



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 20 March 2024

Commencing at 4:30pm

Charlton District Office

1 High Street, Charlton

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

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Wednesday, 20 March 2024 commencing at 4:30pm in the Charlton District Office, 1 High Street, Charlton**PRESENT****CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Alan Getley Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Bernadette Hogan Mallee Ward
Cr David Pollard Lower Avoca Ward
Cr Daryl Warren Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Wayne O'Toole Chief Executive Officer
Daniel McLoughlan Director Infrastructure and Delivery
Jenna Allan Acting Director Community Development

AGENDA**1. COUNCIL WELCOME**

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Cr Graeme Milne Mount Jeffcott Ward
Cr Bronwyn Simpson Mount Jeffcott Ward

3. DECLARATION of PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

4.1 NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY - DISASTER READY FUND ROUND TWO 2024-2025

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- 4.2 REGIONAL COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - WYCHEPROOF RECREATION RESERVE
MULTI-SPORT FACILITY

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5. MEETING CLOSED

NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2024 AT 7:00PM.

Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer

4. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

4.1 NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY - DISASTER READY FUND ROUND TWO 2024-2025

Author's Title: Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Department: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: GS/09/66

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

This report is presented to Council to consider utilising \$250,000 (\$83,333p.a.) Council cash and \$250,000 (\$83,333p.a.) of in-kind support, to be funded over 3 financial years from Quarter 3 2024 to Quarter 3 2027.

The Council cash commitment is for the purpose of a co-contribution to support an application for the *National Emergency Management Agency Disaster Ready Fund Round Two 2024-2025* with the North Central Catchment Management Authority and the Mallee Catchment Management Authority also contributing of \$525,000 and \$125,000 respectively. The total contribution between Buloke, Mallee CMA and North Central CMA is \$1,150,000 will be matched by the Disaster Ready Fund, \$2.3M overall.

The proposed project is for the Lidar survey and flood modelling of Buloke Shire Council.

SUMMARY

This project will determine the impacts of flooding for the Buloke Shire, creating comprehensive flood information for emergency and mitigation planning, updating planning schemes, and community education. It will include detailed flood modelling and mapping for unmapped areas and investigate how channel decommissioning and infrastructure affect flood flow distribution in the Shire.

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is an Australian Government disaster risk reduction initiative which will fund a diverse set of large scale and long-term resilience projects in partnership with states and territories.

The DRF commits up to \$200 million per year nationally for disaster risk mitigation projects, to improve Australia's natural disaster resilience and risk reduction capabilities. The Australian Government has announced up to \$1 billion will be committed through the DRF over five years, from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028.

The primary objectives of the DRF are to:

- increase the understanding of natural hazard disaster impacts, as a first step towards reducing disaster impacts in the future;
- increase the resilience, adaptive capacity and/or preparedness of governments, community service organisations and affected communities to minimise the potential impact of natural hazards and avert disasters; and
- reduce the exposure to risk, harm and/or severity of a natural hazard's impacts, including reducing the recovery burden for governments and vulnerable and/or affected.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Approve a financial co-contribution of \$250,000 (\$83,333p.a.) Council cash and \$250,000 (\$83,333p.a.) of in-kind support, to be funded over 3 financial years from Q3 2024 to Q3 2027 for the purposes of a funding application towards the Disaster Ready Fund 2024.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for National Emergency Management Agency Disaster Ready Fund Round Two 2024-2025; and
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R027/24)

- Attachments:**
- 1 Regional Floodplain Management Strategy, Mid Term Implementation Snapshot
 - 2 DRF Round Two Indicative Budget Template Buloke

DISCUSSION

This project addresses a high-priority actions identified in the Regional Catchment Management Strategies of both Mallee CMA and North Central CMA. It aims to fill flood knowledge gaps across Buloke Shire in rural areas and townships to understand flood risks and safeguard lives, infrastructure, and waterway health. Recent irrigation modernization has changed water flow patterns in the area. Recent flood events in 2016, 2018, 2022 and 2024 underscore the need for updated understanding of flood movements. While some flood studies exist, such as those for Donald and Charlton, they are over a decade old and need updating to incorporate considerations for climate change and best practices.

The funding is intended to procure up-to-date LiDAR data that considers irrigation modernisation for the study area in Buloke Shire. Additionally, it will enable engagement with an engineering consultancy to conduct flood modelling throughout the shire, encompassing regional flood mapping and detailed studies at critical sites. The resulting information will enhance the flood resilience of the community by augmenting existing flood data. Outputs from the project will inform land use and development planning, emergency management, and community education. Consultation with the local community will be an integral part of the project.

It is important to note; the Mallee CMA has recently been successful in obtaining Risk and Resilience funding to undertake a landscape flood study across its Southern Mallee catchment area including the northern section of Buloke Shire Council. This project will run complimentary to the Mallee CMA project.

RELEVANT LAW

The project must align with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) and Northern Centra CMA Flood Mitigation Strategy 2018-2028 and the Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy 2018-2028

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not Applicable

OPTIONS

The Council may elect not to pursue this funding opportunity.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

This project addresses a high-priority actions identified in the Regional Catchment Management Strategies of both Mallee CMA and North Central CMA. It aims to fill flood knowledge gaps across Buloke Shire in rural areas and townships to understand flood risks and safeguard lives, infrastructure, and waterway health. Recent irrigation modernisation has changed water flow patterns in the area. Recent flood events in 2016, 2018, 2022 and 2024 underscore the need for an updated understanding of flood movements. While some flood studies exist, such as those for Donald and Charlton, they are over a decade old and need updating to incorporate considerations for climate change and best practices.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Comprehensive engagement is currently underway with both catchment management authorities following the recent flood events. Additionally, on-ground engagement has been conducted with the broader community.

Throughout the response phase and in the immediate aftermath of the 2022 flood event, Council held community meetings confirming Councils knowledge gap and inaccuracy with Councils existing studies. These meetings allow for the collection of local knowledge and perspectives, which has been invaluable in shaping Councils approach as well as building community support and buy-in, which is essential for the successful implementation of any recommendations or actions resulting from the proposed study.

By engaging with both catchment management authorities and the local community, the aim is to ensure that its findings and recommendations are grounded in a deep understanding of the local context and supported by those most affected in our community.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The funding is intended to procure up-to-date LiDAR data that considers irrigation modernization for the study area in Buloke Shire. Additionally, it will enable engagement with an engineering consultancy to conduct flood modelling throughout the shire, encompassing regional flood mapping and detailed studies at critical sites. The resulting information will enhance the flood resilience of the community by augmenting existing flood data. Outputs from the project will inform land use and development planning, emergency management, and community education. Consultation with the local community will be an integral part of the project.

COLLABORATION

The Buloke Shire Council will be lead agency on this Project and the support agency will be North Central CMA and the Mallee CMA.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The total budget forecast for the project is \$2.3M, comprising \$1.3M funding from the Commonwealth Government, \$.525M from the North Central CMA, \$.175M from the Mallee CMA, \$.250M Council in-kind contribution and \$.250M Council Cash. Councils cash contribution will be split over 3 years from FY24, that is \$83,333 each year over 3 financial years.

It should be noted that any spend committed to through successful funding applications will be subtracted from the available Council funds for capital projects in that financial year. Ongoing maintenance and training requirements should be undertaken every 12 months, with associated costs contained in Council's operational budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposed Project is listed as one of the priority projects in the Northern Central CMA Flood Mitigation Strategy 2018-2028 and the Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy 2018-2028 and also aligns with the SEMP and will contribute to outcomes listed in the DRF.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposal relates directly to key risks in the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy. The proposal to capture LiDAR data and utilise it for a flood study directly addresses the core risks outlined in the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy, particularly in understanding and mitigating flood hazards within the Buloke landscape. By leveraging LiDAR technology, the initiative aims to provide comprehensive insights into the terrain's topography, facilitating accurate projections of increased rainfall intensity and subsequent flooding. These detailed flood models will enable informed decision-making processes for stakeholders and policymakers, guiding proactive measures such as improved infrastructure planning, land use management, and adaptive design strategies. LiDAR-derived data into flood studies will not only enhance the resilience of the Buloke landscape to climate change impacts but also inform future strategies for sustainable development and disaster preparedness.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council has met its transparency obligations by ensuring consultation with the Mallee CMA and the Northern Central CMA.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

4.2 REGIONAL COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - WYCHEPROOF RECREATION RESERVE MULTI-SPORT FACILITY

Author's Title: Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Department: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: GS/09/65

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

This report is presented to Council to consider the allocation of \$266,486 over FY25 and FY26 Annual Budgets for the purpose of a co-contribution to support an application to the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund Round 1. Subsequently, it is a requirement of the funding program for Council to underwrite any community contribution.

The proposed project to be submitted under the application is the multi-sport facility at the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve.

A further recommendation seeks Council consideration to grant delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer to submit an application.

SUMMARY

The Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund is a \$2 billion Regional package offered through the Victorian Government as a competitive investment program delivered over 2 rounds for new and upgraded community sports infrastructure.

The Fund aims to support Victorians, particularly those individuals and communities who participate less, to achieve better health, wellbeing, social, and economic outcomes through the construction, programming and activation of community sport and active recreation infrastructure.

The Fund will prioritise proposals in rural and regional Victoria that can demonstrate commitment to the following outcomes:

- provides additional participation opportunities through the development of multi-use community sport and active recreation infrastructure
- increased participation opportunities for people with disability and other individuals and groups who participate less, including socio-economically disadvantaged communities
- provides equitable and inclusive participation opportunities for women and girls in community sport and active recreation
- increased local economic activity
- ensure Victoria has modern, accessible and welcoming places and spaces for sport and active recreation
- providing new active recreation opportunities through the appropriate design and usage of community sport and active recreation infrastructure.

This Report recommends the Council use this funding opportunity to support delivery of a key project within the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Masterplan.

The accessible multi-sport facility proposed will provide the community with the required modern amenities to support current and future growth of recreation and social connection to the Wycheproof and surrounding district. Existing organised sporting activities including Netball, Hockey, Lawn bowls, Croquet, Football and Cricket will benefit from amenities that are suited to modern design principles and gender inclusiveness.

The broader community and visitors to the area will realise a host of new opportunities for recreation and connection through use of the facility, with the inclusion of a flexible gymnasium space, kitchen, social areas and public amenities. Connecting walkways, accessible parking and security lighting will complete the project works.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Commit \$266,486 over FY25 and FY26 Annual Budgets for the purposes of submitting an application to the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund;
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund;
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of \$200,000; and
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CARRIED.

(R028/24)

- Attachments:**
- 1 WRR Multi Sport Facility
 - 2 WRR Masterplan Summary

DISCUSSION

The Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033 outlines that sport and active recreation plays a major role in the lives of those residing within and visiting the Wycheproof community, providing opportunities for physical fitness, social interaction, enjoyment, and creation of town pride.

The Masterplan established a series of key issues which are relevant to the discussion of this project:

- Ageing infrastructure
- Safety and risk management
- Governance
- Roles and responsibilities
- Rationalisation
- Volunteers
- Parking and Signage

The Masterplan also outlines opportunities identified throughout the process as:

- Increased usage
- Facility improvements
- Environmental sustainability
- Accessibility
- Reduction in cost to deliver sport and active recreation
- Facility development requirements
- Partnership development

As noted within the Masterplan, the majority of built facilities at the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve are in poor to fair condition and do not adequately meet the needs of all current user groups, or the general community, regular users as well as tourists and visitors to the reserve. The opportunity to develop a new multi-sport change facility that incorporates universal design features will:

- Support both existing organised sporting user groups (Netball, Hockey, Bowling, Cricket, Croquet and Football) and their future growth in participation through inclusive and accessible design principles for change room facilities and amenities.
- Drive growth for female participation in sport and recreation by providing appropriate changing facilities and family friendly access and amenities.
- Achieve a variety of benefits associated to shared community spaces and resulting cross-generational volunteer collaboration.
- Allow for the removal of deteriorated infrastructure and drastically alter the physical appearance and presentation of the outdated reserve.
- Compliment the environmental improvements established within the Wetlands area of the reserve and support tourism to this attraction by the provision of public amenities.
- Provide opportunities for increased active recreation and positive ageing activities within the proposed accessible gym facility, amenities, access and outdoor public spaces.

Additional specific issues the project seeks to resolve for established organised sporting clubs within the reserve also include:

- The netball change facilities are inadequate, currently offering 1 toilet facility and 3 showers for the largest female participation base for organised sport within the township, along with the visiting sporting teams also regularly utilising the facility. The change facility and spectator areas as well as the court itself are not accessible.
- The hockey club members do not have change facilities and are forced to access the netball facilities or the public toilet block that is in a state of disrepair, exposed to weather and is not suited to changing.
- The bowling club building does not have a disabled toilet or compliant accessibility.
- The hockey club, netball club and cricket club utilise shipping containers for their storage needs, which present significant barriers for access.
- The ramp leading to the football pavilion does not meet DDA requirements and the away football change rooms are in very poor condition.
- The croquet clubrooms are in a very poor state of repair and need to be completely replaced.
- Growing interest in female participation for football and cricket is not supported within the current facilities due to safety concerns and the child safe policy.

The following recommendations were identified to improve the safety, risk management and overall useability of the reserve:

- Removal of any buildings on site that are no longer structurally sound to reduce the chance of them falling down and injuring reserve users.

The proposed multi-use facility will be positioned in close proximity to the proposed new netball court, bowling green, croquet green and hockey field and carefully considers the accessibility paths, vehicle traffic and safe connections from this new facility to other existing facilities and spaces within the reserve.

The project budget is based on costings obtained for the modular prefabricated building which would include the amenities listed within in the attached concept plan. The total project costings include demolition of existing buildings, tree removal, site prep, drainage, an electrical upgrade, sewer and water connection and footpaths.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Building Act 1993* and regulations, the *National Construction Code 2019* and all other applicable laws and standards will apply to the proposed project, including compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The implementation of the Masterplan has been identified within the Buloke Shire Council Advocacy Strategy 2022-23.

The Multi-Sport Facility has been identified in the FY24 Budget as a capital project which is funding dependant.

OPTIONS

The Council may elect not to pursue this funding opportunity

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed modular facility will incorporate sustainable designs features including utilising natural lighting and ventilation, high efficiency water fixtures and lighting. The modular building will also enable Council to reuse and recycle any materials in the future.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the preparation of the Masterplan a variety of community engagement sessions were held including:

- Phone calls with 17 user groups and key stakeholders
- 1 user group workshop with 17 attendees
- 2 Council staff workshop with 10 attendees in each
- 2 listening posts with 40 participants
- 1 user group survey filled out by 3 user groups
- 1 community survey filled out by 114 people (on behalf of 258 people)
- 1 meeting with Sport and Recreation Victoria and Regional Development Victoria staff (2 participants)

Since this time, Council has received various requests for updates of progress upon the actions of the Masterplan from community groups.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The modular building concept allows for an easily adaptable, recyclable and movable facility if ever required. Participation based sport and recreation has changed considerably over the past 20 years, the

opportunities the universal and inclusive design principles apply will ensure that the facility can adapt with a wide range of sports and active recreation at any age or ability.

COLLABORATION

Landowners consent will be required from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to undertake the proposed works. A planning permit will also be required due to the value of the works and a design and development overlay on the land. These processes will allow community members, regional stakeholders and Traditional Owners the opportunity to give feedback.

Governing bodies of the sporting codes who will utilise the facility and the user groups will be given the opportunity to review the design and confirm their support of the development.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Masterplan seeks to effectively plan the development, management, maintenance and renewal costs associated to the proposed facility upgrades on an ongoing basis. Long term projects such as the proposal of the multi-sports facility will combine the needs of a majority of the user community groups within the reserve that have previously been operating within individual facilities that are not financially sustainable. The establishment of this multi-use facility rationalises a number of small, unsuitable facilities that incur significant ongoing maintenance and insurance fees.

The total budget forecast for this stage of the project is \$1,466,846 comprising \$1,000,000 funding from the State Government, \$200,000 from the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Committee and \$266,486 Council Cash. Of Council's contribution, \$150,000 will be dedicated in FY25 and \$116,486 as a contribution in FY26.

It should be noted that any spend committed to through successful funding applications will be subtracted from the available Council funds for capital projects in that financial year. Ongoing maintenance and associated costs contained in Council's operational budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Key plans the project takes into consideration:

- Fair Play Code
- Fair Access Roadmap
- Female friendly sport infrastructure guidelines
- Guidelines for Preventing Violence against women
- AFL Central Victoria Facilities Strategy
- Active Victoria
- VicHealth Physical Activity Strategy
- Victorian integrity in sport action plan
- Design for everyone guide

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposal addresses key elements and actions from the Buloke Shire Inclusiveness Plan whilst also complimenting the outcomes of the Masterplan. The adjoining bowling club membership will support the facility as a multi-use, year round asset in addition to the community access from visitors of the nearby wetlands precinct.

The proposal will allow much greater opportunity for community-based events to promote inclusivity in public open spaces and recreational activity that may be supported through the availability of appropriate facilities.

The proposal demonstrates a collaborative approach between community forum, sporting/recreation-based groups and community members with special needs in order to achieve an outcome with highly beneficial long-term effects for the broader Buloke local government area.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council has met its transparency obligations by ensuring consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders within the Wycheproof community.

Council officers have engaged with Wyche Alive, Committee members of the Wycheproof-Narraport Football, Netball, Hockey Club, Cricket Club, Wycheproof Bowling Club and Croquet clubs to seek support and feedback regarding the project proposal.

If Council resolve to accept the recommendations to access the required Council funds and apply for this Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund Round 1, officers will:

- Establish a formal project advisory group for the project; and
- Undertake a proactive media engagement strategy to explain the rationale for Council's decision, the application process, and long-term benefits for the community if successful.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Trevor Rumbold – Acting Manager Assets and Jenna Allan – Acting Director Community Development have declared conflicts of interest due to their positions on Committees of the Wycheproof-Narraport Football and Netball Clubs respectively and will complete Conflict Management Plans with Executive Officers.

No other officers involved in the preparation of this report have been required to declare a conflict of interest.

5. MEETING CLOSED

Meeting closed at 4.15pm

