



Additional Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday 28 July
2026

Commencing at 12:30pm

Online Via Teams

Daniel McLoughlan
Chief Executive Officer



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Minutes of the Meeting held on 28/07/2026.**CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor) Mount Jeffcott Ward

COUNCILLORS:

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

OFFICERS:

Daniel McLoughlan	Chief Executive Officer
Travis Fitzgibbon	Director Infrastructure and Delivery
Anthony Smith	Acting Manager Governance
Paula Gardiner	Senior Manager Assets and Delivery
Chris Gardner	Project Manager Flood Recovery
Georgia Brown	Senior Executive Assistant

1 COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne acknowledged 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

Jenna Allan	Director Corporate and Organisational Performance
Sarah Kernohan	Director Community Development

3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

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

Author's Title: Senior Manager Assets and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: GS/09/49

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Built and natural environment

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

PURPOSE

This report resubmits the project supported by Council at the November 2025 Council Meeting and seeks to reconfirm Council endorsement to;

- Allocate \$200,000 across the 2026/27 and 2027/28 budgets as a co-contribution toward the resubmission of an application to Sport and Recreation Victoria's 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.
- Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.
- Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of \$200,000.
- Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.

The proposed project involves the construction of a compliant netball court and lighting at the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve. This project was submitted to the 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund however the application was not successful.

The Additional Meeting of Council is required as the current funding round closes prior to the next scheduled Council Meeting on 19 August 2026. Officers have been encouraged to resubmit the funding application lodged for this project by the State Government (which was supported by Council at the November 2025 Council Meeting), and there was insufficient time to present a report at the July 2026 Council Meeting.

SUMMARY

In November 2025 Council lodged an application to the 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF), which is a competitive Victorian Government program open to Local Government Authorities and Alpine Resorts Victoria, that supports the delivery of new and upgraded community sports infrastructure across three streams:

- Community Facilities
- Community Sports Lighting
- Planning

The application sought funding to progress a priority project identified within the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Masterplan—the construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting.

Unfortunately, Council was not successful in securing funding from the 2025-26 LSIF funding round. Following notification of the unsuccessful application, members of the Executive Management Team met with representatives of Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to seek an understanding of areas of the application that required strengthening to increase the chances of being successful in future LSIF funding rounds. During and post this meeting, SRV representatives have strongly encouraged Council to resubmit within the 2026-27 LSIF funding round, which requires applications to be lodged by 28 July 2026. The timing of this advice from State Government has meant an Additional Meeting of Council is required as the application preparation did not allow this matter to be considered with the current schedule of meetings.

The 2026-27 LSIF aligns with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) priorities to create more opportunities for people through skills and jobs, help businesses and industries to thrive, and build vibrant communities and regions.

This report recommends that Council utilise this funding opportunity to resubmit the same project presented in the 2025-26 LSIF round, being the construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting which is a priority project identified within the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Masterplan.

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

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

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

MOTION

That Council:

1. Commit \$200,000 from 2026/27 Annual Budget for the purposes of submitting the application to the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund for the construction of a compliant netball court and associated sports lighting; and
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund; and
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of \$200,000; and
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/26/48)

DISCUSSION

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

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

- Ageing infrastructure
- Safety and risk management
- Governance
- Roles and responsibilities
- Rationalisation
- Volunteers
- Parking and signage

The Masterplan also outlines opportunities identified throughout the process as:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- *Australian Governments Growing Regions Program (2023)* - An expression of interest was submitted which included the netball court and multi-use pavilion. The application did not progress as there were no matching Victorian Government funding rounds available to support the large financial commitment.
- *Victorian Governments Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (2024)* - An application was submitted which included the multi-use pavilion only. The application was unsuccessful however received positive feedback from SRV.
- *Victorian Governments Local Sports and Infrastructure Fund (2025)* - An application was submitted for the construction of a netball court and associated lighting. The application was unsuccessful however received positive feedback from SRV.

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

The Council resolution made at November 2025 Council, being;

That Council:

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

OPTIONS

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

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed project supports both environmental and social sustainability outcomes. The installation of new energy-efficient LED sports lighting will significantly reduce power consumption and maintenance requirements compared with traditional halogen systems, contributing to lower long-term operating costs and a smaller environmental footprint.

In addition, the development of a modern, compliant netball facility will enhance social sustainability by encouraging greater community participation, promoting gender equity in sport, and providing a safe, accessible space that supports ongoing community connection and wellbeing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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

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

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

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

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

COLLABORATION

Landowners consent will be required from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to undertake the proposed works, however DEECA has provided a letter of support for this project which will be included within the funding application.

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

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

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

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

Under the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, the project is eligible for up to \$500,000 in State Government funding toward the total estimated project cost of \$900,000. The remaining \$400,000 funding gap will be met through a shared commitment between Council and the community, with each contributing \$200,000.

Council's financial contribution will be allocated from the Grant Opportunity Reserve in the 2026/27 financial year if the application is successful. Ongoing maintenance and operational costs for the new facility will be incorporated into Council's existing operational budget to ensure sustainable asset management into the future.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Key plans the project takes into consideration:

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

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

Across the various funding applications lodged for this project Council officers have engaged with Wyche Alive, Committee members of the Calder United Football, Netball and Hockey Club, Wycheproof Cricket Club, Wycheproof Bowling Club and Croquet clubs to seek support and feedback regarding the project proposal.

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

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Trevor Rumbold – Senior Engineer Buildings and Open Spaces

Rory White – Acting Manager Community Partnerships

Jenna Allan – Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

The above-mentioned officers were not involved in discussions with State Government representatives and were not involved in the development of this report.

Officers involved in the development of this report do not have a conflict of interest in this matter.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 4.1.1.1 - 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Guidelines

5 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 12:52pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on Wednesday, 19 August 2026 at 7:00pm.