



Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 19 March
2025

Commencing at 7:00 pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer



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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 maybe here today.

2 RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Nil.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 19 February 2025.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/015)

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There was a declaration of Conflict of Interest from Cr Geltey for Item 9.4.1 Interstate Travel.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Question 1:

Brett has asked two Questions relating to the planning matter within this evenings Council Agenda.

A question about the boundary on the west side of the premises. That we objected to in the original permit application on 7 October 2024. That we do have copies of the subdivision done on the 11 November 2003.

Person:

Brett MacDonald

Council response:

The question relates to the representation of the fence on the western allotment boundary on the plans submitted within the application. The plans show the fence as being set in approximately 1800mm to the east of the allotment boundary, which is an inaccurate representation. The fence is located on the allotment boundary. The dimensions of the allotment known as 327 Broadway are correctly represented. A new plan will be requested should a planning permit be issued at the end of the decision-making process.

Question 1.1:

The second question from Mr MacDonald is about stormwater. There is no indication of it on the site plan documents that was submitted with planning permit application PA24022.

Council response:

A number of planning permit conditions will relate to stormwater should a planning permit be issued at the end of the decision-making process. These conditions will direct that no waste, soiled, polluted or sediment laden water to be discharged from the site into stormwater drains. A stormwater plan will be required to provide detail of the proposed stormwater management system, and to provide detail to ensure the stormwater discharged from the site does not exceed the maximum allowable hydrocarbon concentration. GWMWater requires that a Trade Waste Agreement is to be completed to GWMWater's satisfaction.

Question 2:

Does the Buloke Shire Council support Esoteric Festival as an annual event within the Buloke Shire?

Name:

Justin Trollop

Council response:

The Buloke Shire has continued to express its support for all events within the shire, including the Esoteric Festival for the growth and the economic benefit of our communities.

Council's various service functions support events across the shire in a wide variety of ways and have done so for the Esoteric festival consistently since its commencement.

As the Responsible assessment authority it is the Council's obligation to ensure health, safety and legislative requirements are met for every event requiring a permit.

Question 3:

Do you as councillors feel the decision made to refuse the event {esoteric festival} was the best and safest option for the community?

Name:

Dale Anderson

Council response:

The decision to refuse the Place Of Public Entertainment application for the event is outside Councillors delegation. The decision was based on the assessment of health and safety risks identified by the Council's Municipal Building Surveyor and was supported by the State's Building Surveyor.

Question 4:

Jodie has asked two questions

Question 4.1

How much did it cost ratepayers for council dealings with Esoteric Festival after the 2024 event until now, including legal fees, PR consultants, external consultants, external contractors and all associated costs with the weekend fallout with patrons at lakes.

Name:

Jodie Hollis (on behalf of Donald 2000 Inc)

Council response:

Total financial figures for the expenditure to Council from the 2024 Festival have not been collated due to the ongoing nature of the support from particular consultants, including legal support and other required consultants since last years' event.

Question 4.2:

Are Councillors aware that Wayne Wilkie has not stepped foot on the event site since January 23rd 2025?

Response:

It is our understanding that Wayne Wilkie himself was onsite January 23rd 2025. Council is aware that following this a qualified delegate of the Municipal Building Surveyor was on the Esoteric Site on the 22nd February 2025 and again Thursday 6th March.

Question 5:

In 2022 Council adopted its current Governance Rules, through which the Council Agenda for Meetings are set by the Mayor and CEO.

After the recent Council Election in 2024 the Council Meeting Agenda was amended to exclude the following items from the agenda:

- Building and Planning Permits
- Letters of Congratulations

Sec 60 of the Local Government Act states that a Council MUST, adopt and keep in force Governance Rules for or with respect to the following.

- (a) the conduct of Council meetings.

Further it goes on to say.

(3) A Council may amend its Governance Rules

(4) Subject to subsection (5), a Council must ensure that a process of community engagement is followed in developing or amending its Governance Rules.

In respect of the changes made to the Governance Rules for the December 2024, February 2025 and March 2025 meetings.

- Can you advise who made the decision to amend/or alter the Governance Rules and under what authority did they decide NOT to undertake the required period of Community Engagement to do so.
- And when will the Minister and the Local Government Inspectorate be advised that Buloke Shire is now in breach of the Local Government Act.

Name:

Daryl Warren

Response:

Within Council's governance rules, in determination of the agenda, the CEO is required to consult the Mayor and will consider 5 points, including: point e) and any other relevant factors that may impact the fluent and open processes of government of Council.

The rules states: 'as a guide' the CEO should list items, giving priority to a list of agenda item options.

In relation to the exclusion of Letters of Congratulations and Planning permits issued under delegated authority for the December, February and March Council meeting, it was a decision made by the CEO in consultation with the Mayor as indicated within Council Governance Rules.

Councillors were consulted on the points throughout the Councillor induction training held in November. These two points were also raised at the February public meeting and addressed by Council Staff.

The decision making was made on the basis of the following:

Letters of congratulations and achievements are best received directly from Councillors through Councillor reports to prevent any further inconsistencies in the approach of the application of these acknowledgements across the vast community.

Planning matters that require a decision are of public interest and are brought to Council as a report when required. Alternatively regular planning approvals will be brought to Councillors through Councillor briefings to comply with the relevant Planning and Building legislations.

Council is currently taking submissions from the public for the draft Governance Rules to compiled in line with contemporary standards. Council is awaiting further legal advice to collate and brief Councillors on the outcome of this period of public exhibition.

To our understanding Councillors are not in breach of the Local Government Act.

7 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant to CEO

Directorate: Office of the CEO

File: GO/05/04

PURPOSE

To report on the Councillor Briefing held 5 February 2025.

MOTION

That Council note the report of Councillor Assembly Meeting held 5 February 2025.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Graeme Milne

CARRIED.

(R/25/016)

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Transparency is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

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 Section 57 of The Act, Council at its September 2020 Ordinary Meeting, adopted a Public Transparency policy, designed to improve public transparency in Council's decision-making processes and to assist the community in understanding the information that is accessible to them.

As per the Council Meeting Schedule adopted 20 November 2024, Councillor Briefings are held for Councillors to meet to consider matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision or for the exercise of delegation.

A record of the Councillor Briefing held on 5 February 2025 is attached for public information.

Attachments: 1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 5 February 2025

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 19 February 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

MOTION

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

MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford

SECONDED: Cr Graeme Milne

CARRIED.

(R/25/017)

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 19 February 2025 Council Meeting Resolutions.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.2.1 - Action Taken on Council Res - Outstanding Items and items from 19 February CM - to be tabled 19 Marc

8 GENERAL BUSINESS
8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION PA24022 - USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR A SERVICE STATION

Author's Title:	Planning Officer
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Directorate: Community Development

File No: LP/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: A Safe and Active Buloke

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider this planning permit application and as the Responsible Authority, resolve to issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit or issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit.

SUMMARY

A planning permit has been received by Council on the 6th of August 2024 for the use and development of land for a service station, alteration to a road in a Transport Zone 2, and to construct and display signage. The address for the application is 327 Broadway Wycheproof (Lot 1 PS 513232T).

The business is proposed to operate between the hours of 5am to 10pm, 7 days per week with at least one staff member on premises at all times.

The proposal includes a convenience store selling a limited range of goods, and customer amenities including an all access toilet.

Proposed works include the installation of fuel bowzers under the existing canopy, installation of underground fuel tanks, alterations to the existing building including the replacement of the garage door with windows and wall, and internal alterations to the building to enable stock display and to facilitate the all access bathroom.

MOTION

That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. PA24022 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* decides to issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit under the provisions of the Buloke Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as 327 Broadway, Wycheproof (Lot 1 PS513232T), for the use and development of land for a service station in accordance with the endorsed plans, with the application dated 6th August 2024.

For the following reasons:

1. Does not provide net community benefit. The proposed use does not provide a service to the community that is currently unavailable. The limited economic benefit does not outweigh social concerns on road safety and does not contribute to social or environmental well being
2. The proposal does not represent orderly planning. The restricted vehicle accessibility to the site, in a proposal that relies on vehicle access, presents a source of potential traffic movement conflict that is a significant and unnecessary safety issue. The heightened risk for vehicle and pedestrian road safety does not represent orderly planning.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Graeme Milne

CARRIED.

(R/25/018)

DISCUSSION

Proposal

Use and development of land for a service station, alter access to a Transport Zone 2, and the installation of signage. The business is proposed to operate between the hours of 5am to 10pm, 7 days per week with at least one staff member on premises at all times.

The proposal includes a convenience store selling a limited range of goods, and customer amenities including an all access toilet.

Proposed works include the installation of fuel bowzers under the existing canopy, installation of underground fuel tanks, alteration to existing building including replacement of garage door with windows and wall. Internal alteration to the building to enable stock display and to facilitate all access bathroom.

Subject site & locality

An inspection of the site and the surrounding area has been undertaken.

The site has a total area of 1014 square metres and currently contains:

- Unoccupied commercial style building with canopy, located toward the south west corner of the property
- The building is approximately 205 m² including canopy (measured from aerial photo). The remainder of the property is concrete and packed gravel hardstand.

The main site/locality characteristics are:

- The site is located at the intersection of the service road along Broadway (Calder Highway) and Webster Street.
- Traffic on the service lane is one way traffic heading north.
- The site is located on the west side of Broadway in the centre of the commercial district.
- Parking is available along the kerb, and in between the service lane and the highway.

- No parking on Webster Street

Permit/Site History

No permit history

Assessment

The zoning of the land and any relevant overlay provisions

The land is zoned Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z). The purpose of the Commercial 1 Zone is:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To create vibrant mixed use commercial centres for retail, office, business, entertainment and community uses.
- To provide for residential uses at densities complementary to the role and scale of the commercial centre.

The property is included in the Wycheproof Township Heritage Precinct. The building is not listed in the 'Buildings Significant to a Precinct' table. Buildings not included in this table are considered to be prima facie non contributory to the heritage significance of the precinct and the Heritage Overlay controls are not applicable.

Decision Guideline – Commercial 1 Zone	Comments
The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.	<i>These have been considered, please refer to details below.</i>
The interface with adjoining zones, especially the relationship with residential areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does not adjoin the Township Zone.</i> • <i>Does adjoin residential use.</i> • <i>Adjoins food and drink premises.</i> • <i>Will affect residential amenity – traffic into residential area, noise could potentially be inconsistent with noise expected in residential settings, and commercial lighting.</i>
The effect that existing uses may have on the proposed use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Existing residential – adjoining property to the west.</i> • <i>The existing residential use (7 Webster St.) may affect the ability of large vehicles to exit onto Webster Street if the residents, or visitors to the residence, have parked their car on the extension of their driveway onto Webster Street.</i> • <i>Existing retail – food and drink premises (bakery) – adjoining to the south – the existing use generates parking demand and pedestrian movement.</i>

The drainage of the land.	<i>Referred to Council Engineers – no concerns were raised.</i>
The effect of traffic to be generated on roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Will generate traffic movements onto Webster Street, and then back onto highway at an intersection, that is reported by residents to cause confusion.</i>• <i>Will generate some traffic movement into the residential areas, as long vehicles unable to turn east out of the service station, due to the power pole adjacent to the exit crossover, then turn west and make their way back to the highway.</i>• <i>Will generate traffic in the service lane.</i>• <i>Unable to access service station from Webster Street/ Calder Highway intersection. To access from this intersection a vehicle would have to enter into the one-way service lane travelling the 'wrong' way.</i>• <i>Drivers must have prior knowledge of accessing the service lane 70 metres to the south of the service station to access the service station.</i>• <i>Vehicles entering the township from the north are required to do a U-turn at Jubilee Street, and travel north along the service lane to access the service station.</i>
The interim use of those parts of the land not required for the proposed use.	<i>No unused land</i>

<p>The movement of pedestrians and cyclists, and vehicles providing for supplies, waste removal, emergency services and public transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The applicant has provided a site plan with swept path analysis showing a semi-trailer entering and exiting the site. The swept path shows that the semi-trailer is unable to exit the site without using all of Webster Street, affecting oncoming traffic. If a car was parked in the 'nature strip' part of the driveway at 7 Webster St. it may block the exit of a semi-trailer. A semi-trailer would not be able to turn right onto Webster Street as a power pole is adjacent to the drive way.</i> <i>Emergency services access OK</i>
<p>The provision of car parking.</p>	<p><i>52.06-6 service station is a use not specified in table 1, therefore parking must be provided to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority – the proposal is to provide 2 car parks. This is considered adequate</i></p>
<p>The streetscape, including the conservation of buildings, the design of verandahs, access from the street front, protecting active frontages to pedestrian areas, the treatment of the fronts and backs of buildings and their appurtenances, illumination of buildings or their immediate spaces and the landscaping of land adjoining a road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Proposed building and works include installation of fuel bowsers, relocation of canopy supports, replace the existing garage door with wall and windows, signage and painting.</i> <i>Any proposed lighting will be subject to a permit condition managing light overspill.</i> <i>No landscaping is proposed adjoining the road as traffic movements will utilise the space.</i> <i>The street scape will not be negatively impacted by the proposed building and works.</i>
<p>The storage of rubbish and materials for recycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No area is annotated on the site plan. There is available space on the property to allow for rubbish management.</i>
<p>Defining the responsibility for the maintenance of buildings, landscaping and paved areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Owner/operator will be responsible for maintenance.</i>

Consideration of the overlooking and overshadowing as a result of building or works affecting adjoining land in a Township Zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No new buildings are proposed; overlooking and over shadowing will be unchanged.</i>
The impact of overshadowing on existing rooftop solar energy systems on dwellings on adjoining lots in a Township Zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No new buildings are proposed; over shadowing on existing rooftop solar will be unchanged.</i>
The availability of and connection to services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Services are available</i>
The design of buildings to provide for solar access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No new buildings are proposed.</i>

Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS)

The following Municipal Planning Strategies have been considered as part of this application:

02 MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY
<p>02.03 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS</p> <p>02.03-3 Environmental risks and amenity</p> <p>Council's strategic directions for environmental risks and amenity include: Protecting the amenity and character of sensitive land uses when assessing incompatible use and development.</p> <p>02.03-5 Built Environment and heritage</p> <p>Council's strategic directions for built environment and heritage include: Encouraging development that preserves and enhances the character and amenity of townships.</p> <p>02.03-6 Economic development</p> <p>Council's strategic directions for economic development include: Encouraging economic development and activity that increases opportunities for the community.</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p><i>The proposed service station is largely consistent with policy on economic development.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed service station could affect amenity of nearby established sensitive uses including noise and vapour. Increased traffic movements generated by the business could affect amenity and traffic safety.</i></p>

Planning Policy Framework (PPF)

The following Planning Policy Framework have been considered as part of this application:

Planning Policy Framework
<p>13.04 SOIL DEGRADATION</p> <p>13.04-1S Contaminated and potentially contaminated land</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>To ensure that contaminated and potentially contaminated land is used and developed safely.</p> <p>Strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure contaminated or potentially contaminated land is or will be suitable for the proposed use, prior to the commencement of any use or development. • Protect a sensitive use (residential use, childcare centre, kindergarten, pre-school centre, primary school, even if ancillary to another use), children's playground or secondary school from the effects of contamination. <p>13.05 NOISE</p> <p>13.05-1S Noise management</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>To assist the management of noise effects on sensitive land uses.</p> <p>13.06 AIR QUALITY</p> <p>13.06-1S Air quality management</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>To assist the protection and improvement of air quality.</p> <p>Strategies include ensuring, wherever possible that there is suitable separation between land uses that pose a human health risk or reduce amenity due to air pollutants, and sensitive land uses including residential land use</p> <p>13.07 AMENITY, HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY</p> <p>13.07-1S Land use compatibility</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>To protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial, infrastructure or other uses with potential adverse off-site impacts.</p> <p>Strategies include: Ensure that use or development of land is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses</p> <p>13.07-1L-01 Amenity Protection – General</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>To encourage use and development without compromising residential amenity or agricultural land use.</p>

Comments:

The responsible authority must ensure that potentially contaminated land is suitable for its proposed use. (see decision guidelines of clause 65 section of this report)

The service station will increase noise levels in the immediate area. Vehicles, the bowzers, air conditioning and heating units all produce a level of noise. Replenishing the fuel tanks will generate noise. The service station is not intended to cater to large trucks so the noise will be limited to smaller vehicles.

Fuel vapour and dust will have an impact on air quality. The service station is not a large service station, and caters to smaller vehicles, it is not considered that volumes of fuel vapour would be large but there may be a possibility that premises in the immediate vicinity would be affected in certain weather conditions. The adjoining properties contain a food and drink premises with an outdoor area and a dwelling.

Emissions from bowzers in general are considered to be sufficiently low, given that the general public is allowed to use them without any requirement to use protective equipment.

17.02 COMMERCIAL**17.02-1S Business****Objective**

To encourage development that meets the community's needs for retail, entertainment, office and other commercial services.

Strategies include ensuring commercial facilities are aggregated and provide net community benefit in relation to their viability, accessibility and efficient use of infrastructure.

Comments:

The service station does not provide net community benefit as the difficult accessibility, and the potential for traffic confusion, and therefore accidents, outweighs the availability of fuel. The town is not deficient in fuel supply. This sentiment was expressed in the submissions – that traffic and pedestrian safety concerns outweigh the availability of fuel at this location.

18.01 LAND USE AND TRANSPORT**18.01-L Integrated transport**

Strategies include providing pedestrian and transport facilities within townships to improve access to shopping and community service areas.

18.01-3S Sustainable and safe transport**Objective**

To facilitate the efficient, coordinated and reliable movement of people and goods by developing an integrated and efficient transport system.

Strategies include planning the transport system to be safe by:

- Optimising accessibility, emergency access, service and amenity.
- Supporting road users to make safe choices through design and wayfinding techniques.

Comments:

The service station has the potential to reduce safety for road users due to the location near to an already confusing intersection.

Clear signage would be required at multiple locations to ensure correct access and egress from the site.

Relevant Particular Provisions

Clause 52.05 Signs

The purpose of this particular provision is:

- To regulate the development of land for signs and associated structures.
- To ensure signs are compatible with the amenity and visual appearance of an area, including the existing or desired future character.
- To ensure signs do not contribute to excessive visual clutter or visual disorder.
- To ensure that signs do not cause loss of amenity or adversely affect the natural or built environment or the safety, appearance or efficiency of a road

At clause 34.01-9 the C1Z is in Category 1 – Commercial areas.

At clause 52.05-11 Category 1 a permit is required for Business identification signs if the total display area of all signs at a premises exceeds 8m².

The total area of signage, including promotion signs, entry/exit signs, logo decals, and bowser signage is 23.46m². A planning permit is required for signage.

Decision Guidelines – Clause 52.05	Comments
The character of the area.	<i>The proposed signs are typical of signs to be found in a commercial area.</i>
Impacts on views and vistas.	<i>There will be no impact on view and vistas</i>
The relationship to the streetscape, setting or landscape.	<i>The signs are typical of signs that would be found on a service station and will not have a significant negative impact on the streetscape.</i>
The relationship to the site and building.	<i>The proposed signs are not excessive in size and nature and would be considered to be typical for a service station. The largest sign proposed for the site is a double-sided illuminated promotion sign with dimensions of 3.825 x 2.12 metres, mounted on a pole with a maximum height of 6.00 metres. This is not out of proportion with existing buildings on the site, that have a height of 4.33 metres. It is not out of proportion with buildings in the street in the immediate proximity.</i>

The impact of any illumination.	<i>The illuminated sign is proposed to be located at the northeast corner of the site at the furthest distance from the adjoining dwelling. It will be visible from the two-storey building at 343 Broadway. The Commercial 1 Zone is in the least restrictive category for signs. The Department of Transport has provided permit conditions to prescribe maximum average luminance.</i>
The impact of any logo box associated with the sign	<i>Not applicable</i>
The need for identification and the opportunities for adequate identification on the site or locality	<i>It is considered acceptable that a service station would display signage to make motorists aware of their presence. There is adequate identification opportunity in the signage proposed.</i>
The impact on road safety.	<i>The proposed signage will not significantly impact on road safety. The largest sign is located in the northeast corner but is set back approximately 4.15 metres from the 'give way' line on Webster Street allowing an adequate level of unobstructed vision to the service lane.</i>

Clause 52.29 Land adjacent to the Principal Road Network

The purpose of this particular provision is:

- To ensure appropriate access to the Principal Road Network or land planned to form part of the Principal Road Network.

A permit is required to create or alter access to a road in a Transport Zone 2. A change of land use is an alteration of access.

Clause 52.06 Car parking

The purpose of this particular provision is:

- To ensure that car parking is provided in accordance with the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To ensure the provision of an appropriate number of car parking spaces having regard to the demand likely to be generated, the activities on the land and the nature of the locality.
- To support sustainable transport alternatives to the motor car.
- To promote the efficient use of car parking spaces through the consolidation of car parking facilities.
- To ensure that car parking does not adversely affect the amenity of the locality.

- To ensure that the design and location of car parking is of a high standard, creates a safe environment for users and enables easy and efficient use.

This clause applies to a new land use. The car parking requirement is not specified for the service station land use in the clause, and car parking spaces must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

The proposal includes two dedicated car parks, one to be an all-access carpark. This is to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

The decision guidelines of Clause 65

Before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate

Decision Guidelines	Comments
Any significant effects the environment, including the contamination of land, may have on the use or development.	<i>The subject land has previously been used for a service station. There may be some contamination present from previous service station use. The property is not highlighted on the EPA Register.</i> <i>Using the tables in Planning Practice Note 30 the recommended approach to consider potentially contaminated land is category C – Preliminary site investigation recommended. The proposed land use is not a sensitive land use identified at 13.04-1S. The site has not been used as a service station for many years, and the site has been used for display and retail. The proposed service station utilises concrete and compacted gravel surfaces mitigating exposure to any historical contamination that may be present.</i>
The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.	<i>These have been considered in more detail above.</i>
The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.	<i>The proposed service station land use is consistent with the purpose of the zone. The building is not considered contributory to the heritage overlay.</i>
Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.	<i>These have been addressed previously in the Report.</i>
The orderly planning of the area.	<i>The land use does not represent orderly planning of the area. Vehicular access to the site is problematic as the only access to the site is via a service lane that can only be accessed from the highway 70 metres to the south of the service station entrance. See 'summary of key issues'.</i>
The effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area.	<i>The proposed service station will have an effect on the amenity of the immediate area. The</i>

	<i>service station will generate traffic movements, and associated vehicle noise. The bowzers, air conditioners etc. will generate noise. The fuel vapour and dust will affect air quality to a minor extent. Stormwater generated will be managed to minimise contamination of water discharged into the stormwater system.</i>
The proximity of the land to any public land.	<i>The nearest public land is the Wycheproof State School Reserve currently occupied by the Wycheproof P-12 College which is 220 metres away. The old Wycheproof Courthouse is also 220 metres away. Buloke Shire offices and Town Hall are located approximately 90 metres to the north. The proposed service station will have minimal impact on public land.</i>
Subject land annotated in blue. Crown land in grey. Town Hall in top left. <i>Image sourced from VicPlan interactive mapping showing public land 18/02/2025</i>	
Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.	<i>The proposed service station will not contribute to land degradation or salinity.</i>
Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.	<i>Stormwater discharge from the site will have to be managed to minimise contamination of stormwater from fuel spill. The developer will be required to enter into a Trade Waste Agreement with GWMWater</i>
The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.	<i>Not applicable – no vegetation is to be removed.</i>
Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.	<i>Not applicable – no vegetation is to be removed.</i>
The degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to minimise any such hazard.	<i>The proposed service station will not significantly increase the fire risk in the immediate area. Fuel storage tanks are to be located underground. Standard fuel storage safety regulations will apply.</i>
The adequacy of loading and unloading facilities and any associated amenity, traffic flow and road safety impacts.	<i>The applicant has provided a plan with a swept path analysis showing an 18 metre semi-trailer accessing and exiting the site to demonstrate the ability to refuel on site. Although the swept path analysis shows technically that this is possible, the semi- trailer is utilising the total capacity of the existing crossovers. The trailer wheels are shown to encroach on to footpath space. To access the service station a semi-trailer will enter the service lane approximately 70 metres south of the subject land. A semi-trailer, entering the town from the north, wishing to access the service station would be required to turn right at Jubilee Street and enter the service lane at this location.</i>

The impact the use or development will have on the current and future development and operation of the transport system.	<i>The service station is unable to be accessed from the nearest intersection (Webster Street and Calder Highway). Vehicles attempting to access the proposed service station from this intersection may attempt to enter the service station from the 'no entry' crossover on Webster Street or enter the service lane travelling the 'wrong' way. Signs may be necessary to prevent vehicles entering the service lane in the wrong direction.</i>
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Summary of Key Issues

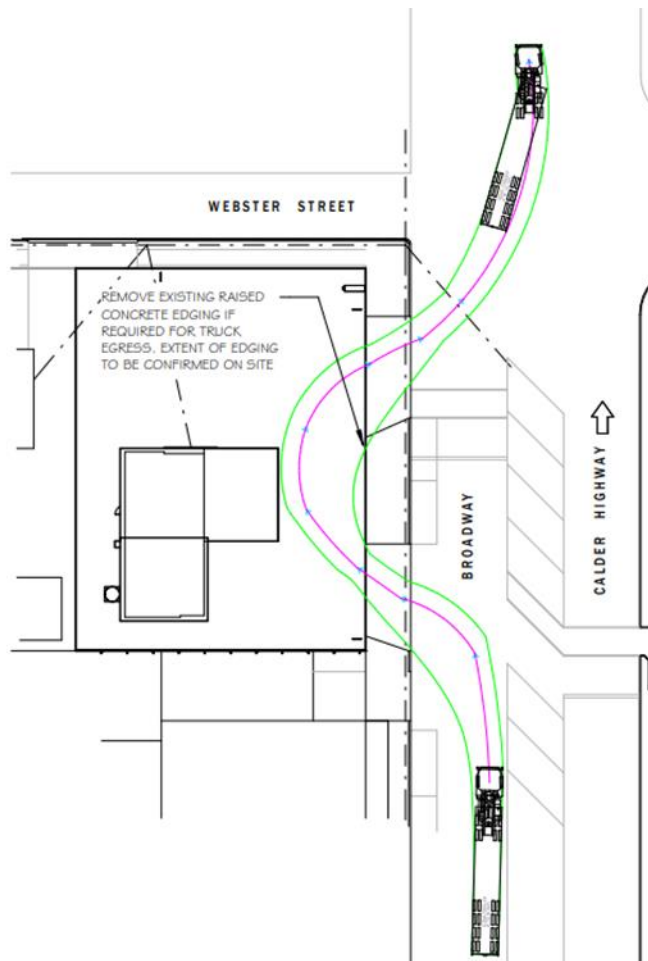
The use and development of land for a service station in the Commercial 1 Zone, on a main highway would generally be considered to be consistent with the provisions of the planning scheme.

In the case of this proposal the difficulties in accessing the site for vehicles is not consistent with:

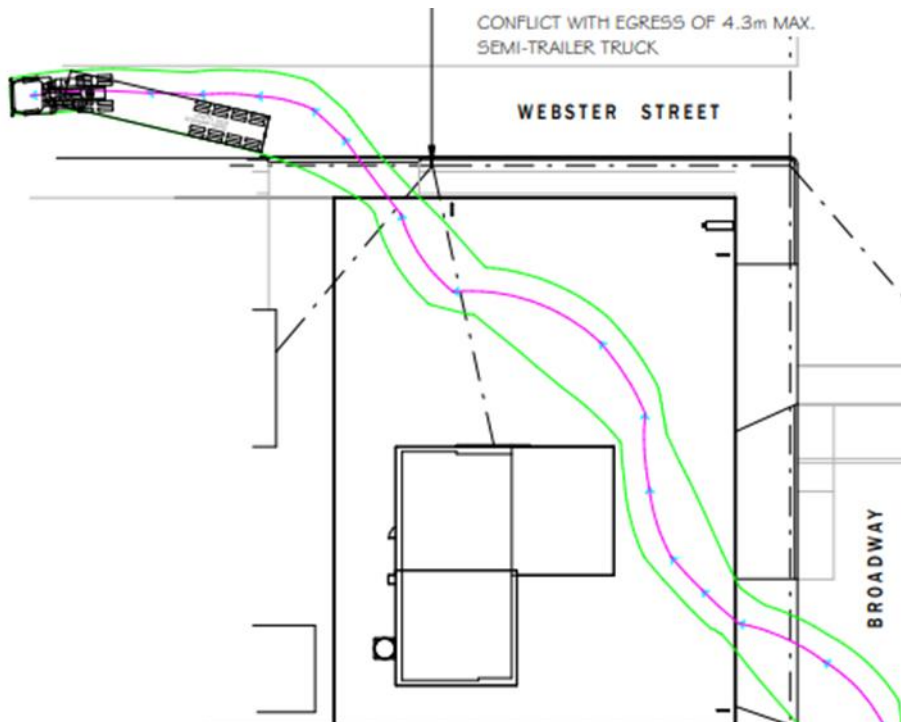
- Strategy in *Clause 17.02-1S Business* that aims to ensure commercial facilities are aggregated and provide net community benefit in relation to their viability, accessibility and efficient use of infrastructure.
- Strategy in *18.01-L Integrated transport* providing pedestrian and transport facilities within townships to improve access to shopping and community service areas.
- Strategy in *18.01-3S Sustainable and safe transport* including:
 - Optimising accessibility, emergency access, service and amenity.
 - Supporting road users to make safe choices through design and wayfinding techniques.

Please see response to decision guidelines for the Commercial 1 Zone in the relevant section of this report.

Traffic movement



A large vehicle has no margin for error when entering the site. The diagram shows the trailer wheels accessing the footpath in this scenario. The footpath may be further impacted in real life situation, in particular if a car is at the bowser restricting long vehicle maneuvering. A delivery truck accessing the site in this manner and replenishing the underground fuel tanks may restrict patron vehicle movements on the site. There is potential for conflict between tankers refueling and vehicles accessing bowzers as they are proposed to be located adjacent to each other. *Source: applicant swept path analysis*



The long vehicle requires both lanes of Webster Street to exit the premises. If a vehicle is illegally parked along Webster Street at that location, a long vehicle may have difficulty exiting the site. The trailer wheels are shown accessing the neighbouring property's crossover. A long vehicle is unable to turn right (east) to exit the site due to the location of a power pole adjacent the crossover. *Source: applicant swept path analysis*



Crossover to Webster Street looking east into the subject land. Long vehicle unable to turn right (east) due to power pole. Trailer wheels access the neighbour's crossover. A crossover is the property owner's responsibility and damage to the crossover may impact the neighbouring property owner. If a permit were to be issued a condition could require works to the crossover to mitigate potential damage. *Source: Council officer site inspection.*



The Calder Highway/ Webster Street intersection looking from north to south. No signage denoting one way service lane. The first (north) crossover is exit only which may lead unfamiliar motorists to continue the wrong way along the service lane to gain access or continue along Webster Street and enter the site at the 'no entry' crossover on Webster Street. *Source: Council officer site inspection.*



The property can only be accessed from the service lane. *Source: Council GIS image*

Planning and Environment Act Section 60(1B)

For the purpose of considering any social effects and economic effects that the responsible authority considers that the use and development may have, the responsible authority must (where appropriate) take into account the number of objectors in considering whether the use will have a significant social effect.

The application received 21 objections to date. A petition was submitted in objection with 114 signatures. A summary of the matters raised can be found in the Public Notification section of this report.

The objections are concerned with the safety of motorists and pedestrians at this location. Anecdotal reports are that this intersection is the site of near misses and confusion currently, and objectors are

concerned that a land use that relies on vehicle access will add to traffic movement numbers and therefore further traffic confusion.

This location is also the location of street furniture and traffic islands in place to assist with pedestrians crossing the two service lanes, railway, and two lanes of the Calder Highway. The local P-12 has made an objection stating that students use this crossing when walking to school, and that parents and staff are concerned for safety.

View from pedestrian traffic island looking west into subject land. *Source Council officer site inspection.*

The number of submissions is proportionally large in a town of approximately 610 people (2021 census) and reflects the social concerns regarding this proposal, and the expression of the community regarding no net community benefit.

Economic, Social and Community Benefits

The proposed service station represents economic activity in the commercial area of Wycheproof. As to whether the proposed service station will represent an increase in economic activity in the town is more difficult to justify. The service station will not significantly generate more visitors to the township, thereby leaving the demand for fuel relatively static, but divided among an extra outlet. Strategy at Clause 17.02-1S includes ensuring commercial facilities provide net community benefit in relation to their viability and accessibility. There will be an employment opportunity, adding to economic opportunity for local residents.

Social concerns have been discussed in the previous section, with the submitters seeing limited community benefit.

Integrated decision making

Clause 71.02-3 refers to the need for planning to meet needs and expectations by addressing aspects of economic, environmental and social wellbeing affected by land use and development. The Clause further requires planning and responsible authorities to integrate relevant planning policies and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development.

The proposed service station does not significantly contribute to social or environmental wellbeing.

The proposed service station is generally consistent with the purpose of the Commercial 1 Zone, and a number of planning policies are relevant. When considering the balance of conflicting objectives, the proposal does not achieve the requirement of net community benefit and orderly planning.

Other relevant adopted State policies/strategies – (e.g. Melbourne 2030.)

n/a

Relevant incorporated or reference documents

Australian Standard AS/NZS 2890.1:2004 off street carparking.

The off-street carparks will be provided in accordance with any relevant standards.

Relevant Planning Scheme amendments

n/a

RELEVANT LAW

The application is being assessed in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

There is no previous planning permit history at the subject land.

OPTIONS

Council, as the Responsible Authority, could resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**Public Notification**

The application has been advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by:

- Sending 2 notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land.
- Placing a sign on site
- Notice in locally circulating Newspaper

The notification has been carried out correctly.

Council has received 21 objections to date. A petition was submitted in objection with 114 signatures. The key issues that were raised in the objections are:

- Pedestrian safety, the retail use next door generates pedestrian traffic.
- The pedestrian crossing infrastructure directs pedestrian to the vehicle crossover accessing the service station site. School children use this crossing to cross Broadway.
- Difficult site for large vehicles to enter.
- Large vehicles are exiting onto Webster Street being a narrow street (approximately 12.3 metres). A semi-trailer exiting the site onto Webster Street is unable to do so without crossing on to the 'wrong' side of the street.
- Increased semi-trailer traffic is introduced into the residential areas of Dempsey Street.
- May generate parking on Webster Street which is a no parking area. This may hinder the movement of emergency services vehicles along Webster Street.
- Traffic may enter the service lane travelling the 'wrong' way to access the site if no access has been made previously into the service lane.
- The closest access to the service lane is approximately 80 metres south of the site. This access is not available to traffic from the north.
- The traffic attempting to access the service station will add to the complexity of traffic movement at an already confusing intersection.
- Damage to road surfaces entering and exiting the site will affect road safety.
- Site is too small to accommodate a service station.

- Negative effect on air quality.
- Dangerous goods (fuel) stored in town adds to risk.
- Opening hour are too long – noise will affect amenity.
- Reduced amenity – noise, fumes, light from the signage.
- Not necessary – other fuel outlets in town.
- Delivery times for fuel could affect amenity if outside business hours.

Consultation

Consultation was not undertaken.

A mediation meeting was not held between the objectors and the applicant as it was considered by Council officers that due to the nature and the number of objections that the probability of achieving resolution and withdrawal of the objections to be minimal.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

External Referrals/Notices Required by the Planning Scheme:

Referrals/Notice	Advice/Response/Conditions
Section 55 Referrals	Department of Transport – no objection subject to conditions
Section 52 notices	GWMWater – no objection subject to conditions

Internal Council Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Assets and Infrastructure	No objection – advice
Municipal Building Surveyor	No comment

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The subject matter of this report does not have significant budgetary implications or considerations.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Policy has been discussed in the discussion section of this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

In order to promote transparency, Council will consider this resolution in an open meeting

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has a conflict of interest in its subject matter.

Attachments: Nil

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 MUNICIPAL MONITOR REPORT

Author's Title: Executive Team Project Officer

Directorate: Office of the CEO

File No: Office of
CEO

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: A Well Governed and Healthy Organisation

PURPOSE

To provide Council with the Municipal Monitors report that was released 10 February 2025.

SUMMARY

The Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Melissa Horne MP on the 6 May 2024 appointed Mr Peter Harriott as a Municipal Monitor to the Buloke Shire Council on the 9 May 2024 for a period up to the 31 December 2024. All Councillors were provided a copy of this correspondence.

The appointment was made under section 179 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The appointment followed concerns in relation to Behaviour and Governance standards of the council.

On 31 January 2025, the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Council with the report from the Municipal Monitor (**Attachment A**) accompanied by correspondence containing Governance Directions from the Minister in accordance with s175 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The correspondence requires response from Council in the form of a draft implementation plan and outlines a series of actions requiring attention from Council, with reporting to occur directly to the Minister bi-annually in July and December for two years.

MOTION

That Council:

- 1) Note the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Melissa Horne MP on the 6 May 2024 informed Council of the appointment of Peter Harriott as Municipal Monitor and confirmed the terms of reference, effective from the 9 May 2024, with an end date of 31 December 2024.
- 2) Note the Terms of Reference for the appointment of the Municipal Monitor required a final report be provided to the Minister for Local Government by the 31 December 2024.
- 3) Note the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Council a copy of the report prepared by Peter Harriott, Municipal Monitor on 31 January 2025 as Attachment A to this report and that a copy of this report is available on the Local Government Victoria website.
- 4) Note the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Direction to Council on 31 January 2025 in accordance with section 175 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, directing

Council to provide the Minister with bi-annual reports for a period of two years on the implementation of the actions requiring attention from Council.

- 5) Note the requirement for the Chief Executive Officer to develop an implementation plan for the actions required by Council.
- 6) Note the cost of the Municipal Monitor appointment to Council for the 2-3 days per week required during the term of appointment from 9 May 2024 to 31 December 2024 was \$157,385 inclusive of the Goods and Services Tax.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/019)

DISCUSSION

The Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Melissa Horne MP on the 6 May 2024 appointed Mr Peter Harriott as a Municipal Monitor to the Buloke Shire Council on the 9 May 2024 for a period up to the 31 December 2024. All Councillors were provided a copy of this correspondence.

The appointment was made under section 179 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The appointment followed concerns in relation to Behaviour and Governance standards of the council.

The Terms of Reference for the appointment of the Municipal Monitor are as follows:

- 1) To monitor with specific regard to.
 - a) the Councillors understanding and performance of their statutory roles and responsibilities, including in relation to the separation of roles between councillors and the Chief Executive Officer;
 - b) the Council's meeting procedures and decision-making processes, including councillor attendance at briefings and Council meetings, and the adequacy of the Governance rules;
 - c) the relationships between councillors and between councillors and Council staff, including councillor behaviour with respect to the Councillor Code of Conduct and processes for resolving disputes between councillors;
 - d) support for the Chief Executive Officer to effectively perform their responsibilities and functions, including in relation to establishing policies and practices that manage the interactions between Councillors and Council staff and contractors;
 - e) the Council's processes and practices in relation to health and safety, including any matters that may be creating a serious risk to the health and safety of councillors, council staff or other persons;
 - f) the Council's policies, processes and practices related to the management of conflict of interest;
 - g) the Council's community engagement and financial and asset management practices, including its ability to meet current and future needs of the community;
 - h) any support needed in the lead up to and following the elections in October 2024 to ensure good governance at the council; and
 - i) any other matters that may be affecting the Council's ability to effectively perform, including behaviour that may be preventing the Council from performing its function.
- 2) Advise and assist in relation to items included in clause 1 above.

- 3) Assist the development of action plans for progression of items included in clauses 1 and 2 above.
- 4) Report to the Minister for Local Government with respect to the matters in clause 1 on;
 - a) any steps or actions taken by the council to improve its governance and the effectiveness of those steps or actions; and
 - b) any recommendation for the exercise of any ministerial power under the Act.

The monitoring activities of the Municipal Monitor included:

- Establishing action sheets.
- Attending meetings including Councillor meetings, Council Briefings, Executive meetings, Audit and Risk committee meetings and other Community meetings.
- Councillor induction.
- Requesting a review of the financial indicators.
- Observing the CEO's annual review.
- Contributing advice as part of initial policy reviews.
- Undertaking a staff Stop/Keep/Start survey.
- Reviewing other data sets.
- 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey
 - o All Staff Meeting survey
 - o McArthur Culture Survey
 - o Outdoor Staff Culture and OH&S (2020).

In relation to the Terms of Reference, the Municipal Monitor also established action sheets relating to:

- Indoor Staff issues
- Outdoor Staff issues
- Councillor issues
- Community issues and
- Behavioural issues.

The behavioural issues range from bullying and harassment allegations to general human resource matters such as recruitment and poor communication. There are approximately 200 individual actions associated with the seven (7) action sheets. As at Thursday, 5 December 2024, 80 items or 39% are complete and closed.

The report prepared by the Municipal Monitor to the Minister for Local Government (Attachment A) provided a number of findings and conclusions including, but not limited to:

- i) Ensures that adherence to organisational values is embedded in annual staff performance reviews.
- ii) Ensures that councillors and staff are aware of avenues to report poor councillor and staff behaviour and that there are adequate complaint handling processes in place to ensure the safety of parties to a complaint.
- iii) Provides ongoing training in relation to the benefits of good behaviour and the consequences of poor behaviour.
- iv) Adjusts its meeting times and locations to ensure a safe environment is provided for councillors and staff traveling to these meetings.
- v) Conducts annual culture surveys open to all staff, reports the results annually to the Council and staff and implements actions to address the results.
- vi) Develops a staff retention plan by 3 June 2025 which identifies issues such as flexible work arrangements, working from home, provision of housing for key staff, remuneration rates, working hours and working days (consideration of a 4-day working week) and other employment benefits that may attract and retain staff in a rural setting.

- vii) Conducts a review of its process for recording and responding to operational requests to ensure an efficient process which supports councillors to concentrate on strategic matters.
- viii) Considers consolidating indoor and outdoor staff locations to assist with communication, service and project delivery, and overall Council performance.
- ix) Adopts the financial guidance provided in the report titled “External review of Buloke Shire Council’s current and future financial position, October 2024” and ensures that the Council’s budgets and long-term financial plans incorporate the suggestions and guidance from this report.
- x) Adopts an improved Community Grants Policy in accordance with the previous VAGO recommendation and continues to work on other policy improvements including exhibition of new Governance Rules.
- xi) Ensures it has adequate processes in place to record and manage the completion of Internal Audit reports.
- xii) Finalises its review of its Asset Management Systems during 2025 and completes an assessment of the data for completeness and accuracy prior to the end of 2025.
- xiii) Implements improved governance and financial accounting practices for the Charlton Caravan Park.
- xiv) In relation to the Sea Lake Landfill site, ensures compliance with EPA directions, budgets appropriately for any required rehabilitation in accordance with EPA directions and moves to secure ownership of the site as soon as practicable.
- xv) Requests a review of the Natural Disaster funding process to make the process more efficient and ask the Federal and State Government for early confirmation that additional claims have a confirmed funding source. xvi. Write to the Federal Government requesting an increase to the Federal Assistance Grants for Rural Councils.

On 31 January 2025, the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Council with the report from the Municipal Monitor (**Attachment A**) accompanied by correspondence containing Governance Directions from the Minister in accordance with s175 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The correspondence outlined a series of actions requiring attention from Council in the coming months with information to be provided every six months (July and December) for a period of two years.

RELEVANT LAW

In accordance with s179 and s180 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Melissa Horne MP appointed Peter Harriott as the Municipal Monitor for Buloke Shire Council on 6 May 2024.

In accordance with s175 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Nick Staikos MP provided Governance Direction to Buloke Shire Council on the 31 January 2025.

In accordance with s176 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if Council fails to comply with a written direction made under section 175; the Minister may take that failure to comply with the direction into account for the purposes of recommending the suspension of all the Councillors of the Council under this Act.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The total cost of the Municipal Monitor appointed by the Minister for Local Government for the term of appointment was \$157,385 inclusive of the Goods and Services Tax. This total expenditure includes the engagement of contract services by a suitably qualified professional to undertake the Financial Review at the Municipal Monitor's request.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

There are no Regional, State and National Plans and Policies related to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

There are no Council Plans and Policies related to this report.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The presentation of the Municipal Monitors report to Council demonstrates Council continues to provide good governance through the performance of its role in accordance with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles of the Act.

Any decisions made in relation to this report will be made in an open Council Meeting to promote openness, accountability and transparency.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In preparing this report, no conflicts of interest have been declared.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.4.1.1 - Municipal Monitor Report

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Monthly Reports to 19 March 2025

Cr Bernadette Hogan

- 20/2/2025 - Birchip P-12 School – Leaders Induction, Birchip
- 20/2/2025 - Regional Councils VNI West/Renewables Meeting – Charlton
- 25/2/2025 - Budget Development Workshop - Wycheproof
- 03/03/2025 - Council Plan Workshop - Wycheproof
- 03/03/2025 - Special Council Meeting: Esoteric Festival – Wycheproof
- 05/03/2025 - Council Briefing - Nandaly
- 08/03/2025 - Mali Heart Festival - Birchip
- 09/03/2025 - Birchip Trotting Club Annual Raceday - Birchip
- 19/03/2025 - Council Meeting – Wycheproof

Cr Bruce Stafford

- 20/02/2025 - VNI West & Renewable Councils Meeting
Meeting with councillors from surrounding LGAs to discuss VNI West and renewable energy.
- 24/02/2025 - Charlton Neighbourhood House “Coffee with a Councillor”
- 24/02/2025 - Charlton Stadium Committee
- 24/02/2025 - Buloke Tourism Board (Invited guest)
- 25/02/2025 - Councillor Budget Workshop #1
- 27/02/2025 - CVGA Board Meeting
- 3/03/2025 - Council Plan Workshop
- 3 /03/2025 - Council Meeting -
To consider Esoteric Festival permit
- 4 March – Charlton Caravan Park Meeting
Meeting with Council officers, Charlton Forum, Traveller’s Rest Committee
re: Charlton Caravan Park Lease
- 5 March – Councillor Briefing
- 17 March – Community Forum Summit @ Wycheproof Supper Room
- 19th March – Council Meeting

Cr Graeme Milne

- 14/2/2025 RFA was held in Docklands Melbourne on Feb 14. The AGM was held first with both Chair and Deputy. Changing. Micheal Carr took over as Chair from Glenn Milne and Katrina Rainsford is Deputy Chair which was held by Ron Eason.

The general meeting was next with a number of items discussed. Membership to the RFA is currently \$2500. For the group to go on after Covid and other issues, the figure needs to be raised to \$6010. This needs to be run past our council. 104k in the next year for ongoing maintenance. 75k sleepers being replaced on the Yeltsin/Mildura line.

Advocate for rail crossings to be improved, including the crossing north of Lalbert on the Swan Hill / Donald road.

17/2/2025 Birchip Forum. Usual general business as well as Library Review concerns and Budget submission discussions.

Letter from Donald History Society regarding markers and signs for original Donald site location

Inter Council meeting at Charlton with a view to form an alliance working together on Wind farms, Transmission lines and mines. Announcement has been made recently circulated

WMEAPB Meeting at Warracknabeal . Only councillor from any council. There as moral support for all our ratepayers

Buloke Tourism - MISSED

Budget workshop

Donald Rec Res committee meeting - working bee for football boundary fence seats to happen, discussed toilet block on river side and if it is demolished what are the consequences for sport patrons on that side of oval. No disabled toilets even though the disabled car park is over there. Discussed a portable disabled drop-in until something else might happen at the cricket pavilion. Submit above idea and new cricket/ hockey rooms for this budget.

Donald Forum - general discussion on McCulloch St and Moore St sealing. Seek services for the community such as Dentist etc.

GWM has 90 megalitre of treated water, Solar lights not fixed, no dog poo bags around town.taps turned of at some park/green space locations, entrance sign

Charlton side not up, info session for the Hospital, ESP Stu Patterson, grant writer, Deb Ball and Tucker in the timber idea.

3/3/2025 - Council Plan workshop with Phil Roland on 3rd Mar

3/3/2025 -Special Council Meeting

4/3/2025 - SHIC at St. Arnaud - Birchip 5 ways and car accident.

Louden Mallee Transport Strategy

Slashing program and roadside weed spreading.

New members after recent election. Thanked departing members

Dr Anne Webster - advocate for funding before election

5/3/2025 Nandaly Briefing

11/3/2025 Watchem Progress 11Mar

15/3/2025 - CFA Award ceremony and Truck hand over.

Recommend that Brad Burke get a certificate of appreciation for his act of “bravery” for which he received the Commendation of the Chief Officer. Details to follow.

Cr Alan Getley (Mayoral Duties Verbal Report)

- Central Murray Transport group attended with Mr McLoughlan as they released their strategy going forward. Present that to all councilors once amended and sent round. Can report, Cr Milne that the 5 Ways Intersection is in that report. Good meeting, well attended. Good discussions.
- Other one to highlight is the Long Weekend Esoteric Festival. Want to congratulate the staff who did a huge job on that weekend at Wooroonook. There were a lot of people out there. I attended Wooroonook for two days and spoke with a number of people in the crowd. They all highly praised the staff, it was an unfortunate situation that the staff handled very well and I think that there should be some recognition to the staff and the work they have done. I have passed this onto the CEO.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Question taken on notice – Cr Milne

Is there any further activity that is going on to do with VCAT and the decision for West Wind Wilkur Transmission line? Please give us an update when that hearing might be.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.4.1 INTERSTATE TRAVEL - CR GETLEY

Author's Title: Executive Assistant to CEO

Directorate: Office of the CEO

File No:
GO/06/11

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Partnerships to Outcomes

PURPOSE

In accordance with Council's Expenses Policy adopted August 2020, proposed interstate travel of Councillors, requires the approval of the Council.

Cr Getley is seeking approval from the Council for his travel interstate to represent the Buloke Shire Council, together with the CEO, at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) - National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), incorporating the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum 24 June 2025 to 27 June 2025, to be held in Canberra.

SUMMARY

The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments, and provides councils with the opportunity to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and most importantly unite and further build on the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

The costs to be incurred by the Council will be for Cr Getley's return flights from Melbourne to Canberra, accommodation, and registration for the event.

Cr Alan Getley declared a material conflict of interest and left the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Cr Milne assumed the Chair at 7:51 pm.

Cr Alan Getley returned to the meeting at 7:53 pm and resumed the Chair.

MOTION

That Council approve the interstate travel and its associated costs for Cr Getley's attendance to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) - National General Assembly of Local Government incorporating the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum to be held 24 June 2025 to 27 June 2025 in Canberra.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/25/020)

DISCUSSION

This year is the 31st NGA and will be held at the National Convention Centre.

The theme of the 2025 NGA is "National Priorities Need Local Solutions" - highlights the unique role Australia's 537 councils can play delivering local, place-based solutions that meet the needs of their communities, while addressing broader national priorities.

The National General Assembly of Local Government will focus on opportunities for councils to work with the next Federal Government to deliver local solutions that will help them deliver on their vision for the nation.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Councillor Expenses Policy was adopted by Council in December 2024.

OPTIONS

That council accept or deny Cr Getley attendance at the ALGA 2025.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Opportunity to advocate for new or expanded programs and key policy initiatives.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Publication of the 19 March 2025 Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes to Council's Website.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Opportunity to advocate for new or expanded programs and key policy initiatives.

COLLABORATION

Opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council Budget 2023-2024.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Act 2020.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

In accordance with the Buloke Shire Council Expenses Policy December 2024, a Council resolution is required to approve interstate training, conferences or professional development. Expenses are paid, or reimbursed, in accordance with the policy.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council resolution required

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Council officer writing this report has no conflict of interest.

Attachments: Nil

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC
10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7:53 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on Wednesday 16 April, 2025 at 7:00pm.