to develop and maintain a Complaints Handling Policy. This policy makes it clear how to complain, where to complain and how the complaint will be handled.

#### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Adopts the Complaints Handling Policy; and
2. Communicates the availability of the policy and places the policy on Council's website.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID VIS

**SECONDED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.**

**(R041/22)**

**Attachments:** 1 Buloke Shire Council Complaints Handling Policy

#### DISCUSSION

Council is committed to our customers and to providing efficient and responsive services, whilst always striving for improvement. Council takes an all of organisation approach to customer service and values feedback.

Members of the public have the right to complain about Council services. In simple terms, a complaint to a Council is any communication which involves the following:

- An expression of dissatisfaction
- About an action, decision, policy or service
- That relates to Council staff, including the CEO, a Council contractor, or the Council as a decision-making body (not individual Councillors, who are subject to different processes).

Council is committed to managing complaints in a transparent, fair and consistent way and feedback is encouraged. It helps improve Council services and the way business is conducted.

This policy aims to ensure that customers can raise their complaints easily and with confidence that Council will listen and respond to their concerns, and handle their complaint in a fair and equitable way.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

*Local Government Act 2020.*

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Council adopted its inaugural Complaints Handling Policy on 11 December 2019.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no sustainability implications relating to this report.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council made a draft Complaints Handling Policy available to the public inviting feedback. This was promoted via local newspapers, on social media and on local radio. No feedback was received.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Council recognises the value of complaints and endeavours to make complaining about Council service as easy and practicable as possible. Council is committed to our customers and to providing efficient and responsive services, whilst always striving for improvement.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Council utilised the best practise guidance provide by the Victorian Ombudsman for councils and complaints handing in developing this policy.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

There are no financial viability implications.

#### **REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011*
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*
- *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020*

#### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

- Customer Service Strategy
- Customer Service Charter
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Information Privacy Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Councillor Code of Conduct
- Staff Code of Conduct

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No staff involved in the preparing of this policy or report had a conflict of interest.

## 8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

### 8.2.1 DRAFT AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 2 FEBRUARY 2022

**Author's Title:** Governance Officer

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** FM/02/09

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Council and Community Leadership

#### PURPOSE

To provide Council with the draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 2 February 2022.

#### SUMMARY

The draft Audit and Risk Committee minutes are attached for the information of Council.

#### MOTION:

That Council notes the draft Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 2 February 2022.

**Moved:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**Seconded:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**CARRIED.**  
**(R042/22)**

**Attachments:** 1 Draft Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 2 Feb 2022

#### DISCUSSION

The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) is a statutory committee of Council which considers matters of governance, finance and risk management. The Committee is comprised of three independent members and the Mayor. The Committee provides advice on the integrity and effectiveness of Council's financial reporting and risk management system.

At the meeting held, the Committee considered the following matters:

- Outstanding Action Items
- Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan
- Asset Management update
- Internal Audit Update
- Internal Audit progress update
- Internal Audit Scope – Review of ICT general security controls
- Internal Audit Scope – Review of Saleyards
- Draft Information Privacy Policy
- Draft Fraud and Corruption Reporting Policy

- Draft Debtor Management Policy
- Risk Management
- Legislative Compliance
- Councillor and CEO Reimbursements
- Financial Performance report as at 31 December 2021

**RELEVANT LAW**

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* to establish and maintain an Audit and Risk Committee.

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Committee was established by Council at its meeting held on 12 August 2020.

**OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The Committee provides guidance and recommendations that result in improvements to methods and systems of Council.

**COLLABORATION**

Councillors and senior staff are invited to attend, and present as required at Committee meetings. Recommendations from the Committee are communicated to relevant staff members for action.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The costs associated with the Committee are considered in the Annual Budget.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter was adopted by Council on 12 August 2020.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Audit and Risk Committee is considered an essential element of good governance, monitoring Council's financial and performance reporting, monitoring and providing advice on risk management and overseeing internal and external audit functions. The draft minutes are provided to Council to consider the activities undertaken by the Committee.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest.

## 8.2.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

**Author's Title:** Governance Officer

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** FM/02/09

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Council and Community Leadership

### PURPOSE

To provide Council with the annual assessment of the Audit and Risk Committee's performance against the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and biannual audit and risk report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

### SUMMARY

The biannual audit and risk report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee was provided to the Chief Executive Officer on 22 March 2022. It describes the activities of the Committee and includes its findings and recommendations.

### MOTION:

That Council notes the report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

**MOVED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**SECONDED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.**  
**(R043/22)**

**Attachments:** 1 Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Chair Report March 2022

### DISCUSSION

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provides that the Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) must prepare a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Committee and includes its findings and recommendations.

The Act further provides that these reports must be provided to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.

### RELEVANT LAW

Section 54(5)(b) of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to provide a copy of the biannual audit and risk report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting, following the audit and preparation of the report.

### RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Committee was established by Council at its ordinary meeting held on 12 August 2020. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter was adopted on 12 August 2020. The last report by the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee was noted by Council at its ordinary meeting held on 10 November 2021.

**OPTIONS**

Not applicable

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable

**COLLABORATION**

Not applicable

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The Committee is required to monitor financial and performance reporting.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter's purpose and objectives are to ensure good governance and provide guidance on how Council will work with the Committee for the benefit of the organisation and the community.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

In providing this advice to the Council as the Manager Transformation I, Cecilia Connellan, have no interests to disclose in this report.

### 8.2.3 TOURISM BUSINESS INNOVATION GRANT GUIDELINES

**Author's Title:** Manager Facilities and Projects

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** GS|09|50

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Economy

#### PURPOSE

To endorse the Tourism Business Innovation Grant Guidelines.

#### SUMMARY

In 2021, Council received \$790,000 in funding under the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) Tourism Infrastructure Program (Flagship Projects) to deliver a four-part project. Council has the opportunity to administer a once-off grant program worth a total of \$60,000 to fund tourism business pilots in the Buloke Shire. This report recommends Council endorse the Tourism Business Innovation Grant Guidelines.

#### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Tourism Business Innovation Grant Guidelines; and
2. Delegate the Chief Executive Officer to advertise the grant program and accept applications to the Tourism Business Innovation Grant program.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID VIS

**SECONDED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**CARRIED.**  
**(R044/22)**

**Attachments:** 1 Tourism Business Innovation Grant Guidelines

#### DISCUSSION

In 2021, Council received \$790,000 in funding under the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) Tourism Infrastructure Program (Flagship Projects) to deliver a four-part project including:

- Buloke accommodation for lakes inviting niche tourism,
- Night activation for Silo Art,
- A Street Art Festival, and a
- Business Innovation Pilot program.

The purpose of the fund is to deliver priority projects identified in the Silo Art Gap Analysis which was funded and developed by the DJPR, in partnership with Wimmera Mallee Tourism member Councils (Buloke, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack Shire Councils).

As part of this funding, Buloke is represented on a greater Project Design Steering Group (PDSG) with representatives from Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack Shire Councils, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) Grampians, RDV Loddon Mallee, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Visit Victoria and the Tourism and Tourism Events Visitor Economy (TEVE) department of DJPR.

The purpose of the Business Innovation Pilot program under the grant agreement is to:

- Support local businesses to maximise benefits from increased tourism,
- Provide financial support to at least one pilot project per year over two financial years, and
- Increase visitor expenditure by 2023-2024 using a 2019-2020 baseline.

### Guidelines

Officers have prepared grant guidelines which are aligned to Councils tourism objectives, prioritising applications which can demonstrate:

- Alignment with key strategies in the Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2023-2024:
  - *Theme 1: COVID Recovery – “Positioning Buloke for Domestic Visitor Experiences”*
  - *Theme 4: Targeted industries investment – “Tourism Attractions and Responsive Town Businesses”, and “Enhance agribusiness diversification and value-adding”*
- Alignment with priorities identified in the Silo Art Gap Analysis for Buloke:
  - *Improved visitor servicing (improved and consistent offering, or innovative offerings)*
  - *Adding value to existing Silo Art Trail through innovative activation of current tourism product or development of new tourism product*
- Increase visitor expenditure in Buloke by 2023-2024.

### Funding model

Officers propose two funding rounds across the FY22 and FY23 financial years, inviting applications for funding up to \$30,000.

### Assessment

Under the guidelines, Officers propose the establishment of an assessment panel which includes representation from Councils key tourism stakeholders, including a representative from the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee (EDATAC), Buloke Tourism Board (BTB), specialist Council Officers, and an independent tourism professional.

### Funding decision

It is recommended that allocation of funding to successful applicants is decided and endorsed by Council.

### **RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable.

### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The guidelines propose that applications which directly contravene or contradict Councils plans and policies will be ineligible.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council's Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee were consulted upon receipt of funding by the DJPR to discuss the most effective way to allocate the funding.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Officers have prepared these guidelines in collaboration with industry stakeholders to ensure that funded activities align with tourism objectives and priorities identified at a local, regional and state level.

**COLLABORATION**

Officers sought advice from DJPR, member Councils of Wimmera Mallee Tourism, and the Tourism Infrastructure Program (Flagship Projects) PDSG in the development of these guidelines

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The grant program is being funded by the DJPR Tourism Infrastructure Program (Flagship Projects) funding received by Council in 2021.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Officers have prepared the funding model and associated guidelines in line with priorities outlined in the Wimmera Mallee Silo Art Gap Analysis.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Officers have prepared the funding model and associated guidelines in line with priorities identified in the following Council plans and strategies:

- Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025
- Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-23

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officers in the preparation of this report have a conflict of interest to declare.

## 8.2.4 INTERIM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM STRATEGY 2022 - 2023

**Author's Title:** Manager Facilities and Projects

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** ED/07/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Economy

### PURPOSE

To endorse the Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-2023.

### SUMMARY

Officers have prepared the Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-2023 in close consultation with a sub-committee of the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee (EDATAC). Officers have sought feedback internally from Council's Management Team and Senior Leadership Team, and consulted Councillors and key stakeholders on the development of the Strategy. Officers are recommending that Council endorse the Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-2023.

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Adopt the Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-2023; and
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to take steps to implement the Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-2023.

**MOVED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**SECONDED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.**

**(R045/22)**

**Attachments:** 1 Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022 - 2023

### DISCUSSION

The 2018-2021 Economic Development and Tourism Strategy is due to be reviewed and there as a provision for this review in the 2021-2022 Annual Budget. It was determined in mid-2021 that factors including the inability to accurately forecast the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the timing of the results from the Australian Bureau of Statistics *2021 Census of Population* would likely be detrimental to the development of a new four to five year strategy.

As such, Officers have developed the 2022-2023 Interim Economic Development Strategy in close consultation with a sub-group of the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee (EDATAC). The interim Strategy will build upon the 2018-2021 Strategy and propose further ambitious

strategies to remain responsive to community needs and the advice of key industry and community stakeholders including EDATAC.

Officers consulted Councils Management Team and Senior Leadership team for feedback, and further consulted with Councillors and key stakeholders. Feedback from the consultation has been incorporated in to the final document which is presented to Councillors for adoption.

The new actionable strategies have been categorised in to four themes:

- COVID-19 recovery,
- Community partnerships in economic development and tourism,
- Councils role in facilitating economic development, and
- Targeted industry investment.

Some key actions which Council will commit to delivering with partners in the Strategy include:

- Reviewing and establishing a restructured EDATAC committee which will be focused on delivering specific projects,
- Facilitating the development of business cases to support private business investment in the agribusiness, renewable energy and mining sectors,
- Preparing investment guides and supportive investment materials to assist in facilitating investment attraction, and
- Leading local and regional projects to expand tourist attractions and responding to growing visitation to Buloke.

The Strategy also recognises Councils achievements and progress against the previous Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2018-2021, including:

- Completed Industry Gap Analysis and Investment Attraction Plan,
- Developed Skills Gap Analysis and Workforce Plan
- The establishment of EDATAC,
- Receipt of funding for key infrastructure projects including streetscapes in five Buloke townships, new early years centres and Silo Art, and
- Revised tourism branding and supportive materials including a tactical marketing campaign, township brochures and a new image library.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable.

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Council supported the development of an Economic Development and Tourism Strategy in it's Annual Budget 2021-2022 which was adopted in June 2021.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Officers have considered the priorities and findings in the *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2025* and *Climate Action Plan and the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy* in the preparation of the Interim Strategy.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Officers engaged with members of EDATAC, Buloke Tourism Board, Township Forums and other Special Interest Groups in the context of Economic Development and Tourism when preparing the Strategy.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

This Strategy has been prepared by Officers and a working group of community members to ensure that Council's Economic Development and Tourism priorities are responsive to those identified by the Buloke community.

**COLLABORATION**

Officers collaborated with Street Ryan and Associates in the preparation of this Strategy.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Actions identified in the Interim Strategy are subject to Council's budgeted position and available resources.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

This Strategy has been prepared in line with priorities outlined in the Wimmera Development Association *Housing Review and Regional Housing Solutions Initiatives*, the *Wimmera Southern Mallee Destination Management Plan* and *Silo Art Gap Analysis*.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

This Strategy has been developed in line with priorities and findings identified in the following Council-plans and policies:

- Long Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025
- Buloke 2030 Community Plan
- Industry Gap Analysis and Investment Attraction Plan
- Rural Land Use and Settlement Strategy
- Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2025
- Climate Action Plan and the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officer in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest to declare.

**8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Nil

**8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS**

Nil

**8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS****Mayor Cr Warren – Mount Jeffcott Ward**

10/3/22	Sharp's Bakery Visit for Award presentation
11/3/22	Loddon Mallee WRRG Board meeting Zoom
12/3/22	Mali Heart Festival Launch Birchip Esoteric Festival
13/3/22	Lions Youth of the Year Judging Charlton
16/3/22	Danielle Green MP visit to Donald CEO/Mayor meeting Council Briefing Charlton
18/3/22	Loddon Mallee WRRG Board meeting Zoom
21/3/22	Birchip Forum meeting
23/3/22	Melas on Wheels Donald CEO/Mayor meeting Donald Community Precinct meeting Donald 2000 meeting
24/3/22	Birchip Civic Precinct Workshop
25/3/22	Regional Mayors meeting Horsham
29/3/22	Donald Streetscape PCG
30/3/22	CEO/mayor meeting
31/3/22	MAV Training Session Chairing meetings Birchip Civic Precinct PCG
1/4/22	Longernong College Graduation Horsham
3/4/22	Sea Lake Visitor Centre Volunteer
4/4/22	Birchip MCH meeting with Staff and community
6/4/22	Meeting with Cr Vis CEO/Mayor meeting
6/4/22	Council Briefing Donald
7/4/22	Radio Interview Flow FM Donald Chamber of Commerce AGM
8/4/22	Volunteer meeting at Donald
13/4/22	Meals on Wheels delivery for Easter holidays CEO/Mayor meeting Council meeting Wycheproof

**8.6 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

Nil

**9. OTHER BUSINESS****9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS****9.2.1 MEETING OUTCOME HELD AFTER WIMMERA MALLEE TOURISM MEETING – RE: BUSINESS VICTORIA – CR MILNE**

Cr Milne enquired about the outcome of the meeting with regard to Business Victoria that was held after the Wimmera Mallee Tourism Meeting recently at Warracknabeal.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that the outcome was that Department of Jobs, Precincts and the Regions would provide a summary of the meeting and approach Wimmera Development Association and Wimmera Mallee Tourism to determine their interest in the proposed model.

**9.3 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil

**10. MEETING CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 7.27pm.