



# Council Meeting **Minutes**

Wednesday 17  
December 2025

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room  
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan  
Chief Executive Officer



## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

<b>1</b>	<b>COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>PROCEDURAL ITEMS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES.....</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>7.2 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>8.1 MANAGEMENT REPORTS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
	8.1.1 DRAFT EVENT PLANNING GUIDE .....	10
	8.1.2 LEASE: COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AS REPRESENTED BY THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY.....	13
	8.1.3 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS .....	17
	8.1.4 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION PA25012 – CONSTRUCT TWO SHED ASSOCIATED WITH A SECTION 2 USE (PIG FARM) AND INCREASE IN PIG NUMBER TO 3534 – 376 MILLS ROAD, WHIRILY .....	22
	8.1.5 CONTRACT AWARD - CONTRACT C130 2025/26 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ROAD MAKING MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS.....	36
	8.1.6 CONTRACT AWARD - CONTRACT C134 2025/26 – FRRW - VARIOUS ROAD WORKS – BERRIWILLOCK & WOOMELANG AREAS.....	40
	8.1.7 TEMPORARY INCREASE TO CEO FINANCIAL DELEGATION.....	44
	8.1.8 STATUS OF THE MUNICIPAL MONITOR'S REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN .....	48
	<b>8.2 FINANCIAL REPORTS.....</b>	<b>52</b>
	8.2.1 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - SEPTEMBER 2025.....	52
	<b>8.3 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS.....</b>	<b>58</b>
	8.3.1 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 1 FY2025-26 .....	58
	8.3.2 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN .....	61
	<b>8.4 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>67</b>

<b>9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>9.3 URGENT BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>10 MEETING CLOSE .....</b>	<b>69</b>

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 17/12/2025.****CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor)

Mount Jeffcott Ward

**COUNCILLORS:**

Cr Bernadette Hogan (Deputy Mayor)

Mallee Ward

Cr Alan Getley

Mallee Ward

Cr Stephen Barratt

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Bruce Stafford

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Charmaine Delaney

Mount Jeffcott Ward

**OFFICERS:**

Daniel McLoughlan

Chief Executive Officer

Paula Gardiner

Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Jenna Allan

Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Gaynor Atkin

Director Community Development

Anthony Smith

Acting Manager Governance

Georgia Brown

Senior Executive Assistant

**1 COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT****WELCOME**

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne welcomed all in attendance.

**STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

**2 RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES**

Nil.

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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 19 November 2025 commencing at 7.00pm and 7.40pm.

**MOVED:** Cr Bernadette Hogan

**SECONDED:** Cr Alan Getley

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/124)**

#### **4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

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

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

## 6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

### Question 1 -

**Person:** Mr Daryl Warren of Donald

**Question:**

Item 8.1.8 STATUS OF THE MUNICIPAL MONITOR'S REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN -

Listed in the Council Agenda tonight.

As we are aware the appointment of the Monitor in May 24 came at an unbudgeted cost of over \$150,000.00.

A key deliverable was to investigate the sustainability of Buloke Shire primarily with respect to financial matters.

I note that in the tonight's Council report, the author has advised that Sustainability and Financial matters are not "applicable" to this report.

I would suggest that the Sustainability and Finances were the very matters at the "core" of the appointment.

All the recommendations from the Monitors report have or will come at a cost to the Ratepayer.

As such can you please provide a summary of all the costs incurred by the Council to date in responding to the Monitors Report and implementation.

&

What provisions have been made in 25/26 Budget to respond to the report over this Budget period.

As an example: *xiv. In relation to the Sea Lake Landfill site, ensures compliance with EPA directions, budgets appropriately for any required rehabilitation in accordance with EPA directions and moves to secure ownership of the site as soon as practicable.*

### Council Response:

Item 8.1.8 in tonight's agenda is a status report. The purpose of the report is to update Council regarding the requirement to develop an implementation plan in response to the Municipal Monitor's report and submit biannual status updates to the Minister for Local Government.

The report is not seeking Council's specific decision making against individual activities or recommendations made by the Municipal Monitor, or the implementation plan itself. Any major decisions or actions required for Council consideration would warrant an individual report to Council, with the financial viability and any sustainability implications specifically identified as you have rightly suggested for each matter as it is presented.

In consideration of the purpose of this report, the financial viability of Council in responding to its reporting requirements is not applicable. Similarly, the impact of the provision of this status report is not considered to have any relevant sustainability implications.

Within Council's reporting framework, "sustainability implications" refers to environmental and social sustainability considerations, such as impacts on climate, natural resources, biodiversity, and long-term community wellbeing. Financial sustainability is considered separately via the 'Financial Viability' section of the report.

In relation to any costs incurred by Council whilst undertaking the reporting of the implementation plan to date, Council have not experienced expenses outside of existing resources engaged and costed against existing Council service area budgets.

Council will continue to respond to the feedback provided by the Minister for Local Government following any developments and progress in relation to the recommendations of the Municipal Monitor. Provisions for Council's future responses to the report have been included within the budget process through existing resources and service areas.

**Question 2 -**

**Person:** Mr Daryl Warren of Donald

**Question:**

Buloke Shire Aquatic Strategy -

In March 2025 Council embarked on an extensive Community Engagement process to develop a new Aquatic Strategy.

Numerous listening posts and calls for submissions were requested from the community.

We are now approaching the last Council meeting for 2025, with the next meeting scheduled for February 2026.

Could you advise if the Strategy has been completed and if so when will it be presented to the Council for consideration.

**Council Response:**

Council commenced an extensive community engagement process in March 2025 to inform the development of the Strategy, and we acknowledge the significant time and input contributed by community members throughout this process.

The completion of the Aquatic Strategy has experienced some delays due to a combination of factors, including delays from the engaged consultants and recent staff turnover, which has impacted Council's capacity to finalise the document.

Council officers are currently working to finalise the Strategy, with the intention of presenting it to Council for consideration at the March 2026 Council meeting.

We appreciate the community's patience and interest in this important piece of strategic work and will continue to provide updates as the Strategy progresses toward Council consideration.

## 7 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

### 7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant to CEO

**Directorate:** Office of the CEO

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

#### PURPOSE

To report on the Assembly of Councillors from 6 November 2025 - 3 December 2025.

#### MOTION

That Council note the Assembly of Councillors from 6 November 2025 - 3 December 2025.

**MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford**

**SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley**

**CARRIED.**  
**(R/25/125)**

Date/Time	Councillor Attendees	Meeting Type
19/11/2025 10:00am Wycheproof Senior Citizens	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt	Councillor Professional Development training
19/11/2025 7:00pm Wycheproof Hall Supper Room	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt	Council Meeting to Elect Mayor
19/11/2025 7:30pm Wycheproof Hall Supper Room	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt	Council Meeting
28/11/2025 10:00am Wycheproof Hall Supper Room	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt	Renewable Energy Workshop
3/12/2025 5:00pm Wycheproof Hall Supper Room	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt	Councillor Briefing

#### Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 5 November 2025
2. Attachment 7.1.2 - Councillor Briefing Record - 3 December 2025



## 7.2 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant to CEO

**Directorate:** Office of the CEO

**File No:**  
Governance

### 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 19 November 2025 Council Meeting resolutions.

### MOTION

That Council note the Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions documented in the report.

**MOVED:** Cr Bernadette Hogan

**SECONDED:** Cr Charmaine Delaney

**CARRIED.**  
**(R/25/126)**

### 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 19 November Council Meeting resolutions.

**Attachments:**

1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Council Resolution Action - Tabled at 17 December 2025 CM

## **8 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **8.1 MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

#### **8.1.1 DRAFT EVENT PLANNING GUIDE**

**Author's Title:** Coordinator Economic Development

**Directorate:** Community Development

**File No:** ED/08/11

#### **Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic Objective:**

- Vibrant and connected communities
- Strengthen community activity and connections
- Empower and support organisations to make a difference in their communities
- Prosperous and growing economy
- Promote Buloke as a great place to visit, live and invest

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Event Planning Guide to Councillors for endorsement to go on public exhibition from 18 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.

#### **SUMMARY**

The Draft Event Planning Guide has been developed to assist community groups and event organisers to better understand the legislative requirements, processes and best practices for holding events within Buloke Shire.

#### **MOTION**

That Council endorse the Draft Event Planning Guide to go on public exhibition from 18 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.

**MOVED:** Cr Alan Getley

**SECONDED:** Cr Bruce Stafford

**CARRIED.**  
**(R/25/127)**

**DISCUSSION**

The Draft Event Planning Guide provides a clear and practical framework for planning, assessing and delivering events in Buloke Shire. It has been developed through extensive engagement with community groups, event organisers and emergency services as well as cross-council departments.

The purpose of the guide is to encourage and support safer, more consistent and better managed events, while providing volunteers and organisers with a single point of reference for information and best practice.

**RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable.

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

**OPTIONS**

Council has the option to not endorse the Draft Event Planning Guide for public exhibition from 18 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Draft Event Planning Guide has been developed through a community engagement and consultation process that has been progressively underway since mid-2024.

Feedback received throughout this process has contributed to the continuous refinement of the guide to ensure it is practical, user-friendly, and aligned with current event management requirements.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The development of the Draft Event Planning Guide demonstrates a commitment to innovation and continuous improvement by providing a new resource to better support community groups and event organisers to deliver events in Buloke Shire.

**COLLABORATION**

The Draft Event Planning Guide has been developed in collaboration with local community groups, event organisers and emergency services as well as cross-council departments.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The preparation and public exhibition of the Draft Event Planning Guide will be delivered within existing operational budgets.

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

Not applicable.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

- Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision
- Council Plan 2025-2029
- Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Following a period of public exhibition, the final Event Planning Guide will be presented to Council for adoption.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

***Attachments:***

1. Attachment 8.1.1.1 - Draft Event Planning Guide

### 8.1.2 LEASE: COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AS REPRESENTED BY THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

**Author's Title:** Senior Engineer Buildings and Open Spaces

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and Delivery

**File No:** CR/20/17

#### **Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Built and natural environment

**Objective:** Caring for our environment

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to grant a lease to the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) for the land surrounding the Charlton Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at 212 Charlton – St Arnaud Road.

#### **SUMMARY**

Council held a lease with the Commonwealth of Australia from 2003 to 2023, the permitted use being for Installation, maintenance and usage of the AWS. The lease period ended on 15 July 2023 and a new lease is required to retain the AWS in Charlton. The terms of the previous lease were 10 years, with the option of one 10-year extension and a nominated annual lease fee of \$10 ex GST if demanded. For the life of the previous lease Council received \$0 from the Commonwealth of Australia as no invoices were issued by Buloke Shire Council.

The lease is proposed on Council owned land as detailed on the certificate(s) of title: Volume 10230 Folio 897, being Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 337537A, 212 Charlton-St Arnaud Road, Charlton VIC 3525.

The lease area is approximately 256m<sup>2</sup> (16m x 16m) surrounding the existing AWS infrastructure which is fenced off from the surrounding land. The land is part of the larger Charlton transfer station site, of which the AWS is located in the Council stack site area which has an independent access point and is separated from the transfer station by a locked gate.

The lease period proposed is 10 years with two further terms of 10 years each on request by the Bureau. These terms are requested by the Bureau to ensure long-term protection of their strategic assets. The commencement date of the new lease is backdated to the expiry of the previous lease, 16 July 2023 and would expire 15 July 2053 if both further terms are requested. Base rent is \$10 ex GST per annum (if demanded).

#### **MOTION**

That Council:

1. Grant a lease to the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) for the land surrounding the Charlton Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at 212 Charlton – St Arnaud Road on the following terms:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| a. | A 10 year lease commencing 16 July 2023, including two further terms of 10 years each, and |
| b. | Base rent is \$10 ex GST per annum (if demanded).  |
| 2. | Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to execute all lease documents           |
| 3. | Authorise the CEO to administer the lease in line with the terms and conditions.           |

**MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney**

**SECONDED: Cr Bruce Stafford**

**CARRIED.**  
**(R/25/128)**

## DISCUSSION

Existing AWS infrastructure is installed on Council owned land at 212 Charlton – St Arnaud Road. The Bureau held a lease over a fenced area of land immediately surrounding the AWS from 2003 to 2023. The proposed commencement date of the new lease is backdated to 16 July 2023 and expires 15 July 2033 with two further terms of 10 years each on request by the Bureau. Base rent is \$10 ex GST per annum (if demanded). The Bureau must pay all connection, separately metered usage and consumption charges for Utilities consumed in the Leased Area.

The base rent amount was suggested by the Bureau to remain the same as the previous lease. The duration of the lease and further terms were also suggested by the Bureau to ensure long-term protection of their strategic assets. Council officers have not negotiated these elements of the lease and present the original terms suggested by the Bureau. The Bureau provided the following commentary when issuing the draft lease.

*"The Bureau provides and distributes weather information for the public. The Bureau is not a commercial tenant, nor are we revenue making, and we have limited funding. The Bureau provides this essential service for the benefit of the public at no cost, but at a cost to itself with the installation and maintenance of existing AWS and monitoring equipment."*

The Permitted use included in the lease is as follows:

The administration and undertaking of the rights, powers, functions and/or obligations conferred or imposed upon the Bureau by the *Meteorology Act 1955*, the *Water Act 2007* or any other Law, including (but not limited to) the installation, inspection, renovation, repair, replacement, maintenance, upgrade, operation and dismantling of the Bureau's Property.

The Bureau is to have unrestricted access to and from the Leased Area at all times. The Bureau occupies and uses the Leased Area, uses the other parts of the Land and carries out all Works at the Bureau's own risk. Council must maintain the Land to a suitable condition to ensure that the Bureau and the Bureau's Invitees can safely access the Leased Area and acknowledges that the Bureau is the owner of the Bureau's Property at all times, even if it becomes attached to the Land.

## RELEVANT LAW

The *Local Government Act 2020*, Division 4 – Powers in relation to land, sets out Councils requirements for leasing land.

The Bureau operates under the authority of the *Meteorology Act 1955* and the *Water Act 2007*.

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The previous AWS lease was entered into by Council on 16/07/2003 and expired on 15/07/2023.

**OPTIONS**

The Council may elect not to grant this lease.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Charlton AWS provides information such as temperature, humidity, wind speed/direction, pressure and rainfall which assists with weather observations providing real time data. Stations such as these are critical for ongoing observations and forecasting by the Bureau.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement has not been undertaken regarding the proposed lease.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The lease allows the Bureau to upgrade the equipment installed on the site to ensure it is up to date with current technology.

**COLLABORATION**

Council collaborates with the Bureau and other relevant stakeholders through the Regional Water Monitoring Partnerships program which oversees infrastructure critical to flood monitoring.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The income derived from the leasing or licensing of Council facilities will be placed into Council's consolidated revenue and allocated in accordance with Council's annual budget. Income for the life of the lease would be a maximum of \$300.

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

The provision of the AWS infrastructure aligns with the Bureau's *Strategy 2022-2027* and its purpose statement:

It's our mission to provide trusted, reliable and responsive weather, water, climate and space weather services for Australia – all day, every day.

We are there for all Australians when it matters most – every day, everywhere.

In providing our services we:

- monitor and report on current conditions
- provide forecasts, warnings and long-term outlooks
- analyse and explain trends
- foster greater understanding and use of the information we provide
- continue to extend our understanding of, and ability to forecast, Australian conditions.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

The Leasing and Licencing of Council Facilities Policy was adopted by Council at its meeting held Wednesday, 14 December 2022.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Section 116 of the *Local Government Act 2020* allows Council to lease land to any public body with or without consideration. This excludes council from having to comply with the public notification and community engagement obligations required under Section 115 of the Act.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

***Attachments:***

1. Attachment 8.1.2.1 - Charlton AWS Lease for Execution



### 8.1.3 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

**Author's Title:** Coordinator Community Development & Facilities

**Directorate:** Community Development

**File No:** GS/09/42

**Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Vibrant and connected communities

**Objective:** Strengthen community activity and connections

Empower and support organisations to make a difference in their communities

#### PURPOSE

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

#### SUMMARY

Council allocates funds in its Annual Budget to support community initiatives that align with Council priorities and the Community Vision as outlined in the Council Plan.

The purpose of the grant categories is as follows:

- **Community Grants** – to support the strengthening of the capacity and capability of local organisations, assist with the organisation and management of events, or support the purchase of small capital items.
- **Sustainability Grants** – to support projects that reduce the community's carbon footprint, improve environmental outcomes, or conserve resources.

#### MOTION

That Council:

1. Approves the officer recommendation to part fund the following projects under the Community Grants Program:  
\$1,000 – Birchip Neighbourhood House Inc Project: Together for Christmas  
\$500 - Lions Club of Charlton Inc Project: Charlton Community Xmas Fest
2. Notes that a report will be presented to Council at a future meeting on the future of the Community Grants Program.

**MOVED:** Cr Bernadette Hogan

**SECONDED:** Cr Alan Getley

**CARRIED.**  
**(R/25/129)**

## DISCUSSION

Since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in November 2025, two applications have been assessed under the Community Grants Program.

The combined requested amount of the two applications totals \$2,980 however, there is currently only \$1,508 remaining in the Community Grants Annual Budget 2025–26.

In accordance with the Community Grants Program Guidelines, applications were assessed by a panel comprising three Council officers from across the Community Development Directorate. Based on assessment against the selection criteria, the panel recommends that the following applications are part funded due to the available funds currently remaining in the Community Grants budget.

Both applicants have stated in their applications that their projects are able to proceed with partial funding.

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Birchip Neighbourhood House Inc
<b>Project Title</b>	Together for Christmas
<b>Grant Type</b>	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	\$1,980
<b>Funding Amount Recommended</b>	\$1,000
<b>Full project cost</b>	\$9,806
<b>Project Description</b>	The Ecumenical Christmas Carol service and Community Meal
<b>What will the project/ event achieve</b>	The project will celebrate the true spirit of Christmas and reinforce Birchip's identity as a caring, inclusive and resilient community where everyone belongs
<b>Assessment Panel Scoring:</b>	20 + 16 + 16 = 52
<b>Average Score:</b>	17 out of 20

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Lions Club of Charlton Inc
<b>Project Title</b>	Charlton Community Xmas Fest
<b>Grant Type</b>	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	\$1,000
<b>Funding Amount Recommended</b>	\$500
<b>Full project cost</b>	\$3,645
<b>Project Description</b>	The combined service clubs of Charlton are working together to put on a fun Christmas event for the Charlton community.
<b>What will the project/ event achieve</b>	The project plans to attract all members of the community, especially families with children, to participate in festive activities.
<b>Assessment Panel Scoring:</b>	12 + 14 + 15 = 41
<b>Average Score:</b>	14 out of 20

The partial funding amounts recommended have been developed to ensure fair and equitable distribution of the remaining funds available in the Community Grants Annual Budget 2025-26 across the two applications.

Council officers are currently working with one applicant to support their eligibility under the Sustainability Grants category. This application will be presented to a future Council meeting for consideration.

**RELEVANT LAW**

Not Applicable

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not Applicable

**OPTIONS**

Council has the option to fully fund the two applications received however, this option will result in an overspend of \$1,472 of the Community Grants Annual Budget 2025-26.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Applicants were contacted by a Council officer if their application required additional information or clarification. The Community Grants Program is regularly promoted through the Council's website and social media channels, local radio and printed media.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The Community Grants Program is consistently assessed to identify any opportunities for continuous improvement and to ensure it reflects the needs of the community.

With the Community Grants Annual Budget 2025-26 now exhausted, an opportunity is available to review the Community Grants Program to identify improvements to the program, introduce best practice and reflect on the recommendations of the Municipal Monitors Report.

A report will be presented to Council at a future meeting on the future of the Community Grants Program.

**COLLABORATION**

Not Applicable

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The allocation of funds for the applications recommended for funding will come under the adopted Community Grants Program (\$20,000) and the Community Sustainability Grants (\$50,000) in Council's Annual Budget 2025-26.

The remaining Community Grants budget is currently \$1,508.00. The remaining Sustainability Grants budget is currently \$29,829.60.

If the recommendation is approved, there will be no further funds available to support future applications received for the Community Grants Program this financial year however funds are still available under the Sustainability Grants category.

As per the Community Grants Guidelines, *no further grants are to be issued once the pool is exhausted.*

To mitigate the potential impact on the community, the Community Grants Program was put on hold on 4 December 2025 until further notice. This has been communicated via Council's social media and Community Update.

Previous grants awarded for the 2025-26 financial year (by township) include:

Grant Amount	Community Group and Project Name	Type of Grant
<b>Birchip – 2 Projects – Allocated Funds - \$2,969</b>		
\$2,000	Birchip Playgroup Project: Strong Start Active Play for Birchip's Future	Project Support
\$969	Birchip Neighbourhood House Incorporated Wiggle & Giggle	Project Support
<b>Charlton – 8 Projects – Allocated Funds - \$9,673</b>		
\$2,000	Charlton Netball Club Inc. Charlton Netball Club: 1953-2025 A full colour Historical Publication	Project Support
\$1,000	Mallee Creatives (Auspice by Charlton Neighbourhood House) Project: Charlton Weekend Coffee Stop – Volunteer Training & Equipment Initiative	Small Capital Equipment
\$1,000	Charlton Neighbourhood House Project: Pickleball for all: Serving Community Connection Across the Court	Small Capital Equipment
\$1,273	Charlton Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc Project: Level up! - Gaming Events	Project Support
\$1,000	Charlton College Mental Health Awareness Month	Project Support
\$2,000	Charlton Bowling Club Inc Sun Smart Shades/Rollout Tarps	Project Support
\$1,000	Wheels on A79 (Auspiced by Charlton Neighbourhood House Inc) Project: Wheels on A79 Show & Shine	Project Support
\$400	Charlton Golden Grains Museum Project: Victorian Collections Training	Organisation Support
<b>Donald – 6 Projects – Allocated Funds - \$15,670</b>		
\$2,000	Donald Learning Group Incorporated Celebrating the Donald Cultural Connection	Project Support
\$500	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc Project: 2025 Donald Show	Sponsorship
\$2,000	Granite Community Church/ Donald Youth Group Project: Storage cupboard used for Youth Group	Project Support
\$1,000	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc. Project: Donald Show Photo Board Project	Small Capital Equipment
\$8,001	Donald Lawn Tennis Club Returning Service	Sustainability
\$2,169	Donald Men's Shed	Sustainability

	Project: Beating the Blues	
<b>Wycheproof – 2 Projects – Allocated Funds - \$10,350</b>		
\$350	Combined Probus Club of Wycheproof Inc. Project: Probus Wycheproof Christmas Lunch	Project Support
\$10,000	Calder United Football Netball Hockey Club Project: Make King of the Mount Sustainable	Sustainability

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

Not Applicable

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

- Buloke Shire Council Plan 2025-2029
- Community Grant Guidelines 2025
- Community Engagement Policy
- Community Support Policy

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

To promote transparency, Council will consider the recommendation in an open meeting.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**Attachments:** Nil

#### **8.1.4 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION PA25012 – CONSTRUCT TWO SHED ASSOCIATED WITH A SECTION 2 USE (PIG FARM) AND INCREASE IN PIG NUMBER TO 3534 – 376 MILLS ROAD, WHIRILY**

**Author's Title:** Planning Officer

**Directorate:** Community Development

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

##### **Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Built and natural environment

**Objective:** Caring for our environment

##### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present the Planning Permit Application PA25012 to Council to approve the issue of a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit.

##### **SUMMARY**

A planning permit application was received by Council on the 3 April, 2025 for the construction of two sheds associated with a Section 2 use (Pig farm) and an increase in the pig farm capacity.

The address for the application is 376 Mills Road, Whirily (Lot 2 PS605747).

The application is to expand the capacity of the piggery from 1318 pigs to 3534 pigs (3,588 Standard Pig Units (SPU)).

Two pig sheds are proposed with one shed being 24m x 28.5m, and the other being 23.3m x 28.5m. The proposed sheds are to be located close to the existing sheds and other infrastructure used in the existing pig farm.

One objection to the application has been received.

##### **MOTION**

That Council suspend standing orders to hear from any presenters who wish to address the meeting in relation to item 8.1.4.

**MOVED:** Cr Alan Getley

**SECONDED:** Cr Bernadette Hogan

**CARRIED.**  
**(R/25/130)**

**Public Participation:**

Robyn Tucker spoke in support of item 8.1.4 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION PA25012 - CONSTRUCT TWO SHEDS ASSOCIATED WITH A SECTION 2 USE (PIG FARM) AND INCREASE IN PIG NUMBER TO 3534 - 376 MILLS ROAD, WHIRILY

**MOTION**

That Council resumes standing orders and proceeds with the meeting.

**MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney**

**SECONDED: Cr Bruce Stafford**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/131)**

**MOTION**

That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. PA25012 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* issues a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit under the provisions of 35.07-1 and 35.07-4 of the Buloke Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as 376 Mills Road, Whirily (Lot 2 PS605747), for the construction of two sheds associated with a Section 2 use (pig farm) and increase in numbers from 1318 to 3534 pigs in accordance with the endorsed plans, with the application dated 3 April 2025, subject to the following conditions:

**Endorsed Plans**

1. The use and development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the responsible authority.
2. The permitted maximum capacity of the Pig farm is for 3,588 Standard Pig Units (SPU).
3. The use and development allowed by the permit must be undertaken in accordance with the:
  - i. Symbanks Pig Farm - Environmental Management Plan (Job No: 235) – Version 3, by Robyn Tucker of Livestock Environmental and Planning (LEAP), dated 8 November 2025
  - ii. National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries (NEGIP; Australian Pork Limited, 2025).
4. The use and development must be managed so that the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected, through the:
  - i. Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land
  - ii. Appearance of any building, works or materials
  - iii. Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
5. The use and development of the land must not interfere with surrounding existing uses, including agriculture.
6. External lighting must be designed, baffled and located so as to prevent any adverse effect on adjoining land to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

7. The appearance of the subject land, in the opinion of the responsible authority must not adversely affect the amenity of the local area.
8. The operator under this permit must control vermin and pests, including mosquitoes, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

**Access**

9. Suitable access must be provided for emergency vehicles both into and around the development. Roads must be constructed to a standard so that they are accessible in all weather conditions and capable of accommodating a vehicle of 15 tonnes for the trafficable road. The trafficable road width must be a minimum of 6 metres.
10. Before occupation of the development starts, the area(s) set aside for the parking of vehicles and access lanes as shown on the endorsed plans must be:
  - i. constructed
  - ii. properly formed to such levels that they can be used in accordance with the plans
  - iii. surfaced with an all-weather-access material to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

**Drainage**

11. All stormwater runoff from the proposed development hereby permitted must be disposed of onsite to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
12. No polluted and/or sediment laden run-off is to be discharged directly or indirectly into the responsible authority's drains or watercourses.
13. All works must be undertaken in a manner that minimises soil erosion, and any exposed areas of soil must be stabilised to prevent soil erosion, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

**Maintenance**

14. All buildings and works must be maintained in good order and appearance to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

**Referral Authority Conditions – Powercor**

15. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR).

**Notes:** Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.

16. Any buildings must comply with the clearances required by the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations.
17. Any construction work must comply with the Energy Safe Victoria's "No Go Zone" rules.

**Notes:** To apply for a permit to work go to our website:

<https://customer.portal.powercor.com.au/mysupply/CIAWQuickCalculator> and apply online through the No Go Zone Assessment.

18. The property owner/builder should contact Dial before you Dig, before any excavation works are undertaken on the property.

**Commencement of Permit**

19. This permit will operate from the issued date of this permit.



**Permit Expiry**

This permit as it relates to use and development will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- a. The development is not started within 2 years of the issued date of this permit.
- b. The development is not completed within 4 years of the issued date of this permit.
- c. The use does not start within 2 years of completion of the development.

In accordance with Section 69 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, an application may be submitted to the Responsible Authority for an extension of the periods referred to in this condition.

**Permit Notes**

It is your responsibility to ensure all other authorisations are obtained prior to any works commencing. This may include Building, Engineering and Local Laws Permits. You are also required to abide by any State and Federal Legislation in relation to your approved proposal.

**MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan**

**SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/132)**

**DISCUSSION**

The pig farm, located at 376 Mills Road, Whirily (Lot 2 PS605747), currently consists of a combination of conventional sheds and deep litter shelters.

- Conventional housing accommodates pigs within steel-framed sheds with walls that are half solid and half nylon curtain, iron roofing and slatted flooring over concreted under-floor pits fitted with pull plugs. The conventional sheds produce liquid effluent that is captured in a holding pond that is pumped out monthly.
- Deep litter housing accommodates pigs in simple sheds or shelters. The floor of the shelters is concreted, and straw bedding is placed over the base to absorb manure and spilt feed and water. These sheds produce spent bedding but no liquid effluent.

The application is to increase the current herd size to 3,534 pigs.

This requires the construction of the two new conventional sheds. In future, all breeding stock and suckers will be kept in conventional housing and all weaned progeny will be kept in deep litter housing.

In the conventional housing effluent is stored within the under-floor pits and released every two to four weeks. The discharged effluent is directed into a small pond at the southern end of the piggery where it is temporarily stored until it can be irrigated. This pond is not intended to provide treatment or long-term storage; its purpose is just to hold the effluent until it can be pumped onto land. To ensure there is sufficient capacity to store effluent in wet periods, it is proposed to widen the pond on the northern side so the pond has an average width of 8.5 m.

The applicant proposes to use the nutrients in the effluent to produce grain, pulses and straw that can be used within the piggery.

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**Subject site & locality**

An inspection of the site and the surrounding area has been undertaken.

The site has a total area of 62.89 hectares and currently contains:

- Pig farm shedding and associated infrastructure.
- Shedding, silos and other farm infrastructure associated with broadacre farming and grazing.
- Two dwellings occupied by the farming families. (one of the dwellings is on a separate allotment)
- Some existing native vegetation
- Remainder of allotment is use for broadacre farming

The main site/locality characteristics are:

- The surrounding land is farming and grazing land, generally consisting of large agricultural allotments.
- The nearest dwelling in separate ownership is located approximately 2km to the north of the subject land.
- The property is located 16km to the north east of Birchip, and 11.5km south west of Nullawil.

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### **Permit/Site History**

The history of the site includes:

- PPA803/19 - Construction of Dry Sow Accommodation and associated works
- PPA693/17 – Farrowing shed
- Various building permits

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### **Assessment**

The land is zoned Farming Zone (FZ). The purpose of the Farming Zone is to:

- implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- provide for the use of land for agriculture.
- encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.
- encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
- encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.
- provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.

*A planning permit is required to change the use (increase numbers) and for building and works associated with a Section 2 use.*

<b>Decision Guidelines – Farming Zone</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.	<i>These have been considered, please refer to details below.</i>
Any Regional Catchment Strategy and associated plan applying to the land.	<i>n/a</i>
The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.	<i>The property is a large (62ha) agricultural allotment. The development footprint is relatively small, and stormwater is able to be disposed of within the allotment.</i>

	<p><i>The effluent from the pig farm is caught in an effluent pond and then spread on the families cropping paddocks providing nutrients.</i></p> <p><i>The bedding from the deep litter housing is stockpiled prior to being spread on the cropping paddocks.</i></p> <p><i>Further details on this can be found in the Environmental Management Plan.</i></p>
How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.	<i>The combined grain and piggery operation represent sustainable land management as the piggery operation provides nutrients to the grain paddocks, and grain produced by the cropping operation is fed to the pigs.</i>
Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.	<i>The site is suitable. The piggery is operating on the site in a satisfactory way. The use is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses</i>
How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.	<i>The existing piggery is connected to infrastructure and services.</i>
Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.	<i>The increase in the capacity of the piggery will increase agricultural production. The increase level of effluent and spent bedding available to spread on cropping land may increase grain production.</i>
Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.	<i>The use will be managed so that soil quality will not be adversely affected. Land housing the development will not be available for soil-based agriculture, but no land will be removed from agricultural production. Land not being developed for the pig farm will continue to be used for agricultural production.</i>
The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.	<i>The proposed expansion to the pig farm will not affect surrounding and nearby agricultural uses</i>
The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.	<i>The site has the capacity to sustain the use.</i>
The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure.	<i>The subject land consists of high-quality farming soil and has good access to water and infrastructure.</i>

The impact of the use or development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.	<i>The use and development will have minimal impact on flora and fauna on the site. The site currently contains the existing piggery and farming land.</i>
The need to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area, including the retention of vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to revegetate land including riparian buffers along waterways, gullies, ridgelines, property boundaries and saline discharge and recharge area.	<i>No native vegetation is proposed to be removed.</i>
The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.	<i>On site effluent disposal areas will not impact on waterways or native vegetation. Effluent is spread on cropping paddocks and nutrients are taken up by the crops. Spent bedding is also broadcast, only being stored on the hardstand until conditions are suitable for broadcast onto cropping land.</i>
The need to locate buildings in one area to avoid any adverse impacts on surrounding agricultural uses and to minimise the loss of productive agricultural land.	<i>The proposed buildings are to be located in close proximity to the existing piggery buildings. The buildings are to be operated in conjunction with the existing piggery. No cropping land will be lost as a result of this piggery expansion.</i>
The impact of the siting, design, height, bulk, colours and materials to be used, on the natural environment, major roads, vistas and water features and the measures to be undertaken to minimise any adverse impacts.	<i>The development will not impact on any important vistas and will not impact on typical tourist or visitor routes. The piggery has been in existence for a number of years and it is considered that the addition of two further sheds will not significantly alter the visual impact of the piggery.</i>
The impact on the character and appearance of the area or features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance.	<i>The development will not impact on features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance. The piggery is an intensive agricultural land use, but not uncommon in the municipal district. It is considered that the local character will not be significantly impacted.</i>
The location and design of existing and proposed infrastructure including roads, gas, water, drainage, telecommunications and sewerage facilities.	<i>Services necessary to the development are available at the site and are being utilised in the existing piggery.</i>
Whether the use and development will require traffic management measures.	<i>No specific traffic management measures are required.</i>

**Policy****Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS)**

The following Municipal Planning Strategies have been considered as part of this application:

### **02.03 Strategic directions**

#### **02.03-4 Natural resource management**

Council's strategic directions for natural resource management are:

- Sustainably managing natural resources and agricultural land.
- Protecting valuable agricultural land from inappropriate development.
- Encouraging sustainable farming practices.
- Supporting, promoting and facilitating sustainable, diverse and viable agriculture to provide for long-term economic, social and environmental health.

#### **02.03-6 Economic development**

Council's strategic directions for economic development include:

- Encouraging and managing sustainable agriculture as the economic foundation of the municipality.

### ***Planning Policy Framework (PPF)***

The following Planning Policy Framework have been considered as part of this application:

### **13 Environmental Risks and Amenity**

#### **13.06-1S Air quality management**

Strategies include ensuring that there is suitable separation between land uses that pose a human health risk or reduce amenity due to air pollutants, and sensitive land uses.

### **14 Natural Resource Management**

#### **14.01-1L-01 Protection of agricultural land**

Strategies include:

- Discourage the fragmentation of agricultural land.
- Discourage use and development in the Farming Zone that:
  - Alienates agricultural resources.
  - Is sensitive to off-site effects from agriculture such as sprays and odour.
  - Lessens the capacity of essential infrastructure.
  - Prejudices agricultural resources and agricultural production.
- Provide buffers on the subject site for proposals that are potentially sensitive to normal activities in agricultural areas.
- Locate buildings or works so as to avoid or minimise loss of good quality agricultural land.

#### **14.01-2S Sustainable agricultural land use**

Strategies include:

- Ensure agricultural and productive rural land use activities are managed to maintain the long-term sustainable use and management of existing natural resources.
- Facilitate ongoing productivity and investment in high value agriculture.
- Facilitate the establishment and expansion of cattle feedlots, pig farms, poultry farms and other intensive animal industries in a manner consistent with orderly and proper planning and protection of the environment.

**14.01-2R Agricultural Productivity – Loddon Mallee North**

Strategies include:

- Support emerging agribusinesses and location clusters, including intensive animal industries.

**14.01-2L Sustainable agriculture and rural industry**

Strategies include:

- Encourage and support innovative agricultural opportunities arising from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline water supply.
- Encourage and support innovative agriculture, agricultural diversification and sustainable farming practices, especially where they respond or adapt to the effects of climate change.

**15 Built Environment and Heritage****15.01-6S Design for rural areas**

Strategies are:

- Ensure that the siting, scale and appearance of development protects and enhances rural character.
- Protect the visual amenity of valued rural landscapes and character areas along township approaches and sensitive tourist routes by ensuring new development is sympathetically located.
- Site and design development to minimise visual impacts on surrounding natural scenery and landscape features including ridgelines, hill tops, waterways, lakes and wetlands.

**17 Economic development****17.01-1S Diversified economy**

Strategies include:

- Facilitate growth in a range of employment sectors, including health, education, retail, tourism, knowledge industries and professional and technical services based on the emerging and existing strengths of each region.
- Improve access to jobs closer to where people live.
- Support rural economies to grow and diversify.

**17.01-1R Diversified economy – Loddon Mallee North**

Strategies include:

- Support further diversification of the primary production, service, manufacturing and tourism industries.

*The proposed use and development is consistent with the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*

**Relevant Particular Provisions****Clause 53.16 Pig Farm**

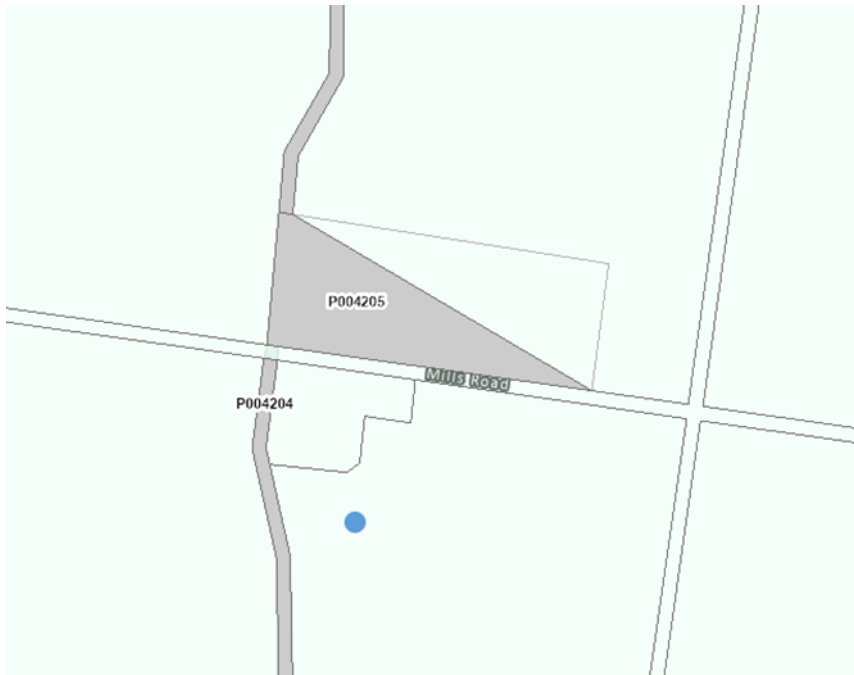
<b>Decision Guidelines - Clause 53.16</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The purpose of the relevant zone.	<i>The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the zone.</i>
The design, height, setback and appearance of the proposed buildings and works.	<i>The design, height, setback and appearance of the proposed buildings are appropriate. The proposed</i>

	<i>sheds are typical of sheds found in the Farming Zone in the Municipality.</i>
The proposed landscaping.	<i>No landscaping is proposed as part of this application. Trees have been established around the farm sheds and the piggery building as part of previous tree planting programs</i>
The need to protect amenity of existing uses on adjoining land.	<i>The expansion of the piggery will not have a significant impact on the amenity of the area. The nearest dwelling in separate ownership is located approximately 2km to the north of the subject land.</i>
The impact of the use of the land on the surrounding area, including from the emission of noise, light, vibration, odour, dust, or waste products.	<i>The expansion of the piggery will not significantly alter the impact on the surrounding area from the emission of noise, light, vibration, odour, dust, or waste products.</i>
The impact of the proposal on any wetlands, waterways or water bodies.	<i>The expansion of the piggery will not have an impact on any wetlands, waterways or water bodies.</i>
The likely environmental impact on the natural physical features and biodiversity of the land, including consideration of any Nutrient Management Plan submitted with the application.	<i>No nutrient management plan has been submitted with the application. The operators have some 5,000 acres (~2,023 ha) of cropping land at the piggery site or nearby. This area is adequate to dispose of effluent produced by the piggery. The relevant information regarding the balance of nutrients applied and nutrients used by the cropping program is provided at 7.4.2 and 7.4.5 of the Environmental Management Plan.</i>
Whether the development will support and enhance agricultural production.	<i>The proposal will increase agricultural production. The piggery output will increase crop yields as it will benefit from the extra nutrients and organic matter available to be applied to the cropping land.</i>
The requirements of the Victorian Low Density Mobile Outdoor Pig Farm Planning Permit Guidelines (June 2018).	<i>The piggery is not a low-density outdoor pig farm.</i>

### ***The decision guidelines of Clause 65***

Before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate

<b>Decision Guidelines</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Any significant effects the environment, including the contamination of land, may have on the use or development.	<i>The subject land is not likely to be contaminated and is not highlighted on the EPA Register.</i>
The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.	<i>These have been considered in more detail above.</i>
The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.	<i>The proposed increase in capacity of the land use and the development are consistent with the purpose of the zone.</i>
Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.	<i>The decision guidelines have been considered in this report.</i>

The orderly planning of the area.	<i>The proposal represents orderly planning.</i>
The effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area.	<i>The development will not have a significant effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area. An objection has been received to the application raising a human health issue in relation to Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV). Planning officers are satisfied that the proposed increase in piggery capacity will not increase the risk of Japanese Encephalitis risk to human health. There is an operating piggery currently on site. The existing piggery will continue to operate no matter the outcome of this application. The increase in capacity of the pig farm will not introduce any change in management practices that will increase the risk of JEV to human health in the area.</i>
The proximity of the land to any public land.	<i>There is a public reserve to the north of the subject land and a reserve running north-south along the western border of the allotment. The reserve contained the Morton Plains -Kaneira channel at the time the earthen channel system was used.  The proposal will have no effect on the public land.</i>
 <p><i>Image sourced from VicPlan interactive mapping showing public land (blue dot approx. piggery location)</i></p>	
Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.	<i>The proposal will not cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality. Effluent and spent bedding are utilised on the cropping lands and will not contribute to land degradation.</i>



Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.	<i>Stormwater will not exit the allotment boundary. Stormwater from the proposed shedding will not be of poor quality.</i>
The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.	<i>Not applicable – no vegetation is to be removed.</i>
Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.	<i>Not applicable – no vegetation is to be removed.</i>
The degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to minimise any such hazard.	<i>The risk of flood, erosion or fire hazard will not be significantly increased. No new management practices are being introduced that will increase risk. The building regulations may require fire safety measures.</i>
The adequacy of loading and unloading facilities and any associated amenity, traffic flow and road safety impacts.	<i>There is adequate loading and unloading facilities. There will be increased traffic movements associated with the expansion of the piggery. The piggery is located in an area of low traffic, and it is not considered that there will be a significant impact on amenity, traffic flow or road safety.</i>
The impact the use or development will have on the current and future development and operation of the transport system.	<i>The use and development will not have a major impact on the current and future development of the transport system.</i>

***Other relevant adopted State policies/strategies – (e.g. Melbourne 2030.)***

Not Applicable

***Relevant incorporated or reference documents***

Not Applicable

***Relevant Planning Scheme amendments***

Not Applicable

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***Summary of Key Issues***

The expansion of the piggery is consistent with the purpose of the zone and with policy in the Buloke Planning Scheme. The piggery takes advantage of existing services and is appropriately setback from adjoining land uses.

An objection to the application has been received in relation to Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) risk. The ongoing operation of the existing piggery is not under consideration as part of this application. The increase in capacity of the piggery and the construction of two further piggery buildings does not introduce any change to management practices, or changes in environmental conditions that would significantly alter the JEV risk to human health.

**RELEVANT LAW**

The application is being assessed in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not Applicable

**OPTIONS**

Council has the option to issue a Notice of Refusal.

*Alternative motion:*

*That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. PA25012 to be given under Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 refuses to Grant a Permit under the provisions of 35.07-1 and 35.07-4 of the Buloke Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as 376 Mills Road, Whirily (Lot 2 PS605747), for the construction of two sheds associated with a Section 2 use (pig farm) and increase in numbers from 1318 to 3534 pigs in accordance with the endorsed plans, with the application dated 3 April 2025.*

*For the following reasons: (Council to supply the grounds on which the application was refused)*

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not Applicable

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The application has been advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by:

- Sending one notice to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land.
- Notice in the locally circulating newspapers

The notification has been carried out correctly.

Council has received one objection to date. The key issues that were raised in the objections are:

- increasing the risk of Japanese Encephalitis Virus on the community and the animals themselves

Consultation

- The applicant was provided with the objection and an opportunity to respond to the objection.
- The applicant provided a response, and the response was forwarded to the objector, along with a form to withdraw their objection.
- The objector has indicated that the objection will stand.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not Applicable

**COLLABORATION**

External Referrals/Notices Required by the Planning Scheme:

Referrals/Notice	Advice/Response/Conditions
Section 55 Referrals	Powercor – no objection subject to conditions
Section 52 notices	Agriculture Victoria – no objection – recommends conditions

Internal Council Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Assets and Infrastructure	No objection
Municipal Building Surveyor	No objection – building permit required – comments provided

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

There are no significant budgetary implications or considerations in the approval to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit.

There, however, may be costs associated with a VCAT appeal if that process occurs.

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

- Municipal Planning Strategy
- Planning Policy Framework

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

- Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision
- Council Plan 2025-2029

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

In order to promote transparency, Council will consider this resolution in an open meeting.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

***Attachments:***

1. Attachment 8.1.4.1 - 287 Whirily Piggery EMP 3 Redacted
2. Attachment 8.1.4.2 - Nathan Kemp Site Plan Rev 1
3. Attachment 8.1.4.3 - P A 25012 - Whirily pig farm expansion - Applicant response to objector
4. Attachment 8.1.4.4 - P A 25012 objection received 08.11.25

### 8.1.5 CONTRACT AWARD - CONTRACT C130 2025/26 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ROAD MAKING MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS

**Author's Title:** Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and Delivery

**File No:** RO/06/45

#### **Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Built and natural environment

**Objective:** Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks

Council leadership and engagement

Responsible leadership and decision making

#### **PURPOSE**

This report is presented to Council to consider the creation of a panel of contractors for the provision of road making materials as set out in Contract C130 2025/26 – Supply and Delivery of Road Making Materials.

#### **SUMMARY**

The Buloke Shire Council invited Tenders from experienced contractors for the supply and/or delivery of roadmaking materials and products for use in the upkeep and maintenance of the Council's road network including (but not limited to):

- *gravel - quartz, sandstone, limestone and other*
- *quarry products - crushed rock, aggregate, beaching and other*
- *concrete products – pipes, box culverts, endwalls, wingwalls, pits and other*
- *bituminous products – emulsion, cold mix asphalt*
- *polymer binding agents and dust suppressant products*
- *concrete supply and cartage*
- *cartage rates for delivery of roadmaking materials and products*

This is a panel contract with the intent that successful tenderers would have a list of products at defined prices available for Council staff to use for the maintenance of the Council's road network as required.

#### **MOTION**

That Council:

1. Awards the panel contract of Contract C130 2025/26 – Supply and Delivery of Road Making Materials to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Allstone Quarries</li><li>b. AP Earthmoving</li><li>c. Boral Construction Materials</li><li>d. Central Vic Precast</li><li>e. Colas Australia Group</li><li>f. Downer EDI</li><li>g. EB Mawsons</li><li>h. Forest Springs</li><li>i. Fulton Hogan</li><li>j. Gravel Lock</li><li>k. Gregs Digging</li><li>l. Harril (Coburn)</li><li>m. Reeves Earthmoving</li><li>n. Unyte Southern</li><li>o. Whitfield Excavations</li></ul>	
2.	Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Contract documents on behalf of Council.
3.	Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve payments to the Contractor for undertaking the works associated with the Contract.
4.	Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve all variations under the Contract.
5.	Notes and declares the attachments to this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (g) (ii) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage as described in s 3(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .
<b>MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney</b>	
<b>SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan</b>	
<b>CARRIED.</b>	
<b>(R/25/133)</b>	

## DISCUSSION

This contract is for the establishment of a panel of road making material suppliers which Council could engage when required in a cost-effective manner, at agreed rates. A previous panel contract for road making materials expired on 30 June 2025.

The new contract is structured as a schedule of rates panel contract with a term of three years, with the ability for Council to refresh the panel of suppliers on a yearly basis to enable new suppliers to be included.

At the close of the submission period, fifteen (15) submissions were lodged via Council's electronic tender box and were provided for evaluation to the Tender Evaluation Panel.

The evaluation report (attached) details the submissions received in relation to this tender, the evaluation criteria used to evaluate, and the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel.

The evaluated conforming tender submissions received for Contract C130 2025/26 – Supply and Delivery of Road Making Materials confirmed all tenderers were suitably qualified and experienced to meet the requirements of the invitation and specifications.

It is recommended that Council appoint the recommended tenderers arising from the evaluation for the establishment of a panel. These tenderers would provide the best value to Council, provide the range of services required in different parts of the Shire, and enabling them to be engaged on a case-by-case basis

**RELEVANT LAW**

The tender process was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Council's Procurement Policy.

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

There are no previous Council Decisions related to this matter.

**OPTIONS**

Option 1: Award the contract in line with the Officer Recommendation.

Option 2: Not award the contract and return to the market to seek tender responses to complete the works required to remediate flood impacted road infrastructure. This option is not recommended as it is considered the recommended Contractor has the necessary experience and capability to complete the works to a high-quality standard and provides best value to Council in completing the works.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no identified sustainability implications relating to this matter.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable to this report.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

There are no innovation and/or continuous improvement opportunities identified relating to this matter.

**COLLABORATION**

No opportunities for collaboration were available at the time this tender was released to market.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The awarding of the panel contract to incorporate multiply suppliers will not have any financial implications to Council as the Contract does not guarantee any works or provision of goods and materials. The panel contract provides options for Council to engage contractors for the supply and/or delivery of road making materials as required in an efficient and effective manner.

The supply and/or delivery of road making materials will be sourced from the panel of contractors as required where budgets have been pre-approved via the annual adopted budget.

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

Not applicable to this report.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision  
Council Plan 2025-2029  
Council's Procurement Policy

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The contents of the attached report are confidential in order to protect the tender's commercial information.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have signed a Conflict-of-Interest declaration relating to the subject matter of this report. No General or Material Conflict of Interest was identified that impacted on the panel members completing the evaluation process.

***Attachments:***

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 8.1.5.1 - C 130 - Evaluation Panel Report

## 8.1.6 CONTRACT AWARD - CONTRACT C134 2025/26 – FRRW - VARIOUS ROAD WORKS – BERRIWILLOCK & WOOMELANG AREAS

**Author's Title:** Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and Delivery

**File No:** RO/06/47

### **Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Built and natural environment

**Objective:** Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks

Council leadership and engagement

Responsible leadership and decision making

### **PURPOSE**

This report is presented to Council to consider the award of Contract C134 2025/26 – FRRW – Various Road Works – Berriwillock & Woomelang Areas relating to the rehabilitation of sections of Berriwillock Woomelang, Berriwillock Springfield, Willangie-Woomelang roads impacted by the October 2022 flooding events.

### **SUMMARY**

The Shire of Buloke has been impacted by severe weather events declared as natural disasters on numerous occasions. The three events that remain in the recovery phase occurred on 6 October 2022 (1037 - Flooding), 24 December 2023 (1096 - Flooding) and 13 February 2024 (1108 – Bushfires and Storms).

The declared events resulted in significant damage to critical infrastructure, in particular Council's road network. The works contained within the Contract include the rehabilitation of flood damage identified on;

- Berriwillock Woomelang Road between Ch 15.015km to Ch 15.755km,
- Berriwillock Springfield Road between Ch 5.045km and Ch 5.845 km and
- Willangie-Woomelang Road between Ch 8.600km and Ch 8.800km.

### **MOTION**

That Council:

1. Award Contract C134 2025/26 – FRRW – Various Road Works – Berriwillock & Woomelang Areas to **Harril Pty Ltd T/A Coburns Earthmoving** for \$900,004 (excluding GST),
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Contract documents on behalf of Council,



3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve payments to the Contractor for undertaking the works associated with the Contract,
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve all variations under the Contract, and
5. Notes and declares the attachments to this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (g) (ii) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage as described in s 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**MOVED: Cr Alan Getley**

**SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/134)**

## **DISCUSSION**

At the close of the submission period, nine (9) submissions were lodged via Council's electronic tender box and were provided for evaluation to the Tender Evaluation Panel.

The evaluation report attached details the submissions received in relation to this tender, the evaluation criteria used to evaluate, and the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel.

The evaluated conforming tender submissions received for Contract C134 2025/26 - FRRW – Various Road Works - Berriwillock & Woomelang Areas confirmed all tenderers were suitably qualified and experienced to deliver the works required by the contract in accordance with specifications, however the tender prices ranged considerably.

During the evaluation process Harril Pty Ltd T/A Coburns Earthmoving scored the highest weighted score, they were not the lowest conforming tender price, but their submission was deemed by the evaluation panel to represent the best value for money for all works contained within the contract and therefore was shortlisted as the preferred tenderer.

At the conclusion of the evaluation process the evaluation panel were satisfied Harril Pty Ltd T/A Coburns Earthmoving tender submission showed they have the plant, equipment and personnel to undertake the works and therefore recommended Harril Pty Ltd T/A Coburns Earthmoving be awarded Contract C134 2025/26 - FRRW – Various Road Works - Berriwillock & Woomelang Areas.

Harril Pty Ltd T/A Coburns Earthmoving has extensive experience with similar projects including flood recovery works and has completed works to a high-quality standard for Buloke Shire Council.

## **RELEVANT LAW**

The tender process was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Procurement Policy.

## **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

There are no previous Council Decisions related to this matter.

**OPTIONS**

Option 1: Award the contract in line with the Officer Recommendation.

Option 2: Not award the contract and return to the market to seek tender responses to complete the works required to remediate flood impacted road infrastructure. This option is not recommended as it is considered the recommended Contractor has the necessary experience and capability to complete the works to a high quality standard and provides best value to Council in completing the works.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no identified sustainability implications relating to this matter.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The community will be informed of works to be completed if they are likely to be impacted or inconvenienced.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

There are no innovation and/or continuous improvement opportunities identified relating to this matter.

**COLLABORATION**

No opportunities for collaboration were available at the time this tender was released to market.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

This Contract forms part of the AGRN-1037 Flood Recovery program. The sections that have been assessed as flood impacted total 1,740 lineal metres, and for the reinstatement of the existing road pavement the assessing authority, DTP has confirmed a total available funding for construction of \$1,262,544 (Berriwillock Woomelang Road \$559,300, Berriwillock Springfield Road \$541,797, Willangie-Woomelang Road \$161,447).

Council recognises Berriwillock Woomelang and Berriwillock Springfield Roads as strategic roads within our road hierarchy (Willangie-Woomelang Road will remain at 4m wide seal), and determined to undertake upgrade works to widen the seal width to 6.2 metres as part of the scope of this Contract.

As per the DRFA requirements the funding is limited to sections where flood damage has been formally identified, and Council is required to find alternative funding for upgrade and non-flood related damage. The upgrade of the 1,540 lineal metres is estimated as \$194,393 to widen these same sections to 6.2 m seal.

Buloke Shires Council's commitment to the upgrade component of the contract is the sum of \$194,393 to be funded from the \$1.9 million 2025/2026 road rehabilitation budget and will rehabilitate and widen the 1,540 meters on Berriwillock Woomelang and Berriwillock Springfield Roads.

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

Not applicable to this report.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision  
Council Plan 2025-2029  
Council's Procurement Policy

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The contents of the attached report are confidential in order to protect the tender's commercial information.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have signed a Conflict of Interest declaration relating to the subject matter of this report. No General or Material Conflict of Interest was identified that impacted on the panel members completing the evaluation process.

***Attachments:***

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 8.1.6.1 - C 134 - Evaluation Panel Report

### 8.1.7 TEMPORARY INCREASE TO CEO FINANCIAL DELEGATION

**Author's Title:** Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and Delivery

**File No:** PE/02/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Council leadership and engagement

**Objective:** Responsible leadership and decision making

#### PURPOSE

To consider the temporary increase to the Chief Executive Officer's financial delegation to enable the award of contracts to facilitate the efficient reinstatement of Council's flood impacted road network.

#### SUMMARY

The Shire of Buloke was impacted by severe weather events on numerous occasions on 6 October 2022 (1037 - Flooding), 24 December 2023 (1096 - Flooding) and 13 February 2024 (1108 – Storm).

The declared events resulted in significant damage to critical infrastructure, in particular to the Council's road network.

Council has a fit for purpose Procurement Policy which enables staff to procure works, goods and services as required to deliver Council's services and projects. As detailed within the Procurement Policy, various Council Officers and the CEO can also approve spending and award contracts within the prescribed financial delegations set via Council resolution.

The current financial delegation provided to the CEO is \$300,000 excluding GST, for any procurement and contract award over this value the decision to award a contract must be made by resolution of Council.

There is an opportunity identified to reduce the procurement timeframe by up to 7 weeks via the temporary increase to the financial delegation provided to the CEO to a recommended financial delegation limit of \$1,500,000 excluding GST.

#### MOTION

That Council:

1. Increase the Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer from \$300,000 (excluding GST) to \$1,500,000 (excluding GST).
2. Authorised the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the increased financial delegation of \$1,500,000 (excluding GST) for the procurement of goods, services and works only when the following conditions are satisfied:
  - a. contracts and works are directly related to projects associated with the 2022 and 2023 flood events, namely;
    - i. AGRN 1037 (October 2022 Flooding Event).

ii. AGRN 1096 (December 2023 Flooding Event).	
b.	Council Flood Support Fund Approved Works Schedule (AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096, AGRN 1108).
c.	Funded flood studies and Laser imaging Detection and Ranging projects (funded due to the 2022 and 2023 flood events).
3.	Receive a report at the next available Council Meeting clearly identifying each Contract awarded via the exercising of the temporary increased financial delegation.
4.	Authorises the temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation up to 30 June 2027, or earlier by resolution of Council.
<b>MOVED: Cr Alan Getley</b>	
<b>SECONDED: Cr Bruce Stafford</b>	
<b>CARRIED.</b>	
<b>(R/25/135)</b>	

## DISCUSSION

The process for establishing the extent of reinstatement works eligible for funding via DRFA has been a long and protracted exercise, which has largely resulted in Council only recently starting to seek tender submissions and award contracts to deliver the approved scope of flood reinstatement works for our road network. While the time delay to get to this stage has been frustrating, the Flood Recovery team is looking at opportunities to progress the procurement and award of contracts to enable road reinstatement to be completed as quickly as practicable.

The current timeframes relating to the procurement and award of contract is set out as follows;

1. Finalisation of Request for Tender (RFT) documentation prior to advertising (2 weeks)
2. Release tender to market and invite submissions from contractors (4 weeks)
3. Evaluation report including recommendation (minimum 2 weeks)
4. Council Briefing Report (ranges from 1 to 5 weeks depending on when the next available Council Briefings is scheduled – this is typically impacted by misalignment of procurement stages above).
5. Council Meeting Report (2 weeks following Council Briefing).

The opportunity identified is to reduce the procurement timeframe by up to 7 weeks via the temporary increase to the financial delegation provided to the CEO to a recommended financial delegation limit of \$1,500,000 excluding GST.

It is proposed the temporary increase to the financial delegation provided to the CEO be conditional and limited to its application, with the suggested conditions and limitations outlined below;

- Financial delegation provided to the CEO of \$1,500,000 excluding GST is only applicable to contracts and works directly related to projects associated with the 2022 and 2023 flood events, namely;
- AGRN 1037 (October 2022 Flooding Event)
- AGRN 1096 (December 2023 Flooding Event)
- Council Flood Support Fund Approved Works Schedule (AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096, AGRN 1108)
- Funded flood studies and lidar projects (funded due to the 2022 and 2023 flood events)
- A report is presented at the next available Council Meeting clearly identifying each Contract awarded via the exercising of the temporary increased financial delegation.
- The temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation will expire by 30 June 2027, or earlier by resolution of Council.

**RELEVANT LAW**

The tender processes were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Council's Procurement Policy

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

There are no previous Council Decisions related to this matter.

**OPTIONS**

Option 1: Council provides conditional approval for the CEO financial delegation to be increased from \$300,000 excluding GST to \$1,500,000 excluding GST.

Option 2: Council does not approve the conditional increase to the CEO financial delegation.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no identified sustainability implications relating to this matter.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable to this report.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

There are no innovation and/or continuous improvement opportunities identified relating to this matter.

**COLLABORATION**

No opportunities for collaboration were available at the time this tender was released to market.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

There would be no financial implications if the financial delegations were increased as detailed within this report.

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

Not applicable to this report.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Council's Procurement Policy

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The consideration of this matter in an open Council Meeting ensures Council decisions are made in full view of the community.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

**Attachments:** Nil

### 8.1.8 STATUS OF THE MUNICIPAL MONITOR'S REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**Author's Title:** Acting Manager Governance

**Directorate:** Corporate and Organisational Performance

**File No:** GR/15/03

#### **Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Council leadership and engagement

**Objective:** Responsible leadership and decision making

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide the Council with the Municipal Monitor's Final Report Recommendations – Implementation Plan and Status Report.

#### **SUMMARY**

On 31 January 2025, the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Council with the report from the Municipal Monitor (Attachment A) accompanied by correspondence containing Governance Directions from the Minister in accordance with s175 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The correspondence outlined a series of actions requiring attention from the Council in the coming months with information to be provided every six months (July and December) for a period of two years.

The report prepared by the Municipal Monitor to the Minister for Local Government (Attachment A) provided a number of findings and conclusions.

#### **MOTION**

That Council:

1. Notes the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Council a copy of the report prepared by Peter Harriott, Municipal Monitor on 31 January 2025 Attachment A to this report and that a copy of this report is available on the Local Government Victoria website.
2. Submits the Municipal Monitor's Final Report Recommendations – Implementation Plan and Status Report Attachment B to this report to the Minister for Local Government by 31 December 2025.

**MOVED:** Cr Bernadette Hogan

**SECONDED:** Cr Charmaine Delaney

**CARRIED.**  
**(R/25/136)**

## DISCUSSION

The Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Melissa Horne MP on the 6 May 2024 appointed Mr Peter Harriott as a Municipal Monitor to the Buloke Shire Council on the 9 May 2024 for a period up to the 31 December 2024.

The appointment was made under section 179 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The appointment followed concerns in relation to Behaviour and Governance standards of the council.

On 31 January 2025, the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Council with the report from the Municipal Monitor (Attachment A) accompanied by correspondence containing Governance Directions from the Minister in accordance with s175 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The report prepared by the Municipal Monitor to the Minister for Local Government (Attachment 1) provided a number of findings and conclusions including, but not limited to:

- i) Ensures that adherence to organisational values is embedded in annual staff performance reviews.
- ii) Ensures that councillors and staff are aware of avenues to report poor councillor and staff behaviour and that there are adequate complaint handling processes in place to ensure the safety of parties to a complaint.
- iii) Provides ongoing training in relation to the benefits of good behaviour and the consequences of poor behaviour.
- iv) Adjusts its meeting times and locations to ensure a safe environment is provided for councillors and staff traveling to these meetings.
- v) Conducts annual culture surveys open to all staff, reports the results annually to the Council and staff and implements actions to address the results.
- vi) Develops a staff retention plan by 3 June 2025 which identifies issues such as flexible work arrangements, working from home, provision of housing for key staff, remuneration rates, working hours and working days (consideration of a 4-day working week) and other employment benefits that may attract and retain staff in a rural setting.
- vii) Conducts a review of its process for recording and responding to operational requests to ensure an efficient process which supports councillors to concentrate on strategic matters.
- viii) Considers consolidating indoor and outdoor staff locations to assist with communication, service and project delivery, and overall Council performance.
- ix) Adopts the financial guidance provided in the report titled "External review of Buloke Shire Council's current and future financial position, October 2024" and ensures that the Council's budgets and long-term financial plans incorporate the suggestions and guidance from this report.
- x) Adopts an improved Community Grants Policy in accordance with the previous VAGO recommendation and continues to work on other policy improvements including exhibition of new Governance Rules.
- xi) Ensures it has adequate processes in place to record and manage the completion of Internal Audit reports.
- xii) Finalises its review of its Asset Management Systems during 2025 and completes an assessment of the data for completeness and accuracy prior to the end of 2025.
- xiii) Implements improved governance and financial accounting practices for the Charlton Caravan Park.
- xiv) In relation to the Sea Lake Landfill site, ensures compliance with EPA directions, budgets appropriately for any required rehabilitation in accordance with EPA directions and moves to secure ownership of the site as soon as practicable.



- xv) Requests a review of the Natural Disaster funding process to make the process more efficient and ask the Federal and State Government for early confirmation that additional claims have a confirmed funding source.
- xvi) Write to the Federal Government requesting an increase to the Federal Assistance Grants for Rural Councils.

Attachment 2 provides further detail in relation to the implementation of the various recommendations made by the Municipal Monitor, Peter Harriott.

Of the sixteen recommendations made, six are complete; nine are progressing, and one has not yet commenced.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

In accordance with s175 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Governance Direction to Buloke Shire Council on the 31 January 2025.

In accordance with s176 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if Council fails to comply with a written direction made under section 175; the Minister may take that failure to comply with the direction into account for the purposes of recommending the suspension of all the Councillors of the Council under this Act.

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Not applicable.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Not applicable.

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

There are no Regional, State, or National Plans or Policies related to this report.

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

There are no Council Plans or Policies related to this report.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The presentation of the Municipal Monitor's Final Report Recommendations – Implementation Plan and Status Report to Council demonstrates Council continues to provide good governance through the performance of its role in accordance with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles of the Act.

Any decisions made in relation to this report will be made at an open Council Meeting to promote openness, accountability and transparency.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In preparing this report, no conflicts of interest have been declared.

***Attachments:***

1. Attachment 8.1.8.1 - Buloke Final Municipal Monitor Report
2. Attachment 8.1.8.2 - Municipal Monitors Recommendations Implementation Status Report 31 December 2025

## 8.2 FINANCIAL REPORTS

### 8.2.1 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - SEPTEMBER 2025

**Author's Title:** Manager Financial Strategy

**Directorate:** Corporate and Organisational Performance

**File No:** FM/02/08

#### **Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Council leadership and engagement

**Objective:** Responsible leadership and decision making

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the financial reports for the period ended 30 September 2025 (Quarter 1) in accordance with the requirements of Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

#### **SUMMARY**

Council adopted the 2025/2026 Annual Budget at the Council meeting held 18 June 2025.

The attached reports include a comparison of the operating and capital works budgets with actuals for the period ended 30 September 2025 as well as the cash flow statement and balance sheet. Council's overall result as per the income statement for the quarter ending 30 September 2025 stands at \$8.917 million and capital works expended stands at \$2.232 million.

This report was previously brought to Council as a confidential item to the November Confidential Agenda, however as the report did not warrant confidential information and sought only to be endorsed for the following public meeting – the item was deferred by Council.

#### **MOTION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Quarterly Financial Report for period ending 30 September 2025.
2. Receives and notes the Capital Works Statement for period ending 30 September 2025.

**MOVED:** Cr Charmaine Delaney

**SECONDED:** Cr Alan Getley

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/137)**

**DISCUSSION****COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT**

Total operating income is \$1.216 million lower than the year-to-date budget while capital income is \$665,000 below the year-to-date budget.

Total operating expenditure has a favorable variance of \$27K when compared to the year-to-date budget.

Overall, after 3 months there is an unfavorable variance of \$1.855 million, detailed explanation for which is as per the table below.

Detail	Commentary
<b>Income</b>	
Rates and charges	Against YTD budget has a favorable variance of \$38K.
Statutory fees and fines	Close to YTD budget.
User fees	Unfavorable variance of approx. \$25K due to timing difference in income from services majorly around compliance and public health and well-being.
Grants – operating	Unfavorable variance of \$1.232 million YTD due to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timing difference of the 50% balance of Financial Assistance Grants (approx.\$4 million) receipt (first 50% received in FY24/25)</li> <li>Non-recognition of Council Flood Support Fund of \$300K from advance. Income will be recognised when acquittals are approved on a quarterly basis.</li> </ul>
Grants - capital	Unfavorable variance due to delays in project delivery, including Birchip RSL, Tiny Towns, and the Watchem and Wooroonook septic replacement projects, which has resulted in income not yet being recognised.
Contributions	Favorable variance of \$93K is reported due to additional administration support received under the Essential Services and Volunteers Fund.
Other income	Unfavorable variance of \$88K is mainly attributed to lower-than-anticipated interest income on investments (approximately \$100K). This has been partially offset by fuel tax credits, funding received from the Department of Transport and Planning for the LED Transformation project (\$15K), and reimbursements from community groups leasing Council properties for utility expenses.
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employee costs	Favorable variance to date of \$35K due to internal staff associated with floods recovery works being capitalised along with minor vacancies within the organisation.
Materials and services	Favorable variance of approximately \$247K is mainly due to an underspend on works related to the February 2024 storm event, partially offset by minor increases in expenditure across other operational areas such as asset management.

Depreciation and Amortization	Depreciation for the quarter is over budget due to the capitalisation of assets at year end.
Right of use assets	Lease cost (principal component) close to YTD budget.
Finance costs	Interest on light vehicles leased is close to YTD budget.
Other expenses	Unfavorable variance of approx. \$29K due to timing difference of internal audit fees and council contributions being paid out.

## BALANCE SHEET

Detail	Commentary
<b>Assets</b>	
Trade and other receivables	These have increased due to rates being raised in August 2025.
Cash and cash equivalents	Cash and cash equivalents stand at \$25.936 million, which when compared to year ended June 2025 decreased by \$5.192 million.
Other assets	Change due to prepayments at year end.
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Adjusted for depreciation, and capital expenditure to date is included as work in progress.
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Trade and other payables	These have decreased by approx. \$1.355 million as credit and payroll accruals recorded at year end as well as creditor due post year end have been paid off.
Trust funds and deposits	Includes the fire services levy raised that will be payable to the State government.
Contract and other liabilities	Increased due to external grants received – Roads to Recovery = \$309K Regional Workers Accommodation (Cabins) = \$326K and Wycheproof Wetlands = \$93K.
Provisions	A major decrease due to payout of LSL (approx. 25K) netted off by YTD accruals.
Lease liabilities	No change.
<b>Equity</b>	
Accumulated surplus	Adjusted for last year's surplus and current quarter earnings.
Reserves	No change.

## STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS

The Adopted Capital Program for 2025/26 is \$46.735 million.

(in '000)	Adopted program	Revised program*
New projects	32,812	32,812
Carry forward from FY2025	13,923	13,740
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,735</b>	<b>46,552</b>

\*Post accounts being audited for year-end

The total Capital Program to be reported now stands at \$46.552 million.

(in '000)	Revised Program	Expenditure	Variance
Projects	15,149	517	14,632
Floods	31,403	1,715	29,688
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,552</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>44,320</b>

Detail	Commentary
Land and land improvements	Minor unfavorable variance due to no budget allocated for FY2026 (Sea Lake Housing Development).
Building improvements	Favorable variance as items under building improvements and replacement of public toilet facility at Watchem Park are being progressed as per timeline.
Plant and equipment	Favorable variance as the heavy plant and fleet strategy as agreed in budget development process is in progress.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
Roads	Favorable variance caused majorly due to flood works not being undertaken as most of them are in procurement/approval phase.
Footpaths and cycleways	Favorable variance due to program being developed.
Drainage	Favorable variance due to program still under development.
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	Favorable variance due to delay in delivery of major projects such as - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aquatic Renewals, where priority projects are being finalized</li> <li>Birchip Netball Court Remediation, as expert advice is being sought to assess the issues affecting Netball Court, to determine the next actions required to restore court 2 and</li> <li>Tiny Towns, being in progress with signage installation to be done in November 2025</li> </ul>
Parks, open space and streetscapes	Favorable variance due to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delay in delivery of major projects including Septic Replacements at Watchem which are pending procurement evaluation outcomes.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regional Workers Accommodation (Cabins) is being carried out as per the timeline while other projects are in procurement or final completion stages.</li></ul>
Aerodromes	Favorable variance caused due to projects still being development phase.

**RELEVANT LAW**

The reports are consistent with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Council has adopted the budget for FY2025/26 on 18 June 2025.

**OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable.

**COLLABORATION**

The attached reports and comments have been prepared in collaboration with various Council officers.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The reports provide a snapshot of Council's financial performance for the first quarter of the year, noting that there is no impact on the adopted budget.

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

Not applicable.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

The report is an opportunity for Council to compare its financial performance against its annual budget and is in accordance with its Council Plan 2025-2029 commitment to manage its budgets responsibly to achieve long-term financial sustainability.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Quarterly financial reporting ensures Council and the Buloke community are aware of the financial implications of decisions and actions. Reporting Council's financial position allows Council to monitor and respond to financial risk.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

***Attachments:***

1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - Quarterly Financial Statements Sept 2025



## 8.3 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

### 8.3.1 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 1 FY2025-26

**Author's Title:** Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

**Department:** Corporate and Organisational Performance

**File No:** FM/02/08

#### **Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029**

**Strategic** Council leadership and engagement

**Objective:** Responsible leadership and decision making

#### **PURPOSE**

To present to Council the draft Quarterly Organisational Performance report for Quarter 1 FY2025/26 (at Attachment 1) for noting.

#### **SUMMARY**

The quarterly organisational performance report is an integrated progress report that updates Council and community on the delivery of the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2025-29, including performance reporting, financial performance and delivery of the capital works program for the period including July, August and September 2025.

This report marks the first update to the community, on the delivery of the 2025-29 Council Plan. At the end of September 2025, the Council Plan overall performance demonstrates a positive position of progress as at the conclusion of Q1. Due to some of the carry forward projects and deliverables from the previous Council Plan, some delays have been experienced.

This report is a new format of performance reporting for the organisation, introduced in alignment with Council's integrated strategic planning and reporting framework. It is designed to provide an overview of the quarterly position for the performance of Council's core services, key initiatives and major projects. In line with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to report against its own strategic objectives adopted within the 4-year Council Plan at least every 6 months. As this is the first instance of this report being brought to Council under the new format, a delay in presenting this report to a public ordinary meeting has occurred due to a process of informing and briefing Council on the new format throughout November and early December.

This report was previously brought to Council as a confidential item to the November Confidential Agenda, however as the report did not warrant confidential information and sought only to be endorsed for the following public meeting – the item was deferred by Council.

Moving forward, this report will be presented to Council in alignment with the Quarterly Financial Statements in February, May and November, along with a financial year end performance report presented in August, to the public via the monthly scheduled Ordinary Meetings, first and foremost.

**MOTION**

That Council notes the Quarterly Organisational Performance Report for Quarter 1: FY2025/26.

**MOVED: Cr Alan Getley**

**SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/138)**

**DISCUSSION**

The Council Plan 2025/26 was adopted by Council on 18 June 2025 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (The Act).

Within the Council Plan, a detailed 'Key things we will do' list of actions is provided against each of the strategies associated to the five (5) over-arching strategic objectives.

The key initiatives and projects undertaken by Council are recorded through internal processes, and documented within each service area Business Unit Plan, developed in alignment with the Annual Budget process, which sets out the financial year, + the three years thereafter. Importantly, the Council Plan is also a 4-year document which must be complimented by Council's other key strategic documents and plans in accordance with the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework.

In accordance to the recommendations of the Municipal Monitor's Report published in January 2025 for the Buloke Shire Council, a commitment has been made to maintaining financial sustainability and establishing an Annual Budget on a cash basis going forward.

Like all Local Government Authorities, the Buloke Shire experiences financial constraints that are not new or surprising. Rate capping, cost shifting for various services across sectors and generally rising costs for materials and services (particularly for rural and remote areas) continues to be a challenge in managing the 4-year Annual Budget, which must also inform the long-term financial position outlined within the Financial Plan (10 years).

Resourcing continues to be a major issue in the current environment, increased turnover rates and associated changes in attitudes and culture for employment in the public sector has remained difficult to manage since the COVID pandemic. This is more problematic for Council's typically more traditional, steady tenured roles.

Council's ability to establish a long-term financially sustainable position without having to rely on non-recurrent grant funding remains unlikely. Due to this fact, the challenge remains for Council to deliver the long-term aspirations of the community in a strategically aligned way that enables the delivery of core Council services in the short term.

**RELEVANT LAW**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

## Adoption of the Council Plan 2025-29 – 18 June 2025

### **OPTIONS**

Council may choose to request further information based on the contents of this report, however this report is for noting the performance and achievements of the work undertaken in Quarter 1 of Financial Year 2025/26.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

This report details Council's progress against overall performance in alignment with the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2025-29. Community engagement results informed the strategic objectives of the Council Plan and the key things that are to be actioned within each. Through the development of all of Council's strategic documents and plans, Council must seek community engagement and demonstrate deliberative and meaningful engagement.

### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

This report is a newly introduced format of performance reporting that seeks to capture a broader range of Council's core service delivery on a regular, quarterly basis. The report intends to provide a foundation of knowledge for the benefit of the Council and community to better understand the deliverables and measures of success for both regular activities and projects undertaken.

Like any new reporting function, it is expected that the data and information provided within the report will mature as the process also progresses and matures.

### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Council Plan 2025-2029

Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework Policy 2024

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officer involved within the preparation of this report has declared a conflict of interest in relation to anything specifically discussed within its contents.

### ***Attachments:***

1. Attachment 8.3.1.1 - Quarterly Performance Report F Y 2526 - Q 1

### 8.3.2 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Author's Title:** Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator

**Directorate:** Community Development

**File No:** GO/05/02

**Relevance to Council Plan 2025 – 2029**

**Strategic Objective:** A Safe, Healthy and Resilient Community

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Municipal Emergency Management Plan to Councillors for noting.

#### SUMMARY

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, Council is required to have a Municipal Emergency Management Plan prepared by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee:

*Section 60ADB Preparation of municipal emergency management plans:*

- (1) The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee for a municipal district must arrange for the preparation of a municipal emergency management plan to provide for an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management in relation to that municipal district.*

Under the Act, the Municipal Emergency Management Plan is required to be reviewed and updated every three years under the auspice of the multiagency Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.

The Municipal Emergency Management Plan was last reviewed in 2017.

In December 2020 the Emergency Management Planning Framework, established by the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (EMLA Act), shifted responsibility for developing and approving Municipal Emergency Management Plans from local councils to Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees, with final approval required by Regional Emergency Management Planning Committees.

In June 2025, the Buloke Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee commenced a review of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

The plan was finalised and endorsed by the Buloke Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee in August 2025 and approved by the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee in November 2025.

Buloke Shire Council is now fully compliant with all legislative obligations under the amended *Emergency Management Act 2013*.

**MOTION**

That Council notes the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

**MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford**

**SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/139)**

**DISCUSSION**

The Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) provides Buloke Shire Council with a contemporary, compliant and operationally effective framework for emergency management with significant improvements made to meet current legislation, statewide doctrine and regional arrangements.

The functions of a municipal council under the *Emergency Management Act 2013 (59F)* include -

- *Facilitating emergency management planning for emergencies in relation to its municipal district by establishing a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC); and*
- *In collaboration with other agencies and by the establishment of a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee for its municipal district, enabling community participation in emergency preparedness, including mitigation, response, and recovery activities; and*
- *Nominating one of the following persons to be the chairperson of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee for the municipal council's municipal district -*
  - i. in the case of a body taken to be a municipal council under section 5(2)(a)(i), (ii) or (iii) of the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997, an employee of that body; or*
  - ii. in any other case, the Chief Executive Officer of the municipal council or a member of the municipal council staff nominated by the Chief Executive Officer; and*
- *appointing one or more municipal emergency management officers under section 59G; and*
- *appointing one or more municipal recovery managers under section 59H*

The MEMP now is better aligned with the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) and the Loddon Mallee Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP) by integrating updated hazard and consequence-based risk analysis, modernising activation and coordination arrangements, strengthening relief and recovery structures, and embedding community resilience and community-led planning elements.

The Plan comes into effect when it is published on Council's website and remains in effect until superseded by an approved and published update.

**RELEVANT LAW**

- *Emergency Management Act 2013*
- *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Building Act 1993*
- *Electricity Safety Act 1998*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*
- *Water Act 1989*
- *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*
- *Local Government Act 2020*

- *Victoria State Emergency Service Act 2005*

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The MEMP supports long-term community resilience, climate-aware risk planning, sustainable emergency preparedness and improved municipal capacity to manage emergencies in a changing risk environment.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Under the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, municipal emergency management planning must incorporate community input through representation on the MEMPC.

The legislation does not require a formal public consultation or a public exhibition process for the MEMP. Instead, community needs are addressed through the involvement of community representatives and local organisations on the MEMPC.

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

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued.

This requirement has been front and foremost in the review of the MEMP, resulting in the REMPC Assurance Sub-Committee commending Buloke Shire for the approach it has taken and noting that the updated MEMP is *“innovative, contemporary and sector-leading”*.

Key improvements include:

- Strengthened governance, with legislated MEMPC ownership replacing council-led planning
- Contemporary risk and hazard analysis, incorporating climate, vulnerability, consequence and interdependency considerations
- Clearer activation, coordination and information-sharing arrangements aligned with SEMP doctrine
- Enhanced relief and recovery arrangements, including impact assessment, transition processes and community-led recovery
- Digital-friendly formatting, mapping and layout to support field and operational use
- Greater community integration, including community-led planning and improved arrangements for vulnerable populations

Following its successful assurance outcome, the MEMP has been provided to two other Victorian local municipalities as a model template to guide their own MEMP redevelopment.

#### **COLLABORATION**

The MEMP was developed in three major sections that were circulated progressively to the Buloke Shire MEMPC for feedback, refinement and endorsement.

The Buloke Shire MEMPC membership consists of representatives from:

- emergency services (Country Fire Authority; Victoria State Emergency Services; Victoria Police; Ambulance Victoria)

- government agencies (Buloke Shire Council; Emergency Recovery Victoria; Department of Families, Fairness and Housing; Department of Health, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)
- non-government organisations (Australian Red Cross; Victorian Council of Churches)
- community members

This collaborative co-design process strengthened the clarity, accuracy and interoperability of the plan, ensuring it reflects shared ownership and multi-agency agreement at the municipal level.

### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

There are no financial or resource implications associated with the noting of the MEMP.

All work to review and update the MEMP has been undertaken internally by council officers within existing staff resources, including external funding under the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program, delivered by the Victorian Government through the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

Section 6 (Pg.33) and Section 7 (Pg.40) of the MEMP identifies the financial arrangements for Council's role and responsibilities in response and recovery.

Council officers with delegations such as the Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO) and Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM) will appropriately allocate and track all expenditure during an emergency event.

Any resource or financial allocation during an emergency by either the MEMO or MRM must be approved by the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC) from Victoria Police before it is allocated. This is to ensure compliance with Emergency Management Victoria's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

All resource provision is documented in Council's emergency management platform (Crisisworks) and payments recorded and made via established Council procedures.

Financial claims can be made under the DRFA scheme through the Department of Treasury and Finance.

An assessment is undertaken by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for expenditure of single incidents that occur which require Council assistance.

Previous responses to single incidents have included arranging temporary fencing due to a house fire or providing temporary accommodation until other support services are available to provide assistance.

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

- Victorian Preparedness Framework
- State Emergency Management Plan
- Loddon Mallee Region Emergency Management Plan

### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

- Council Plan 2025–2029
- Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025–2035
- Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision

### **TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Buloke Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2025 will be placed on council's website.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

***Attachments:***      Municipal Emergency Management Plan



## 8.4 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

**Name:** Cr Stephen Barratt

**Month/year:** November/December 2025

**Meetings Attended:**

Date	Meeting / Event
19/11/2025	Councillor Professional Development Training – <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
19/11/2025	Council Meeting - <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
28/11/2025	Renewable Energy Information - <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
03/12/2025	Councillor Briefing - <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
09/12/2025	Charlton Shire Hall Community Meeting
10/12/2025	Wycheproof Resource Centre 9.30/11.30 coffee and chat
10/12/2025	Transmission Forum Updates online 12.00/1.00
10/12/2025	Sea Lake Airfield meet with the Community and CFA 2.30/3.30

**Name:** Cr Bruce Stafford

**Month/year:** November/December 2025

**Meetings Attended:**

Date	Meeting / Event
19/11/2025	Councillor Professional Development Training – <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
19/11/2025	Council Meeting - <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
27/11/2025	CVGA Annual General Meeting
27/11/2025	CVGA Regional Climate Leaders' Forum
09/12/2025	Meeting with Traveller's Rest Committee
09/12/2025	Charlton Hall Community Meeting
16/12/2025	Charlton Forum Meeting

**Name:** Cr Bernadette Hogan

**Month/year:** November/December 2025

**Meetings Attended:**

Date	Meeting / Event
21/11/2025	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting – <i>Melbourne</i>
24/11/2025	Buloke Tourism Board Meeting – <i>Berriwillock</i>
28/11/2025	Renewables Update – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
03/12/2025	NCLLEN Finance & Risk Meeting
03/12/2025	Councillor Briefing – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
04/12/2025	MAV – Mayoral Training – <i>Melbourne</i>

09/12/2025	Charlton Forum Meeting – Re: Hall – <i>Charlton</i>
09/12/2025	NCLLEN Board Meeting – <i>Charlton</i>
10/12/2025	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
10/12/2025	Airport Committee Meeting – <i>Sea Lake</i>
12/12/2025	Sea Lake Town Christmas Party
12/12/2025	Birchip 'Christmas on the Avenue'
15/12/2025	CEO & Councillor update meeting – <i>Via Teams</i>
16/12/2025	Birchip P-12 School Awards Night – <i>Birchip Hall</i>
17/12/2025	December Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>

**Name:** Cr Charmaine Delaney

**Month/year:** November/December 2025

**Meetings Attended:**

Date	Meeting / Event
29/10/2025	Citizenship Ceremony & meeting
04/11/2025	Donald 2000 Melbourne Cup Lunch
05/11/2025	Councillor Briefing – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
11/11/2025	Watchem Progress Association Meeting
19/11/2025	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
03/12/2025	Councillor Briefing – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
07/12/2025	Watchem Town Christmas Party
09/12/2025	Charlton Forum & Charlton Hall Discussions
10/12/2025	Buloke Shire Audit & Risk Committee Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
14/12/2025	Donald 2000 Town Christmas Party
15/12/2025	Wycheproof P-12 School Awards Night

## 9 OTHER BUSINESS

### 9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

### 9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

**Person:** Cr Bruce Stafford

**Question:**

My question relates to governance and compliance with Council policies and guidelines.

At the September 2023 Council Meeting, Council adopted the *Customer Experience Charter*. This document sets clear standards for how the organisation engages with residents and ratepayers, including response times and commitments for written correspondence. The Charter states: *“From the receipt of your correspondence, we will respond within five days with an answer or advise which department is managing your enquiry.”*

Based on consistent feedback councillors are receiving from members of the community, there is a growing perception that Council is not consistently meeting the commitments outlined in the Charter.

Through you, Mr Mayor, can councillors please be formally briefed on the governance and oversight arrangements Council has in place to support compliance with the Customer Experience Charter, and how councillors are provided with assurance that these standards are being upheld?

**Response:**

Councillors can be formally briefed at the next Councillor Briefing in February 2026 or within a Councillor Workshop in early 2026.

### 9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

*Cr Alan Getley raised an item of Urgent Business and outlined the background to the request for a motion of condolence and support on behalf of the people of the Buloke community to the Jewish community in the wake of the Bondi tragedy.*

#### MOTION

That Council admits an item of urgent business that relates to a motion of condolence and support on behalf of the people of the Buloke community to the Jewish community in the wake of the Bondi tragedy.

**MOVED:** Cr Bernadette Hogan

**SECONDED:** Cr Charmaine Delaney

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/140)**

#### MOTION

That Council:

1. Extends its condolence and support on behalf of the people of the Buloke community to the Jewish community in the wake of the Bondi tragedy on Sunday, 14 December 2025.
2. Notes our thoughts are with the victims, their families, NSW Police, first responders, Waverley City Council, and Jewish communities across Australia who are deeply impacted by this senseless act of violence.
3. Notes that the Cities of Glen Eira and Port Phillip, with the support of the Municipal Association of Victoria, invited Mayors across Victoria to co-sign a joint statement in response to the tragic mass shooting at Bondi Beach with the Mayor signing the joint statement.

**MOVED: Cr Alan Getley**

**SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/25/141)**

## **9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil

## 9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential matters.

### MOTION

That pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following reports that are considered to contain confidential information on the grounds provided in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as indicated below:

No.	Title	Confidential Reason
9.5.1	Sale of Properties for Recovery of Rates and Charges	Notes and declares this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released:  (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs as described in s 3(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .
9.5.2	Confidential Contract Matter	Notes and declares this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released:  (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs as described in s 3(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .
<b>MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney</b>		
<b>SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan</b>		
<b>CARRIED.</b> <b>(R/25/142)</b>		

## 10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed to the public at 8:26pm.

### NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on 18 February 2026 at 7:00pm.