



COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 10 April 2024

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room

367 Broadway, Wycheproof

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 April 2024 commencing at 7:00pm in the Wycheproof Supper Room, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof**PRESENT****CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Alan Getley Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Bernadette Hogan Mallee Ward
Cr Carolyn Stewart Lower Avoca Ward
Cr David Pollard Lower Avoca Ward
Cr Graeme Milne Mount Jeffcott Ward
Cr Bronwyn Simpson Mount Jeffcott Ward
Cr Daryl Warren Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Wayne O'Toole Chief Executive Officer
Daniel McLoughlan Director Infrastructure and Delivery
Travis Fitzgibbon Director Community Development
Jenna Allan Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

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 maybe here today.

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**MOTION:**

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13 March 2024 and Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20 March 2024.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

**CARRIED.
(R029/24)**

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Milne declared an interest in Item 8.2.4 Community Grants, due to a relative by marriage, being a member with the Donald Golf Club, an applicant for funding from the Grant Program.

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NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2024 AT 7:00PM.

Wayne O’Toole
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**6.1 WASTE ENFORCEMENT COSTS – DEAN HURLSTON, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL WATCH INC**

QUESTION READ BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: What amount of waste enforcement costs in the current financial year 2023/24 has the Council included in its waste levies charged to residents? (if any)

ANSWER FROM THE MAYOR: No waste enforcement costs are included in the waste charge to residents in the 2023/24 Annual Budget as it is a too infrequent action for Council to budget for.

6.2 WASTE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS – DEAN HURLSTON, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL WATCH INC

QUESTION READ BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:: What amount of revenue has Council included in the current financial year 2023/24 from waste enforcement actions?

ANSWER FROM THE MAYOR: Council has not included any revenue in its current budget related to waste enforcement action as it is a too infrequent action for Council to budget for.

6.3 WASTE ENFORCEMENT REVENUE – DEAN HURLSTON, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL WATCH INC

QUESTION READ BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:: Has that revenue been offset in the waste levy OR applied to Council's general revenue streams?

ANSWER FROM THE MAYOR: As there has been no revenue included, this question is not applicable.

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CR/13/01

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 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 BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

CARRIED.

(R030/24)

Attachments: Nil

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Wycheproof & District Landcare Group		For being awarded the Terry Simpson Landcare Group Award
Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Marney Durie Wycheproof & District Landcare Group		For being awarded the Carrie Jesse Landcare Award for community and advocacy
Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Ron Falla (dec) and Family Donald		Being inducted into the Inaugural Hall of Fame for the Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network
Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Liz Russell Donald		Being inducted into the Inaugural Hall of Fame for the Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Mervyn John (dec) Wycheproof		Being inducted into the Inaugural Hall of Fame for the Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network

7.2 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 6 March and 20 March 2024.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R031/24)

- Attachments:**
- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 6 March 2024
 - 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 20 March 2024

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 Schedules adopted 9 November 2022 and 8 November 2023, 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 6 March and 20 March 2024 is attached for public information.

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 DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R032/24)

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Sent to	Sent	Response	Purpose of Letter/Response
Notice of Motion	<i>Hon Melissa Horne MP Minister for Roads and Road Safety</i> <i>Copy sent to: Jade Benham MP Member for Mildura</i>	22 Feb 2024		Local Council Electoral Structure Review.

7.4 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Statutory Administration Support

Department: Community Development

File No: DB14/01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 March 2024 to 31 March 2024.

MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 March 2024 to 31 March 2024.

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CARRIED.

(R033/24)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Council Reference	Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20240002	2935720508422	Broadway Wycheproof VIC 3527	Extension	21/3/2024

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE BUILDING SURVEYOR

Council Reference	Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
PBLD24015	3428803163288	Watchupga East ROAD Willangie VIC 3485	Construction of a storage shed	7/3/2024
PBLD24013	3085198955851	Calder Highway Nullawil VIC 3529	Carport	13/3/2024
PBLD23149	6867945031837	Cooks and Kerrs ROAD Narraport VIC 3483	Machinery Shed	21/3/2024

7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Community Development

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 DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CARRIED.

(R034/24)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PA23026	Horace Street, Sea Lake	06/09/2023	Construct and display internally illuminated business identification sign (LED priceboard)	Review
PA24001	Yeungroon Road, Yeungroon East	13/12/2023	Use and development of land for rural worker accommodation (two two-bedroom units and carport)	Review
PA24002	Borong Highway, Wooroonook	10/01/2024	Use and development of land for a single dwelling on an allotment in the Farming Zone, create or alter access to a Transport Zone and build within a setback to a Transport Zone	Review
PA24003	Clifton Street, Charlton	22/01/2024	Construction of a dwelling and demolition of an outbuilding within a Heritage Overlay	Permit Issued

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PA24004	Borong Highway, Gil Gil	28/01/2024	Use and development of land for a place of assembly to hold the Donald B & S on one occasion in 2024 and one occasion in 2025, including patron camping for the event.	Review
PA24005	Slocombe Road, Warmur	24/01/2024	Subdivision of land (boundary realignment)	Review
PA24006	Racecourse Road, Donald	29/01/2024	Use and development of land for retail (plant nursery) and restricted retail (plant and equipment hire)	Review
PA24007	Jenkins Street, Charlton	29/02/2024	Two lot subdivision of land (boundary realignment)	Notice of Application Referral
PA24008	Railway Avenue, Sea Lake	26/02/2024	Use and development of land to construct four dwellings on a lot for workers accommodation	Notice of Application Referral
PA24009	Borong Highway, Gil Gil	29/02/2024	Alter access to a road in Transport Zone 2 (TR22)	Referral
VS23011	High Street, Wycheproof	31/11/2023	Construct a 2 metre fence in a Heritage Overlay	Application Lapsed
VS24001	Woods Street, Donald	11/01/2024	Carry out external works to a building in a Heritage Overlay (awning)	Permit Issued

The information published in the list provided, is in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

7.6 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action (SOA) of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action, and the SOA for the 13 March 2024 Council Meeting and 20 March 2024 Special Meeting Resolutions.

MOTION:

Council to note the Status of Action Report for Council resolutions documented on this list.

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

CARRIED.

(R035/24)

Attachments: 1 SOA Outstanding CM resolutions 13 and 20 March 2024 Meetings

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

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 the Council's Governance Rules adopted August 2022, Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured and is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

Attached to this report for public information is a list of the SOA of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action and introducing the SOA for the 13 March 2024 Council Meeting and 20 March 2024 Special Meeting Resolutions.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS**8.1 POLICY REPORTS****8.1.1 DRAFT FAIR ACCESS POLICY**

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** CM/14/16

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

PURPOSE

To present to Council the Draft Fair Access Policy and seek endorsement of the release of the draft policy and associated action plan, for further community feedback prior to a final Policy and action plan being presented at a future Council Meeting for adoption.

SUMMARY

The Buloke Shire Council Fair Access Policy has been developed in response to the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which was initiated in 2022 and seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure.

The scope of the Policy is to support Council to take positive action towards achieving gender equity in the access and usage of community sports infrastructure. This complies with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and aligns with Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans as well as Council's own Gender Equality Action Plan and the Buloke Shire Council Inclusiveness Plan.

MOTION:

That Council endorse the Draft Fair Access Policy to be distributed for community feedback and consultation.

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SIX – IN FAVOUR.

CR WARREN – ABSTAINED FROM VOTING.

CARRIED.

(R036/24)

Attachments:

- 1 Draft Fair Access Action Plan
- 2 Draft Fair Access Policy

DISCUSSION

This Policy establishes the expectation that gender equality is considered and prioritised in all of Council's current and future planning, policy, service delivery and practice as they relate to community sports infrastructure.

For the Buloke Shire Council, this policy applies to the community sports infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council and of which is a beneficiary of Council's recreation allocation funding program. Any infrastructure that is not owned or managed by Council falls outside of the scope of this policy.

Council acknowledges that the requirement to have a gender equitable access and use policy and action plan (or equivalent) in place, and the ability to demonstrate progress against that policy and action plan (or equivalent), will form part of the eligibility criteria for Victorian Government funding programs relating to community sports infrastructure from 1 July 2024.

Council has also identified specific actions to progress gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure in its Fair Access Action Plan.

RELEVANT LAW

Gender Equality Act 2020
Local Government Act 2020
Equal Opportunity Act 2010

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This is a new policy, in response to the Victorian Government's reform agenda following the 2015 inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation.

OPTIONS

Council can choose not to endorse the draft policy to go out for community feedback.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

No Sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This draft policy will be circulated throughout the community for feedback in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy before undertaking a review and then being presented for adoption at Council's June 2024 Meeting.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The introduction of the Fair Access Policy will ensure that Council are eligible for future funding opportunities which will strengthen our sporting infrastructure and the participation and social connection that is associated.

COLLABORATION

Throughout the education and review phases of the Victorian Government's Fair Access Roadmap, Council officers have worked with stakeholders including Sport and Recreation Victoria, the office of Women and Girls in Sport, regional sports assemblies, neighbouring Councils and consultants to ensure that this policy and action plan are well informed and aligned to the reform agenda and fair access principles.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

This policy and action plan may over time result in initiatives or funding opportunities that will need to be considered in future Council budgets.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Victorian Government's Fair Access Roadmap

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Gender Equality Action Plan

Inclusiveness Plan

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Endorsing the Draft Fair Access Policy for community consultation allows the community and stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback which will shape the final policy and further actions.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance **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 BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

CARRIED.
(R037/24)

Attachments: 1 Audit and Risk Committee - Chairs Biannual Report - March 2024

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.

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 9 November 2022.

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

No staff member involved in the compilation of this report has a conflict of interest to declare.

8.2.2 DRAFT AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Author's Title: Manager Governance

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** FM/02/09

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

To provide Council with the confirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2024.

SUMMARY

The 7 February 2024 Audit and Risk Committee minutes are attached for the information of Council.

MOTION:

That Council notes the confirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 7 February 2024.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CARRIED.
(R038/24)

Attachments: 1 DRAFT Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 7 Feb 2024

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 the Mayor and one Councillor. 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
- Legislative Compliance
- Innovation and Technology quarterly update
- Asset Management quarterly update
- Internal Audit – Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2026
- Internal Audit Status Report and update
- Victorian Auditor-General's Office Status Report – November 2023
- Related Party Transactions Policy
- 2024/25 Budget Timetable
- Councillor and CEO reimbursements
- Draft Finance Report as at 31 December 2023

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. The most recent Audit and Risk Committee Charter was adopted by Council on 9 November 2022.

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 9 November 2022.

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.

8.2.3 CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES PLAN

Author's Title: Manager of Children & Youth

Department: Community Development

File No: CS/10/11

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

PURPOSE

For Council to consider and adopt the Children, Youth and Families Plan (the Plan) that sets the strategic direction for the shire over the coming years.

SUMMARY

Council is well placed to work with the community and other levels of government to enhance the liveability of Buloke for children, young people, and their families.

This Plan outlines a framework and strategic objectives to guide Council in working for and with children and young people, from birth through to 25 years, and their families.

MOTION:

That Council adopt the Children, Youth and Families Plan.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.
(R039/24)

Attachments: 1 Buloke Children, Youth and Families Plan

DISCUSSION

The Children Youth and Families Plan combines the Buloke Shire Council Children & Youth Strategy 2016-2019 and Buloke Shire Council Municipal Early Years Plan 2015-2019 into a single ten-year plan to address the needs of children, young people, and families. The Plan focuses on planning, advocacy, and the delivery of services, programs, events, and spaces for children, young people, and their families 2024 – 2034.

The Plan will encompass two age groups.

Early Years: Birth - 8 Years Old.

Young People: 8 – 24 Years old.

This is a ten-year plan that provides a strategic direction for Children, Youth and Families in the Buloke Shire. The Plan will underpin the 3-year operational work plans that will be established in conjunction with staff and stakeholders. These work plans will ensure each of the outcomes is achieved and tracked.

Throughout the development of the Plan officers actively sort feedback from the community.

Feedback strategies were broken down into four categories.

- Primary Aged Children (4 - 12) - Through primary schools, children were invited to draw/write the things they loved the most about where they live.
- Young People (12 – 25) – An online Youth Survey was developed in line with the online Mission Australia Survey and promoted through all schools, key stakeholder organisations, through social media and promoted by ‘youth researchers’. Further to this secondary school student leadership groups were invited to participate in focus groups to share their thoughts and ideas.
- Parents and Caregivers - The online parent/carer survey was promoted through service providers, community groups, and on social media. Further to this we spoke with Playgroups and Early Learning Centre Parent Advisory Groups.
- Service Providers - Service providers were invited to a workshop to hear consultation results and to share their thoughts for what Council should be doing in the Children, Youth and Families space. There was also an online service provider survey circulated broadly and promoted through our networks.

Following the consultation with children, young people, parents, and service providers we have identified four overarching priority areas for the Buloke Shire Council Children, Youth and Families Plan:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Connected Communities
- Learning and Earning
- Engaging Spaces and Places

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Council can choose not to adopt the Children, Youth and Families Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

After being adopted in draft form at the 13 December 2023 Council Meeting the Draft Children Youth and Families plan was presented to the community to seek community feedback.

A broad range of communication channels were used including direct email, media release published in local publications, advertising in local media publications, social media and the Buloke Shire website.

One written submission was received in addition to conversation feedback.

As a result of the engagement elements of the action plan were improved, and an additional action was included in the Learning and Earning actions. Along with the addition of a new front cover image, taken by Buloke Young Citizen of the Year Blake Lee.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Combining the Children & Youth Strategy and the Municipal Early Years Plan offers several benefits for the community and the council, these include; Continuity of Services, Prevention and Early Intervention, Collaboration and Partnership.

COLLABORATION

Throughout the consultation process Council staff have consulted widely with the community and a number of different community stakeholders to ensure the plan responds to the community's needs and outlines key opportunities to continue collaboration.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

This Plan contains initiatives that will need to be considered in future Council budgets or investigation of external funding opportunities.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Victoria's Youth Strategy
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025
- Council Plan 2021-2025 Year 3 Annual Plan
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Councillor Code of Conduct
- Inclusiveness Plan
- Gender Equality Action Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Endorsing this Children, Youth and Families Plan for community consultation allows the community and stakeholders further opportunity to provide feedback to shape the how the Council serve Children, Youth and Families across the Buloke Shire.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.4 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Department: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

Cr Milne declared an interest in Item 8.2.4 Community Grants, due to a relative by marriage, being a member with the Donald Golf Club, an applicant for funding from the Grant Program.

Cr Milne vacated the Council Chamber at 7.30pm.

PURPOSE

To present to Council the Community Grant applications recommended for funding under the Community Grants Program.

SUMMARY

Each year, Council allocates funds in the Annual Budget to support community initiatives that align with Council's priorities and vision as outlined in the Council Plan.

In the 2023-24 Annual Budget, Council allocated \$20,000 to the **Community Grants Program** and \$50,000 to the **Community Sustainability Grants Program**. The purpose of these programs are:

- **Community Grants** support the strengthening of the capacity and capability of local organisations, assist with the organisation and management of events, or help with the purchase of small capital items.
- **Sustainability Grants** assist projects that contribute to reducing the community's carbon footprint, improve the environment or effectively conserve resource usage.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Considers the following allocation of funds under the Community Grants Program:
\$2,000 Dignity of the Fallen (Charlton Neighbourhood House Inc - Auspice for the Charlton RSL Sub-Branch)
2. Considers the following allocation of funds under the Community Sustainability Grants Program:
\$10,000 Donald Golf Bowls Tractor Replacement (Donald Golf & Bowls Club Inc)

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R040/24)

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

A further two Community Grants applications have been received since the Council Meeting held in February 2024.

As per the current Community Grant Guidelines, each application was assessed by an Assessment Panel. The Panel of three assessors consisted of one Council officer and two external consultants.

Based on their assessment against the selection criteria, the Panel recommends the following grants for Council's consideration and final decision on the budget allocations.

Project: Dignity of the Fallen	
Organisation:	Charlton Neighbourhood House Incorporated - Auspice for the Charlton RSL Sub-Branch
Grant Type	Community Grant (<i>Project Support</i>)
Amount Applied:	\$2,000
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$2,000
Full project cost:	\$2,000
Project Description:	The Charlton RSL Sub-Branch would like to support a visit to Charlton by two prominent guest speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lambis Englezos AM - will discuss the discovery, identifying and reburying of the Diggers buried at the Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery in Fromelles, including local Maurice James Claxton. Ross McMullin - will discuss the life of local hero Major General Harold Edward 'Pompey' Elliott.
Project Benefit:	Hosting two renown historians to talk about local connections to the First World War will provide a unique event for the community as well as potentially generate interest from tourists and visitors to Charlton. The project will also be supporting local bus services and providing a catered lunch for all attendees.
Assessment Panel Scoring	Average Score = 14.8 out of 20. All members of the Assessment Panel recommended the ' <i>Dignity of the Fallen</i> ' project be funded for the full amount requested (\$2,000).

Project: Donald Golf & Bowls Tractor Replacement	
Organisation:	Donald Golf & Bowls Club Incorporated
Grant Type	Community Sustainability Grant
Amount Applied:	\$10,000
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$10,000
Full project cost:	\$35,000
Project Description:	The Donald Golf & Bowls Club Incorporated would like to replace two of their +50-year-old tractors with one more environmentally friendly second-hand tractor.
Project Benefit:	The replacement tractor aims to provide a safer and more sustainable approach to maintaining the course/grounds of the Donald Golf and Bowls Club. This proactive approach to improving their environmental footprint demonstrates the club leading by example in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and providing a sustainable healthy environment for their members, visitors, and volunteers as well as their local community.
Assessment Panel Scoring	Average Score = 18.0 out of 20. All members of the Assessment Panel recommended the ' <i>Donald Golf Bowls Tractor Replacement</i> ' project be funded for the full amount requested (\$10,000).

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable to this report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not to allocate the funds as recommended by the Assessment Panel however, such amendments to the proposed funding recommendations may undermine the integrity and fairness of the assessment process.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Applicants were contacted by either a Council officer and/or an external consultant if their application required additional information or clarification.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The allocation of funds for the two applications recommended for funding will come from the Community Grants budget (\$20,000) and the Community Sustainability Grants budget (\$50,000) in Council's Annual Budget 2023-24.

There is currently \$14,000 remaining in the adopted Community Grants budget and \$50,000 remaining in the adopted Community Sustainability Grants budget for the 2023-24 financial year.

Community Grants and Sponsorship 2023-2024

Organisation	Type	Amount in application	Recommended	Granted by Council
Charlton Neighbourhood House Incorporated	Project Support	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Birchip Community Forum Inc.	Project Support	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Charlton Forum Inc.	Project Support	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Totals		\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000

Community Sustainability Grants 2023-2024

Organisation	Type	Amount in application	Recommended	Granted by Council
Totals				\$0

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 and Long-Term Community Vision.

Community Grant Guidelines.

Community Engagement Policy.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officer involved in the compilation of the report has any conflicts of interest to disclose.

All members of the Assessment Panel have no conflict of interest to disclose in relation to their recommendations or this report.

Cr Milne returned to the Council Chamber at 7.34pm.

8.2.5 BULOKE PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

Author's Title: Senior Planning Officer

Department: Community Development

File No: LP/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with a review of the Buloke Planning Scheme and recommends that the review be adopted by Council and submitted to the Minister for Planning.

SUMMARY

The Council, as the planning authority for the Buloke Planning Scheme, is required to undertake a review of its planning scheme every four years under Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

The Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report 2023 (the planning scheme review) has been prepared in partnership with the Buloke Shire Council and the Regional Planning Partnerships (RPP) team at the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), at the request of the Council.

If the Council resolves to adopt the planning scheme review, it will be forwarded to the Minister for Planning as required under section 12(B) of the PE Act.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Adopt the Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report – September 2023, and
2. In accordance with Section 12B (5) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 forward a copy of the adopted Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report – September 2023 to the Minister for Planning.

Moved: CR DARYL WARREN

Seconded: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R041/24)

Attachments: 1 Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report

DISCUSSION

Regular reviews of the planning scheme are required under Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Councils should undertake a planning scheme review within 12 months of the Council Plan being adopted.

The objective of the planning scheme review is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning scheme in achieving the objective of planning in Victoria and ensuring the planning scheme makes best use of the Victorian Planning Provisions and the planning framework established by the Act.

At Section 12B (4) of the Act the planning scheme review must evaluate the planning scheme to ensure that it:

- is consistent in form and content with the directions or guidelines issued by the Minister, and
- sets out effectively the policy objectives for use and development of land in the area to which the planning scheme applies, and
- makes effective use of State provisions and local provisions to give effect to State and local planning policy objectives.

The planning scheme review also provides an opportunity to:

- Align the Council's broader policy position with the planning scheme.
- Update out of date or redundant information.
- Educate and inform stakeholders about how the planning scheme works and the process by which to improve it.

The Council last reviewed the scheme in 2018. Between 2018–2022, the scheme was progressively updated to reflect the recommendations of the 2018 review, including correcting zoning and mapping errors and removing redundant provisions.

The planning scheme review was prepared in partnership with the Council and the RPP team at DTP, at the Council's request.

This review has also been prepared in accordance with the following directions and guidance provided by DTP:

Ministerial directions:

- Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes
- Ministerial Direction No. 11 Strategic Assessment of Amendments

Planning practice notes and advice:

- A Practitioner's Guide to Victoria's Planning Schemes
- PPN32 Review of planning schemes
- PPN46 Strategic Assessment Guidelines

The planning scheme review has found that overall, the scheme is operating effectively.

This review has identified several opportunities to update and improve the local content of the scheme to ensure council's vision for land use and development, as expressed in the Council Plan, is reflected by the policy and planning controls of the scheme.

The review has identified a small number of policy neutral changes that should be made to the scheme to bring it into alignment with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes (MDFC).

The review has identified the following key land use planning priorities for the council:

- Resourcing required to undertake and implement a strategic work program within the planning scheme review cycle.
- Small town settlement planning to coordinate existing mixed land uses, plan for future housing, tourism opportunities, environmental management, movement and infrastructure networks, and streetscape and urban design improvements.
- Improving the drafting of existing planning controls and schedules in the scheme to clarify objectives, strategies, and requirements.
- Implementing key tasks from the Rural Land Use and Settlement Strategy (2019).

- Review of the application and intent of the Environmental Significance Overlay and Vegetation Protection Overlay
- Policy direction for open space and pedestrian networks, climate change adaptation, gaming machines and, protecting significant landscapes.

It is recommended that a planning scheme amendment is undertaken by the Council to implement the findings of this review that relate to administrative matters and to incorporate Council or State adopted strategic planning work into the scheme.

RELEVANT LAW

Planning and Environment Act 1987

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Nil

OPTIONS

The Council has the option to resolve not to adopt the Buloke Planning Scheme review.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Scheme review has made recommendations to update the planning scheme to comply with Ministerial Directions and to provide recommendations for further strategic work and planning scheme amendments to have beneficial impacts on economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Planning Scheme Review Report has been made available for public submissions. Notification of the invitation to make a submission has been placed in locally circulating newspapers, on the Buloke Shire Council webpage, and on Council's social media pages. Internal and external stakeholders have been consulted. The strategic projects in the recommendations will undergo consultation as required.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The purpose of undertaking a planning scheme review is to enhance the scheme's effectiveness and efficiency in achieving the planning objectives in Victoria and the planning framework established in the PE Act.

COLLABORATION

External referral authorities have been consulted as part of the planning scheme review and received the following responses:

- North Central CMA recommends changes to flood controls due to construction of flood mitigation levees.
- Mallee CMA – no change suggested.
- Department of Health and Human Services (now Department of Health) – update name of referral authority to Department of Health (clerical change).
- CFA – no change suggested.
- Department of Transport and Planning (Transport) – no change suggested.
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action – Minor changes to Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 1 (ESO1)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council was successful in engaging assistance for the planning scheme review from the Regional Planning Hub with the Department of Transport and Planning.

Future strategic work has been identified as part of the planning scheme review. This work may involve engaging consultants.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Buloke planning scheme incorporates state and regional policy.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Planning scheme reviews provide the opportunity to align the Council's broader policy position with the planning scheme.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

To promote transparency, Council will consider this resolution in an open meeting.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Nil

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**Cr Bernadette Hogan – Mallee Ward**

20/3/2024	Special Council Meeting – Charlton
	Council Briefing – Charlton
22/3/2024	EWHS Federation University Community Survey Meeting - Birchip
28/03/2024	Councillor Responsibility/Accountability Briefing – Zoom
2/4/2024	Councillor Briefing – Birchip
09/04/2024	Nullawil Progress Association Meeting - Nullawil
10/4/2024	Council Meeting - Wycheproof

Cr Daryl Warren – Mount Jeffcott Ward

13/03/24	Council Meeting - Wycheproof
20/03/24	Council Meeting - Charlton
20/03/24	Councillor Briefing - Charlton
22/03/24	Community Car driver to Horsham
25/03/24	Bloke Tourism Meeting - Donald
27/03/24	Donald Community Precinct Meeting - Donald
	Donald 2000 Meeting - Donald
28/03/24	Councillor Training - Moira Shire Report
4/04/24	Councillor Briefing - Birchip
9/04/24	Corack Hall AGM
10/04/24	Council Meeting - Wycheproof

Mayor's Month

Weekly Meetings with CEO Wayne O'Toole
 Monthly Councillor Briefings
 Council Meeting
 Special Council Meeting
 Transmission lines Shire Meeting
 ABC interview Horsham Shire Issues
 Meeting with Salcorp Councillors responsibility
 Travellers Rest Meeting - Charlton
 Charlton Forum Meeting
 Culgoa Development Group Meeting
 Nullawil Progress Association Meeting

Cr Alan Getley

Mayor

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.2.1 COUNCIL STANCE ON AEMO PROPOSAL FOR VNI WEST MEETING WITH FARMING DELEGATION - CR MILNE

QUESTION: Does Council have a formal stance that it has agreed upon and public, to take to the meeting being held with a delegation of farmers and representatives from Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) tomorrow (Thursday 11 April 2024) in Donald regarding the AEMO installation of powerlines.

ANSWER PROVIDED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO): Councillors will recall some time ago that Council did take a position to encourage AEMO and Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) to engage with the community in a meaningful and transparent way, to ensure everybody had the opportunity to provide feedback, on the basis that some of the initial approaches were less than desirable.

The Mayor and the CEO met with representatives from AEMO today, and provided that feedback.

The stance for Council is to encourage AEMO to engage with the community in an open and transparent way.

At this point, Cr Pollard declared Conflict of Interest in this matter, but stated given there will not be a discussion on the matter, he will not be leaving the Council Chamber.

The CEO continued to say if Council would like to do some further work on this matter, the CEO suggested that the item be brought back to a Councillor Briefing for further discussion, prior to going back to a future Council Meeting.

9.2.2 CONTRACT FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING SURVEYOR – CR WARREN

QUESTION: How is the Council going on the Contract for the Municipal Building Surveyor.

ANSWER FROM CEO: Council staff are currently at options stage, negotiating with Municipal Building Surveyor on an extension to the Contract and asked the Director Community Development is this for the purpose of exercising the first of two options.?

ANSWER FROM DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Advised he will have to look in to that question and get back to the Council with the answer.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil.

10. MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.