



Council Meeting **Minutes**

Wednesday 15
October 2025

Commencing at 7:00 pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan
Interim Chief Executive Officer



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Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2025.**CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Alan Getley (Mayor)

Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Bernadette Hogan

Mallee Ward

Cr Stephen Barratt

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Bruce Stafford

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Graeme Milne (Deputy Mayor)

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Cr Charmaine Delaney

Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Daniel McLoughlan

Interim Chief Executive Officer

Paula Gardiner

Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Jenna Allan

Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Gaynor Atkin

Director Community Development

Georgia Brown

Senior Executive Assistant

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

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley will welcome all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley will acknowledge 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****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 17 and 22 September 2025.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/86)

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Cr Charmaine Delaney has declared a general conflict of interest in item 8.2.2 - Community Grants and Sponsorships.
- Daniel McLoughlan has declared a material conflict of interest to item 9.5.1 - Appointment of a Chief Executive Officer.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Prior to addressing questions received for the 15 October 2025 Council Meeting, the Interim Chief Executive Officer will amend a portion of the answer that was given for a question from the public at the 22 September 2025 Council Meeting.

Person: Daryl Warren of Donald

Question:

Between October 2021 and October 2024, the State Government announced three rounds of funding to develop land or construct cabins/accommodation to address the housing crisis in the Buloke Shire.

- October 2021: \$300k allocated to subdivide the former Sea Lake Primary School
- April 2022: \$2.3 million allocated for 14 cabins
- October 2024: \$1.9 million allocated for an additional 14 cabins

This totals \$4.6 million for the delivery of 28 cabin units & 8 housing blocks across the Shire aimed at alleviating the housing crisis in the Shire.

In light of the ongoing housing crisis in the Shire can Council provide a detailed update on the status of these projects, including:

1. Project Progress: How many cabins or blocks of land have been completed, are under construction, or remain in planning?
2. Location Breakdown: Where are these cabins being built, and how were the sites selected?
3. Timeline to Completion: When is full delivery of all 28 cabins & land subdivision expected?
4. Budget Allocation: How has the \$4.6 million been spent or committed to date? Are there any cost overruns or savings?

Given the level of discussion about housing, not only in the Shire but across Australia as a whole, it would be good to see how Buloke Shire is actioning this matter at present.

Council response:

Question 2:

Location Breakdown: Where are these cabins being built, and how were the sites selected?

Response:

The selected cabin sites are Council and community managed caravan and camping grounds that previously lacked the infrastructure to support Unregistrable Movable Dwellings under Victorian law. These sites have now been upgraded to meet the necessary standards, enabling both current and future cabin installations.

The sites and number of cabins in place and proposed are as follows:

Charlton Caravan Park: 1 x 2-bedroom accessible cabin in place, 2 x 1-bedroom cabins proposed. Total provision of 3 cabins.

Sea Lake Caravan Park: 1 x 2-bedroom accessible cabin in place, 2 x 1-bedroom cabins proposed. Total provision of 3 cabins.

Wycheproof Caravan Park: 1 x 2-bedroom accessible cabin in place, 2 x 1-bedroom cabins proposed. Total provision of 3 cabins.

Green Lake: 1 x 2-bedroom accessible cabin in place, 1 x 2-bedroom cabin proposed. Total provision of 2 cabins.

Tchum Lake: 1 x 2-bedroom accessible cabin in place, 1 x 2-bedroom cabin proposed. Total provision of 2 cabins.

Watchem Lake: 1 x 2-bedroom accessible cabin in place, 1 x 2-bedroom cabin proposed. Total provision of 2 cabins.

Wooroonook Lake: 1 x 2-bedroom accessible cabin in place, 1 x 2-bedroom cabin proposed. Total provision of 2 cabins.

For further clarity, a total of 17 cabins will be installed.

Council received 1 question for the 15 October 2025 Council Meeting.

Person: Daryl Warren of Donald

Question:

On ABC Wimmera Radio this morning (14/10/25) Mayor Getley was asked by the host Grace Marshall about the Donald Housing Innovation Project. (Donald 2000 has been working with liked minded groups across Wimmera in seeking funding to build worker accommodation).

Donald 2000 has been successful in attracting funding for this project but is still seeking investor support at present.

Mayor Getley was asked by Grace Marshall, what was the Buloke Shire involvement in the Project, the Mayor responded and I quote that:

"The Buloke Shire has been involved "from the get go" in supporting this project".

Could the Mayor detail all steps and financial contributions that the Buloke Shire has taken or made to support Donald 2000 in addressing the housing crisis in Donald.

Council response:

It is my understanding that the Wimmera Housing Innovations Project (WHIP) was the applicant and successful recipient of the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund Round 2, of which the Donald Housing Innovation Project is one of 4 participating projects.

WHIP is a subsidiary of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Association (WSMDA).

Buloke Shire Council made a financial contribution of \$68,106.50 to the WSMDA in the 2024/2025 financial year.

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 4 September to 1 October 2025.

MOTION

1. That Council note the Assembly of Councillors from 4 September – 1 October 2025.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/25/87)

Attachments: 1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 1 October 2025

Date/Time	Councillor Attendees	Meeting Type
10/09/2025 10:00am <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Delaney	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
10/09/2025 1:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Councillor Workshop - Economic Development and Tourism Strategy
17/09/2025 11:00am <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	CEO Recruitment Interviews
17/09/2025 7:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Council Meeting
22/09/2025 4:30pm <i>Via Teams</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Delaney	Council Meeting
01/10/2025 5:00pm <i>Birchip Council Chamber</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Councillor Briefing

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 17 and 22 September 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

MOTION

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

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Graeme Milne

CARRIED.

(R/25/88)

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 17 and 22 September 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Action Taken on Council Res - Outstanding Items and Items from CM 17 September to be tabled 15 October 2025

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C47BLOK - DELETION OF FLOOD RELATED CONTROLS IN DONALD AND CHARLTON

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Directorate: Community Development

File No: LP/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Built and natural environment

Objective: Caring for our environment

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to request Authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok.

SUMMARY

Planning Scheme Amendments require authorisation from the Minister for Planning to proceed with preparation of the amendment.

The proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok will implement updated flood mapping in the Buloke Planning Scheme. This updated is now required due to structural mitigation works completed within the townships of Donald and Charlton.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Endorses draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok ordinance and mapping.
2. Resolves to request authorisation to prepare amendment C47blok from the Minister for Transport and Planning.
3. Approves that exhibition of amendment C47blok will be undertaken once authorisation from the Minister for Planning is granted.
4. Notes that Council will be briefed after exhibition regarding any submissions made to the amendment and the appointment of an independent Panel to review the submissions.

5. Delegates relevant Council officers to make administrative changes to the mapping or ordinance.

MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/25/89)

DISCUSSION

In 2013, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) commissioned hydrology and hydraulic engineers to undertake a flood risk and mitigation assessment for the townships of Charlton and Donald.

The assessment focused on providing mapped flood extents for a range of Annual Exceedance Probability events using a range of existing and new hydrologic and hydraulic models. It included extensive community consultation and provided structural mitigation solutions and information to inform a flood related planning scheme amendment.

In 2018, Buloke Planning Scheme Amendment C027 was adopted by the Minister for Planning. This introduced flood related planning controls in the townships of Donald and Charlton. Since this time, a levee has been constructed in Donald and flood mitigation works have been undertaken in Charlton. As a result there is now a need for some adjustments to be made to the planning controls in the Buloke Planning Scheme to reflect the best flood data available.

The draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok will delete:

- areas of the Floodway Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay on thirty-seven (37) properties in Donald, and
- the Urban Floodway Zone on seven (7) properties in Charlton. The areas in Charlton will be rezoned to the Township Zone.

The proposed planning scheme amendment for Donald and Charlton is a recommendation of the 2023 Buloke Planning Scheme Review, the North Central CMA Regional Floodplain Management Plan, the Donald Flood and Drainage Management Plan (GHD, 2013) and Charlton Flood and Drainage Management Plan (BMT, WBM, 2014).

The Buloke Planning Scheme Review (DTP, 2023: 15) also recommended that Council immediately progress with updating flood controls.

The process and timeframes for a planning scheme amendment are prescribed in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Ministerial Direction No.15 The Planning Scheme Amendment Process* and is estimated to take up to 18 months to be complete.

The amendment process will be undertaken by Council officers with support from the NCCMA.

RELEVANT LAW

The draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok process will be conducted in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable

OPTIONS

Council could resolve not to proceed with, or alter, the proposed draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok. This would preclude an amendment from progressing.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok is expected to deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes by updating flooding controls in the Buloke Planning Scheme.

The amendment will have no negative environmental sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok will be available to the public to view on Council's website with hard copies made available for public viewing at the Wycheproof Customer Service.

The amendment will also be available to be inspected free of charge at the Department of Transport and Planning website at <https://planningschemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/All%20schemes/amendments>

A notice will be placed in the local newspapers to notify the public of the opportunity to view the draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok.

Landowners whose land will be directly affected by the amendment will also be sent notice of the amendment.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Section 12(1)(c & d) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires a Planning Authority to regularly review the provisions of the planning scheme, and prepare amendments to a planning scheme, for which it is a planning authority.

The updating of the flood controls will contribute to the more effective operation and administration of the planning scheme to ensure it is up-to-date and provides a clear and coherent basis for decision making.

COLLABORATION

Statutory bodies, public authorities and the prescribed Ministers will be consulted as required in accordance with Section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and with the *Planning and Environment Regulations 2015*.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The development of the draft Planning Scheme Amendment C47blok has been undertaken with in-kind support provided by the NCCMA and Council's adopted annual budget process.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Water Act 1989

Building Act 1993

Local Government Act 2020

Climate Change Act 2017

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

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.

Attachments: Charlton UFZ Proposed Changes
 Donald LSIO FO Proposed Changes

8.2.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Author's Title: Coordinator Community Development and 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 are:

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

Cr Charmaine Delaney left the meeting at 7:14 pm.

Cr Charmaine Delaney returned to the meeting at 7:17 pm.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following projects under the Community Grants Program:
\$969.00 - Birchip Neighbourhood House Incorporated– Project: Wiggle & Giggle
\$2,000.00 - Charlton Netball Club Inc. – Project: Charlton Netball Club: 1953-2025 A full colour Historical Publication
\$2,000.00 – Donald Learning Group Incorporated – Project: Celebrating the Donald Cultural Connection
\$1000.00 – Charlton College – Project: Mental Health Awareness Month
2. Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following project under the Sustainability Grants Program:

\$8,001.07 – Donald Lawn Tennis Club – Project: Returning Service	
MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford	
SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan	
	CARRIED.
	(R/25/90)

DISCUSSION

Since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in September 2025, 5 grant applications have been assessed under the following categories: 4 x Community Grants and 1 x Sustainability Grants.

In accordance with the Community Grant Program Guidelines, each application was reviewed by an Assessment Panel consisting of three Council officers from across the Community Development Directorate. Based on their assessment against the selection criteria, the Panel recommends that the following applications are funded:

Name of Organisation	Birchip Neighbourhood House Incorporated
Project Title	Wiggle & Giggle
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$969.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$969.00
Full project cost	\$3,169.00
Project Description	The project is a sensory play program designed especially for babies and toddlers of new parents in the pre-playgroup age.
What will the project/ event achieve	The project will enable the purchase a range of sensory play equipment and fund facilitators to deliver specialised activities. This will provide the foundation for ongoing weekly sessions held at the Birchip Neighbourhood House. These sessions will provide engaging, age-appropriate activities for babies and toddlers while supporting parents to connect, build local networks of support and foster a stronger sense of belonging in the Buloke community.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	17 + 15 + 16 = 48
Average Score:	16 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Charlton Netball Club Inc.
Project Title	Charlton Netball Club: 1953-2025 A full colour Historical Publication
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$2,000.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$2,000.00

Full project cost	\$10,337.55
Brief Project Description	The project will produce a comprehensive, full-colour, A4-sized history book spanning approximately 250 pages. This publication will chronicle the club's rich history from 1953 to 2025.
What will the project/ event achieve	The project will be a 70 year collated record of the Charlton Netball Club history in a book that will achieve several vital goals: it preserves the sport's local legacy by documenting past achievements, provides insights into its evolution, fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the game for current players and fans, serves as a source for future development by revealing past successes and challenges, and offers valuable context by showing how the game connects to broader societal and cultural changes.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	16 + 19 + 19 = 54
Average Score:	18 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Donald Learning Group Incorporated
Project Title	Celebrating the Donald Cultural Connection
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$2,000.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$2,000.00
Full project cost	\$14,000
Project Description	The project will provide a space for young and old to come together with our multicultural community from surrounding towns to share in food, song, dance, and fun activities.
What will the project/ event achieve	The project will foster community cohesion by increasing understanding between cultures, celebrating diversity, and combating stereotypes, while also providing individuals with a platform to express their cultural identity and build support networks in a new environment.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	16 + 17 + 20 = 53
Average Score:	17.5 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Charlton College
Project Title	Mental Health Awareness Month
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$1,000.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1,000.00
Full project cost	\$2,000.00

Project Description	The project will support the Charlton College's initiative for Mental Health Awareness Month this October.
What will the project/ event achieve	The project is part of a month-long awareness campaign that aims to create meaningful, community-connected experiences that promote mental health awareness and wellbeing for our students and families. This year's theme, "Connecting When It Counts," deeply resonates with us and our school community
Assessment Panel Scoring:	16 + 17 + 18 = 51
Average Score:	17 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Donald Lawn Tennis Club Inc.
Project Title	Returning Service
Grant Type	Sustainability Grant - Up to \$10,000
Total Amount Requested	\$8,001.07
Funding Amount Recommended	\$8,001.07
Full project cost	\$12,001.60
Project Description	The project is to purchase and install a freestanding commercial dishwasher.
What will the project/ event achieve	The project will enable an upgrade of a dishwasher that will reduce water usage, ease the burden on volunteers, and support the Club's ability to host more community events and generate income. The project aligns with sustainability goals and enhances local amenity.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	20 + 19 + 16 = 55
Average Score:	18 out of 25

Council officers are also currently working with 5 applicants to assist them with the requirements to meet the Community Grant Program eligibility criteria. These will be presented at a future Council Meeting for consideration.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable to this report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

OPTIONS

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

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Applicants were contacted by 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.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

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.

There is currently \$8,477 available in the Community Grants Program budget and \$37,831 available in the Community Sustainability Grants budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

If the recommendation is supported in full by Council, the remaining budget available for each grant program for rest of this financial year will be:

- Community Grant program = **\$2,508**
- Community Sustainability Grant program = **\$29,829.93**

Previous Community Grants awarded for the 2025-26 financial year include:

Grant Amount	Community Group and Project Name	Type of Grant
\$400	Charlton Golden Grains Museum Project: Victorian Collections Training	Organisation Support Grant
\$1,273	Charlton Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc Project: Level up! - gaming events	Project Support Grant
\$1,000	Wheels on A79 (Auspiced by Charlton Neighbourhood House Inc) Project: Wheels on A79 Show & Shine	Project Support Grant
\$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 Grant
\$10,000	Calder United Football Netball Hockey Club Project: Make King of the Mount Sustainable	Sustainability Grant
\$2,169	Donald Men's Shed Project: Beating the Blues	Sustainability Grant
\$1,000	Charlton Neighbourhood House Project: Pickleball for all: Serving Community Connection Across the Court	Small Capital Equipment

\$1,000	Charlton Neighbourhood House Project: Pickleball for all: Serving Community Connection Across the Court	Small Capital Equipment
\$1,000	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc. Project: Donald Show Photo Board Project	Small Capital Equipment
\$2,000	Birchip Playgroup Project: Strong Start Active Play for Birchip's Future	Project Support Grant
\$350	Combined Probus Club of Wycheproof Inc. Project: Probus Wycheproof Christmas Lunch	Project Support Grant
\$1,000	Mallee Creatives (Auspice by Charlton Neighbourhood House) Project: Charlton Weekend Coffee Stop – Volunteer Training & Equipment Initiative	Small Capital Equipment

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

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

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report recommends that Council approves the recommended allocation of funds under the Community Grants Program.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: Nil

8.2.3 ADJUSTMENT TO FREE GREEN WASTE PERIOD

Author's Title: Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: WM/16/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Vibrant and connected communities
Strengthen community activity and connections

Council leadership and engagement
Responsible leadership and decision making
Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for an adjustment to the timeframes relating to the current Free Green Waste period, which occurs annually in October ahead of the Fire Season at all Council Waste sites.

SUMMARY

On Wednesday 14 September 2022, Council carried a motion to:

- 1. Provide free access to the Council's landfills and transfer stations for the month of October for the remainder of the current Council term for the purposes of disposing green waste in preparation for the annual fire seasons, and*
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to determine an alternative period or extend the period in 2022 and future years based on forecast weather conditions.*

The above resolution provides authorisation for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to determine an alternative period or extend the period in 2022 and future years for the continuation of providing a period of Free Green Waste disposal at Council's waste disposal facilities.

In line with the resolution and as per discussions during the preparation of the annual budget, where Council made allowance for reduction in revenue related to the offering of free green waste disposal for the month of October, the Interim CEO exercised this authorisation to implement the free green waste disposal period during the month of October 2025.

Each year Council officers inspect all properties in Buloke Shire townships to ensure they comply with requirements under the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*.

For several years, in support of this activity, the CEO has authorised free green waste at Council sites for the duration of the calendar month of October. This activity provides an opportunity for residents to clean up their properties in preparation for the onset of fire period.

A recent review of the effectiveness and accessibility of this service has determined an improvement for our community can be achieved with a slight change of format, by adjusting the service to run for a period of 5 continuous weekends instead of operating from 1 October through to 31 October.

During the month of October between 2025 and 2030 inclusively, using the calendar month system, resident access would be limited to 4 or 4.5 weekends in five of the six years. It's also worth noting that Council Waste sites only open on a Sunday at weekends.

The proposed change of format (Proposed weekend model) would see Council start the service on the first full weekend in October instead and run for five full weekends. This won't significantly change the length of the period for residents – in fact, the comparison below shows that doing so will reduce the total number of days. Changing the service from calendar month will however give residents extra full weekends/Sundays during most Octobers, which is when most working residents can find time to access Waste sites.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes the Interim Chief Executive Officer, in line with the Council Resolution passed at 14 September 2022 Council Meeting, has authorised a period of Free Green Waste disposal during the month of October 2025.
2. Endorses the adjustment to the time period the Free Green Waste disposal period will remain in place, being for a period of 5 weekends commencing from the first Sunday of October each calendar year.
3. Approve the continued authorisation to the Chief Executive Officer to determine an alternative period or extend the period for the disposal of green waste as deemed necessary, subject to necessary budget revenue adjustments being approved within the adopted annual budget.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Graeme Milne

CARRIED.

(R/25/91)

DISCUSSION

An assessment of available Sunday's that are available for the next 6 years (inclusive of 2025), showed the number of weekends would remain the same (for year 2027) or increase, which would provide greater accessibility to residents that had limited capacity to access the waste facilities during weekday opening hours. The adjustment to commencing the free disposal of green waste at the first weekend of October each year would have limited impact to residents that are able to access the waste facilities during weekdays. It was determined the time period could be extended with limited to no increase in revenue loss or resource implications. The service time period is detailed in the table below;

Free Green Waste (FGW) Comparison

Calendar month (current) Vs Weekend model (proposed):

Year	FGW Starts	FGW Ends	Calendar Days (current)	Calendar Days (proposed)	No # Weekends (current)	No # Weekends (proposed)	No # Sundays (current)	No # Sundays (proposed)
2025	4 Oct	2 Nov	31	32	4.5	5	4	5
2026	3 Oct	1 Nov	31	30	4.5	5	4	5
2027	2 Oct	31 Oct	31	30	5	5	5	5
2028	7 Oct	5 Nov	31	30	4.5	5	5	5
2029	6 Oct	4 Nov	31	30	4	5	4	5
2030	5 Oct	3 Nov	31	30	4	5	4	5

RELEVANT LAW

Each year Council officers inspect all properties in Buloke Shire townships to ensure they comply with requirements under the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Wednesday 14 September 2022, Council carried a motion to:

1. *Provide free access to the Council's landfills and transfer stations for the month of October for the remainder of the current Council term for the purposes of disposing green waste in preparation for the annual fire seasons, and*
2. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to determine an alternative period or extend the period in 2022 and future years based on forecast weather conditions.*

OPTIONS

Option 1:

Approve CEO authorisation of the new Free Green Waste format (proposed weekend model), with review to occur annually in line with Council's approved budget.

Option 2:

Not approve an updated format for Free Green Waste in October. This option is not recommended.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to the content of this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Communications to be released to the public via social media channel(s) and on Council's website each year prior to the commencement of the Free Green Waste disposal period.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Change of format to make the Free Green Waste service more accessible to residents.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to the content of this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Given the similar lengths of the historical and proposed free green waste periods, no significant financial implications are anticipated. Similarly, there are no foreseen resource implications, although it is hoped that increasing the amount of weekend access will see green waste deposits more evenly distributed across the period.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to the content of this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to the content of this report.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to the content of this report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer declared a conflict of interest when considering this matter.

Attachments: Nil

8.2.4 DRAFT BUILDING A BETTER BULOKE 2040: COMMUNITY VISION

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Directorate: Community Development

File No: CM/13/09

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

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

Council leadership and engagement

Responsible leadership and decision making

Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision for consideration and endorsement for public exhibition.

SUMMARY

Council is required to adopt a Community Vision with a lifespan of at least 10 years by 31 October in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 by 31 October in the year following an election.

The Community Vision must be developed using deliberative engagement practices and capture the long-term aspirations of the the community.

In accordance with Section 88 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Building a Better Buloke 2030 Community Vision has been revised to form the Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision.

'We will be a healthy, socially connected, inclusive and accessible community with a prosperous economy offering services, amenities and activities that match our desired liveability'.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes the revisions made to the Building Buloke 2030 Community Plan and its adoption to be now referred to as the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision.
2. Endorses the Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision to go on public exhibition from Thursday 16 October to Thursday 30 October 2025.

3.	Gives public notice of the Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: on Council's website and invites written submissions from Thursday 16 October to Thursday 30 October 2025.
4.	Notes that in accordance with Section 93 and 96 (1b) of the Local Government Act 2020, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's engagement policy.
5.	Notes that the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 5 November.
MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney	
SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan	
CARRIED.	
(R/25/92)	

DISCUSSION

Buloke Shire Council's first ten-year Community Vision was developed in 2018 as part of the Building Buloke 2030 Community Plan.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Community Vision has been reviewed as part of Council's integrated planning process in early 2025 and assessed as still accurately reflecting the aspirations of the community with only minor changes being made to ensure it remains relevant and aligned with Council's recent Community Planning process.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Local Government Act 2020* states that a:

- *A Council must maintain a Community Vision that is developed with its municipal community in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.*
- *The scope of the Community Vision is a period of at least the next 10 financial years.*
- *A Community Vision must describe the municipal community's aspirations for the future of the municipality.*
- *A Council must develop or review the Community Vision in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Community Vision by 31 October in the year following a general election.*
- *The Community Vision adopted under subsection (4) has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council decisions around other key strategic documents will interact with the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision once adopted.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not endorse the Draft Building Buloke 2050 Community Vision to go on public exhibition from Thursday 16 October to Thursday 30 October 2025.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to the community engagement and consultation undertaken in the development of the initial Community Vision - Building Buloke 2030 Community Plan in 2020, community members were invited to

participate in surveys, discussions, and workshops to develop the Council Plan 2025-2029 in March and April 2025.

This engagement process also included a Community Summit with members of the ten township Community Planning Forums representing Berriwillock, Birchip, Charlton, Culgoa, Donald, Nandaly, Nullawil, Sea Lake, Watchem and Wycheproof.

The objective of the Summit was to introduce the Council Plan and Community Vision process and how the community and their township plans could inform the process.

The Draft Building Buloke 2050 Community Vision reflects the outcomes of this engagement as well as the extensive consultation undertaken by the community, over the last two years, through the development of the ten township Community Plans.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The review of the Building Buloke 2030 Community Plan, and its adaptation to be now referred to as the Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision, identified an opportunity to improve how the community's aspirations can be represented and incorporated into other key Council and community plans.

COLLABORATION

The review of the Building Buloke 2030 Community Plan, and its adaptation to be now referred to as the Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision, incorporates collaboration efforts undertaken with local Community Planning Forums and other key stakeholders.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The implementation of the Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision will be supported through Annual Budgets adopted each year as well as the Financial Plan. Additionally, external funding will also be required and sought to achieve the outcomes of the Vision.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision acknowledges and influences the actions and objectives of other key Council plans and strategies, including the Council Plan 2025-2029.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Following a period of public exhibition, the final Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision will be presented to Council for adoption.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.4.1 - DRAFT - Building a Better Buloke 2040 Community Vision - V 1

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 SWIMMING POOL SEASON 2025/26

Author's Title: Manager Community Partnerships

Directorate: Community Development

File No: CP/19/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Services supporting our communities to thrive
Accessible and responsive health and community services

Built and natural environment

Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive and note the dates for the 2025/26 Swimming Pool Season.

SUMMARY

Council has historically opened all seven (7) of its swimming pools from mid-November to mid-March each year.

The 2025/26 Swimming Pool Season is consistent with this approach by opening on Friday 14 November 2025 and closing on Sunday 15 March 2026.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the dates for the 2025/26 Swimming Pool Season as Friday 14 November 2025 to Sunday 15 March 2026.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/93)

DISCUSSION

The 2025/2026 Swimming Pool Season has been scheduled to align with the dates of previous years.

In the lead up to the opening of the Season, Council officers have undertaken extensive preparations for the recruitment of new Pool Lifeguards and Duty Lifeguards.

A targeted review of internal operations regarding onboarding and induction has led to an update of Council's processes, which have been redeveloped and distributed to all 2025/26 Lifeguards with the aim of providing greater clarity and understanding for those undertaking the Lifeguard role.

A training program for all pool lifeguards has also been developed, including the Life Saving Victoria - Watch Around Water training and onsite inductions.

Council has also signed another annual agreement with Life Saving Victoria to offer the Lifeguard Certificate Course to all lifeguards at a local swimming pool, later this month.

Pre-season maintenance and repairs have been undertaken at each pool, including new depth signage installed to comply with the guidelines for safe pool operations.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable

OPTIONS

Council may decide to not receive or note the dates for the 2025/26 Swimming Pool Season as Friday 14 November 2025 to Sunday 15 March 2026.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A communication plan will be developed to inform the community of the 2025/26 Swimming Pool Season opening and closing dates, how to book a pool, as well as any planned events and activities held at the swimming pools and scheduled or unscheduled closures.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Following a debrief and assessment of the 2024/25 Swimming Pool Season, some improvements have been identified and implemented for the 2025/2026 season, such as new signage installed at each pool to introduce improved compliance with safe pool operations and guidelines.

COLLABORATION

Council officers have been working with Life Saving Victoria, and other Council departments to prepare its seven (7) swimming pools and Pool Lifeguard Teams for the 2025/26 Swimming Pool Season.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The implementation of the 2025/26 Swimming Pool Season will be supported through the adopted 2025/26 Annual Budget as well as the Financial Plan.

Changes made to the 2025/26 Fees and Charges provide no Facility Hire and Lifeguard charges for local community groups, schools and not-for-profit organisations.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Act 2020

Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations

Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025-2029

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: Nil

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Name: Cr Graeme Milne

Meetings attended:

Date	Meeting / Event Information
22/09/2025	Buloke Tourism Board Meeting
24/09/2025	Donald Family Precinct / Rec Res and Donald 2000.
6/10/2025	Lake Committee gathering for the discussion about 2 nd cabin
14/10/2025	Watchem Progress Association Monthly

Name: Cr Stephen Barratt

Meetings attended:

Date	Meeting / Event Information
22/09/2025	Council Meeting (Via Teams)
25/09/2025	Wycheproof Mens Shed Attendee
27/09/2025	Wycheproof King of the Mountain 2025 <i>(Spectator, a very well run event, congratulations to all those involved)</i>
1/10/2025	Councillor Briefing (Birchip - Council Chambers)
8/10/2025	Online Transmission Forum
13/10/2025	Public Submissions (Via Teams)

Name: Cr Bruce Stafford

Meetings attended:

Date	Meeting / Event Information
29/09/2025	Wheels on A79 Car, Truck and Tractor Club Show and Shine <i>(Successful event with over 60 cars on display and coming from as far as Port Fairy and Drouin.)</i>
1/10/2025	Councillor Briefing (Birchip - Council Chambers)
10/10/2025	Charlton Campdraft Annual Event - 10 to 12 October 2025 <i>(Event attracted 200 participants from Vic, NSW and SA, and a judge came down from NT.)</i>
10/10/2025	Charlton Art and Photography Exhibition - 10-12 October 2025 <i>(Provided opening address, over 160 quality exhibits on display.)</i>
1/10/2025	Councillor Briefing (Birchip - Council Chambers)
13/10/2025	Public Submissions (Via Teams)

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Person: Cr Graeme Milne

Question:

Could we please have an update, Mr Mayor, on the letters that were sent or requested to be sent to opposition members and others regarding the roads and renewable energy issues — including what has happened so far and what we can expect next?

Response:

Daniel McLoughlan - Interim CEO:

In relation to the Notice of Motion related to renewable energy, addressed to Dr Ambrosio, all letters have been sent. We have since compiled the responses received, and the next step, in line with the intention of that Notice of Motion, will be to invite the relevant parties to Buloke for further discussion.

With regard to the Notice of Motion concerning the flood recovery and DRFA process, the final letters were temporarily paused following the meeting attended last week by the Acting Director of Infrastructure and Delivery, Paula Gardiner, and myself. Those letters are now scheduled to be sent out this week. Once responses are received, they will guide the next steps in the process.

Person: Cr Graeme Milne

Question:

Could we please have an update on the appointment of an auditor or contractor to undertake the audit of the airport matter that was discussed earlier in the year?

Response:

Daniel McLoughlan - Interim CEO

I can confirm that an initial meeting has been held with the consultant engaged to deliver the shire wide airport strategy. There has been some back and forth between staff and the consultant regarding the project specifications, and I'm happy to provide further updates through the Councillor Bulletin as the engagement progresses into its final stages.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

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	Appointment of a Chief Executive Officer	(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/25/94)

Meeting was closed to the public at 7:46pm.

10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7:56pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on 19 November at 7:00pm.