



Council Meeting **Minutes**

Wednesday 21 May 2025

Commencing at 7:00 pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer



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Minutes of the Meeting held on 21/05/2025.**CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Alan Getley (Mayor)

Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

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

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

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley will welcome all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley will acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

2 RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Cr Bernadette Hogan

Mallee Ward

(who is on a Leave of Absence from 28 April to 26 May, 2025)

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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 16 April, 2025 and 8 May, 2025.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt**SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney****CARRIED.****(R/25/031)**

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Delaney has declared a material conflict of interest in item 8.2.1 Community Grants

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Person:

Mr Daryl Warren

Question:

Mayor on the 14 July 2021 Council formally adopted and ratified its Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025.

There was significant consultation undertaken in the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025, under which is the Year 4 Annual Plan.

A key deliverable of that Plan was the development of Masterplans for Recreation Reserves across the Shire. Some have been delivered some as yet have not been developed.

I note with interest tonight the Council will note that the Donald and Sea Lake Recreation Reserves Masterplans have not been commenced or delivered.

I also note the Officers comment assigned to each Plan as follows:

'Request for Quote is currently being prepared for a whole of town recreation plan for Donald/Sea Lake This will incorporate current passive and organised recreational assets across Donald/Sea Lake and explore future opportunities to better utilise and activate places and spaces to increase recreational activity.'

1. Can you advise why the Council is no longer going to develop Masterplans for the Donald and Sea Lake Recreation Reserves?

Council response:

Council are still developing masterplans for the Donald and Sea Lake Recreation Reserves. The development of the masterplans for Sea Lake and Donald will incorporate the original scope of updating of the respective recreation reserve masterplans, and will additionally acknowledge other built and natural assets within each township that present opportunities for recreational activity as an initiative for greater inclusion within the community.

2. When did the Council discuss these changes to the published Long Term Community Vision and Plan 2021-2025?

Council Response:

The deliverable from the Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-25 for new masterplans to be developed for Sea Lake and Donald Recreation Reserves remains unchanged.

The acknowledgement of recreational opportunities and sporting facilities which are located outside of the physical boundaries of the recreation reserves themselves in each township is an additional initiative taken as a result of consultation with community groups and members over recent years.

More targeted consultation on an approach to township-wide recreational strategic planning will be conducted upon commencement of the master planning process. This initiative is to ensure Council are inclusive of all recreation within the community.

3. When did community consultation take place to seek input to these changes and if no consultation was undertaken who in Council made the decision to ignore a Council motion which was adopted in 2021?

Council Response:

The development of the masterplans will still be undertaken to include the Recreation Reserves as planned.

The Council motion has not been ignored and consultation with community groups and community members has been and will be ongoing for all recreation within the Shire.

The additional acknowledgement of recreation in each township is an initiative of Council to be more inclusive for organised sport and passive, active recreation in all forms as a true reflection of the broad usage of facilities and spaces within our community.

7 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant/Administration Assistant

Directorate: Office of the CEO

File No:
GO/05/04

PURPOSE

To report on the Assembly of Councillors from 17 March - 7 May 2025.

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|---|--|
| MOTION | |
| 1. That Council note the Assembly of Councillors from 17 March – 7 May 2025 | |
| MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt | |
| SECONDED: Cr Bruce Stafford | |
| CARRIED. (R/25/032) | |

Attachments: 1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 7 May 2025

| Date | Attendees | Meeting Item |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 17 March 2025 6:00pm | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt and Cr Hogan | Community Forum Summit Wycheproof Hall |
| 31 March 2025 9:30am | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt and Cr Hogan | Council Plan Workshop Wycheproof Hall Supper Room |
| 2 April 2025 11:00am | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt and Cr Hogan | CEO Review Wycheproof Hall Supper Room |
| 2 April 2025 5:00pm | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt and Cr Hogan | Councillor Briefing Watchem Hall |
| 14 April 2025 9:30am | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt and Cr Hogan | Council Plan Workshop Wycheproof Hall Supper Room |
| 23 April 2025 9:30am | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt and Cr Hogan | Council Budget Workshop Wycheproof Hall Supper Room |
| 23 April 2025 2:30pm | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt and Cr Hogan | Revenue & Rating Workshop Wycheproof Hall Supper Room |
| 29 April 2025 6:00pm | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford, Cr Barratt. | Transmission Lines and Renewable Energy Discussion. Donald Shire Office |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| 7 May 2025 5:00pm | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford and Cr Barratt | Councillor Briefing Berriwillock Community Centre |
| 14 May 2025 5:00 pm | Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Cr Stafford and Cr Barratt | VNI West Transmission Line project discussion. Online (Teams) Meeting |

7.2 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant/Administration Assistant

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 16 April and 8 May 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

MOTION

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

MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/33)

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 16 April and 8 May 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Council Resolutions Outstanding 16 April to be tabled 21 May 2025

8 GENERAL BUSINESS
8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Author's Title: Manager Community Partnerships

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Well Supported Community

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 vision as outlined in the Council Plan.

The purpose of these grant programs 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, improve the environment or effectively conserve resource usage.

Cr Delaney declared a material conflict of interest as Donald Learning Group is her employer

Cr Charmaine Delaney left the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Cr Charmaine Delaney returned to the meeting at 7:11 pm.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Approves the following allocation of funds under the Community Sustainability Grants Program:
\$10,000 – Keep Birchip Golfing (Birchip Community Leisure Centre)
2. Approves the following allocation of funds under the Community Grants Program:
\$2,000 – Birchip Community Christmas Party (Birchip Neighbourhood House Incorporated)
\$2,000 - Donald Art & Photography Show 2025 (Donald Learning Group Inc)

MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/25/034)

DISCUSSION

Three Community Grant applications have been received and assessed since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in April 2025. Another application was received in October 2024 and has now been assessed.

Further information is currently being sought for one of the three applications received since April, and another is seeking retrospective funding due to insufficient time available between the assessment period and the event to be funded.

The application received in October 2024, was recently identified as not yet assessed due to officer oversight during the Local Government elections caretaker period and the application being received when the grant application process was transitioning to the SmartyGrants system. This application has now been assessed, and retrospective funding is being sought.

As per the current Community Grant Guidelines, each application was assessed by an Assessment Panel. The Panel of three assessors consisted of three Council officers from across the Community Development Directorate.

Three applications have been assessed, and additional information is currently being sought for the fourth application received.

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name of Organisation | Birchip Community Leisure Centre (BCLC) |
| Project Title | Keep Birchip Golfing |
| Grant Type | Sustainability Grant - Up to \$10,000 |
| Total Amount Requested | \$10,000.00 |
| Funding Amount Recommended | \$10,000.00 |
| Full project cost | \$44,500.00 |
| Project Description | Purchase of a small CASE tractor to introduce a more sustainable and environmental approach to maintaining an 18-hole golf course. The purchase of a small CASE tractor will remove the use of ride on mowers resulting in a reduction of hours required to mow the course, significant savings on fuel costs, mower maintenance and repairs. |
| Project Benefit | The project will see a reduction in volunteer time, fuel and fuel emissions, mower maintenance and repairs and will ease the financial burden on the management committee. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring: | 15 + 12 + 25 = 52 |
| Average Score: | Average score = 17 out of 20 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Name of Organisation | Birchip Neighbourhood House Incorporated |
| Project Title | Birchip Community Christmas Party |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Grant Type | Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000 |
| Total Amount Requested | \$2,000.00 |
| Funding Amount Recommended | \$2,000.00 |
| Full project cost | \$16,000.00 |
| Project Description | <p>The Birchip Community Christmas Party trialed a new format last year with a daytime Sunday event incorporating and ecumenical Christmas Church Service with carols, barbecue lunch and children's rides as well as a niche market for local small stall holders, with an emphasis on Children's enterprises.</p> <p>The carol service included local performers of all ages and local students and children making creative items to sell at the market.</p> |
| Project Benefit | The bringing together of local and visiting families, friends, youth, seniors, service clubs, volunteers and our whole community with a range of activities that cater to a large cross section of the community. Increased community and intergenerational connections and fostering of positive mental health and wellbeing. Opportunity for entrepreneurs and businesses opportunities to sell products prior to Christmas. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring: | 19 + 19 + 15 = 53 |
| Average Score: | Average score = 17 out of 20 |

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name of Organisation | Donald Learning Group Inc |
| Project Title | Donald Art & Photography Show 2025 |
| Grant Type | Project Support Grant - Up to \$2,000 |
| Total Amount Requested | \$2,000.00 |
| Funding Amount Recommended | \$2,000.00 |
| Full project cost | \$11,291.50 |
| Project Description | <p>Donald Art & Photography Show 2025 show was held the Donald Memorial Hall from 9–12 May 2025.</p> <p>It provided the opportunity to showcase the works of art and the town of Donald and featured local guest artist Tarlia Bird, sharing her knowledge, and a guest Judge Lauren Larkins (the Director of the Horsham Regional Arts Gallery).</p> |
| Project Benefit | A connected community will lead to better community health outcomes. Partnerships are key to working towards better health and wellbeing outcomes for our community. This event will link with the Strong Youth, Strong Communities partnership which spans three Local Government Areas. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring: | 16 + 20 + 12 = 48 |
| 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 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.

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.

A review of application and assessment timelines has been undertaken to better inform future applicants of the grant approval process and turnaround time. These timelines have now been added to the relevant webpage on Council's website.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The allocation of funds for the application recommended for funding will come from the Community Grants Program budget (\$20,000) in Council's Annual Budget 2024-25.

There is currently \$8,158 remaining in the adopted Community Grants Program budget for project support grants for the 2024-25 financial year.

There is currently \$50,000 remaining in the adopted Sustainability Grants Program budget for the 2024-25 financial year.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 and Long-Term Community Vision

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

8.2.2 LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEW

Author's Title: Manager Community Partnerships

Directorate: Community Development

File No: CS/07/05

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Well Supported Community
Increased Community Wellbeing
Continuous Service Improvement for Efficient and Flexible Services

PURPOSE

To present to Council the findings of the Buloke Shire Library Service Review.

SUMMARY

In 2018, Buloke Shire Council withdrew from Wimmera Regional Library Corporation and ceased its service agreements with Goldfields Library Corporation and Swan Hill Shire Council.

A Service Review was recommended following this change in governance and service delivery, as well as a Victorian Auditor-General's Office recommendation to determine how the library service was performing when compared to the Australian Public Libraries standards and guidelines.

The Review aims to provide strategic direction to Council for the future management, delivery, and enhancement of community-focused, accessible and sustainable library services across the municipality.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Endorse the Buloke Shire Library Service Review
2. Notes and declares the attachments to this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (k) Information prescribed by the regulation to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition as described in s 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

Against Cr Milne

(R/25/035)

DISCUSSION

The Buloke Shire Library Service Review aims to provide strategic direction to Council for the future management, delivery, and enhancement of community-focused, accessible and sustainable library services across the municipality.

Following considerable community consultation and engagement, research and benchmarking of similar sized councils, the Buloke Shire Service Review identified areas of improvement required to enable the Buloke Shire Library Service to meet the Australian Public Libraries standards and guidelines as well as the needs of the local community.

The Review presents 39 actions under 3 categories:

- Tweak - Relatively small to medium scale changes to improve library operations, access and efficiency (18 actions)
- Grow - Small and gradually larger steps toward an agreed vision of a modern public library in a rural setting (17 actions)
- Transform – Bold new service models and approaches that will deliver significantly better library service access, use and outcomes for the Buloke community (4 actions)

Each action is rated by the implementation characteristics of:

- Priority (Low, Medium, High)
- Resources (Low, Medium, High)
- Duration (Short, Medium, Long)

Following the endorsement by Council, a Library Service Plan will be developed, in collaboration with key stakeholders and the community, to guide the implementation of the Buloke Shire Library Service Review. The Service Plan will ensure the findings and recommendations of the Review are delivered efficiently with available resources.

A summary document of the Buloke Library Service Review will be developed to provide the community with an overview of the findings and recommendations of the Review.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not endorse the Buloke Shire Library Service Review.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Buloke Shire Library Service Review identifies opportunities for Council to develop and adapt its provision of library services to be more efficient and sustainable. The implementation of these options will be considered in the development of the subsequent Library Service Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout February and March 2025, an extensive community consultation process was undertaken to help inform the development of the Buloke Shire Library Service Review.

This included:

- A community survey which received a total of 145 responses (133 library users and 12 library non-users – representing 2.3% of the Shire population)
- In-person community consultation sessions at all ten library service locations
- Pop-up sessions at Council's seven outdoor swimming pools
- Information stands outside supermarkets
- An in-person workshops held with Councillors

- Individual in-person meetings with the members of the Buloke Shire Neighbourhood House Network and Buloke Shire Library Service providers

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Buloke Shire Library Service Review identifies opportunities for the current provision of Council library services to be improved and more innovative. The implementation of these options will be considered in the development of the subsequent Library Service Plan.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

A Library Service Plan will be developed to guide the implementation of the Buloke Shire Library Service Review.

The Service Plan will identify any investment required to support the implementation of the Review with potential funding being sought through the Annual Budget adopted each year as well as the Long-Term Financial Plan. External funding will also be sought to provide additional funding, as required.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Victorian Auditor-General's Office Council Library Report 2019
Australian Public Libraries standards and guidelines

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025

Community Engagement Policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Buloke Shire Library Service review provides research, benchmarking and best practices to provide transparency and guidance in any future decisions of Council relating to the provision and delivery of library services in Buloke Shire.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff member involved in the compilation of this report has a conflict of interest to declare.

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Attachment 8.2.2.1 - Buloke Shire Council Library Services Review - March 2025

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.3.1 QUARTERLY FINANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Author's Title: Manager Financial Strategy

Directorate: Director Corporate and Organizational
Performance

File No:
FM/02/09

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: A Well Governed and Healthy Organisation

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the finance reports for the period ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with the requirements of Section 97 of the Local Government Act 2020.

SUMMARY

Council adopted the 2024/25 budget on 26 June 2024 and this report provides a comparison between budgets and actuals for the period ended 31 March 2025, forecasts the actual result for the full financial year and compares that to the adopted budget.

The report explains variances to date and explains reforecasts for the full year including the anticipated impact on Council's adopted operating and capital works budgets. A revised budget in accordance with the Act is not required.

MOTION

That Council receives and notes the Quarterly Finance Management Report for the period ended 31 March 2025.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.
(R/25/036)

A Revised Capital Statement to be included in Minutes.

DISCUSSION

Under Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* a quarterly budget report must be presented to Council.

The attached reports include a comparison of the operating and capital works budgets with actuals for the period ended 31 March 2025 and forecasts for the full year, along with a cash flow statement and balance sheet.

Council's forecasted net result for the year as per the income statement is a deficit of \$1.356 million compared to a budgeted surplus of \$2.033 million, a negative variance of \$3.390 million.

Variances from the budget are explained in detail in the tables below.

While Council's operating surplus is forecast to be reduced, Council's anticipated cash position at 30 June 2025 will be approx. \$23.5 million (at 30 June 2024 Council's cash position was \$29.3 million). This is due to additional expenditure under materials and services and unbudgeted flood rehabilitation works.

Council is awaiting finalisation of flood funding packages that will potentially impact on the capital works program and Council's cash position at 30 June 2025, however the income and expenditure will be matched.

Income Statement

The total operating income presents a favourable \$1.062 million improvement on the budgeted income to date and is forecasted to be a favourable \$1.355 million on the budget at year end.

Capital income is expected to be \$3.605 million below budget at year end.

Total operating expenditure is \$1.579 million over the budget to date and expected to be \$1.140 million over the budget at year end.

Overall, after 3 months there is an unfavorable variance of \$1.356 million, detailed in the below table.

| Detail | Commentary |
|--------------------------|--|
| Income | |
| Rates and charges | Close to budget to date. |
| Statutory fees and fines | Favorable variance of \$33K due to timing difference in income from food registrations. |
| User fees | Unfavorable variance of \$22K due to timing difference in income from compliance, building inspections, saleyards and health and well-being. |
| Grants – operating | Favorable variance of \$634K due to grants received under December 2023 flood and February 2024 storm event, neither of which was budgeted. From a budget to date view, this will partly be offset by unfavorable variance as the Commonwealth Government Financial Assistance Grant will be \$213k less than budget for the full year. |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Contributions | | Favorable variance of \$5K due to contribution received from Wimmera Health Service against food forums. |
| Other income | | Favorable variance due to - Sale of scrap metal (approx. \$82k) from Council transfer stations, work-cover reimbursements (approx. \$80k) and unclaimed fuel tax credits (approx. \$28K) not budgeted. Interest on investment has exceeded the budget to date by approx. \$240K and is expected to exceed the full year's budget as well. |
| Grants - capital | | Unfavorable variance due to external funds refunded on account of under spent works (80K). Capital income is forecasted to be \$3.205 million short of budget due to unsuccessful grant application and income not recognized towards carry forward capital works. |
| Contributions monetary | - | Favorable variance as capital contributions of \$249k have been invoiced to various sporting organizations across the shire for their contributions to the lighting up Buloke project. Insurance claim of \$65K towards October 2022 floods, not budgeted for, now received. |
| Expenditure | | |
| Employee costs | | Favorable variance to date of \$899k as a result of numerous vacancies across the organization. |
| Materials and services | | Major unfavorable variances are due to increase in - Operational contracts and services approx. \$963K around operational works for flood event, including recovery hub and December storm event which could not be budgeted for but are offset by minor savings in other areas. Consultant fees of approx. \$853K, including specific project works such as Council Election, Esoteric event and for support for areas with resourcing vacancies. Operational materials including stock piling emulsion and gravel for sealed roads, rental equipment, software and licenses, plant and equipment operational cost and utilities. |
| Depreciation | | Depreciation for the quarter is over budget due to the capitalization at year end of road assets. |
| Finance costs leases | - | Marginally more than budget to date |
| Other expenses | | Favorable variance of \$177K as community contributions budgeted to date have not yet been paid. Expected to be paid in May 2025 |

Capital Works

Capital Program for FY24/25 is \$19.709 million. Total capital expenditure for the period ending 31 March 2025 is \$7.801 million, including expenditure towards flood reconstruction of essential public assets approx. \$3.668 million which was not budgeted in the current financial year.

Of the current budgeted projects, Council intends to carry forward \$12.774 million into the Annual Budget FY25/26.

| Detail | Commentary |
|--|--|
| Land and land improvements | Expenditure incurred on the Sea Lake residential development of approx. \$192K was budgeted for in FY23/24, however unfinished works carried into FY24/25 were not budgeted for due to the unforeseen delays and timing of the end of financial year. The Sea Lake Night Art Activation project incurred costs of approx. 71K, carried over from 2023/24. |
| Plant and equipment | Expected to be carried forward as delivery of heavy equipment will be in FY25/26. |
| Infrastructure | |
| Roads | <p>Unbudgeted costs associated with the October 2022 flood event total approx. \$3.024 million and for the December 2023 flood event total approx. \$644K. They will be acquitted against any money received in advance in 2022/23 and money approved for recoupment by Emergency Management Victoria.</p> <p>Resheet and Resealing works are expected to be on track.</p> <p>Donald second temporary levee, Safer Local Roads program works, Jeffcott rehab, and flood rehab projects expected to be carried forward.</p> |
| Footpaths and cycleways | Expenditure that was expected to be completed in FY23/24, brought forward in current year and FY24/25 budget is considered for carry forward. |
| Drainage | <p>Budget against Drainage works of \$200K has been re-assigned to Wycheproof Wetlands</p> <p>Balance of the budget against the Calder Highway Pipework - \$152K considered for carry forward</p> |
| Recreational, leisure and community facilities | <p>Major projects include -</p> <p>Aquatic facilities – awaiting outcome of aquatic strategy, no major works done and \$100K is set to be carried forward.</p> |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | <p>Birchip Netball Court remediation – Project was budgeted to be funded by insurance, which is ongoing to date.</p> <p>Remaining minor projects are on track and are in consideration for the extent of carry forward.</p> |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | <p>Majority of outstanding projects are forecasted to be completed by June 2025 approx. \$3.8 million</p> <p>Projects such as Watchem and Wooroonook lake septic replacement, Regional Worker Accommodation (cabins), Birchip Street Lighting, Sea Lake Street Lighting, Donald streetscape are to be carried forward approx. \$2.6 million</p> |
| Aerodromes | Carry forward |

Balance sheet

| Detail | Commentary |
|---|---|
| Assets | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | Cash and cash equivalents total \$34.5 million compared to \$29.3 million at 30 June 2024. |
| Trade and other receivables | These have decreased from 30 June 2024 due to rate income received. Prepayments have been costed as required. |
| Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | Adjusted for depreciation, and capital expenditure to date is included as work in progress. |
| Right-of-use assets | No change. |
| Liabilities | |
| Trade and other payables | These include trade creditors and have increased since 30 June 2024 as it includes unpaid credit run for March 2025, paid in April. |
| Trust funds and deposits | Includes the fire services levy billed with rates that will be payable to the State government. |
| Contract and other liabilities | Increased due to external grants received – Roads to Recovery = \$1.9 million and LRCI phase 4 = \$1 million |
| Provisions | Staff on Long Service Leave, thus provision drawn down |
| Lease liabilities | No change. |
| Equity | |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Accumulated surplus | Adjusted for last year's deficit and current "earnings" for the quarter are shown here. |
| Reserves | No change. |

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted its Annual Budget 2024/25 on 26 June 2024.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

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

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The reports provide a snapshot of Council's financial performance for the period ended 31 March 2025 and reforecasts for the year, noting the impact on the adopted budget.

The financial position of Council will continue to be monitored and managed.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The report is an opportunity for Council to compare its financial performance against its annual budget and is in accordance with its Council Plan 2021-2025 commitment to manage its budgets responsibly to achieve long term financial sustainability.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: 1. Attachment 8.3.1.1 - Buloke Shire Council Financials for Q 3 2025
Councillor Briefing

| Buloke Shire Council Capital Works Statement For the 9 months ended 31 March 2025 | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Account | Full Year Budget | YTD Actual | Variance |
| Land improvements | | | |
| 5021 - Wycheproof Saleyards rural water connection | 40,000.00 | 58.59 | 39,941.41 |
| 5022 - Sea Lake Housing Development | 0.00 | 192,326.81 | (192,326.81) |
| 5020 - Night art activation | 10,000.00 | 81,081.38 | (71,081.38) |
| Total Land improvements | 50,000.00 | 273,466.78 | (223,466.78) |
| Building improvements | | | |
| 5041 - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning works | 100,000.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 |
| 5040 - Building improvements | 125,000.00 | 1,834.75 | 123,165.25 |
| Total Building improvements | 225,000.00 | 1,834.75 | 223,165.25 |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | | | |
| 5060 - Plant, machinery and equipment | 1,596,000.00 | 372,727.28 | 1,223,272.72 |
| Total Plant, machinery and equipment | 1,596,000.00 | 372,727.28 | 1,223,272.72 |
| Fixtures, fittings and furniture | | | |
| 5065 - Fixtures, fittings and furniture | 65,000.00 | 13,818.25 | 51,181.75 |
| Total Fixtures, fittings and furniture | 65,000.00 | 13,818.25 | 51,181.75 |
| Computers and telecommunications | | | |
| 5070 - Computers and Information Technology equipment | 170,000.00 | 133,073.86 | 36,926.14 |
| 5075 - Library assets | 27,000.00 | 8,910.70 | 18,089.30 |
| Total Computers and telecommunications | 197,000.00 | 141,984.56 | 55,015.44 |
| Roads | | | |
| 5085 - Second temporary levee Donald | 523,000.00 | 0.00 | 523,000.00 |
| 5083 - Safer local roads | 250,000.00 | 0.00 | 250,000.00 |
| 5082 - Resheet program | 650,000.00 | 559,306.88 | 90,693.12 |
| 5086 - Jeffcott Road Rehabilitation & final seal | 350,000.00 | 0.00 | 350,000.00 |
| 5088 - Rehabilitation works | 1,900,000.00 | 0.00 | 1,900,000.00 |
| 5080 - Rehabilitation and flood works | 4,523,000.00 | 0.00 | 4,523,000.00 |
| 5081 - Reseal program | 1,200,000.00 | 6,787.68 | 1,193,212.32 |
| 5087 - Maribed Curvo Rehabilitation Ch 0 to 1.075 km | 72,000.00 | 138,260.36 | (66,260.36) |
| 5084 - Major patching | 100,000.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 |
| Flood works | 0.00 | 3,668,345.81 | (3,668,345.81) |
| Total Roads | 9,568,000.00 | 4,372,700.73 | 5,195,299.27 |
| Footpaths and cycleways | | | |
| 5220 - Footpath and cycleways | 203,000.00 | 137,377.88 | 65,622.12 |
| Total Footpaths and cycleways | 203,000.00 | 137,377.88 | 65,622.12 |
| Drainage | | | |
| 5250 - Drainage Works | 200,000.00 | 0.00 | 200,000.00 |
| 5251 - Nullawil - West/East drainage (Calder Highway Pipeworks) | 152,000.00 | 0.00 | 152,000.00 |
| Total Drainage | 352,000.00 | 0.00 | 352,000.00 |
| Recreational, leisure and community facilities | | | |
| 5280 - Aquatic facilities renewal works | 580,000.00 | 79,181.66 | 480,818.34 |
| 5284 - Flagpole upgrades | 50,000.00 | 1,492.65 | 48,507.35 |
| 5285 - Electric vehicle charger Birchip or Charlton | 60,000.00 | 1,492.65 | 58,507.35 |
| 5281 - Birchip netball court remediation | 550,000.00 | 3,206.00 | 546,794.00 |
| 5286 - Tiny Towns | 304,000.00 | 20,322.58 | 283,677.42 |
| 5283 - Recreational vehicle dump point | 75,000.00 | 27,598.26 | 47,401.74 |
| 5282 - Birchip recreation reserve generator | 85,000.00 | 0.00 | 85,000.00 |
| 5292 - Wycheproof Multi Sport Facility | 0.00 | 13,750.00 | (13,750.00) |
| Total Recreational, leisure and community facilities | 1,684,000.00 | 147,043.80 | 1,536,956.20 |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | | | |
| 5420 - Wycheproof Recreation Reserve public toilets | 100,000.00 | 4,048.64 | 95,951.36 |
| 5411 - Watchem septic replacement | 150,000.00 | 47,306.93 | 102,693.07 |
| 5410 - Regional worker accommodation (Cabins) | 1,629,000.00 | 5,421.51 | 1,623,578.49 |
| 5416 - Playspace (Berri, Birchip, Charlton, Donald & Wycheproof) | 1,269,000.00 | 705,459.85 | 563,540.15 |
| 5413 - Birchip streetscape lighting | 199,000.00 | 699.75 | 198,300.25 |
| 5418 - Nullawil public toilets | 34,000.00 | 1,346.50 | 32,653.50 |
| 5419 - Sea Lake streetscape lighting | 201,000.00 | 118,150.25 | 82,849.75 |
| 5417 - Memorial Park changing places | 387,000.00 | 345,446.27 | 41,553.73 |
| 5415 - Regional Infrastructure Fund Cabins | 600,000.00 | 678,868.27 | (78,868.27) |
| 5414 - Donald Streetscape | 300,000.00 | 37,546.02 | 262,453.98 |
| 5421 - Wycheproof Wetlands | 500,000.00 | 379,216.76 | 120,783.24 |
| 5412 - Wooroonook septic replacement | 300,000.00 | 2,523.32 | 297,476.68 |
| 5422 - Sea Lake Apex Park Shelter | 0.00 | 14,276.96 | (14,276.96) |
| Total Parks, open space and streetscapes | 5,669,000.00 | 2,340,311.03 | 3,328,688.97 |
| Aerodromes | | | |
| 5530 - Aerodrome Audit Works | 100,000.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 |
| Total Aerodromes | 100,000.00 | 0.00 | 100,000.00 |
| Total capital works | 19,709,000.00 | 7,801,265.06 | 11,907,734.94 |

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.2 QUARTERLY ANNUAL PLAN REPORT

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/02/02

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Active Leaders and Volunteers

Objective: A Well Governed and Healthy Organisation

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the actions taken against the Council Plan 2021-2025 - Year 4 Annual Plan.

SUMMARY

Council at its 16 June 2021 Meeting adopted its Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 and subsequently developed Annual Plans for the implementation of the strategic objectives in each subsequent financial year.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Note the progress made to deliver the strategic objectives noted in the Year 4 Annual Plan for the Buloke Council Plan 2021-2025.

MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/25/037)

DISCUSSION

The purpose of an Annual Plan is for Council to develop a series of actions, projects, programs and initiatives, to assist with the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Progress reports are provided to Council throughout each year to provide a status update on delivery against the Annual Plan, and the overarching Council Plan 2021-2025. Some of the key actions of the Year 4 Annual Plan include:

- Deliver against the VicHealth Local Government Partnership Project
- Undertake Library Service Review and develop subsequent Library Service Plan
- Develop a gap analysis on signage for key tourist wayfinding

- Develop a Buloke events framework to enable local events to take place in a Covid normal environment
- Revisit preparation of Buloke Drainage Plans and associated flood modelling in partnership with Catchment Management Authorities
- Develop and adopt a Buloke Shire Council Aquatic Strategy
- Review the Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and present to Council for adoption by 30 June 2025
- Implementation of a new records management system

RELEVANT LAW

The Year 4 Annual Plan forms part of the review of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2020.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This item responds directly to the adoption of the Year 4 Annual Plan on 14 August 2024.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was significant consultation undertaken in the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025, under which is the Year 4 Annual Plan. Further actions have been developed and implemented through consultation with the community when required.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Reporting on the delivery of strategic objectives ensures continuous improvement and accountability to the community.

COLLABORATION

Many actions achieved in the Year 4 Annual Plan rely upon the collaboration of other Councils and key peak bodies, local community and relevant stakeholders.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The items listed in the Year 4 Annual Plan have been factored into the Annual Budget 2024/25, which is reported on regularly.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report responds directly to the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the adopted Year 4 Annual Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The adoption of regular reporting on the Annual Plan provides strong transparency to the community regarding the key focus areas of Council over the 2024/25 year and how Council is tracking against those actions.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff member involved in the compilation of this report has a conflict of interest to declare.

Attachments: 1. Attachment 8.4.2.1 - Annual Plan Year 4 Progress Report

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cr Charmaine Delaney Councillor Report 09. 04.25 to 06.05.25

| | |
|----------|--|
| 09.04.25 | NGSC Transmission Forum Meeting |
| 14.04.25 | Council Plan workshops |
| 16.04.25 | April Council Meeting |
| 23.04.25 | Councillor Budget Workshop |
| 23.04.25 | Annual Budget and Revenue and Rating Workshops |
| 23.04.25 | Donald Precinct Meeting |
| 25.05.25 | ANZAC Service Nullawil |
| 29.04.25 | Councillor Meeting Donald Chambers – Renewables Discussion |

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

9.3.1 Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy

Cr Getley left the Chair and Cr Milne took the Chair at 7:31pm

Cr Getley resumed the Chair after the Motion was carried at 7:35pm

MOTION

That Buloke Shire Council write to the Victorian Premier the Hon Jacinta Allan, Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Vicki Ward MP & Treasurer the Hon Jaclyn Sykes MP condemning the introduction of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Levy.

We ask that the Government reconsider the introduction of this levy and to take in to account the financial effect the levy will have on not only ratepayers but all residents of the Buloke Shire and the state.

Our small rural Shire is experiencing very difficult cost of living pressures, farmers suffering drought conditions and small businesses struggling, this levy will only increase the stress on our entire community.

We call on the State Government to exclude the Buloke Shire from administering or collecting the levy and this process to be handled by the state revenue office.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/038)

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

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

MOTION

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

| No. | Title | Confidential Reason |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|
| 9.5.1 | Contract Award - Contract No C127 – FRRW – Laen Litchfield Road DP12 | Report Confidential Reason(s) |
| 9.5.2 | Contract Award - Contract No C128 – FRRW – Various Roads - DP5 | Report Confidential Reason(s) |

MOVED: Cr Graeme Milne

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.
(R/25/039)

10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7:41.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on 18 June 2025 at 7:00pm.