



Council Meeting **Minutes**

Wednesday 17
September 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 17 September 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

Gaynor Atkin

Director Community Development

Jennifer Hewett

Manager Governance

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.

MOTION

Motion that Council change the order of business for the Council Meeting on 17 September 2025 to include the addendum report of Community Grants and Sponsorships as circulated on 15 September, at item 8.2.6. All other items remain as they were ordered in the original agenda as circulated.

MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne**SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney****CARRIED.****(R/25/072)****2 RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES**

Jenna Allan

Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 August 2025.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/25/073)

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We have received one declaration of conflict of interest from Councillor Bruce Stafford for this evenings meeting. The conflict has been declared as a General Conflict and is in relation to item 8.2.5 - Community Grants and Sponsorships for the Wheels on A79 application.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Question:

Section 97 Local Government Act requires the CEO to present to the Council at a meeting open to the public a Quarterly Budget Report as soon as possible at the end of each quarter.

In the 2023/2024 Annual Report the Mayor and CEO reported that Buloke Shire failed to comply with the Act by not providing such a report.

A review of the 2024/2025 Budget year would indicate that again the Buloke Shire will fail to comply with the Act. The last Financial Report tabled at a Council meeting was in May 2025 and covered the Quarter ending March 31.

Given the ongoing underlying Budget deficits of the Shire's Budgets when can ratepayers and more importantly Councillors be provided with current financial information?

Person: Daryl Warren of Donald

Council response:

The *Local Government Act 2020* does not explicitly require Council to publish a financial report for the quarter ending June as it coincides with the financial year-end.

Rather than issue a separate quarterly report, Buloke Shire Council, like other council's across the state, prepare the audited annual financial statements, which provide a complete and accurate picture of Council's finances at year end. Releasing an unaudited June-quarter report alongside audited annual statements would unnecessarily duplicate the year-end work and create confusion.

The current process ensures accuracy, efficiency, and compliance with the *Local Government Act* and accounting standards, while maintaining transparency through the publicly available audited annual report.

As in years past, the draft financial statements are submitted to the Audit and Risk Committee for independent review and endorsement before being presented to Council and finalization by the Auditors. This review lets the Audit and Risk committee, independent auditors, and management address issues and confirm compliance with accounting standards and legislation before Council adopts them in October.

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 7 August to 3 September 2025.

MOTION

1. That Council note the Assembly of Councillors from 7 August – 3 September 2025.

MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/25/074)

Attachments: 1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 3 September 2025

Date	Councillor Attendees	Meeting Type
27/8/25 3:00pm <i>Birchip Chambers</i>	Cr Barratt, Cr Delaney, Cr Getley, Cr Hogan, Cr Milne, Cr Stafford	Councillor Workshop – 10 Year Asset Plan and 10 Year Financial Plan
3/9/25 3:30pm <i>Donald Chambers / Teams</i>	Cr Barratt, Cr Delaney, Cr Getley, Cr Hogan, Cr Milne, Cr Stafford	CEO Recruitment Process
3/9/25 5:00pm <i>Donald Chambers</i>	Cr Barratt, Cr Delaney, Cr Getley, Cr Hogan, Cr Milne, Cr Stafford	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 20 August 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 Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.
(R/25/075)

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 20 August 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Action Taken on Council Res - Outstanding Items and items from CM 20 August 2025 to be tabled 17 Sep

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

8.1.1 DISCRETIONARY FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: CA45

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Council leadership and engagement

Objective: Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Discretionary Financial Reserves Policy for consideration and adoption.

SUMMARY

The policy:

- Defines the types of discretionary reserves (externally restricted and internally restricted).
- Sets principles for ensuring all reserves are fully cash-backed.
- Outlines the process for establishing, maintaining, and closing reserves.
- Provides guidance on the transfer of funds into and out of reserves, including approval pathways (budget process, CEO delegation, or Council resolution).
- Clarifies the role of reserves in supporting capital works, waste management, superannuation liabilities, sustainability initiatives, and future grant opportunities.

MOTION

That Council adopt the Discretionary Financial Reserves Policy

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.
(R/25/076)

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear framework for the creation, management, and use of Council's discretionary financial reserves. It ensures that Council maintains responsible and sustainable cash holdings by setting out conditions for transfers into and out of any discretionary reserves.

The policy strengthens transparency, accountability, and sound financial management while supporting Council's long-term strategic objectives.

RELEVANT LAW

The policy aligns with the *Local Government Act 2020*, which requires sound financial management and accountability.

The policy ensures compliance with Australian Accounting Standards in recognising reserves and strengthens governance and oversight by embedding reserve reporting into quarterly and annual reporting.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This is a new policy to Council.

OPTIONS

Council may:

1. Consider adopting the Policy as presented – providing clear governance and sustainable reserve management.
2. Consider adopting with amendments – e.g., adjusting thresholds, reserve classifications, or reporting requirements.
3. Consider not adopting the Policy - and rather continue current practice without a formal policy, which may reduce transparency and increase financial risk.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

There are no direct innovation and continuous improvement activities associated with this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council must ensure cash and cash equivalents are maintained at a level covering reserve balances, holding deposits, and three months' operational expenditure.

Establishing and maintaining reserves provides financial flexibility and reduces the risk of unforeseen funding pressures (e.g., waste management liabilities, or unbudgeted grant opportunities).

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not Applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The policy aligns with the strategic objectives within the Council Plan, Financial Plan, and Annual Budget by ensuring funds are available for future needs.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.1.1.1 - Discretionary Financial Reserves Policy

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN 2025 - 2035

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: FM/15/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Council leadership and engagement

Objective: Responsible leadership and decision making
Consulting with and informing our community

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to place the draft Financial Plan 2025 – 2035 on public exhibition.

SUMMARY

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council are required to adopt a Financial Plan by October in the year following a Council Election for a period of minimum 10 years.

The Financial Plan is a long-term forecast that demonstrates Council's key strategic objectives will be resourced and monitored to achieve the actions within the Council Plan and the aspirations of the Community Vision.

This strategic plan meets statutory requirements and reflects Council's commitment to long-term financial sustainability, aligning asset renewal and service priorities with available funding.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft Financial Plan 2025 – 2035 for public exhibition.
2. Gives public notice of the draft Financial Plan 2025 – 2035 on Council's website and invites written submissions from Thursday, 18 September 2025 until Thursday 9 October 2025.
3. Notes that in accordance with Section 93 and 96(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
4. Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft Financial Plan 2025 – 2035 may be heard by Council on Wednesday 8 October 2025
5. Notes that the Financial Plan 2025 – 2035 will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held 15 October 2025.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Graeme Milne

CARRIED.

(R/25/077)

DISCUSSION

Purpose of the Financial Plan

In addition to meeting statutory requirements, Council must undertake comprehensive planning to outline the resources required to achieve the objectives of the Council Plan and the aspirations set out in the Community Vision, thereby supporting long-term financial sustainability.

The Financial Plan is one of the strategic plans subject to the Strategic Planning principles in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. In general, it aims to –

- Outline how Councils' will fund services and infrastructure over the next 10 years.
- Ensure long-term financial sustainability and responsible use of resources.
- Align spending and investment with the Council Plan and Community Vision.
- Guide annual budgets and decision-making on rates, fees and capital works.
- Provide transparency and accountability to the community

The plan must align with and support key Council documents, including the Council Plan, Annual Budget, Community Vision and other long-term strategies such as the Asset Plan. Council is required to formally adopt a Financial Plan every four years, by 31 October in the year after each election. The current plan is due to be adopted by 31 October this year.

Preparation of the draft Financial Plan

The working and preparation of the draft Financial Plan has been done internally. The plan lays down the following details for the period of 10 years –

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Capital Works
- Statement of Human Resources

Keeping the annual budget of FY2025-2026 as base, key assumptions have been applied to develop the 10 years of the Financial Plan. These assumptions have been described in detail within the plan.

Council held 2 deliberative community engagement session in the month of August 2025 and as such outcomes from those workshops have also been considered, where appropriate.

Overall, a moderately measured approach has been used in preparation of the Plan to ensure Buloke has a sustainable and strong financial future.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 91 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to review its Financial Plan and adopt a new 10-year Financial Plan no later than 31 October 2025.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Endorse placing the draft Financial Plan for public exhibition

This option is recommended by officers, as the Financial Plan is based on well-founded assumptions and incorporates key market factors—such as rate capping and the consumer price index—in its financial modelling.

Option 2 – Endorse placing Plan on public exhibition with amendments

This option is not recommended by officers as this plan is of sound modelling and is consistent with other plans being presented to Council.

Option 3 – Do not endorse the exhibition of the Plan

This option is not recommended by officers as Council has a legislative requirement to adopt the plan no later than 31 October, and it is important that community views are sought before it is finalized.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed the draft Plan be placed on public exhibition alongside the draft Asset Plan. As mentioned, outcomes from community engagements held have been considered, where appropriate

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It is proposed the draft Plan be placed on public exhibition alongside the draft Asset Plan. Community input has been provided to date through deliberative engagement sessions undertaken in August 2025 for both the Asset and Financial Plans.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

There are no direct innovation and continuous improvement activities associated with this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The draft Financial Plan seeks to ensure the sustainability of Council's resources to deliver Council services efficiently and to meet the community's future needs.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Consideration has been given to other regional, state and national plans and policies as required.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The draft Financial Plan has been developed to ensure alignment with other key strategic plans and policies, including Council Vision, Community Plan, Council Plan, Asset Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This plan is to be placed on exhibition with the draft Asset Plan to ensure there is full transparency of how the plans are consistent with and support one another.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: 1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - Draft Financial Plan 2025 - 2035

8.2.2 DRAFT 2025 - 2035 ASSET PLAN

Author's Title: Interim Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: GO/05/02

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Built and natural environment

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

Council leadership and engagement

Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Councils endorsement to place the draft 2025 – 2035 Asset Plan on public exhibition.

SUMMARY

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council are required to adopt an Asset Plan by October in the year following a Council Election.

The plan is a critical 10-year strategic, public facing document that outlines how Council will manage infrastructure assets to achieve the Community Vision.

Council's current Asset Plan has been reviewed, and a new draft plan has been developed in partnership with the Financial Plan. The 2025 – 2035 Asset Plan (Asset Plan) is informed by up-to-date asset data and modelling of funding available for asset renewal in the adopted 2025-2026 Budget.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Endorse the 2025 – 2035 Asset Plan for public exhibition.
2. Gives public notice of the draft 2025 – 2035 Asset Plan on Council's website and invites written submissions from Thursday, 18 September 2025 until Thursday 9 October 2025.
3. Notes that in accordance with Section 93 and 96(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
4. Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft 2025 – 2035 Asset Plan may be heard by Council on Wednesday 8 October 2025.
5. Notes that the 2025 – 2035 Asset Plan will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held 15 October 2025.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.
(R/25/078)

DISCUSSION

Purpose of the Asset Plan

The Asset Plan is intended to be a strategic public facing document that informs the community on how the Council controlled infrastructure and other assets are to be managed to achieve the Council Plan objectives and Community Vision statement.

This Asset Plan has been prepared to meet the requirements of section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Its purpose is to:

- Ensure that assets support the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan.
- Demonstrate that we will responsibly manage our assets to meet the service delivery needs of our community in a cost-effective way.
- Provide a method to integrate our asset management planning outcomes with our Council Plan, Financial Plan, and Annual Budget.
- Support the continued advocacy for Federal and State Government support for the improvement of community assets.
- Make sure that we comply with our statutory and legislative obligations.

The plan should align with and complement the other Council planning and reporting documents, including the Council Plan and Council Budget as well as the other longer-term planning documents, the Community Vision, and the Financial Plan.

The integration of the Asset Plan within the ISPRF ensures that:

- assets are appropriate for current and future plans of the Council
- they remain fit for purpose, and
- optimum use is achieved through appropriate maintenance, renewal, and replacement programs.

An Asset Plan, with a focus of at least ten financial years, should set out how Council's stewardship of the community's assets will respond to the Community Vision within the Financial Plan parameters. An Asset Plan must inform and respond to changing community needs and expectations.

Council is required to adopt an Asset Plan every four years, by 31 October in the year after each election. The current plan is due to be adopted by 31 October this year.

Preparation of the Draft Plan

The Asset Plan adopted in 2022 has been reviewed and a new draft plan has been prepared for Council consideration.

The draft Plan has been developed in partnership with the draft Financial Plan and is informed by up-to-date asset condition data and modelling of funding available for asset renewal in the adopted 2025-26 four-year budget. Outcomes of the deliberative engagement process undertaken in August 2025 have also been used in developing the Asset Plan.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to review its Asset Plan and adopt a new Asset Plan no later than 31 October 2025.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Endorse placing the draft Asset Plan on public exhibition.

This option is recommended by officers as it meets the legislative requirements and is based on up-to-date asset condition data and robust modelling of asset performance.

The Plan has been prepared so that it is consistent with the draft Financial Plan. Changes to this plan would likely require changes to the other plans. It is considered that the plan proposes a reasonable investment in renewal of current assets in line with Council's financial position.

Council will need to actively seek government grants to enable asset upgrades to occur.

Option 2 – Endorse exhibition with amendments.

This option is not recommended by officers as the plan has been based on sound modelling and is consistent with other plans being presented to Council.

Option 3 – Do not endorse the exhibition of the Plan.

This option is not recommended by officers as Council has a legislative requirement to adopt the plan no later than 31 October, and it is important that community views are sought before it is finalised.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications arising from this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It is proposed the draft Plan be placed on public exhibition alongside the draft Financial Plan.

Community input has been provided to date through deliberative engagement sessions undertaken in August 2025 for the Asset and Financial Plans.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

There are no direct innovation and continuous improvement activities associated with this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The draft Asset Plan seeks to ensure the sustainability of Council's assets to meet the community's future needs. The funding model contained within the Asset Plan aligns with the Financial Plan which is also being presented to Council for consideration at this meeting.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Consideration has been given to other regional, state and national plans and policies as required.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The draft Asset Plan has been developed to ensure alignment with other key strategic plans and policies, including Council Vision, Community Plan, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This plan is to be placed on exhibition with the draft Financial Plan to ensure there is full transparency of how the plans are consistent with and support one another.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: 1. Attachment 8.2.2.1 - Draft 2026 - 2035 Asset Plan

8.2.3 DRAFT ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Author's Title: Interim Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: RO/20/03

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Built and natural environment

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

Council leadership and engagement

Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Councils endorsement to place the draft Road Management Plan on public exhibition.

SUMMARY

Under the *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016*, Councils that have established a Road Management Plan (RMP) must complete a review of the plan at the same time as preparing their Council Plan.

The draft Road Management Plan has been written based on best practice guidelines and feedback received from key internal stakeholders. It is presented for Council for endorsement to place the draft Road Management Plan on public exhibition.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft Road Management Plan for public exhibition.
2. Gives public notice of the draft Road Management Plan on Council's website and invites written submissions from Thursday, 18 September 2025 until Thursday 9 October 2025.
3. Notes that consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
4. Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft Road Management Plan may be heard by Council on Wednesday 8 October 2025.
5. Notes that the draft Road Management Plan will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held 15 October 2025.

MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/25/079)

DISCUSSION

There were a number of changes made to the Road Management Plan to respond to the feedback provided from key internal stakeholders. A full list of changes can be found in “Appendix A – Amendments to RMP” within the attached Draft Road Management Plan.

A summary of the key changes include;

- Administrative improvements were made to improve document clarity and ease of understanding.
- Inclusion of new sections to improve clarity and expectations of the Road Management Act.
- Removal of sections that were not applicable to the current scope and intent of the Road Management Plan.
- Redrafted list of assets covered by the Road Management Plan to improve clarity and understanding.
- Inclusion of Strategic Context to establish a clear line of sight between the Road Management Plan and Council’s broader strategic framework.
- Expansion of key stakeholders to clearly identify relevant stakeholders and their respective obligations and responsibilities.
- Removal of asset classification information as it was not applicable to the current scope and intent of the Road Management Plan.
- Inclusion of tables to present the quantities of various asset types.
- Improved clarity of the description of Hazards and Hazard Response Time.
- Revision of inspection frequencies and hazard response times.

RELEVANT LAW

Road Management Plans provide a legal mechanism for Councils under the *Road Management Act 2004* to confirm the manner in which they will manage their road management functions based on policy, operational objectives and available resources.

Standards are established for inspection frequencies for various road related assets, intervention levels for damage of road related assets, and time frames for rectification of asset damage when intervention levels are exceeded. Although it is termed a ‘plan’ in the legislation, it is functionally an operational protocol document, describing the systems and rules the Council uses to make decisions and meet obligations within its available resources.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Exhibit the draft Road Management Plan

This option is recommended by officers as the draft Road Management Plan has undergone extensive review by key internal stakeholders.

Option 2 – Exhibit the draft Road Management Plan with amendments

This option is not recommended by officers as there will be further opportunity to make changes to the draft Plan following public feedback being received. Any changes to the Plan need to be carefully reviewed to understand their implications for road users and the cost of Council inspection and maintenance activities.

Option 3 – Not Exhibit the draft Road Management Plan

This option is not recommended by officers as there is a requirement for the Plan to be finalised and adopted by 31 October 2025. There has been a thorough review of the plan and as noted above, there will be further opportunities to make changes to the draft plan following public feedback being received.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications arising from this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It is proposed the draft Road Management Plan be placed on public exhibition.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

There are no direct innovation and continuous improvement activities associated with this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The changes proposed in the draft Road Management Plan are not expected to have any impact on the current resource required to undertake proactive inspections or defect rectification works.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Consideration has been given to other regional, state and national plans and policies as required.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Under the *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016* the Council must complete a review of its Road Management Plan at the same time as it is preparing its Council Plan as described in the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Act in section 90(3) states: 'A Council must develop or review the Council Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Council Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election.'

The current review has taken into account best practice guidelines, and it is proposed to seek public submissions through a formal notice process. This process will allow the Council to finalise the plan by 31 October 2025.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This draft Road Management Plan is to be placed on exhibition to ensure there is full transparency in how the Council will manage the road network.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: 1. Attachment 8.2.3.1 - Draft Road Management Plan

8.2.4 DRAFT BULOKE HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2025-2035

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Directorate: Community Development

File No: PH/14/08

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Services supporting our communities to thrive
Active advocacy and participation in service networks
Accessible and responsive health and community services

Vibrant and connected communities
Strengthen community activity and connections

Council leadership and engagement
Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 for consideration and endorsement to go on public exhibition.

SUMMARY

The development of a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is a legislative requirement under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. The development of a Disability Action Plan is also a legislative requirement under the *Disability Act 2006*.

Previously, the Buloke Shire Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been incorporated within the Council Plan 2025, and its Disability Action Plan incorporated within its Inclusiveness Plan.

From 2025, both legislative requirements will be combined as a standalone four-year strategy known as the Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035. This will ensure a greater focus on the overall health and wellbeing of the Buloke Shire community.

The Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 has been developed under four health and wellbeing priority areas - active and healthy, inclusive and connected, respectful and safe, and growing and liveable.

MOTION

That Council endorses the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 to go on public exhibition for feedback from Thursday 18 September 2025 to Wednesday 8 October 2025.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.
(R/25/080)

DISCUSSION

In accordance with the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*:

A Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan must:

- *Include an examination of data about health status and health determinants in the municipal district;*
- *Identify goals and strategies based on available evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health and wellbeing;*
- *Provide for the involvement of people in the local community in the development, implementation and evaluation of the public health and wellbeing plan; and*
- *Specify how the Council will work in partnership with the Department and other agencies undertaking public health initiatives and projects.*
- *A Council must review its municipal public health and wellbeing plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the municipal public health and wellbeing plan.*
- *A Council's municipal public health and wellbeing plan must be consistent with its Council Plan*

In accordance with the *Disability Act 2006*:

A public sector body must ensure that a Disability Action Plan is prepared for the purpose of

- (a) reducing barriers to persons with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities;*
- (b) reducing barriers to persons with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment;*
- (c) promoting inclusion and participation in the community of persons with a disability;*
- (d) achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against persons with a disability.*

Previously, the Buloke Shire Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been incorporated within the Council Plan 2025, and its Disability Action Plan incorporated within its Inclusiveness Plan.

From 2025, both legislative requirements will be combined as a standalone four-year strategy known as the Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035. This will ensure a greater focus on the overall health and wellbeing of the Buloke Shire community.

The Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 has been developed and informed by:

- local data on the health and wellbeing needs of the community
- an environmental scan of the relevant legislative and policy context
- surveys and workshops in parallel with the consultation on the Council Plan 2025-2029
- workshops with local community groups, forums and health service providers

The consultation undertaken thus far has provided four health and wellbeing priority areas:

1. **Active and healthy:** Our community is more physically active, has equal access to healthy food and has a healthier diet.
Outcomes we are working towards:
 - Creating towns and places that make it easy for our community to be physically active*
 - Encouraging our community to be physically active
 - Increasing the accessibility and availability of healthy food
 - Improving our community's understanding about how healthy food and drink is good for their health and good for the environment
2. **Inclusive and connected:** Our community is welcoming of everyone, and people are connected to each other and to their local community.

Outcomes we are working towards:

- Welcoming and celebrating diversity in all its forms and removing the barriers which drive discrimination and make it harder for people to participate in community life*
- Increasing participation in community activities, groups and volunteering, particularly for new residents and people who experience social isolation*
- Strengthening connections and the sharing of knowledge, information and resources between communities
- Increasing our community's understanding of mental wellbeing and what supports people to have good wellbeing

3. **Respectful and safe:** Our community is respectful and supportive, and everyone feels safe and is free from harm.

Outcomes we are working towards:

- Demonstrating leadership about equity and respect is and encouraging our community to embrace this in all parts of their life*
- Preventing violence in all its forms and improving access to information, services and programs for those impacted by family violence
- Supporting the community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency situations
- Increasing understanding about the harm caused by alcohol, tobacco, vaping and other drugs and how to access support services

4. **Growing and liveable:** Our community is growing and has access to the services, infrastructure and opportunities which support them to be healthy and well.

Outcomes we are working towards:

- Improving the availability of and access to key services such as public transport, health and disability services, emergency services, and strengthen local training and education pathways*
- Increasing the diversity and supply of housing to assist in attracting new and retaining existing residents
- Increasing connections, and shared ways of working with partner organisations and agencies to reduce the fragmentation and uneven distribution of services*
- Increasing access to information about services and supports available in our community and what it means to be healthy and well

Outcomes marked with an asterisk (*) indicate the outcomes that Council will work towards to support the rights and needs of people living with disabilities.

RELEVANT LAW

The development of a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is a legislative requirement under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. The development of a Disability Action Plan is also a legislative requirement under the *Disability Act 2006*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council decisions around other key strategic documents will interact with the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 once it is adopted.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not endorse the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 to go on public exhibition from Thursday 18 September 2025 to Wednesday 8 October 2025.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 has acknowledged the extensive engagement undertaken with the community, and relevant stakeholders, on a range of issues and projects over the last two years, including the recent engagement undertaken to develop the Council Plan 2025-2029.

This information has influenced the development of the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 and been further developed through specific consultation on the Plan which included conversations, surveys and workshops with local community groups, forums and health service providers.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 aims to present an innovative approach to health and wellbeing that builds on community feedback and provides opportunities for continuous improvement.

COLLABORATION

The development of the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 incorporates collaboration efforts undertaken with local and regional stakeholders, community organisations and health service providers and networks.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The delivery of the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 will be supported through Annual Budgets adopted each year as well as the Financial Plan. External funding will also be sought to provide additional funding, as required.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 acknowledges the directions and objectives of other Regional, State and National plans and policies.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 acknowledges the actions and objectives of other key Council plans and strategies, including the Council Plan 2025-2029.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report recommends that the Draft Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 goes on public exhibition from Thursday 18 September 2025 to Wednesday 8 October 2025 to enable the public to make submissions and provide feedback on the proposed health and wellbeing priority areas.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.4.1 - DRAFT Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2035 V 4

8.2.5 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.
- **Sponsorship Grants** – to help promote a strong and involved Buloke community by helping deliver successful local events, projects, services and other activities.

Cr Bruce Stafford left the meeting at 7:27 pm.

Cr Bruce Stafford returned to the meeting at 7:30 pm.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following projects under the Community Grants Program:
2. **\$1,273.00 - Charlton Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.** – Project Level Up! - Gaming Events
3. **\$2,000.00 – Granite Community Church Incorporated** – Project: Storage cupboard used for Youth Group
4. **\$400.00 – Charlton Golden Grains Museum** – Project: Victorian Collections Training
5. **\$1,000.00 – Wheels on A79** (auspiced by Charlton Neighbourhood House) – Project: Wheels on A79 Show & Shine

6.	Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following project under the Sustainability Grants Program:
7.	\$2,169.33 – Donald Men’s Shed – Project: Beating the Blues
8.	Approves the officer recommendation to fund the following project under the Sponsorship Grants Program:
9.	\$500.00 – Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc. – Project: Friday Family Evening - Shining a Light on the health and wellbeing in our community
MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan	
SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney	
CARRIED. (R/25/081)	

DISCUSSION

Since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in August 2025, seven Community Grant applications have been assessed under the following categories: 4 x Community Grants, 2 x Sustainability Grants, and 1 x Sponsorship Grant Program.

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	Charlton Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.
Project Title	Level Up! - Gaming
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$1,273.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1,273.00
Full project cost	\$2,128.00
Project Description	This project will deliver a virtual reality gaming activity at the 2025 Charlton Show.
What will the project/ event achieve	This activity will provide a new attraction to the Charlton Show and an entertainment option that is quite different from traditional show offerings.
Assessment Panel Scoring out of 60	17 + 19 + 20 = 56
Average Score:	19 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Granite Community Church Inc.
Project Title	Storage cupboard used for Youth Group
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$2,000.00

Funding Amount Recommended	\$2,000.00
Full project cost	\$4,350.00
Brief Project Description	This project will improve the delivery of youth group activities by providing storage space within the building.
What will the project/ event achieve	The provision of storage cupboards will improve the processes involved with the transition of stored items and make them safer for the volunteer staff who conduct the youth group activities.
Assessment Panel Scoring out of 60	18 + 20 + 16 = 54
Average Score:	18 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Charlton Golden Grains Museum
Project Title	Victorian Collections Training
Grant Type	Organisational Support Grant - Up to \$1,000
Total Amount Requested	\$400.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$400.00
Full project cost	\$817.00
Project Description	This project will provide museum volunteers with training in the Victorian Collections online cataloguing database.
What will the project/ event achieve	This training will improve the volunteers' understanding of the online program they use and will make them feel more confident in the work they do for the museum.
Assessment Panel Scoring out of 60	19 + 18 + 20 = 57
Average Score:	19 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Wheels on A79 (auspiced by Charlton Neighbourhood House)
Project Title	Wheels on A79 Show & Shine
Grant Type	Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000
Total Amount Requested	\$1,000.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1,000.00
Full project cost	\$2,470.00
Project Description	This project will deliver a Show and Shine event of cars, trucks, tractors and motorbikes.
What will the project/ event achieve	The event will be a family-friendly social event and a drawcard for tourists to the area. It will provide the opportunity for car enthusiasts to connect with the local community and feature catering by local businesses and Year 10 work experience students.

Assessment Panel Scoring out of 60	16 + 18 + 20 = 54
Average Score:	18 out of 20

Name of Organisation	Donald Men's Shed
Project Title	Beating the Blues
Grant Type	Sustainability Grant - Up to \$10,000
Total Amount Requested	\$2,169.33
Funding Amount Recommended	\$2,169.33
Full project cost	\$3,255.00
Project Description	This project will enable the purchase and installation of a reverse cycle air conditioner for the Donald Men's Shed.
What will the project/ event achieve	An energy efficient reverse cycle air conditioner will reduce the current energy usage of the Donalds Men's Shed and make it a more comfortable and inviting space for current and future members.
Assessment Panel Scoring out of 75	19 + 18 + 18 = 55
Average Score:	18 out of 25

Name of Organisation	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc
Project Title	Friday Family Evening - Shining a Light on the health and wellbeing in our community
Grant Type	Sponsorship Grant - Up to \$500
Total Amount Requested	\$500.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$500.00
Full project cost	\$500.00
Project Description	This project will support the Friday Evening at the Donald Show event, themed "Shining a Light on the Health and Wellbeing in our Community."
What will the project/ event achieve	The aim of this event is to foster meaningful conversations around health, celebrating resilience, and creating a safe, welcoming space where everyone feels valued and supported.
Assessment Panel Scoring out of 60	12 + 13 + 20 = 45
Average Score:	15 out of 20

Council officers are also currently working with six 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 \$14,650 available in the Community Grants Program budget and \$50,000 available in the Community Sustainability Grants budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

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

Grant Amount	Community Group and Project Name	Type of Grant
\$1,000.00	Charlton Neighbourhood House Project: Pickleball for all: Serving Community Connection Across the Court	Small Capital Equipment
\$1,000.00	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc. Project: Donald Show Photo Board Project	Small Capital Equipment
\$2,000.00	Birchip Playgroup Project: Strong Start Active Play for Birchip's Future	Project Support Grant

\$350.00	Combined Probus Club of Wycheproof Inc. Project: Probus Wycheproof Christmas Lunch	Project Support Grant
\$1,000.00	Mallee Creatives (through 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

8.2.6 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

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 application 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.
- **Sponsorship Grants** – to help promote a strong and involved Buloke community by helping deliver successful local events, projects, services and other activities.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Defers the decision required of this report to a later Council Meeting pending further information;
2. Receives further specific information from the relevant officers, regarding the sustainable outcomes, materials and items proposed for purchase as part of the application within a future Council report;
3. Receives a Council report seeking a decision of application, to the online Council Meeting which has been called by the Mayor, for Monday 22 September 2025.

MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/25/082)

DISCUSSION

Since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in August 2025, seven Community Grant applications have been assessed under the following categories: 4 x Community Grants, 2 x Sustainability Grants, and 1 x Sponsorship Grant Program.

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 application is funded:

Name of Organisation	Calder United Football Netball Hockey Club
Project Title	Make King of the Mount Sustainable
Grant Type	Sustainability Grant - Up to \$10,000
Total Amount Requested	\$10,000.00
Funding Amount Recommended	\$10,000.00
Full Project Cost	\$39,690.40
Project Description	This project will enable the King of the Mountain event to adopt a range of practices to strengthen environmental, social, and financial sustainability. The grant will support initiatives such as reducing single-use plastics, expanding recycling at the event site, and one-off purchases to reuse and repurpose.
What will the project/ event achieve	It will assist with developing event infrastructure and resources that can be reused annually and shared by other community groups such as netball, hockey, cricket and race clubs - reducing reliance on disposable or one-off items and supporting the event's long-term viability. Collectively, these measures ensure the King of the Mountain event continues to deliver benefits for the community while minimising environmental impacts and building resilience and sustainable practices for future years.
Assessment Panel Scoring out of 75	22 + 20 + 13 = 55
Average Score	18 out of 25

Council officers are also currently working with five 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 \$14,650 available in the Community Grants Program budget and \$50,000 available in the Community Sustainability Grants budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

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

Grant Amount	Community Group and Project Name	Type of Grant
\$1,000.00	Charlton Neighbourhood House Project: Pickleball for all: Serving Community Connection Across the Court	Small Capital Equipment
\$1,000.00	Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc. Project: Donald Show Photo Board Project	Small Capital Equipment
\$2,000.00	Birchip Playgroup Project: Strong Start Active Play for Birchip's Future	Project Support Grant
\$350.00	Combined Probus Club of Wycheproof Inc. Project: Probus Wycheproof Christmas Lunch	Project Support Grant
\$1,000.00	Mallee Creatives (through 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

Buloke Shire Climate Action Plan

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

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 APPOINTMENT AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT MEMBER AND AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHAIR

Author's Title: Manager Governance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: FM//02/10

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Council leadership and engagement

Objective: Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

The Audit and Risk Committee operates in accordance with a Charter adopted by Council on 9 November 2022 and provides for the appointment of independent members for a term of 3 years, that can be extended up to 2 additional terms, for a total of 3 consecutive terms, and the appointment of an Audit and Risk Committee Chair setting the term at 2 years, which can be extended a further 2 year term.

To recommend the reappointment of Mr. Dean Sleigh as an independent Member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a 3 year term, and reappoint Mr. Sleigh as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for a 2 year term.

SUMMARY

Mr. Sleigh will conclude his second term as an Independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee, and his first term as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee on 14 November 2025. This report recommends his reappointment for a further 3 years as an independent member commencing on 15 November 2025, and reappoint Mr. Sleigh as the Chair for the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of 2 years commencing on 15 November 2025.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Reappoint Mr Dean Sleigh as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of 3 years, commencing on 15 November 2025 and concluding on 14 November 2028.
2. Reappoint Mr Dean Sleigh as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of 2 years, commencing on 15 November 2025 and concluding on 14 November 2027.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/083)

DISCUSSION

The Audit and Risk Committee consists of 5 members comprising of 3 independent members and 2 Councillors of which one of the Councillors must be the Mayor. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter provides for the appointment of Independent Members for an initial term of 3 years which may be extended up to a limit of two further terms. In accordance with the Charter, Mr. Sleigh has made application for a third term to commence at the conclusion of his second term on 14 November 2025.

The Audit and Risk Charter allows for the appointment of a Chair for a period of 2 years, which may be extended for a further 2 year term where the period of tenure for an independent member is also extended. Mr Sleigh was appointed as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee at the conclusion of the previous chair's tenure as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee. Mr. Sleigh was appointed as Chair at a meeting of Council held on 16 April 2025 with the term concluding on 15 November 2025 to align with the conclusion of Mr. Sleigh's second term as an independent member.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires the Councils to establish an Audit and Risk Committee which must consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors and cannot include a member of Council staff.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Audit and Risk Committee was established by Council at the Council Meeting held on 12 August 2020 as an advisory Committee of Council. Mr. Sleigh was appointed by Council to the Audit and Risk Committee at the Council meeting held on 13 November 2019 and reappointed for a second 3 year term at the Council meeting held on 9 November 2022.

OPTIONS

The Council may determine not to reappoint Mr. Sleigh to the maximum allowable term.

In the event the Council determines not to reappoint Mr. Sleigh for any further term, the Council will be required to seek expressions of interest to appoint a new independent member.

Should Council determine not to reappoint Mr. Sleigh as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee would need to be nominated as an interim Chair until such time as a new Chair can be appointed.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable

COLLABORATION

Not applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Sitting fees are paid to independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee on a per meeting basis in accordance with section 53(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Payment of fees for the Independent Members are provided for as operation expenses in the adopted Budget.

Bona fide expenses incurred by independent members will be paid or reimbursed in accordance with the Council Expenses Policy.

Where independent members reside outside of Victoria, Council will not pay the expenses associated with interstate travel or accommodation to attend meetings.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter is available on Council's website. The Audit and Risk Committee is an advisory Committee of Council. Minutes are made available to Councillors. Topics discussed at an Audit and Risk Committee are compiled and a report is tabled at a Council Meeting.

Section 53(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires the committee to provide a bi-annual report to the CEO which must be tabled at an open meeting of Council.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In providing this recommendation to the Council no officer involved in preparing this report has a conflict of interest.

Attachments: Nil

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Name: Cr Bernadette Hogan

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting
	BCG Chairman's Annual Breakfast (Birchip)
22/08/2025	Buloke Shire CEO's Farewell Afternoon Tea (Wycheproof)
	Webinar – Transmission Victoria
27/08/2025	Buloke Shire Assets & Financial Plans Workshop (Birchip)
29/08/2025	ALGWA Conference (Melbourne)
	Sea Lake Advance Meeting (Sea Lake)
3/09/2025	Councillor Briefing (Donald)
10/09/2025	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting (Wycheproof)
10/09/2025	Economic Development & Tourism Strategy Workshop
13/09/2025	NCFL Grand Final (Wedderburn)
	NCLLEN Meeting (Charlton)
	Councillor Briefing (Wycheproof)
17/09/2025	Council Meeting (Wycheproof)

Name: Cr Graeme Milne

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting
25/08/2025	Buloke Tourism (Nandaly)
27/08/2025	Buloke Shire Assets & Financial Plans Workshop (Birchip)
27/08/2025	Donald Family Precinct/Recreation Reserve and Donald 2000
1/09/2025	Silo Art Discussion (Birchip)
3/09/2025	Councillor Briefing (Donald)
8/09/2025	Donald History Group (Watchem)
9/09/2025	Watchem Progress Association (Watchem)
10/09/2025	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting (Wycheproof)
10/09/2025	Economic Development & Tourism Strategy Workshop
11/09/2025	Wimmera Group of Councils Alliance (Horsham)
15/09/2025	MFMPCC Meeting (Wycheproof)
16/09/2025	Wimmera Lakes Water Alliance AGM and Meeting in Birchip
17/09/2025	CEO Recruitment (Wycheproof)
17/09/2025	Council Meeting (Wycheproof)

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Question:

I have a question from the public which didn't make it into tonight's agenda, I hope that this has been an oversight by council staff. The following question has been sent in by Daryl Warren.

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.

Person: Cr Graeme Milne on behalf of Daryl Warren

Council response:

Thank you, taken on notice and will be answered at our Special Council Meeting on Monday 22 September 2025.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil.

10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7:54 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on 22 September 2025 at 4:30pm.