



Council Meeting **Minutes**

Wednesday 19
November 2025

Commencing at 7:40pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan
Chief Executive Officer



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Minutes of the Meeting held on 19/11/2025.**CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor) Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Bernadette Hogan (Deputy Mayor)	Mallee Ward
Cr Stephen Barratt	Lower Avoca Ward
Cr Bruce Stafford	Lower Avoca Ward
Cr Graeme Milne	Mount Jeffcott Ward
Cr Charmaine Delaney	Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Daniel McLoughlan	Chief Executive Officer
Jenna Allan	Director Corporate and Organisational Performance
Gaynor Atkin	Director Community Development
Jennifer Hewett	Manager Governance
Georgia Brown	Senior Executive Assistant
Anthony Smith	Executive Project Officer

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

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne will welcome all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne 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

Paula Gardiner	Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery
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3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 October 2025, 29 October 2025 and 5 November 2025.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt**SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan****CARRIED.****(R/25/111)**

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Stephen Barratt has made a request for a leave of absence for the period from 15 December 2025 to 4 January 2026.

MOTION

Cr Stephen Barratt's leave of absence has been approved from 15 December 2025 to 4 January 2026.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley**SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney****CARRIED****(R/25/112)**

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Jenna Allan has declared a General Conflict of Interest to item 8.2.3 - Sport and Recreation Victoria - Local Sports Infrastructure Fund - Wycheproof Netball Court.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Question:

Can you please advise the amount spent to date on anything relating to the issues with court two at Birchip Recreation Reserve referenced on the Buloke Shire Council website as "... currently under investigation by Council. Court 2 surface condition is not safe to play on at present."

Person: Hayden Collins of Birchip

Council response:

Buloke Shire Council has spent \$30,031.50 as of 31 October 2025. The costs incurred relate to detailed soil investigations, site inspections and obtaining specialist expert advice to assess the issues affecting netball court two at the Birchip Recreation Reserve. The investigations and specialist advice has been sought to assist in determining the cause of the court failure and what works are required to restore the court to a safe and playable condition.

Council continues to work with relevant stakeholders to seek a resolution to this matter, and further costs are expected to be incurred in the short term.

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 2 October 2025 - 5 November 2025.

MOTION

1. That Council note the Assembly of Councillors from 2 October 2025 - 5 November 2025.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/113)

Date/Time	Councillor Attendees	Meeting Type
13/10/2025 5:00pm <i>Online via Teams</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Public Submission Hearing
15/10/2025 7:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Council Meeting
20/10/2025 6:00pm <i>Online via Teams</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Brief Councillors on Joint Submissions
29/10/2025 5:30pm <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Citizenship Ceremony
29/10/2025 7:00pm <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Additional Council Meeting
05/11/2025 5:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt	Councillor Briefing

Attachments: Nil

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 15, 29 October and 5 November 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 Bruce Stafford

CARRIED.

(R/25/114)

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 15, 29 October and 5 November Council Meeting Resolutions.

Attachments: 1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Council Resolution Actions - tabled 19 Nov CM

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 ADOPT AND SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING FOR PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C44BLOK – PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is for Council to resolve to adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok and submit the amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

SUMMARY

At the Buloke Shire Council Ordinary meeting on 11 September 2024 Council resolved to seek Authorisation from the Minister to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok.

Council officers have since prepared the amendment, achieved authorisation from the Minister and conducted notice requirements resulting in the amendment being ready for Council to adopt and submit to the Minister for approval.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok
2. Seek approval from the Minister for Planning for Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/25/115)

DISCUSSION

Council adopted the Planning Scheme Review Report at the Ordinary Meeting on April 10, 2024. Regular reviews of the planning scheme are required under Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

The Planning Scheme Amendment C44bok is required to implement the findings and recommendations of the Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report 2023. This amendment implements the recommendations of that review, which are administrative in nature and where the intended effect of the respective clause is not changed.

The amendment is required to ensure that land in private ownership is not within the Public Use Zone, Public Park and Recreation Zone or Public Conservation and Resource Zone, as required by the Ministerial Direction - Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

The amendment is also required to correct mapping anomalies and errors that have become apparent through the operation of the planning scheme, particularly through statutory planning processes.

The correction of these errors 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.

RELEVANT LAW

The Planning Scheme amendment process will be conducted in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and relevant Ministerial Directions.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Planning Scheme Amendment C44bok implements the recommendations of the Buloke Planning Scheme Review 2023, as adopted by Council on 10 April 2024 and forwarded to the Minister for Planning on 8 May 2024.

At the Buloke Shire Council Ordinary meeting on 11 September 2024, Council resolved to seek Authorisation from the Minister to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C44bok.

OPTIONS

Option 1

Council could adopt the Planning Scheme Amendment C44bok and submit it to the Minister for Planning for approval. This option is recommended by officers.

Option 2

Council could resolve not to adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C44bok. This option is not recommended by officers.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Scheme Amendment C44bok is expected to deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes by updating, simplifying and clarifying local policies and local schedules in the Buloke Planning Scheme, and correcting obvious mapping errors.

This will provide more certainty to users of the planning system and will ensure that land use and development outcomes are consistent with the environmental, social and economic land use objectives of planning in Buloke and Victoria.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community was informed of Planning Scheme Amendment C44bok and had 30 days to make a submission.

Notice was placed in the local newspapers, in the Government Gazette, and on the Department of Transport and Planning website. The amendment documents were available on request from the Buloke Shire Council.

Residents whose land was directly affected by a correction to a zoning or overlay anomaly received a letter to their listed address.

All notices and letters invited submissions.

Council received no written submissions from the community. A small number of phone enquiries (est. 3) were received from community members seeking further information or clarification.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The amendment contributes 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

Notice of Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok has been given to:

- Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation
- First Peoples - State Relations
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Transport and Planning (Transport Team)
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Mallee Catchment Management Authority
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

Prescribed Ministers:

- The Hon. Lily D'Amrosio MP - Minister for Energy and Resources
- The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP - Minister for Environment
- The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP - Minister for Water
- The Hon. Ros Spence MP - Minister for Agriculture

Responses were received from:

1. Department of Transport and Planning – no comments or requests of any changes.
2. North Central Catchment Management Authority – supports amendment as proposed.
3. Environmental Protection Agency – made a request for clarification on Ministerial Direction No. 19 and was satisfied with the clarification.
4. Wimmera Catchment Management Authority – supports amendment as proposed.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Fees associated with the amendment process will be allocated under the adopted Annual Budget 2025/26.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Planning Scheme Amendment C44blok will update the Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework to improve clarity and to comply with the Ministerial Direction - Form and Content of Planning Schemes. All proposed updates are policy neutral.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025-2029

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in preparing this report have a conflict of interest in its subject matter.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - Buloke C44blok Explanatory Report Authorisation
FINAL

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.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following projects under the Community Grants Program:
\$2,000.00 – Charlton Bowling Club Inc – Project: Sun Smart Shades / Rollout Tarps

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/116)

DISCUSSION

Since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in September 2025, 1 grant application has been assessed under the Community Grants category.

In accordance with the Community Grant Program Guidelines, the 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 application is funded:

Name of Organisation	Charlton Bowling Club Inc
Project Title	Sun Smart Shades / Rollout Tarps
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$2,000
Funding Amount Recommended	\$2,000
Full project cost	\$8,790
Project Description	The Charlton Bowls Club is seeking funding to replace redundant sunshades with rollout tarps.
What will the project/ event achieve	Replacement of redundant infrastructure with rollout tarps and improvements to the supporting steel structures will improve amenity at the Charlton bowling greens. These improvements will better protect bowlers from the sun and offer spectators shelter at the railway track end of the green. The new shades are also larger in size.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	$17 + 18 + 16 = 51$
Average Score:	17 out of 20

Council officers are currently working with one additional applicant to assist them with the requirements to meet the Community Grant Program eligibility criteria and three Sustainability Grant Program applicants. 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

Option 1

Council can approve the officers' recommended project to receive community grants.

Option 2

Council can choose not to allocate the funds as recommended by the Assessment Panel. However, officers' do not recommend this option as 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 \$3,508 available in the Community Support Grants Program budget and \$29,829 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 the Community Support Grants Program for rest of this financial year will be:

Community Grant program = **\$1,508**

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

Grant Amount	Community Group and Project Name	Type of Grant
\$8,001	Donald Lawn Tennis Club Returning Service	Sustainability Grant
\$1,000	Charlton College Mental Health Awareness Month	Project Support Grant
\$2,000	Donald Learning Group Incorporated Celebrating the Donald Cultural Connection	Project Support Grant
\$2,000	Charlton Netball Club Inc. Charlton Netball Club: 1953-2025 A full colour Historical Publication	Project Support Grant
\$969	Birchip Neighbourhood House Incorporated Wiggle & Giggle	Project Support Grant
\$1,000	Wheels on A79 (Auspiced by Charlton Neighbourhood House Inc) Project: Wheels on A79 Show & Shine	Project Support Grant
\$400	Charlton Golden Grains Museum Project: Victorian Collections Training	Organisation Support Grant
\$10,000	Calder United Football Netball Hockey Club Project: Make King of the Mount Sustainable	Sustainability Grant
\$2,000	Granite Community Church/ Donald Youth Group Project: Storage cupboard used for Youth Group	Project Support Grant

\$2,169	Donald Men's Shed Project: Beating the Blues	Sustainability Grant
\$1,273	Charlton Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc Project: Level up! - Gaming Events	Project Support Grant
\$350	Combined Probus Club of Wycheperth Inc. Project: Probus Wycheperth Christmas Lunch	Project Support Grant
\$1,000	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc. Project: Donald Show Photo Board Project	Small Capital Equipment
\$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
\$2,000	Birchip Playgroup Project: Strong Start Active Play for Birchip's Future	Project Support Grant
\$500	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc Project: 2025 Donald Show	Sponsorship

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

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 declared a conflict of interest.

Attachments: Nil

8.2.3 SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA – LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND – WYCHEPROOF NETBALL COURT

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/09/49

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Built and natural environment

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

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to allocate \$200,000 across FY26 and FY27 budgets as a co-contribution toward an application to Sport and Recreation Victoria's 2025–26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

The proposed project involves the construction of a compliant netball court and lighting at the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve.

Council endorsement is also sought to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of \$200,000.

Council endorsement is also sought to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to submit the funding application.

SUMMARY

The 2025–26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) is a competitive Victorian Government program open to Local Government Authorities and Alpine Resorts Victoria. The Fund supports the delivery of new and upgraded community sports infrastructure across three streams:

- Community Facilities
- Community Sports Lighting
- Planning

The Fund aligns with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions' (DJSIR) priorities to create more opportunities for people through skills and jobs, help businesses and industries to thrive, and build vibrant communities and regions.

This report recommends that Council utilise this funding opportunity to progress a priority project identified within the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Masterplan—the construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting.

The proposed project will ensure that the netball facilities in Wycheproof meet current compliance and safety standards, providing a high-quality playing surface that supports participation, gender equity, and community connection.

The upgraded facilities will strengthen the long-term sustainability of local sport by providing a safe, accessible, and inclusive environment for players, officials, and spectators.

Delivery of this project will not only enhance the experience for netball participants but also contribute to the broader activation of the Wycheeproof Recreation Reserve, supporting continued community use and encouraging greater engagement in sport and active recreation across the district.

Jenna Allan left the meeting at 7:57pm.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Commit \$200,000 over FY2026/27 Annual Budgets for the purposes of submitting an application to the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund for the construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting; and
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund; and
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of \$200,000; and
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley

CARRIED.

(R/25/117)

Jenna Allan returned to the meeting at 8:01pm.

DISCUSSION

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

The Masterplan established a series of key issues which are relevant in this project:

- Ageing Infrastructure
- Safety and Risk Management
- Governance
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Rationalisation
- Volunteers
- Parking and Signage

The Masterplan also outlines opportunities identified throughout the process as:

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

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting project would provide one court which complies with Netball Australia guidelines and uses current construction techniques.

The current existing netball court has concrete joins on the playing surface which are prone to movement and cracking which creates a safety issue. Games were abandoned in 2024 due to this issue.

Repairs were made to allow games to resume in 2025; however, due to the nature of the fault there is no guarantee how long the repairs will hold. For these reasons, if built today, this court would be non-compliant.

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting at Wycheeproof is a priority project identified in the master plan and has been supported by Council in previous funding applications. It forms part of a larger project scope which aims to provide modern facilities for netball, hockey, bowls, croquet, cricket and football participants.

Detailed netball court designs have been developed to enable project costings to be reviewed to ensure the draft costs attached are accurate.

Council has supported applications to two previous funding opportunities for this project:

- *Australian Governments Growing Regions Program (2023)* - An expression of interest was submitted which included the netball court and multi-use pavilion. The application did not progress as there were no matching Victorian Government funding rounds available to support the large financial commitment.
- *Victorian Governments Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (2024)* - An application was submitted which included the multi-use pavilion only. The application was unsuccessful however received positive feedback from SRV.

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The implementation of the Wycheeproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033 has been identified within the Buloke Shire Council Advocacy Strategy 2022-23.

OPTIONS

The Council may elect not to support the officers' recommendations.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed project supports both environmental and social sustainability outcomes. The installation of new energy-efficient LED sports lighting will significantly reduce power consumption and maintenance requirements compared with traditional halogen systems, contributing to lower long-term operating costs and a smaller environmental footprint. In addition, the development of a modern, compliant netball facility will enhance social sustainability by encouraging greater community participation, promoting gender equity in sport, and providing a safe, accessible space that supports ongoing community connection and wellbeing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the preparation of the Wycheeproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033 a variety of community engagement sessions were held including:

- Phone calls with 17 user groups and key stakeholders

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

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

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting project demonstrates innovation through the use of modern design principles and construction techniques that align with Netball Australia's facility design guidelines.

By incorporating contemporary standards for court layout, surfacing, drainage, and lighting, the project will deliver a high-quality, compliant facility that enhances player safety and performance.

The inclusion of LED lighting technology and durable, low-maintenance materials reflects Council's commitment to continuous improvement in the delivery of sustainable community infrastructure. This approach ensures the facility remains fit-for-purpose, adaptable to future needs, and reflective of best practice in community sport facility design.

COLLABORATION

Landowners consent will be required from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to undertake the proposed works.

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

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Wycheeproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033 provides a strategic framework to guide the development, management, maintenance, and renewal of recreation facilities within the reserve. This includes ensuring that proposed upgrades, such as the development of new compliant netball courts and lighting, are financially sustainable and deliver long-term community benefit.

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting project will replace the existing ageing netball infrastructure, which is approaching the end of its serviceable life. Investment in a modern, compliant facility will reduce ongoing maintenance liabilities, improve safety, and ensure the continuation of local netball competitions within Wycheeproof.

Under the 2025–26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, the project is eligible for up to \$500,000 in State Government funding toward the total estimated project cost of \$900,000. The remaining \$400,000 funding gap will be met through a shared commitment between Council and the community, with each contributing \$200,000.

Council's financial contribution will be allocated from available capital works funds in the 2026/27 financial year. Ongoing maintenance and operational costs for the new facility will be incorporated into Council's existing operational budget to ensure sustainable asset management into the future.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Key plans the project takes into consideration:

- Fair Play Code

- Fair Access Roadmap
- Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines
- Guidelines for Preventing Violence against Women
- AFL Central Victoria Facilities Strategy
- Active Victoria
- VicHealth Physical Activity Strategy
- Victorian Integrity in Sport Action Plan
- Design for Everyone Guide

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting at the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve aligns strongly with key priorities and actions outlined in the Buloke Shire Council Plan, Recreation and Open Space Strategy, and the Buloke Shire Inclusiveness Plan.

The project supports Council's commitment to fostering inclusive, accessible, and high-quality recreation opportunities for all residents. By delivering modern, compliant facilities, the project will ensure equitable participation across genders and age groups, aligning with Council's focus on gender equality, community wellbeing, and active lifestyles.

The proposed works also complement the objectives of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and Racecourse Reserve Masterplan 2021-2033, which identifies the replacement of the existing netball court as a priority project to ensure the long-term sustainability and safety of sport and recreation within the community.

Importantly, the project reflects a collaborative approach between Council, the Wycheproof sporting community, and local user groups, demonstrating a shared commitment to improving facilities that benefit the broader Buloke community.

Once complete, the upgraded courts and lighting will enhance opportunities for community events, competitions, and social participation, supporting inclusive use of public open space and encouraging active, connected, and resilient communities across the Shire.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

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

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

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The following officers have declared conflicts of interest due to their involvement in the Calder United Football, Netball and Hockey Club, respectively and will complete conflict management plans with Executive Officers:

Trevor Rumbold – Senior Engineer Buildings and Open Spaces

Rory White – Acting Manager of Community Development

Jenna Allan – Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

No other officer involved in the development of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.3.1 - 2025-26- Local- Sports- Infrastructure- Fund- Guidelines

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Name: Cr Stephen Barratt

Meetings/Events Attended:

Date	Meeting/Event Information
20/10/2025	Joint Submission Briefing – <i>Via Teams</i>
22/10/2025	Birchip Recreational Forum
27/10/2025	Buloke Tourism - <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
29/10/2025	Buloke Shire Council Citizenship Ceremony
29/10/2025	Council Meeting
30/10/2025	Meeting with Brad Robinson East Wimmera Health
5/11/2025	Councillor Briefing
5/11/2025	Council Meeting (additional)
12/11/2025	Wycheproof Resource Centre drop in 9.30am - 11.30am
12/11/2025	Transmission Forum – <i>Via Teams</i>

Name: Cr Bruce Stafford

Meetings/Events Attended:

Date	Meeting/Event Information
16/10/2025	All Staff Meeting (CEO appointment announcement) Online
18/10/2025	Charlton Show
20/10/2025	Briefing on joint submission
21/10/2025	Charlton Forum – Major Issues raised: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinstatement of solar lights on river walking path 2. Sale of Caravan Park lease 3. Charlton Hall status
27/10/2025	Coffee with a Councillor @ FLO Cafe
29/10/2025	Citizenship Ceremony and Council Meeting
30/10/2025	CVGA Board Meeting
31/10/2025	Meeting with Lloyd Paterson - Traveller's Rest Committee
3/11/2025	Charlton Park Committee of Management
5/11/2025	Additional Council Meeting and Briefing
13/11/2025	Central Victorian Drag and Drive Opening Day Guest

Highlights/Actions/Outcomes for the attention of Council:

- On 16th October, Anthony Hargreaves, President of Charlton Golf Club received Golf Australia's Victorian Volunteer of the Year award.

Name: Cr Bernadette Hogan

Meetings/Events Attended:

Date	Meeting/Event Inforamtion
14/10/2025	Nullawil Progress Meeting
15/10/2025	October Council Meeting
17/10/2025	Birchip Flower Show
20/10/2025	Michael Wheelahan – Renewables Update
21/10/2025	NCLLEN Board Meeting
22/10/2025	Birchip Leisure Centre AGM
27/10/2025	Birchip Forum Meeting
29/10/2025	Buloke Shire Citizenship Ceremony & Additional October Council Meeting
3/11/2025	Sea Lake Advance Meeting
5/11/2025	November Briefing and Additional November Council Meeting
11/11/2025	Remembrance Day – Birchip (wreath laying)
19/11/2025	Professional Development/Training Day
19/11/2025	2025 Statutory Meeting & November Council Meeting

Requests for Letter of Congratulations:

- Cr Getley: Anthony Hargreaves - President of Charlton Golf Club received Golf Australia's Victorian Volunteer of the Year award.
- Cr Hogan: Morris Hogan - Budget Battlers, donating to EWHS.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES FUNDING - KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN CAMPAIGN

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: GO/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Council leadership and engagement

Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

The following Notice of Motion has been put forth by Councillor Alan Getley and is for the purpose of the action of Council to acknowledge and write to the relevant Ministers and Departments regarding Neighbourhood Houses funding and the 'Keep our Doors Open' campaign.

SUMMARY

Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria are facing unprecedented financial and operational pressures. Rising costs, increased community need driven by cost-of-living challenges, and long-term erosion of core funding has resulted in almost half of all Neighbourhood Houses operating in deficit. According to Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, without urgent government action, up to 200 Neighbourhood Houses are at risk of closure.

Neighbourhood Houses deliver vital community infrastructure and support, particularly in rural and regional communities such as Buloke and our own Mallee Network. Each week, more than 185,000 Victorians rely on these services, including social connection, adult education, digital inclusion, emergency relief, community strengthening programs, and pathways into employment and volunteering.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria analysis shows that every \$1 in core funding generates \$21.94 million in community benefit, demonstrating exceptional value for public investment. The sector contributes an estimated \$922 million per year in benefits statewide. The closure of Neighbourhood Houses would significantly diminish local resilience, wellbeing, and access to support services.

Council has a strong role in advocating equitable access to community services. Ensuring sustainable funding for Neighbourhood Houses is critical to maintaining their ability to respond to growing demand and continue delivering substantial social and economic benefits to the Victorian community.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Advocates to the Victorian Government for urgent increased funding for Neighbourhood Houses, consistent with the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHF) call for an additional \$11.7

million per annum to ensure the sustainability of the sector and prevent the potential closure of up to 200 Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria.

2. Directs the Mayor and CEO to write to the relevant Ministers for Health, Ageing, Mental Health, Carers and Volunteers, Youth, Equality and Public and Active Transport, local Members of Parliament, and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria expressing Council's strong support for:
 - i. increased ongoing core funding to reflect rising operating costs, increased community demand, and years of funding erosion;
 - ii. investment in the 25 currently unfunded Neighbourhood Houses across the state; and
 - iii. a commitment to establishing 20 new Neighbourhood Houses in outer metropolitan and regional growth areas.
3. Highlights within the correspondence to the Minister and Members of Parliament the demonstrated community benefit delivered by Neighbourhood Houses, including that:
 - i. more than 185,000 Victorians access programs and local supports through the 400+ Neighbourhood Houses each week;
 - ii. every \$1 invested in Neighbourhood House funding generates \$21.94 in community benefit;
 - iii. neighbourhood house participation results in 94% of visitors reporting improved physical wellbeing and 96% reporting improved emotional wellbeing; and
 - iv. the sector contributes an estimated \$922 million per year in overall benefits to the Victorian community.
4. Continues to closely engage with local Neighbourhood Houses within the Buloke Shire Council to understand current service pressures, the impacts of insufficient funding, and opportunities to strengthen Council's advocacy messaging.
5. Requests in writing, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) reinforce statewide advocacy for a sustainable, indexed, and contemporary funding model for Neighbourhood Houses.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/25/118)

Attachments: Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil.

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	Motion
9.5.1	Draft Organisational Performance Report - Quarter 1 FY2025-26	That Council defers consideration of the confidential item 9.5.1 Draft Organisational Performance Report - Quarter 1 FY2025-26 to the December Council meeting pending further information.
9.5.2	Quarterly Financial Performance Report – Quarter 1 FY2025-26	That Council defers consideration of the confidential item 9.5.2 Quarterly Financial Performance Report – Quarter 1 FY2025-26 to the December Council meeting pending further information.
9.5.3	Excess Animals Permit Application	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Refuse the Permit to keep four dogs at 16 Woods Street, Donald in accordance with the Community Local Law 2019 Clause 42(1).2. Notes and declares the attachments to this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to personal information, being information of 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>.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Bruce Stafford

CARRIED.

(R/25/119)

10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed to the public at 8:19pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on 17 December 2025 at 7:00pm.