



Council Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday 16 July
2025

Commencing at 7:00 pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1	COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
2	RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES.....	3
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	3
4	REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
5	DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.....	4
6	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.....	5
7	PROCEDURAL ITEMS	8
	7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES	8
	7.2 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS	9
8	GENERAL BUSINESS	10
	8.1 POLICY REPORTS.....	10
	8.1.1 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION REPORTING POLICY	10
	8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS	13
	8.2.1 BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN.....	13
	8.2.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS.....	16
	8.3 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS.....	20
	8.3.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS 2025	20
	8.4 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS.....	23
9	OTHER BUSINESS	24
	9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION – Cr Milne	24
	9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – Cr Milne	25
	9.3 URGENT BUSINESS.....	26
	9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.....	26
10	MEETING CLOSE.....	26

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16/07/2025.**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:

Wayne O'Toole

Chief Executive Officer

Daniel McLoughlan

Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Jenna Allan

Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Gaynor Atkin

Director Community Development

Jennifer Hewett

Manager Governance

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

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley wil 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

There were no apologies

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

That Council adopt the e Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 June 2025.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/051)

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no requests for leave of absence.

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Question 1: Council adopted its 2025/2026 Council Budget on the 18th of June 2025.

Can you please indicate all amounts that were allocated to cover legal and professional costs in the Budget for the next 12 months?

Person: Daryl Warren

Council response: For the 2025–26 financial year, Council has allocated \$785,500 for legal and professional services. This allocation is based on historical expenditure trends, anticipated project requirements, and known commitments for the year ahead.

Please note that this allocation is subject to change depending on operational needs and any unforeseen legal or regulatory matters that may arise throughout the year.

Question 2: Can you please advise the name and amount that was allocated to each community organisation within Buloke Shire for the next 12 months as part of the Budget.

Person: Daryl Warren

Council response: As part of the adopted 2025–26 Budget, Council has allocated \$413,800 towards a variety of community organisations.

The full list of beneficiaries is too lengthy to read out within this meeting, however it will be forwarded to Mr Warren following this meeting and the list will also be included within the Council minutes.

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FY2025/2026

Directorate	Account	Party	Sum of Budget FY26
A500 - Community Development			116,400.00
	CONTRIBUTION - PROJECT SUPPORT		20,000.00
		Various - By application	20,000.00
	CONTRIBUTION - SUSTAINABILITY		50,000.00
		Various - By application	50,000.00
	CONTRIBUTION - TELSTRA TOWER MT WYCHEPROOF		2,000.00
		WycheAlive Incorporated	2,000.00
	Neighbourhood House contribution		10,000.00
		BIRCHIP NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC	2,000.00
		Charlton Neighbourhood House Inc	2,000.00
		Donald Learning Group Inc	2,000.00
		Sea Lake Neighborhood House	2,000.00
		Wycheproof Community Resource Centre Inc	2,000.00
	PROGRAM CONTRIB - COMMUNITY FORUM		20,000.00
		Advance Sea Lake Inc	2,000.00
		Berriwillock Community Development Group	2,000.00
		Birchip Community Forum	2,000.00
		Charlton Forum	2,000.00
		Culgoa Development Group	2,000.00
		Donald 2000 Committee	2,000.00
		Nandaly Progress Association	2,000.00
		Nullawil Progress Association	2,000.00
		Watchem Progress Association	2,000.00
		WycheAlive Incorporated	2,000.00
	PROGRAM CONTRIB - SCHOOL AWARDS		1,000.00
		Birchip P-12 School	200.00
		Charlton College	200.00
		Donald High School	200.00
		Tyrrell College	200.00
		Wycheproof P-12 College	200.00
	PROGRAM CONTRIB - SENIOR CITIZENS XMAS		2,800.00
		Charlton Senior Citizens Club	500.00
		Culgoa Development Group	300.00
		Donald Senior Citizens Club	500.00
		Nullawil Senior Citizens Club	500.00
		Sea Lake Senior Citizens Club	500.00
		Wycheproof Senior Citizens Club	500.00
	PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION - AUSTRALIA DAY		5,000.00
		Advance Sea Lake Inc	500.00
		Berriwillock Community Development Group	500.00
		Birchip Community Forum	500.00
		Cabbaritta CWA Charlton Inc	500.00
		Culgoa Development Group	500.00
		Donald 2000 Committee	500.00
		Nandaly Progress Association	500.00
		Nullawil Progress Association	500.00
		Watchem Progress Association	500.00
		WycheAlive Incorporated	500.00
	PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS - AGED CARE - GOODWIN HOMES		5,600.00
		Goodwin Homes - Unit Maintenance	5,600.00
A700 - Economic Development			13,000.00
	CONTRIBUTION-BUY LOCAL XMAS PROMOTION		3,500.00
		Advance Sea Lake Inc	500.00
		Berriwillock Community Development Group	200.00
		Birchip Community Forum	500.00
		Charlton Forum	500.00
		Culgoa Development Group	200.00
		Donald Chamber of Commerce	500.00
		Nandaly Progress Association	200.00
		Nullawil Progress Association	200.00
		Watchem Progress Association	200.00
		Wycheproof Community Resource Centre Inc	500.00
	CONTRIBUTION-COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP		2,000.00
		Birchip Harness Racing Club	500.00
		Charlton Harness Racing Club	500.00
		Donald & District Racing Club	500.00
		Mt Wycheproof & District Racing Club	500.00
	CONTRIBUTION-ORGANISATION SUPPORT		7,500.00
		Grampians Tourism Board Inc	7,500.00
I200 - Facilities and Projects			284,400.00
	CONTRIBUTION-LAKE CARETAKERS		6,750.00
		Tchum Lake Aquatic Club	2,250.00
		Watchem Lake & Recreserve Committee	2,250.00
		Wooroonook Lake Committee of Management	2,250.00
	CONTRIBUTION-REC RESERVES		272,650.00
		Berriwillock Recreation Reserve	4,349.00
		Birchip Community Leisure Centre	39,886.56
		Charlton Parks Committee	43,738.53
		Culgoa Recreation Reserve	3,354.94
		Donald Recreation Committee	53,679.11
		Nandaly Progress Association	2,485.14
		Nullawil Recreation Reserve Committee	27,336.58
		Sea Lake & District Community Centre	46,472.19
		Watchem Lake & Recreserve Committee	5,218.80
		Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Committee	41,129.13
		Donald Recreation Committee - Elite Gym rent	5,000.00
	CONTRIBUTION-WATCHEM MOWER		5,000.00
		Watchem Progress Association	5,000.00
Grand Total			413,800.00

Question 3: Can you please advise the name and amount that was allocated to each external organisations as either a contribution or membership which the Shire has representation on e.g. Tourism bodies, business groups etc that is included in the Budget for the next 12 months.

Person: Daryl Warren

Council response: Buloke Shire Council maintains memberships with a range of external organisations to support advocacy, collaboration, professional development, and sector-wide engagement. The full list of memberships is too lengthy to read out within this meeting, however it will be forwarded to Mr Warren following this meeting and the list will also be included within the Council minutes.

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL
LIST OF MEMBERSHIPS TOWARDS TOURISM BODIES, BUSINESS GROUPS ETC.
FOR FY2025-2026

Organization name	Amount
Rail Freight Alliance	3,500
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	9,000
MAV	23,800
VLGA	3,200
Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee	2,000
Rural Councils Victoria	5,500
Central Murray Regional Transport Forum	2,000
Keep Australia Beautiful	1,500
LG Pro Corporate Membership	1,500
Grampians Tourism	15,000
Wimmera Development Association	65,000
FinPro Membership	1,000
Revenue Management Association	500
Records Information Management	620
School Crossings Vic	100
Public Libraries Victoria	1,250
Aust Libraries Membership	250
VicSport Membership	400
Royal Lifesaving Aust Society	750
ALSA	600
NSQA	400

Question 4: When will Ngurungaeta Gary descendant of Dja Dja Wurrung (Yung Balug clan) Dhuhuroa, Yorta Yorta, Barap Barap, Wamba Wemba, Wergaig, Wirndjeri and Waywu peoples receive a response to his letter requesting a meeting?

Person: Mr Paul Haw

Council response: A response to the request for a meeting with Paul Haw and Elder Gary Murray will be provided by the end of this week.

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 12 June – 9 July 2025.

MOTION

That Council note the Assembly of Councillors from 12 June – 9 July 2025.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.
(R/25/052)

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 2 July 2025

Date	Cr Attendees	Meeting Item
18/6/25 7pm Wycheproof Hall Supper Room	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt	Council Meeting
2/7/25 3pm Charlton Shire Office Council Chamber	Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Barratt, Cr Delaney (Cr Stafford via teams)	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 18 June 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

MOTION

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

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/25/053)

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 18 June 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Action Taken on Council Res - Outstanding Items and items from CM 18 June 2025 - tabled 16 July CM -

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

8.1.1 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION REPORTING POLICY

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: CA17

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Council leadership and engagement

Objective: Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

To present to Council the reviewed Fraud and Corruption Policy for adoption.

SUMMARY

Buloke Shire Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethics, integrity and accountability and ensuring that good governance practices are implemented across all levels of the organisation. Fraud and corruption are incompatible with these core values and will not be tolerated by Council.

Council is also committed to developing an organisational culture that prevents, detects and responds to reported instances of fraud and corruption in order to ensure that public funds and Council assets are not compromised to the detriment of the local community.

A review of the policy has been undertaken by the Executive Management Team in consultation with an engaged legal service, Macquarie Lawyers. Council staff were also provided training by Macquarie Lawyers on the topic of fraud and corruption at the recent All Staff Meeting held on 19 June 2025.

Council last reviewed the Fraud and Corruption Reporting Policy in February 2022.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Adopts the Fraud and Corruption Policy
2. Endorses the commencement of the planning and development of an Organisational Fraud and Corruption Control Plan as an attachment to and in support of, the Fraud and Corruption Policy.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.
(R/25/054)

DISCUSSION

A review of the Council Fraud and Corruption Reporting Policy has been completed and a revised and updated Policy has been developed. As no major material changes have been made to the content of the policy, it is not considered necessary to undertake community engagement. A copy of the tracked changes and revised Policy has been attached to this report for reference.

In summary the proposed changes presented within the reviewed policy include:

1. Inserted a definition of conflict of interest
2. Aligned definitions to the AS8001:2021
3. Streamlined reporting channels
4. Strengthened language throughout
5. Clarified the scope of the Policy to extend to those who provide services, supply goods or carry out works for Council
6. Removed redundant legislative references
7. Ensured the use of gender-neutral language

Throughout the review process, it has been identified that the previously outdated policy (due for review in 2024), would benefit from a supporting document to provide more detailed actions to extend upon and strengthen Council's policy position. This document will inform the actions and procedures of Council which are relevant to the Fraud and Corruption Policy and be named the Organisational Fraud and Corruption Control Plan.

Development of the proposed Organisational Fraud and Corruption Control Plan would require consultation with Council's Audit and Risk Committee, Councillors and Council Staff.

RELEVANT LAW

- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Crimes Act 1958*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Regulations 2019*
- Buloke Shire Public Interest Disclosure Framework
- Buloke Shire Councillor Code of Conduct
- Buloke Shire Council Staff Code of Conduct
- Buloke Shire Council Employee Assistance Program Policy
- Buloke Shire Council Procurement Policy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council last adopted the Fraud and Corruption Reporting Policy in February 2022.

OPTIONS

Council may choose not to adopt the revised policy; or to adopt the policy and to not endorse the commencement of the development of an Organisational Fraud and Corruption Control Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The title of the report has been altered to reflect more accurately the broader nature of the scope and purpose of the policy.

COLLABORATION

The Executive Management Team have worked with Macquarie Lawyers to review and update the existing policy.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The review of the policy and facilitation of all staff training for fraud and corruption in local government has been through the engagement of legal services from Macquarie Lawyers. The financial impact of this engagement has been at a minimal cost to Council and budgeted for within Council's operational budget for training and development.

Training for officers and an up-to-date Fraud and Corruption Policy aims to prevent future financial risks to Council.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025 – 2029 (Strategic Objective 5: Council Leadership and Engagement)

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

- Attachments:**
1. Attachment 8.1.1.1 - Tracked Amended Fraud and Corruption Reporting Policy
 2. Attachment 8.1.1.2 - Clean version amended Fraud and Corruption Policy 2025

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 BIRCHIP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Author's Title:	Manager Community Partnerships
------------------------	--------------------------------

Directorate: Community Development

File No: RC/10/26

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective:	Built and natural environment
	Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks
	Welcoming and accessible parks and open spaces
	Prosperous and growing economy
	Promote Buloke as a great place to visit, live and invest

PURPOSE

To present the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Master Plan for endorsement to be placed on public exhibition from Wednesday 16 July 2025 to Tuesday 5 August 2025.

SUMMARY

The updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan aims to provide direction to Council, the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management and user groups to guide the management and development of Birchip Recreation Reserve for the next twelve years.

The draft Master Plan was developed in close consultation with the Committee of Management, user groups, key stakeholders and Council staff to provide a sustainable community space that promotes recreation, social and business opportunities.

MOTION

That Council endorse the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan to be placed on public exhibition from Wednesday 16 July 2025 to Tuesday 5 August 2025.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Graeme Milne

CARRIED.
(R/25/055)

DISCUSSION

The Birchip Recreation Reserve is managed on behalf of Buloke Shire Council by the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management.

The updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan is an updated version of the Birchip Community Leisure Centre Master Plan 2010-2019 that was completed in 2010.

It has been developed with input from the Committee of Management, user groups, Council staff and key stakeholders including Government agencies and State sporting associations. It presents several priorities for the Birchip Recreation Reserve that have been identified to guide the sustainability and continuation of quality sport and active recreation opportunities in Birchip.

The updated Draft Master Plan also identifies opportunities to expand the diversity of recreational activities available at the reserve to function as a central hub for community sport and recreation in Birchip.

This aligns with the vision of the Birchip Recreation Reserve which is “To provide a sustainable community space that promotes recreation, social and business opportunities.”

The Birchip Community Leisure Centre Committee of Management will use this Master Plan to guide future developments at the recreation reserve.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan was an action in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and was funded through Council’s 2021/2022 and 2024/2025 Annual Budget.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not endorse the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan to go on public exhibition from Wednesday 16 July 2025 to Tuesday 5 August 2025.

Council also has the option to extend the public exhibition of the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Master Plan timeframe to more than 21 days.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental sustainability has been considered in the development of the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The updated Draft Birchip Recreation Master Plan was developed in consultation with Committee of Management, user groups, Council staff and key stakeholders including Government agencies and State sporting associations

The following table details the methods of engagement and number of people contacted as part of the updated Draft Master Plan development:

Engagement Method	Contacts	Completed/Submitted
Inception meeting	1	1
Telephone calls	28	20
Submissions received	0	0
Onsite visits/meetings	N/a	1
PCG meetings and presentations		3

The consultation process was designed to gain insight into how the clubs and user groups use the Reserve, what they like about the venue and what they would like improved with the aim to better understand the future needs and aspirations for the Recreation Reserve.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan considers opportunities for innovation as well as areas for continuous improvement.

COLLABORATION

Council Officers have collaborated internally cross-departmentally, with external consultants, State Government agencies and sporting associations in the preparation of the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Master Plan.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The recommendations within the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan provide strategic guidance for Council, user groups, community and State and Federal Governments to further develop the Birchip Recreation Reserve for the betterment of the broader community.

However, delivery of identified projects will require significant investment through external funding as Council will be unable to deliver the outcomes within the draft Master Plan in isolation.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan aligns with the facility guidelines of the relevant State Sporting Associations including but not limited to AFL Victoria, Netball Victoria, Hockey Victoria, Bowls Victoria and Tennis Victoria.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2026-2029

Buloke Inclusiveness Plan

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report recommends that the updated Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan is placed on public exhibition from Wednesday 16 July 2025 to Tuesday 5 August 2025 to enable the public to make submissions and provide feedback on the proposed recommendations.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - @leisure Buloke Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan Draft Report 2 July 2025

8.2.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Author's Title: Manager Community Partnerships

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Increased Community Wellbeing

PURPOSE

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

SUMMARY

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

The purpose of these grant programs is:

- **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 approves the following allocation of funds under the Community Grants Program:

1. \$1,000 – Donald Show Photo Board Project (Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc)
2. \$1,000 – Pickleball for all: Serving Community Connection Across the Court (Charlton Neighbourhood House)

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/25/056)

DISCUSSION

Five Community Grant applications have been received since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in June 2025.

Two of the five applications received have been assessed. Additional information is currently being sought for the remaining three applications.

In accordance with the Community Grant Guidelines, each application was reviewed by an Assessment Panel. The Panel consisted of three Council officers from across the Community Development Directorate.

Based on their assessment against the selection criteria, the Panel recommends the following two applications for Council's consideration and approval.

Name of Organisation	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc
Project Title	Donald Show Photo Board Project
Grant Type	Small Capital Equipment Grant - Up to \$1,000
Total Amount Requested	\$1,000.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1,000.00
Full project cost	\$9,580.00
Project Description	The Photography competition at the Donald Show continues to grow every year. Additional photography boards are required to allow for the expansion of the photography competition.
Project Benefit	A photography boards display project can achieve several meaningful outcomes that align with the Council's vision for community wellbeing, inclusion, and vibrancy.
Assessment Panel Scoring:	15 + 16 + 20 = 51
Average Score:	Average score = 17 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Charlton Pickleball
Project Title	Pickleball For All: Serving Community Connection Across the Court
Grant Type	Small Capital Equipment Grant - Up to \$1,000
Total Amount Requested	\$1,000.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1,000.00
Full project cost	\$3,080.00
Project Description	<p>To purchase portable nets, paddles and balls to introduce a 'Pickleball For All' six-month initiative that introduces the energetic, laughter-filled sport of pickleball to Charlton and surrounding communities.</p> <p>Equipment will be used to run regular come-and-try sessions over six months, supported by Charlton Neighbourhood House and Mallee Sports Assembly. Launching in July 2025, this six-month pilot will offer weekly come-and-try sessions that are welcoming to all ages, all genders, and all abilities, starting at the Charlton Indoor Stadium and transitioning to the outdoor tennis courts over summer.</p>
Project Benefit	<p>'Pickleball For All' aims to create a fun, low-cost and inclusive social sport opportunity that encourages physical activity, connection, and community wellbeing across Charlton and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Our goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce and promote pickleball as an enjoyable, low-impact sport for everyone - Reduce social isolation by creating regular, informal social gatherings - Test community interest to determine the viability of a permanent, locally run pickleball group

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make better use of existing facilities and activate public spaces year-round - Build a small team of local volunteers or champions who can help drive the project forward <p>If successful, this project could become a long-term feature of Charlton's recreational calendar—fuelling ongoing participation, health outcomes, and fun!</p>
Assessment Panel Scoring:	14 + 17 + 19 = 50
Average Score:	Average score = 16 out of 20

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable to this report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not 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.

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 from the Community Grants Program budget (\$20,000) in Council's Annual Budget 2025-26.

There is currently \$20,000 of funds available in the adopted Community Grants Program budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

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

Community Engagement Policy

Community Support Policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: Nil

8.3 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.3.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS 2025

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/02/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Council leadership and engagement

Objective: Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

To note the results of the 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

SUMMARY

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is held annually and coordinated by the Department of Government Services on behalf of Victorian councils.

The survey provides an insight into the community's views on:

- Councils' overall performance, with benchmarking against State-wide and council group results
- Value for money in services and infrastructure
- Community consultation and engagement
- Decisions made in the interest of the community
- Customer service, local infrastructure, facilities, services and
- Overall Council direction

The Report is coordinated on behalf of all Victorian councils by the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes the results of the 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey; and
2. Publishes the 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey Report to the community

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Bruce Stafford

CARRIED.

(R/25/057)

DISCUSSION

The 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey Report presents an overall performance index score of 41 for Buloke Shire Council representing a 10 year low.

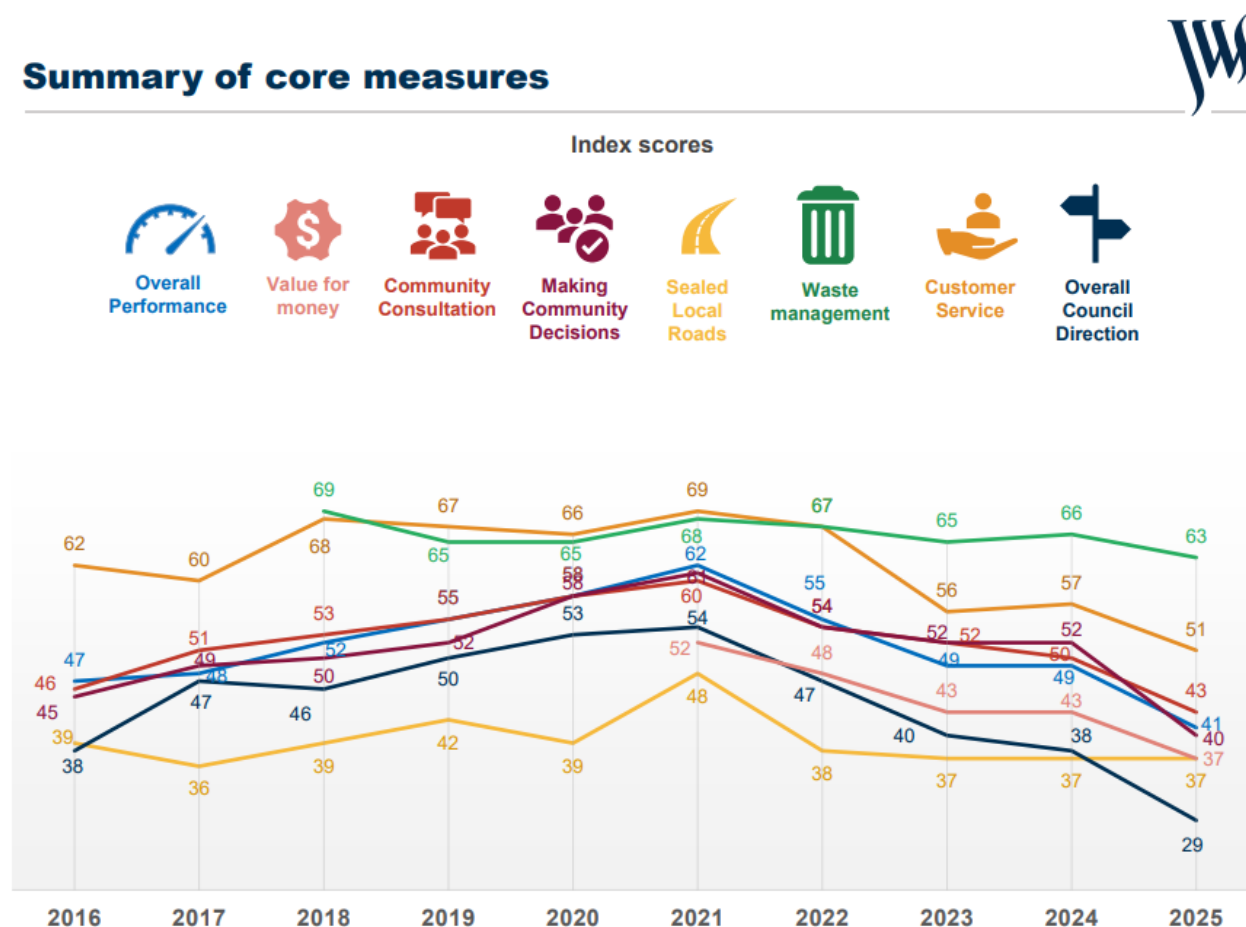
While performance on unsealed roads maintenance has improved significantly this year, seven other service areas – including recreational facilities, enforcement of local laws, business and community development and tourism, consultation and engagement, community decisions, lobbying, and planning and building permits – saw significant declines since 2024.

Compared to state and area grouping, Council performs in line with both the Small Rural group and State-wide averages on recreational facilities and the State-wide average for councils on waste management. However, Council performance is rated significantly lower than both the Small Rural group and State-wide averages on other core measures and individual service areas evaluated.

Council's best performing area continues to be in the area of recreational facilities, with recreational and sporting facilities cited by survey participants as the best thing about Council. Waste management and the appearance of public areas are Council's next highest rated service areas, followed by emergency and disaster management.

Council continues to rate lowest on maintaining its unsealed roads but has significantly improved its rating by four points on the 2024 survey results.

A graphic representation of the summary of core measures, included in the 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, shown below:



RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The results of the 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey Report may be used to inform decisions around sustainability.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted by JWS Research via a telephone survey with Buloke Shire residents, that were 18 years or above, contacted at random on behalf of Council.

Council advertised the approaching survey in local newspaper advertisements, on radio spots and on social media in the weeks leading up to the survey which was conducted in February of this year.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

In noting the 2025 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey Report, Council may consider future opportunities for innovation in response to the results as well as develop initiatives for continuous improvement.

COLLABORATION

Council's Executive Management Team collaborated with the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions and JWS Research in preparation of the survey.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The cost of conducting the survey was as per the budget allocation made in Council's Annual Budget 2024/25.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Act 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Participation in the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is optional.

Participating Councils have various choices as to the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial, and other considerations.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

- Attachments:**
1. Attachment 8.3.1.1 - JWS Research - CS S 2025 Buloke Shire Council Report

8.4 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cr Delaney

18.06.25 Council Meeting
19.06.25 VIC Grid Teams Meeting with Not In Our Name
25.06.25 Donald Precinct
25.06.25 Donald 2000
02.07.25 Councillor Briefing in Charlton
04.07.25 Donald Debutant Ball
08.07.25 Watchem Progress Association
16.07.25 Citizenship Ceremony
16.07.25 Council Meeting

Cr Getley

Summary of ALGA Conference Canberra 23-27 June 2025

Attend opening address and conference overview.
Governor General Opening Address
Meeting with the Cross Border Commissioner re economic summit and lack of progress.
Meeting with Minister for Local Government Kristy McBain, discussed our local issues, including Financial sustainability, roads funding, cost shifting etc.
Attend the disaster readiness workshop and round table
Emergency Management - Capability and Capacity expert opinions on flooding
Ministerial forum on the newly elected Government policy and direction, including housing, energy policy, health and education.
Opposition response to above and their direction for the next 3 years
Networking sessions with other councils on issues the same as ours, including energy transition and net zero policy.
Reception with Dr Anne Webster and Sen Bridgette McKenzie
Gala Dinner Parliament House

Cr Milne

Requested a letter of congratulations be sent to the proprietors of Buloke Times for their 150 years of publication.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Author's Title:	Councillor Graeme Milne	File No: GR/17/11
------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**Strategic**

Services supporting our communities to thrive

Objective:

Active advocacy and participation in service networks

PURPOSE

Notice of Motion for action of Council to write to relevant Ministers and Departments to seek genuine engagement between Council, the Government and the Buloke Shire Community in relation to the visit of Minister D'Ambrosio, Minister for the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and her legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Express strong disappointment in the lack of transparency shown by the State Minister for Energy and Resources to the Buloke Shire Council on her visit to the region on Wednesday 11 June 2025, when the Minister did not advise the Council of significant legislation on land access that she introduced into Parliament on Thursday 19 June, just eight days after the visit.
2. Request that the Minister, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), VicGrid, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), and Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) engage with Buloke Shire Council in a genuine, open and constructive manner to understand our community's concerns about energy projects in the Shire.
3. Write to the Minister detailing Council's disappointment in the way Councillors and ratepayers have been treated and seeking genuine engagement in the future.
4. Invite the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and Northern Victorian Parliamentarians to meet with Buloke Shire Council to hear our serious concerns about energy projects in the Shire.

MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne**SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt****CARRIED.
(R/25/058)**

DISCUSSION

On 11 June 2025, the Minister for Energy and Resources visited representatives of four shires in Northwest Victoria, including Buloke. The visit was announced at short notice, and Councillors rearranged their schedules to attend the meeting. At the meeting, the Minister provided no material updates on energy projects in the region.

Eight days after the visit, on 19 June 2025, the Minister introduced into Parliament the *National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage 2 Reform) Bill 2025*. The Bill establishes a “new power for authorised officers to enter land to facilitate works by an electricity corporation, including a power to service infringement notices.”

There is very strong opposition in the Buloke Shire community to the State using its powers to compulsorily access and occupy land for the VNI West project. The Bill to strengthen powers to enter land and serve infringement notices is aimed directly at our land owners on the VNI West route. The Minister would be keenly aware of this but did not inform us of this significant, imminent change that she introduced so soon after her visit.

Our Shire faces a range of challenges, including the continuing impacts and recovery efforts from floods in 2022 and 2023-24, and now the deepening drought. Our residents are confronted with the prospect of a vastly increased Emergency Services Levy. On top of these challenges, the renewable energy projects proposed for our Shire are causing significant stress and division in our community.

We want the Victorian Government and energy companies to recognise these compounding stressors on our community, and we expect that they engage genuinely and respectfully with our community on aspects of the energy transition.

Energy projects must not negatively impact their neighbours, and they must not prevent the legitimate aspirations of neighbours to develop their land as they wish.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cr Milne – Appointment of a representative for Buloke Shire Council (BSC) at a VCAT hearing between West Wind and BSC. Maybe the appointee was not the best value for money that we could get.

Response – Director Community Development: Council engaged Goldsworthy consulting for this case, James Goldsworthy has represented council on several occasions and is a highly regarded planner with over 25 years experience in land use planning, project management and rezoning, having represented both the public and private sector. He is former panel member of planning panels Victoria and has represented council previously at VCAT with successful outcomes.

Cr Milne – Council is still waiting for road money to come out of the 2022-23 floods, we have a significant amount of damage that has occurred. Our staff, it is my understanding, have had to apply up to five times to get some of this money. There is in excess of \$60m for road work that has still had no definite funding or no certainty that it will be funded into the future. CEO and staff have attended Melbourne to try and bring a resolution to this situation, we are the shire with the biggest amount of damage from this event and have been promised money. I strongly recommend this gets more political, and I encourage the local member and opposition spokesman for roads and anybody else we can think of to take this straight to parliament. Why has this not been dealt with?

Foreshadowing for a future meeting, a motion for action.

Cr Milne - Press release that was worked on after TCV, to go out after June 30 – appearing in some papers and on our website, to my knowledge this has not gone to Buloke Times, can this please be looked into.

Response – CEO: follow up why it hasn't been seen.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7:44pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on 20 August at 7:00pm.