



Council Meeting **Agenda**

Wednesday 15 April
2026

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan
Chief Executive Officer



ORDER OF BUSINESS

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1 COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne will welcome all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne 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

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 March 2026.

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 130 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors who have a conflict of interest in respect of a matter being considered at this meeting, must

- a) Disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by the Council's Governance Rules 2022; and
- b) Exclude themselves from the decision-making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee, and any action in relation to the matter.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

7 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 GOVERNANCE REPORT - APRIL 2026

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** GO/05/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance matters.

The Governance report is prepared as a monthly report to Council.

The Governance report includes:

- Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held
- Record of Councillor Briefings, at Attachment 1 to this report.
- Chief Executive Officer Activity Report
- The Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions at Attachment 2 to this report.
- The summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 11 February 2026 at Attachment 3 to this report.
- Contracts awarded in accordance with the increased Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held.
2. Notes the Record of Councillor Briefings, at Attachment 1 to this report.
3. Notes the Chief Executive Officer Activity Report.
4. Notes the Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions at Attachment 2 to this report.
5. Notes the summary of minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 11 February 2026 at Attachment 3 to this report.
6. Notes there were no contracts entered into for this period, in accordance with the increased Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer of \$1,500,000 (excluding GST).

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

The Governance Report is prepared as a monthly report to Council to provide a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance matters.

In accordance with best practice principles of good governance practice, and to ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, this report incorporates matters including records of meetings held, organised or hosted by Council, items relating to the delegation of Council powers and duties, and policy and strategy reporting.

Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held from 5 March 2026 to 1 April 2026

Records of matters discussed at meetings organised or hosted by Buloke Shire Council that involve Councillors and Council officers are kept in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Meeting records must include attendees, including organisations represented by external presenters; the title of matters discussed; and any conflicts of interests disclosed and whether the declarant of a conflict of interest excused themselves from the meeting.

Record of Councillor Assemblies:

| Date/Time/Venue | Councillor Attendees | Meeting Type |
|---|---|--|
| 12 March 2026 5:30pm <i>Online</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | CEO and Councillor Only Time |
| 18 March 2026 3:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | Customer Service Charter Discussion |
| 18 March 2026 4:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | Briefing for rural councils on recent Planning and Environment Act amendments |
| 18 March 2026 7:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | Council Meeting |
| 25 March 2026 1:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | Draft Aquatic Strategy Discussion |
| 25 March 2026 2:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 2 |
| 30 March 2026 5:00pm <i>Online</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | CEO and Councillor Only Time |
| 1 April 2026 10:00am <i>Birchip Council Chamber</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 3 |
| 1 April 2026 4:00pm <i>Watchem</i> | Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Delaney, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford | Councillor Briefing |

Chief Executive Officer Activity Report from 5 March 2026 to 1 April 2026

Record of meetings attended by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Buloke Shire Council. Activity record includes the date, activity and location.

| Daniel McLoughlan – Chief Executive Officer (5 March 2026 – 1 April 2026) | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| Date | Activity | Location |

| | | |
|------------|---|------------|
| 06/03/2026 | Buloke IEMT Meeting - Rain Event - February 2026 | Online |
| 10/03/2026 | Planning Matter | Charlton |
| 11/03/2026 | NGSC Transmission Forum | Online |
| 12/03/2026 | Loddon Campaspe Councils – CEOs Meeting | Online |
| 12/03/2026 | WSMCA CEO and Mayor Meeting | Horsham |
| 12/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time | Online |
| 13/03/2026 | Resource Ready Councils Advocacy Priorities | Horsham |
| 13/03/2026 | Meeting with VicGrid - VNI West EES | Horsham |
| 16/03/2026 | Mallee Regional Partnership Meeting | Online |
| 16/03/2026 | ERV and Buloke Meeting | Wycheproof |
| 17/03/2026 | Local Laws Matter | Charlton |
| 17/03/2026 | MRCC and Buloke CEO's - Flood Recovery Discussion | Online |
| 18/03/2026 | Joint State/Local Government Monthly CEO Forum | Online |
| 18/03/2026 | Planning Matter | Charlton |
| 18/03/2026 | Customer Service Charter Discussion with Councillors | Wycheproof |
| 18/03/2026 | Briefing for Rural Councils on Recent Planning and Environment Act Amendments | Wycheproof |
| 18/03/2026 | Council Meeting | Wycheproof |
| 19/03/2026 | Meeting with BSC Flood Team and Attane - AGRN1270 | Melbourne |
| 20/03/2026 | Meeting with BSC Flood Team, Attane and TAG - AGRN1270 | Melbourne |
| 23/03/2026 | Radio - Gold FM | Radio |
| 24/03/2026 | Mallee Regional Waterway Strategy (RWS) Steering Committee (SC) Meeting | Online |
| 24/03/2026 | Mallee Sexual Assault Unit and Mallee Domestic Violence Services | Wycheproof |
| 25/03/2026 | Aegis Risk Management Session - People Risk | Wycheproof |
| 25/03/2026 | Meeting with CEO Regional Development Victoria | Wycheproof |
| 25/03/2026 | Draft Aquatic Strategy Discussion with Councillors | Wycheproof |
| 25/03/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 2 | Wycheproof |
| 26/03/2026 | DTP and Buloke Meeting | Wycheproof |
| 26/03/2026 | Loddon Campaspe Councils - CEOs Meeting | Online |
| 27/03/2026 | Sea Lake Tourist Information Centre Meeting | Sea Lake |
| 30/03/2026 | Radio – Gold FM | Radio |
| 30/03/2026 | MAV Special CEO Briefing – Australian Fuel Shortage | Online |
| 30/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time | Online |
| 01/04/2026 | Direl Catch up | Bendigo |
| 01/04/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 3 | Birchip |
| 01/04/2026 | Councillor Briefing | Watchem |

Status of Action of past Council Meeting Resolutions

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action of Council resolutions outstanding for completion of action since the last Council Meeting.

Audit and Risk Committee Minutes

A summary of the minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held Wednesday, 11 February 2026 is provided at Attachment 3.

Exercise of Delegated Authority

Council delegates powers, duties and functions to the Chief Executive Officer to support the efficient operation and delivery of Council services.

The Chief Executive Officer has been delegated authority by Council to award contracts up to \$300,000 (exclusive of GST) through an Instrument of Delegation made on 29 October 2025 (S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer).

No contracts to be reported.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 1 April 2026
2. Attachment 7.1.2 - Council Resolution SOA - tabled 15 April 2026
3. Attachment 7.1.3 - Summary of Minutes - ARC Feb 26



Councillor Briefing Record

Build a Better Buloke – a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--------|
| Date: | Wednesday, 1 April 2026 | Time: | 4:00pm |
| Location: | Watchem Public Hall | | |
| Acknowledgement of Country: | The Mayor 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. | | |

| NO. | MATTER FOR DISCUSSION |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Welcome / Councillor Only Time |
| 1.1 | Welcome |
| 1.2 | Apologies: Marla Brauer – Chief Development Officer (<i>WestWind Energy</i>) |
| 1.3 | Guests: <u>GWM Water:</u> Mark Williams – Managing Director; Caroline Welsh – Chair <u>WestWind Energy:</u> Mark Hudson – Head of Land Tenure Engagement & Communications; Lachlan Smith – Project Developer; Cara Hadzig – Community Liaison & Land Tenure Assistant; Marla Brauer – Chief Development Officer <u>Preston Rowe Patterson Horsham:</u> Ben Sawyer |
| 1.4 | Attendees: <u>Councillors:</u> Cr Graeme Milne – Mayor; Cr Bernadette Hogan – Deputy Mayor; Cr Alan Getley; Cr Bruce Stafford; Cr Stephen Barratt; Cr Charmaine Delaney <u>Officers:</u> Daniel McLoughlan – Chief Executive Officer; Jenna Allan – Director Corporate and Organisational Performance; Gaynor Atkin – Director Community Development; Travis Fitzgibbon – Director Infrastructure and Delivery; Paula Gardiner – Senior Manager Asset and Delivery |
| 1.5 | Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflicts of Interest - Nil. |
| 2 | Confirmation of Notes of Previous Meeting |
| 2.1 | Notes of the Council Briefing held on 4 March 2026 - Accepted as correct. |
| 3 | Presentations |
| | GWM Water – Mark Williams & Caroline Welsh (4:40pm) |
| | WestWind Energy – Mark Hudson, Lachlan Smith & Cara Hadzig (5:20pm) – Via Teams |
| | Preston Rowe Patterson: Buloke Shire Rating Valuations FY26/27 – Ben Sawyer (7:00pm) – Via Teams |



| | |
|----------|--|
| 4 | Briefing Reports |
| 4.1 | Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Memorandum of Understanding – (6:20pm) |
| | Dinner - (5:30pm) |
| 5 | Councillor Matters – (6:45pm) |
| | |
| 6 | Chief Executive Officer Updates – (7:20pm) |
| | ANZAC Day Services (Councillors to determine attendances) |
| | Planning Permit Application PA25031 (Poultry Farm) |
| | CEO and Mayor Interstate Travel |
| 7 | Next Briefing |
| | 8 April 2026 at 5:00pm - <i>Online</i> |
| 8 | Close Meeting |
| | Time: 8:10pm |

Council Resolution Action – Outstanding and Items from Council Meeting 18 March 2026 – Tabled 15 April 2026

| Date | Directorate | Item | Resolution | Actioning Officer/s | Status of Action | Complete or commenced |
|----------|--|-------|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| 02082023 | Infrastructure & Delivery | 8.2.1 | That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes following consultation process in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy, one submission was received to the proposed nine-lot subdivision sale of land at 110 Sutcliffe Street, Sea Lake; Sells nine-lot subdivision surplus land at 110 Sutcliff St, Sea Lake by private treaty or auction in accord sec 114 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Council's Sale of Land Policy; and Authorises the CEO to execute the Transfer of Land documents and any other documents required to affect the sale of the land. | Director Infrastructure & Delivery | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Underway. Council to appoint conveyancer to progress release of titles prior to sale process commencing. Not started. | Commenced |
| 18122024 | Corporate & Organisational Performance | 8.1.2 | Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy. That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having prepared the Revised Draft Governance Rules in accordance with section 60 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, approves and commences a 9-week process of community consultation in relation to the Revised Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy, and makes the Revised Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy available for Public Exhibition via Council's website; Allows persons to make submissions in writing in relation to any proposal contained within the Revised Draft Governance Rules and/or Draft Election Period Policy; and Allows presentations in support of written submissions to be heard at the Council Meeting on 19 March 2025 prior to the proposed adoption of the Draft Governance Rules and Draft Election Period Policy at this Meeting. | Director Corporate & Organisational Performance | Progress has been delayed due to impending Model Governance Rules being published for public exhibition. | Commenced |
| 19022025 | Corporate & Organisational Performance | 9.5.1 | Sale of properties for recovery of unpaid rates and charges | Director Corporate & Organisational Performance | Brought to Council. Sale process underway. | Commenced |

Tabled 15 April 2026 Council Meeting

Council Resolution Action – Outstanding and Items from Council Meeting 18 March 2026 – Tabled 15 April 2026

| Date | Directorate | Item | Resolution | Actioning Officer/s | Status of Action | Complete or commenced |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|--|---|---|-----------------------|
| 19112025 | Community Development | 8.2.3 | 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. | Director Community Development | 1. Complete 2. Complete 3. Complete 4. Outstanding | Commenced |
| 17122025 | Community Development | 8.1.3 | That Council: 1. Approves the officer recommendation to part fund the following projects under the Community Grants Program: \$1,000 – Birchip Neighbourhood House Inc Project: Together for Christmas \$500 - Lions Club of Charlton Inc Project: Charlton Community Xmas Fest 2. Notes that a report will be presented to Council at a future meeting on the future of the Community Grants Program. | Coordinator Community Development & Facilities | 1. Complete 2. Commenced | Commenced |

Tabled 15 April 2026 Council Meeting

Council Resolution Action – Outstanding and Items from Council Meeting 18 March 2026 – Tabled 15 April 2026

| Date | Directorate | Item | Resolution | Actioning Officer/s | Status of Action | Complete or commenced |
|----------|--|-------|---|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 17122025 | Corporate & Organisational Performance | 9.5.1 | <p>Confidential Report: Sale of Properties for Recovery of Rates and Charges</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proceeds with the necessary next steps to sell [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for the recovery of unpaid rates and charges in accordance with section 181 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>; 2. Accepts the terms and conditions as outlined by and for the Australian Securities and Investment Commission to be named as a 'defendant' in legal proceedings as Attachment 1 to this report; 3. Notes and declares this report as confidential on the grounds that it relates to (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released: 4. (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs as described in s 3(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>. | Manager Financial Strategy | | |
| 18032026 | Office of the CEO | 8.2.1 | <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the Resource Ready: North-Western Victoria Energy and Mining Impact and Readiness Strategy; 2. Commit to working with key stakeholders to implement the Strategy's recommended actions in partnership with other Study Area councils, State Government, and stakeholders; 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to advocate to State and Federal Government, where appropriate, for funding to implement priority actions identified in the Strategy; and 4. Note that successful implementation requires substantial external funding and regional coordination beyond Council's existing resources. 5. Note if adopted, to fully promote this Strategy to the wider community. | Office of the CEO | | Complete |

Tabled 15 April 2026 Council Meeting

Council Resolution Action – Outstanding and Items from Council Meeting 18 March 2026 – Tabled 15 April 2026

| Date | Directorate | Item | Resolution | Actioning Officer/s | Status of Action | Complete or commenced |
|----------|-------------------|-------|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 18032026 | Office of the CEO | 9.3.1 | Urgent Business: Energy and Other Legislation Amendment (Resilience Reforms and Other Matters) Bill 2026. That Council: 1. Condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the Minister for Energy and Resources and the Victorian Parliament for passing legislation to allow compulsory acquisition of easements for electricity transmission lines prior to the conclusion of the Environment Effects Statement for VNI West. 2. Request that the Minister, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and VicGrid engage with Buloke Shire Council in a genuine, open and constructive manner to understand our community's concerns about energy projects in the Shire. 3. Write to the Minister detailing Council's disappointment in the way Councillors and ratepayers have been treated and seeking genuine engagement in the future. | Office of the CEO | Letter sent to Minister Lily D'Ambrosio on Thursday, 2 April 2026. | Complete |

Tabled 15 April 2026 Council Meeting



Summary of Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee Feb 2026

Build a Better Buloke – a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Date: | 11 February 2026 | Time | 2:00pm – 3:24pm |
| Location: | Wycheproof Supper Room | | |

NOTE: This is a summary of the minutes of the meeting only – full minutes are circulated and moved through the meeting formally.

| NO. | MATTER FOR DISCUSSION | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Welcome & Statement of Acknowledgement | |
| 2. | Present Dean Sleigh (Chair and Independent Member), Stephen Gardner (Independent Member) Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor - Member), Cr Bernadette Hogan (Member), Daniel McLoughlan (CEO), Jenna Allan (Director Corporate and Organisational Performance), Gaynor Atkin (Director Community Development), Salomme Menezes (Manager Financial Strategy) | |
| 3. | Apologies Anthony Smith (Acting Manager Governance) | |
| 4. | Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting Noted | |
| 5. | Chief Executive Briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Relations Matters • Industrial Relations Matters • Birchip Netball Court Project Update • Renewable Energy and Transmission Planning in the Western Renewable Energy Zone – general update for information of Council submissions • Flood Recovery Status • Budget Preparation 2026/2027 | |
| 6. | Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflicts of Interest Nil declared | |
| 7.1 | Outstanding Action Items Status update noted by the committee | |
| 7.2 | Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan Noted | |
| 7.3 | ICT Quarterly Update Report Noted | |
| 7.4 | Asset Management Quarterly Update | |



| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| | Noted | |
| 7.5 | Internal Audit Scope – Long Term Financial Planning Motion: That the Audit and Risk Committee approve the audit scope for the internal audit – long term financial planning. Moved, Seconded and Carried. | |
| 7.6 | Internal Audit Report – Emergency Management – Esoteric Festival Noted | |
| 7.7 | External Audit – Closing report and final management letter for the year ended 30 June 2025 Noted | |
| 7.8 | Legislative Compliance Register Noted | |
| 7.9 | 2026/2027 Budget Timetable Noted | |
| 7.10 | Councillor and CEO Reimbursements Noted | |
| 7.11 | Quarterly Investment Report – September 2025 Noted | |
| 7.12 | Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending 30 September 2025 Noted | |
| 7.13 | Status of Municipal Monitor’s Report and Implementation Plan Noted | |
| 7.14 | Audit and Risk Committee 2026 Meeting Schedule MOTION: That the Audit and Risk Committee adopt its 2026 Meeting Schedule as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wednesday, 11 February 2026, commencing at 2.00 pm Wycheproof Supper Room. 2. Wednesday, 13 May 2026, commencing at 2.00 pm Wycheproof Supper Room. 3. Wednesday, 9 September 2026, commencing at 10.00 am Wycheproof Supper Room. 4. Wednesday, 9 December 2026, commencing at 10.00 am Wycheproof Supper Room. Moved, Seconded and Carried. | |
| 7.15 | Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan 2026 Motion: That the Audit and Risk Committee adopt the 2026 Annual Work Plan. Moved, Seconded, Carried. | |
| 7.16 | Audit and Risk Committee Annual Self Assessment | |



| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| | Motion: That the Audit and Risk Committee endorse the Annual Self-Assessment to be undertaken and noting the close date of 31 December 2025. Moved, Seconded, Carried. | |
| 7.17 | Victorian Auditor-General's Office Status Report Moved. | |
| 8. | <p>Other Business</p> <p>The Director Corporate and Organisational Performance, Jenna Allan provided the Audit and Risk Committee with an update in relation to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund. Jenna Allan advised that the Treasurer had just announced some important changes to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, as part of the 2025–26 Budget Update. The changes include providing Stability for primary production properties and the delay to the implementation of the non-primary place of residence fixed charge.</p> <p>This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the variable rate for primary production properties will remain at 28.7 cents per \$1,000 CIV for at least the next two financial years. • the fixed charge for non-primary place of residence (non-PPR) properties will remain unchanged until July 2027. | |
| 9. | <p>Meeting Close</p> <p>Meeting closed at 3:24pm</p> | |

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 GRAMPIANS WIMMERA MALLEE TOURISM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Author's Title: Chief Executive Officer

Directorate: Office of the CEO

File No: CS/18/14

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Prosperous and growing economy
Promote Buloke as a great place to visit, live and invest
Council leadership and engagement
Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the new Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), its key features, and increased annual financial contribution for consideration and endorsement by Council.

SUMMARY

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Councils' membership in the Visitor Economy Partnership – Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT) ended in January 2026.

A new MOU has been developed to represent these changes and ensure continuity for member Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse that Buloke Shire Council continue being a member of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT) by signing the Memorandum of Understanding that commenced 1 February 2026 and expires 30 June 2027;
2. Allocate an additional \$10,000 membership fee to GWMT (totalling \$25,000 excl. GST) for the 26/27 financial year, subject to Council's annual budgetary processes; and
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all applicable documentation supporting this continued commitment.

DISCUSSION

The existing Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expired at the end of January 2026. Since that time, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT) has transitioned further into a formal Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP) model, with clearer governance,

stronger alignment to State frameworks, and a consistent regional partnership approach across the Grampians and Wimmera Mallee.

A new MOU has been developed to reflect this evolution, provide continuity for Councils, and ensure the partnership remains fit-for-purpose through to 30 June 2027.

Key Features of the New MOU

The new MOU retains the intent of previous agreements while modernising governance, accountability, and delivery arrangements.

Term of the New MOU

- Commencement: 1 February 2026
- Expiry: 30 June 2027

This term aligns the Wimmera Mallee partnership with GWMT's broader regional planning, funding, and reporting cycles.

Governance and Representation

- It is the responsibility of each participating Council to nominate its Chief Executive Officer as the contact for Board related matters representing that Council within the GWMT governance framework. Representation is explicitly at CEO level only (not Director or Officer level).
- From the four Wimmera Mallee Councils, one CEO sits on the GWMT Board as the nominated representative for the Wimmera Mallee. The nominated representative is Hindmarsh Shire Council CEO, subject to change as determined by the Wimmera Mallee Council CEOs.
- Pre- and post-GWMT Board briefings are held between Wimmera Mallee CEOs.
- Formal written summaries of Board outcomes are provided back to Councils and Councillors.
- The GWMT CEO will provide an annual update to each Council on performance, priorities, and outcomes.

Destination Planning and Alignment

- Explicit recognition of the Wimmera Mallee Destination Management Plan (DMP) as the primary regional planning framework.
- Council-led Local Area Action Plans (LAAPs) continue to inform regional priorities, advocacy, and delivery.
- Alignment with adopted Council tourism strategies is embedded in GWMT's work program.

Services and Outcomes

Council contributions support:

- Regional destination marketing and campaigns.
- Industry strengthening and capability-building programs.
- Research, insights, and performance reporting.
- Advocacy for investment, infrastructure, and funding.
- Digital platforms, content, and visitor information services.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council joined the Grampians, Wimmera Mallee Visitor Economy Partnership in 2024 to strengthen tourism outcomes for the Shire and ensure long-term access to funding, expertise and coordinated regional advocacy.

This decision was endorsed on 14 February 2024 via a resolution of Council.

OPTIONS

Council has the option of not continuing with the MOU and therefore not be a member of the Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP) however; to be eligible for tourism funding, now and into the future, Councils must be a member of a VEP. This aligns with the broader vision for the State Government.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Continuing to be a member of the Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP) would provide the opportunity to develop and deliver more innovative tourism benefits across our Shire that enhance and support local businesses and tourism operators.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

While the MOU term runs from 1 February 2026 to 30 June 2027, Council membership contributions under this agreement apply to the 2026/27 financial year only - 2026/27 financial year: \$25,000 per Council (ex GST).

This approach provides certainty to Councils while aligning the Wimmera Mallee partnership with GWMT's broader funding, reporting, and Visitor Economy Partnership settings.

The contribution reflects:

- An expanded scope of services and stronger regional coordination.
- Increased expectations around reporting, advocacy, and delivery.
- Greater alignment with State Government VEP settings and funding leverage.
- Consistency with partnership arrangements across the broader GWMT region.

The 2025/26 contribution remains at \$15,000 (excl GST).

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision

Council Plan 2025-2029

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - 2026.27 GWMT and Wimmera Mallee MOU

GRAMPIANS WIMMERA MALLEE TOURISM

GWMT and Wimmera Mallee MOU

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT)

And the following Participating Councils (collectively referred to as *the Councils*):

- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Buloke Shire Council
- Yarriambiack Shire Council
- Hindmarsh Shire Council

1. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a collaborative partnership between Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT) and the Councils to deliver coordinated destination marketing, destination planning, industry development, advocacy, and visitor economy outcomes for the **Wimmera Mallee**.

This MOU reflects a Grampians-aligned partnership model and the transition to the Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP) framework, providing clarity of roles, strong governance, and a focus on outcomes and value-for-investment.

2. Term

This MOU is effective from **1 February 2026** and will expire on **30 June 2027**, unless terminated earlier in accordance with Section 14.

3. Shared Vision

To strengthen the Wimmera Mallee as a distinctive and resilient visitor economy by increasing visitation, dispersal, yield, and community benefit through coordinated regional leadership and partnership.

4. Strategic Objectives

The partnership seeks to:

- Grow awareness and consideration of the Wimmera Mallee as a visitor destination.
 - Support tourism businesses to build capability, resilience, and readiness.
 - Improve alignment between local, regional, and State tourism priorities.
 - Advocate collectively for investment, infrastructure, and policy support.
 - Deliver consistent, high-quality regional storytelling aligned to the regional brand architecture.
-

5. Financial Contributions

5.1 Membership Contribution Period

Council membership contributions under this MOU apply to the **2026/27 financial year only**.

5.2 Contribution Amount

Each participating Council will contribute **\$25,000 (ex GST)** for the **2026/27 financial year**.

5.3 Use of Funds

Council contributions will be pooled and applied toward:

- Regional destination marketing and campaigns.
 - Industry strengthening and capability-building programs.
 - Research, insights, and performance reporting.
 - Regional advocacy and stakeholder engagement.
 - Digital platforms, content, and visitor information services.
-

6. Scope of Services – GWMT Commitments

GWMT will provide the following services to the Councils:

6.1 Destination Marketing & Promotion

- Inclusion of Wimmera Mallee destinations, towns, and experiences in regional and State-aligned campaigns
- Content development and amplification across owned, earned, and paid channels
- Media, PR, and crisis communications coordination (where required)

6.2 Industry Development

- Delivery of industry strengthening programs (including digital capability, media readiness, accessibility, sustainability, and distribution)
- Workshops, forums, and training opportunities
- Support for new and emerging tourism product

6.3 Destination Planning & Alignment

- Leadership and coordination of the **Wimmera Mallee Destination Management Plan (DMP)** in collaboration with Councils and industry
- Recognition of **Council-led Local Area Action Plans (LAAPs)** as key inputs informing regional priorities, advocacy, and delivery
- Alignment of regional initiatives with adopted Council tourism strategies and plans

6.4 Advocacy & Investment

- Coordinated advocacy to State and Federal Government
- Input into regional strategies, masterplans, and funding submissions
- Representation of Wimmera Mallee priorities within broader Grampians and Victorian tourism forums

7. Council Commitments

Each Council agrees to:

- Participate in the governance and engagement arrangements outlined in this MOU.
- Nominate its **Chief Executive Officer** as the contact for Board related matters (refer Section 8).

- Participate in regional planning, briefings, and forums where possible.
 - Share relevant data, insights, and project updates to support alignment.
-

8. Governance & Engagement

- Strategic oversight will be provided through the GWMT Board.
 - **Wimmera Mallee Representation:** From the four participating Councils, **one Wimmera Mallee Council CEO will sit on the GWMT Board** as the nominated representative on behalf of the Wimmera Mallee Representation is explicitly at **CEO level only** (not Director or Officer level). The nominated representative is Hindmarsh Shire Council CEO, subject to change as determined by the Wimmera Mallee Council CEOs.
 - **CEO Coordination:** Wimmera Mallee CEOs will meet before and after GWMT Board meetings to discuss agenda items, priorities, and outcomes.
 - **Reporting:** A formal written summary of GWMT Board outcomes relevant to the Wimmera Mallee will be provided to all participating Councils following each Board meeting, for distribution to Councillors as determined by each Council.
 - **Annual Council Update:** The GWMT Chief Executive Officer will provide an annual update to each participating Council outlining performance, outcomes, priorities, and alignment with Council objectives.
-

9. Reporting & Accountability

GWMT will provide:

- An annual activity overview aligned to the objectives of this MOU.
 - Regular progress updates as required.
 - Transparency regarding the use of Council membership contributions.
-

10. Branding & Representation

All activities delivered under this MOU will align with GWMT's regional brand architecture and visual identity, applying a consistent and aligned look and feel while retaining local place-based storytelling for the Wimmera Mallee.

11. Review

This MOU may be reviewed by mutual agreement during the term to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

12. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute arising in relation to this MOU will, in the first instance, be referred to a joint meeting between the Chair of the GWMT Board and the Chief Executive Officers of the participating Councils, with the objective of resolving the matter in good faith. If the dispute cannot be resolved through this process, the parties agree to pursue an appropriate dispute resolution process by mutual agreement.

13. Governing Law

This MOU is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia.

14. Termination

Either party may terminate this MOU by providing **six (6) months' written notice**. Any financial commitments applicable to the 2026/27 financial year remain payable.

15. Non-Binding Agreement

This MOU is not intended to create legal relations but reflects a statement of intent and mutual commitment to collaboration.

16. Signatures

For Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Inc.

Name:

Title:

Date:

Signature:

For West Wimmera Shire Council

Name:

Title:

Date:

Signature:

For Buloke Shire Council

Name:

Title:

Date:

Signature:

For Yarriambiack Shire Council

Name:

Title:

Date:

Signature:

For Hindmarsh Shire Council

Name:

Title:

Date:

Signature:

8.2.2 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION PA25031 – USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTION (400,000 BIRD FREE RANGE BROILER FARM) – SAITS ROAD, CHARLTON

Author's Title: Senior Planning Officer

Directorate: Community Development

File No: LP/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Built and natural environment

Objective: Caring for our environment

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider planning permit application PA25031 and as the Responsible Authority, resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit or issue a Notice of Refusal.

SUMMARY

A planning permit application was received by Council on 8 October 2025 for the use and development of land for animal production (400,000 bird free range broiler farm), including eight (8) sheds, associated free range areas and ancillary buildings, and two (2) manager's dwellings.

The address for the application is Saits Road, Charlton (Lot 1 PS932492).

The application has come to Council as the Responsible Authority for a decision as there are unresolved objections to the application.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

having caused notice of Planning Application No. PA25031 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 Decision to Grant a Permit under the provisions of 35.07-1, 35.07-4 and 44.04-2 of the Buloke Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as Saits Road, Charlton (Lot 1 PS932492), for the use and development of land for animal production (400,000 bird free range broiler farm), including eight (8) sheds, associated free range areas and ancillary buildings, and two (2) manager's dwellings in accordance with the endorsed plans, with the application dated 8 October 2025, subject to the following conditions:

Endorsed Plans

1. The use and development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the responsible authority.
2. At all times what the permit allows must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of any document approved under this permit to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Section 173 Agreement

3. Prior to the commencement of the use, the owner of the land must enter into an agreement with the responsible authority under section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The agreement must provide the following:
- a. The access driveway/haul road within the adjoining unused road reserve must be designed, constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
 - b. The vehicular access onto Douglas Road must be constructed generally in accordance with the endorsed plans and to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
 - c. The access road must be kept in good repair, including surface maintenance, drainage management, vegetation clearance for safe sightlines, and any works necessary to ensure safe, all-weather access.
 - d. Acknowledgement that the access road is located on a road reserve not maintained by Council, and that all responsibilities for construction, upgrade, repair and ongoing maintenance rest with the landowner.
 - e. If the access driveway/haul road is to revert to Council's management, any works required to transfer this asset to Council will be done to Council's satisfaction and at the property owner's cost. This may include, but is not limited to, the upgrade and/or works required at the intersection (cross over) of the access driveway/haul road and Douglas Road.
 - f. Indemnify and hold harmless the responsible authority against any claim arising from the construction, use or maintenance of the access road.
 - g. The property owner must not prohibit or cause any restriction of public access within or over the road reserve.
 - h. The property owner is responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of all site drainage lines and drainage systems (including but not limited to the stormwater detention system) to ensure that all drainage systems continue to operate to their full design capacity for the duration of the use of the development.

The owner of the land must pay all of the responsible authority's reasonable legal costs and expenses of this agreement, including preparation, execution and registration on title.

Amenity

4. The use and development must be managed so that the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected, through the:
 - a. Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land
 - b. Appearance of any building, works or materials
 - c. Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oilto the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
5. The exterior colour and cladding of the buildings must be non-reflective to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
6. The use and development of the land must not interfere with surrounding existing uses, including agriculture.
7. External lighting must be designed, baffled and located so as to prevent any adverse effect on adjoining land to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
8. Noise levels emanating from the premises must not exceed those required to be met under State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Noise from Commerce, Industry and Trade), No. N-1 to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
9. All activities associated with the construction of the development permitted by this permit must be carried out to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and all care must be taken to minimise the effect of such activities on the amenity of the locality.
10. If the responsible authority determines that the amenity of nearby residents is adversely affected by the emission of an unreasonable level of offensive odour from the animal production, the operators must immediately take remedial actions and/or undertake works,

which may include undertaking odour surveys, adjusting stock density, removing spent litter promptly, or any other actions to verify and rectify the emission of any offensive odour. The owner of the land and the operator of the animal production must comply with all written directions by the responsible authority in this regard.

11. The appearance of the subject land, in the opinion of the responsible authority must not adversely affect the amenity of the local area.
12. Vermin and pest animals must be controlled to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
13. The poultry sheds and all feed stores must be vermin and bird proof to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Access and Car Parking

14. a) Before the use or occupation of the development starts, the areas set aside for the parking of vehicles and access lanes as shown on the endorsed plans must be:
 - i. constructed
 - ii. properly formed so they can be used in accordance with the plans
 - iii. surfaced with an all-weather wearing course or crushed rock
 - iv. drained to the legal point of discharge
- b) All vehicle entry to and egress from the site must be in a forward direction.
- c) Car spaces and access lanes must be maintained and kept available for these purposes at all times.
- d) All works must be completed in accordance with the prepared plans and specifications before the use/ occupation of the development starts.
15. The loading and unloading of vehicles and the delivery of goods to and from the subject land must be carried out entirely within the subject land at all times.
16. For the duration of the use, vehicles under the control of the operator of the use or the operator's staff must not be parked on the nearby roads.
17. Access to and exit from the site must only be at the nominated crossings shown on the endorsed plans. Access to and exit from the site must only be via the unnamed road reserve onto Douglas Road. Large vehicles should prioritise turning west onto Douglas Road towards Boort-Charlton Road.
18. Prior to occupation of the site, suitable access must be provided for emergency vehicles both into and around the development. Roads must be constructed to a standard so that they are accessible in all weather conditions and capable of accommodating a vehicle of 15 tonnes for the trafficable road. The trafficable road width must be a minimum of 4 metres.
19. The vehicular crossings must be constructed to accommodate B-double vehicles. The crossings and road works are to be constructed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. Works must be at no cost to the responsible authority and generally in accordance with the endorsed plans.
20. For the duration of the use, any damage to the roadway caused by access to or egress from the site must be repaired to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and at no cost to the responsible authority.

General Conditions

21. Litter is to be removed from each shed after each batch and loaded directly onto trucks for transport off site. No spent litter is to be stockpiled on site.
22. Wet or spilt litter collected from the sheds shall be stored in weatherproof bins prior to removal off site.
23. Dead birds must be collected at least daily and promptly chilled or frozen and subsequently removed from the subject land to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. No dead birds are to be disposed of on site.

24. The operator must fully and accurately complete a record of all complaints received, including the name and address of the complainant, the nature of the complaint, date and time of the complaint, and the actions that were taken in response. This record is to be made available to the responsible authority on request.
25. Before the use commences, an Environment Management Plan (the EMP) for the operation of the broiler farm must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. The EMP must be prepared in accordance with the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009 (plus 2018 amendments) and routinely audited in accordance with the requirements of the Broiler Code to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. When prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority the EMP (and subsequent revisions as provided for in accordance this permit) will be approved and endorsed and will then form part of this permit.
26. Reviews of the EMP must be undertaken in accordance with the endorsed EMP. Any revision to the EMP must be to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the revised EMP will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit.
27. The use must at all times be undertaken in accordance with the most current version of the endorsed EMP.
28. The capacity of the broiler farm must not exceed 400,000 birds.
29. The use must not commence until power has been connected to the site.
30. Any diesel electrical backup generator must only be used as an alternative to the mains power supply in emergencies, outages, or maintenance.
31. The dwellings must only be used in conjunction with the approved use.

Drainage

32. Waste or soiled water must not be permitted to be discharged from the site to Council's drains during construction of the development.
33. All stormwater run-off from the proposed development hereby permitted must be disposed of to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
34. For the duration of the use, no polluted and/or sediment laden run-off is to be discharged directly or indirectly into the responsible authority's drains or watercourses.
35. All works must be undertaken in a manner that minimises soil erosion, and any exposed areas of soil must be stabilised to prevent soil erosion, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
36. Waste water from the washing and disinfecting of sheds must not be allowed to be discharged from the sheds.
37. Before the development or any site works start (including excavation) a report prepared by a suitably qualified professional showing computations that demonstrate that the capacity of the proposed retention dams is sufficient to retain run-off from a 1 in 100 year flood event, and generally in accordance with the endorsed plans.

All site works (including access roads, drainage works, etc) are to be designed by a suitably qualified engineer and ensure stormwater discharge and/or overland water flow from the site is managed to ensure post development discharge does not exceed pre-development discharge.

Landscaping

38. All landscaping included in the endorsed Plans must be planted within 12 months of the commencement of the development. The landscaping must be maintained for 5 years after planting to the extent that any dead plants must be replaced with like plants of the same variety and thereafter be maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Services

39. The dwellings must be connected to a reticulated electricity supply or have an alternative energy source to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

- 40. The dwellings must be connected to a reticulated potable water supply or have an alternative potable water supply with adequate storage for domestic use as well as for firefighting purposes to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- 41. The dwellings must be connected to reticulated sewerage, if available. If reticulated sewerage is not available, all wastewater from the dwelling must be treated and retained within the lot in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Regulations under the Environment Protection Act 2017 for on-site wastewater management systems.
- 42. The septic system/s must be approved by the responsible authority prior to the construction of the associated amenities building and dwellings.

Referral Authority Conditions - Powercor

- 43. The applicant shall provide an electricity supply to the development in accordance with the Distributor’s requirements and standards.
Notes: Extension, augmentation or rearrangement of the Distributor’s electrical assets may be required to make such supplies available, with the cost of such works generally borne by the applicant.
- 44. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR).
Notes: Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.
- 45. The applicant shall establish easements on the subdivision, for all existing Distributor electric lines where easements have not been otherwise provided on the land and for any new power lines to service the lots or adjust the positioning existing easements.

Notes:

- Existing easements may need to be amended to meet the Distributor’s requirements
- Easements required by the Distributor shall be specified on the subdivision and show the Purpose, Origin and the In Favour of party as follows:

| Easement Reference | Purpose | Width (Metres) | Origin | Land Benefited / In Favour Of |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Power Line | | Section 88 - Electricity Industry Act 2000 | Powercor Australia Ltd |

Referral Authority Conditions - NCCMA

- 46. The finished floor level of all proposed buildings must be constructed a minimum of 300mm above the modelled 1%AEP flood level.
- 47. The development must not cause adverse off-site flood impacts on neighbouring properties. Prior to the commencement of works, the technical memo titled “Flood Impact Assessment Letter” prepared by Maven and dated 13 February 2026 must be updated to include details of the flood modelling methodology and assumptions, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and the North Central CMA.

Referral Authority Conditions – Head, Transport for Victoria

- 48. Prior to commencement of the buildings and/or works, unless otherwise agreed in writing, a Functional Layout Plan (FLP) must be submitted to and approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria. The FLP must show:
 - a. A Basic Right (BAR) turn treatment at the intersection of Boort-Charlton Road and Douglas Road (right turn into Douglas Road from Charlton).
 - b. A Road Safety Audit (RSA) must be submitted to and approved by the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority. The RSA must be undertaken by a suitably qualified road safety auditor.
- 49. Prior to commencement of the buildings and/or works, unless otherwise agreed in writing, the intersection at Boort-Charlton Road and Douglas Road (west) must be constructed generally in

accordance with the approved FLP to the satisfaction of and at no cost to the Head, Transport for Victoria.

Commencement

50. This permit will operate from the issued date of this permit.

Permit Expiry

This permit as it relates to use and development will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- a. The development is not started within 2 years of the issued date of this permit.
- b. The development is not completed within 6 years of the issued date of this permit.
- c. The use does not start within 2 years of completion of the development.

In accordance with Section 69 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, an application may be submitted to the responsible authority for an extension of the periods referred to in this condition.

DISCUSSION

A planning permit application was received by Council on 8 October 2025 for the use and development of land for animal production (400,000 bird free range broiler farm), including eight (8) sheds, associated free range areas and ancillary buildings, and two (2) manager's dwellings.

The address for the application is Saits Road, Charlton (Lot 1 PS932492).

The proposal is to develop the site for a 400,000-bird free range broiler farm. The development is to consist of eight purpose-built sheds, each housing 50,000 birds.

The proposed sheds will each measure 172.0m by 18.7m (internal), the sheds will have an internal floor area of 3,216m² each and a combined floor area of 25,728m². The height of the sheds will be approximately 2.5m to the column-truss connection and 4.3m to the ridgeline. The poultry sheds will be fitted with purpose-built infrastructure associated with poultry production including fans, heaters, water and feed lines, lighting and cooling. The sheds will be spaced 37m apart providing for free range areas between and immediately adjacent.

Two managers dwellings are proposed on site, along with staff offices and amenity buildings, a farm workshop and equipment store, dead bird freezer facility and wheel wash facility.

Associated earth works include the internal road works, parking area, access road, stormwater retention dam and 60ML freshwater storage dam.

Subject Site & Locality

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

The site has a total area of 40 hectares and currently contains:

- Farming and grazing land.
- Small amount of scattered native vegetation.

The main site/locality characteristics are:

- Farming and grazing land in large agricultural allotments.
- The site will be accessed from an unmade road reserve that adjoins Douglas Road.
- There is a watercourse approximately 1600 metres to the east. This water course floods and covers a large flood plain in wet years and affects the subject site.
- There is an existing chicken broiler farm located approximately 2.5 km to the southwest.

- The subject land is 9.5 kilometres northeast of Charlton township.

Permit/Site History

The history of the site includes:

- PA25021 – subdivision (boundary realignment) created the allotment to establish this proposal
-

Assessment

The zoning of the land and any relevant overlay provisions

The land is zoned Farming Zone (FZ). The purpose of the farming zone is:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To provide for the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.
- To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.

A planning permit is required for the use and development of land in the FZ for animal production (poultry farm).

The land is subject to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). The purpose of the LSIO is:

- To identify flood prone land in a riverine or coastal area affected by the 1 in 100 (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.
- To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- To minimise the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.
- To reflect a declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the *Water Act, 1989*.
- To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.
- To ensure that development maintains or improves river, marine, coastal and wetland health, waterway protection and floodplain health.

A planning permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works in the LSIO.

Decision Guidelines

| Decision Guidelines - Farming Zone | Comments |
|---|--|
| The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework. | <i>These have been considered, please refer to policy section.</i> |
| Any Regional Catchment Strategy and associated plan applying to the land. | <i>Not applicable.</i> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.</p> | <p><i>The land is a 40ha allotment and is capable of accommodating the development. Stormwater from the farms shedding and hardstand is directed to a stormwater retention dam. There will be no stockpiling of waste material on site. Black water and wastewater from each managers residence will be treated and disposed of by septic systems to be approved by Council.</i></p> <p><i>The land is subject to shallow overland floodwaters. The farm is to be built so that finished floor levels of the sheds and dwellings are clear of floodwaters.</i></p> |
| <p>How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.</p> | <p><i>The use and development is designed to be sustainable. No solid waste from the poultry operation is stockpiled on farm, therefore there will be no change to nutrient levels of the land. Landscaping will be established using indigenous vegetation.</i></p> |
| <p>Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.</p> | <p><i>The site is suitable for this use and development. This is an agricultural land use to be located in an agricultural production area, with an appropriate buffer distance to sensitive land uses.</i></p> <p><i>The proponents have provided an engineering report that states that the proposed broiler farm will have a negligible effect on the height and movement of any floodwater.</i></p> <p><i>The use and development will not impact on existing agricultural land use.</i></p> |
| <p>How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.</p> | <p><i>The proposed broiler farm will make use of the existing road network and will access the GWMWater stock and domestic water supply pipeline. Power to the proposed farm will be provided by a connection to the existing Powercor distribution network.</i></p> |
| <p>Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.</p> | <p><i>The use and development is a highly productive agricultural land use and will enhance agricultural production.</i></p> |
| <p>Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.</p> | <p><i>The use will be managed so that soil quality will not be adversely affected. Land housing the development will not be available for soil-based agriculture, but no land will be removed from agricultural production.</i></p> |
| <p>The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.</p> | <p><i>The proposed poultry farm will not affect surrounding and nearby agricultural uses.</i></p> |
| <p>The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.</p> | <p><i>The site has the capacity to sustain the use.</i></p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure. | <i>The subject land consists of good quality soil and has good access to water and infrastructure.</i> |
| Any integrated land management plan prepared for the site. | <i>Not applicable</i> |
| Whether Rural worker accommodation is necessary having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and scale of the agricultural use. • The accessibility to residential areas and existing accommodation, and the remoteness of the location. | <i>Rural worker accommodation is not proposed. Two managers residences are proposed. The nature of the use requires that staff are present on site to monitor wellbeing of the birds, and to respond immediately to any interruptions to water and food supply. The site has the capacity to accommodate the dwellings on site.</i> |
| The duration of the use of the land for Rural worker accommodation. | <i>n/a</i> |
| Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land. | <i>The proposal is to establish two homes, one each for the managers of the site. The dwellings will not result in the loss or fragmentation of the land. No further subdivision or re-subdivision is part of this proposal.</i> |
| Whether the dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent and nearby land due to dust, noise, odour, use of chemicals and farm machinery, traffic and hours of operation. | <i>The dwellings will not be significantly affected by nearby agricultural activities. It is an agricultural area and there is potential to be affected by dust, noise or other effects, but it is expected that this will be a limited number of days in the year. Landscaping and tree planting are proposed along the internal access road to the manager's residences. The plantings will contribute to mitigation of offsite effects on the proposed dwellings. The dwellings are setback approximately 600m from Douglas Rd.</i> |
| Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses. | <i>The proposed dwellings will not affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural land uses.</i> |
| The potential for the proposal to lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the area and the impact of this on the use of the land for agriculture. | <i>The proposal makes no changes that would lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the immediate area.</i> |
| The potential for accommodation to be adversely affected by noise and shadow flicker impacts if it is located within one kilometre from the nearest title boundary of land subject to: A permit for a wind energy facility etc | <i>Buloke Shire has not been notified of any wind energy facility within 1km of the proposed use and development.</i> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>The impact of the proposal on the natural physical features and resources of the area, in particular on soil and water quality.</p> | <p><i>The proposal will not have a significant impact on the natural features and resources of the area. No spent litter from the poultry farm is stored on the land. Any wastewater will be treated and disposed of on site. Stormwater will be directed to retention basins.</i></p> |
| <p>The impact of the use or development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.</p> | <p><i>The use and development will have minimal impact on flora and fauna on the site. The site is currently farming land and poor habitat. Landscaping with native trees is proposed and may have a positive impact on flora and fauna on the site.</i></p> |
| <p>The need to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area, including the retention of vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to revegetate land including riparian buffers along waterways, gullies, ridgelines, property boundaries and saline discharge and recharge area.</p> | <p><i>No native vegetation is proposed to be removed. Landscaping with native trees is proposed.</i></p> |
| <p>The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.</p> | <p><i>It is proposed to manage onsite blackwater sewerage treatment through multiple self-treatment septic tank systems provided to each set of amenities. The sewerage will not adversely impact on nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.</i></p> <p><i>No spent litter is to be stored or spread on site, and therefore nutrient levels will not be altered by the poultry farm.</i></p> |
| <p>The need to locate buildings in one area to avoid any adverse impacts on surrounding agricultural uses and to minimise the loss of productive agricultural land.</p> | <p><i>The poultry farm is located on one allotment. The farm is designed for efficient use, while complying with buffer zones and separation distances required. The land outside of the development footprint will continue to be used for agricultural production purposes, crop cultivation and animal grazing.</i></p> |
| <p>The impact of the siting, design, height, bulk, colours and materials to be used, on the natural environment, major roads, vistas and water features and the measures to be undertaken to minimise any adverse impacts.</p> | <p><i>The proposed development site is well separated (approx. 720m) from Douglas Road and nearby sensitive uses. Existing mature native vegetation in the northern corner of the site will be retained and a new line of trees is proposed along the internal access road to the managers' residences.</i></p> <p><i>The majority of building are low rise being approximately 5 meters in height with feed silos in excess of this height. The development will not impact on any important vistas and will not impact on typical tourist or visitor routes.</i></p> |
| <p>The impact on the character and appearance of the area or features of architectural,</p> | <p><i>The development will not impact on features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of</i></p> |

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| historic or scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance. | <i>natural scenic beauty or importance. The agricultural use is more intensive than the typical cropping and grazing activities conducted in the immediate area, but not uncommon in the municipal district. It is considered that the local character will not be significantly impacted.</i> |
| The location and design of existing and proposed infrastructure including roads, gas, water, drainage, telecommunications and sewerage facilities. | <i>Services necessary to the development are available at the site. Power will be provided via a connection to the existing Powercor network.</i> |
| Whether the use and development will require traffic management measures. | <i>The road network providing access to the subject site will be improved with the upgrade of access to Douglas Road and upgrade to the intersection with Boort Charlton Road. No other traffic management measures are proposed or required as part of this application.</i> |

| Decision Guidelines – Land Subject to Inundation Overlay | Comments |
|--|---|
| The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework. | <i>These have been considered, please refer to the policy section below.</i> |
| Any local floodplain development plan. | <i>N/A</i> |
| Any comments from the relevant floodplain management authority. | <i>The developers sought advice from the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA), and the application was referred to the NCCMA under Section 55 of the Act. The NCCMA provided finished floor levels for the proposed sheds and dwellings. The finished floor level of all proposed buildings must be constructed at a minimum of 300mm above the modelled 1%AEP flood level.</i> |
| The existing use and development of the land. | <i>The land is currently used for dryland farming and grazing.</i> |
| Whether the proposed use or development could be located on flood-free land or land with a lesser flood hazard outside this overlay. | <i>The portion of the property with the lowest flooding inundation risk has been chosen. There is no land on the property outside of the Inundation Overlay.</i> |
| Alternative design or flood proofing responses. | <i>The proposed shed facilities, dwellings and amenities floor levels will be raised to the finished floor level provided by the NCCMA</i> |
| The susceptibility of the development to flooding and flood damage. | <i>The sheds are to be fully enclosed with the concrete floors raised 300mm above the nominated 1%AEP flood level, thus prohibiting any stormwater entering the sheds.</i> |

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| | <i>The dwellings will also be built to the finished floor level provided by the NCCMA</i> |
| <p>The potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with the development. Flood risk factors to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The frequency, duration, extent, depth and velocity of flooding of the site and accessway. • The flood warning time available. • Tidal patterns. • Coastal inundation and erosion. • The danger to the occupants of the development, other floodplain residents and emergency personnel if the site or accessway is flooded. | <i>Risk to life health and safety are considered to be very low. Flood waters at this location are slow moving and shallow.</i> |
| <p>The effect of the development on redirecting or obstructing floodwater, stormwater or drainage water and the effect of the development on reducing flood storage and increasing flood levels and flow velocities.</p> | <p><i>The stormwater detention dam will cater for rainfall events of 1 in 10-year recurrence interval as prescribed by the Broiler Code. This storage will be provided above an outlet pipe which will be designed to restrict the outflow rate from the dam to less than the current rate for a pastured area of the same size as the shed complex area. Flows from the outlet pipe will be discharged to a contoured swale from where it will be dispersed to pasture consistent with current flow conditions on the property.</i></p> <p><i>An engineers report has been provided stating that the proposed broiler farm will have negligible effect on the flow and height of flood water.</i></p> |
| <p>The effect of the development on river, marine and coastal health values including wetlands, natural habitat, stream stability, erosion, environmental flows, water quality, estuaries and sites of scientific significance.</p> | <i>The proposed broiler farm will not impact river health values.</i> |

Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS)

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

02.03 Strategic directions

02.03-4 Natural resource management

Council's strategic directions for natural resource management are:

- Sustainably managing natural resources and agricultural land.
- Protecting valuable agricultural land from inappropriate development.
- Encouraging sustainable farming practices.
- Supporting, promoting and facilitating sustainable, diverse and viable agriculture to provide for long-term economic, social and environmental health.

02.03-6 Economic development

Council's strategic directions for economic development include:

- Encouraging and managing sustainable agriculture as the economic foundation of the municipality.

Planning Policy Framework (PPF)

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

13 Environmental Risks and Amenity

13.06-1S Air quality management

Strategies include ensuring 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.

- *All separation distances as per Victorian EPA code Publication number; 1518, Guideline; Local government; Policy; Odour and Draft Publication 1949 December 2022, are met.*
- *The separation distances for odour as per the EPA requirements is derived from the Egg Industry Environmental Guidelines – Edition II (2018)*

14 Natural Resource Management

14.01-1L-01 Protection of agricultural land

Strategies include:

- Discourage the fragmentation of agricultural land.
- Discourage use and development in the Farming Zone that:
 - Alienates agricultural resources.
 - Is sensitive to off-site effects from agriculture such as sprays and odour.
 - Lessens the capacity of essential infrastructure.
 - Prejudices agricultural resources and agricultural production.
- Provide buffers on the subject site for proposals that are potentially sensitive to normal activities in agricultural areas.
- Locate buildings or works so as to avoid or minimise loss of good quality agricultural land.

The proposed use and development are consistent with this policy.

14.01-2S Sustainable agricultural land use

Strategies include:

- Ensure agricultural and productive rural land use activities are managed to maintain the long-term sustainable use and management of existing natural resources.
- Facilitate ongoing productivity and investment in high value agriculture.
- Facilitate the establishment and expansion of cattle feedlots, pig farms, poultry farms and other intensive animal industries in a manner consistent with orderly and proper planning and protection of the environment.

14.01-2R Agricultural Productivity – Loddon Mallee North

Strategies include:

- Support emerging agribusinesses and location clusters, including intensive animal industries.

14.01-2L Sustainable agriculture and rural industry

Strategies include:

- Encourage and support innovative agricultural opportunities arising from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline water supply.
- Encourage and support innovative agriculture, agricultural diversification and sustainable farming practices, especially where they respond or adapt to the effects of climate change.

The proposal is consistent with the policy at 14 Natural Resource Management.

15 Built Environment and Heritage

15.01-6S Design for rural areas

Strategies are:

- Ensure that the siting, scale and appearance of development protects and enhances rural character.
- Protect the visual amenity of valued rural landscapes and character areas along township approaches and sensitive tourist routes by ensuring new development is sympathetically located.
- Site and design development to minimise visual impacts on surrounding natural scenery and landscape features including ridgelines, hill tops, waterways, lakes and wetlands.

The proposal is consistent with this policy.

17 Economic development

17.01-1S Diversified economy

Strategies include:

- Facilitate growth in a range of employment sectors, including health, education, retail, tourism, knowledge industries and professional and technical services based on the emerging and existing strengths of each region.
- Improve access to jobs closer to where people live.
- Support rural economies to grow and diversify.

17.01-1R Diversified economy – Loddon Mallee North

Strategies include:

- Support further diversification of the primary production, service, manufacturing and tourism industries.

The proposed use and development is consistent with this policy.

Relevant Particular Provisions

Clause 53.09 Poultry Farm

The purpose of Clause 53.09 is to facilitate the establishment and expansion of poultry farms, including broiler farms, in a manner that is consistent with orderly and proper planning and the protection of the environment.

Decision Guidelines

| Decision Guidelines – Clause 53.09 | Comment |
|------------------------------------|---|
| The purpose of the relevant zone. | <i>The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the zone.</i> |

| | |
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| The design, height, setback and appearance of the proposed buildings and works. | <i>The proposed farm is setback approximately 750 metres from Douglas Road, and the buildings are low profile.</i> |
| The proposed landscaping. | <i>Landscaping is proposed on the northern portion of the allotment near the managers residences.</i> |
| The need to protect amenity of existing uses on adjoining land. | <i>The poultry farm will have negligible effect on the amenity of existing uses. The adjoining land is used for dry land farming and grazing.</i> |
| The impact of the use of the land on the surrounding area, including from the emission of noise, light, vibration, odour, dust, or waste products. | <i>The poultry farm will not have a significant impact on land in the surrounding area.</i> |
| The impact of the proposal on any wetlands, waterways or water bodies. | <i>The proposal is not located within close proximity to wetlands, waterways or water bodies. The location is within an LSIO and may be subject to shallow inundation in major flood events.</i> |
| The likely environmental impact on the natural physical features and biodiversity of the land, including consideration of any Nutrient Management Plan submitted with the application. | <i>The land is currently used for broadacre farming and grazing, and the current biodiversity value of the subject land is low. No native vegetation will be removed, and planting is proposed, potentially improving environmental value.</i> |
| Whether the development will support and enhance agricultural production. | <i>The proposal is a highly productive agricultural land use.</i> |

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 is not likely to be contaminated and is not highlighted on the EPA Register.</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 use and development are consistent with the purpose of the zone.</i> |
| Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision. | <i>The decision guidelines in the zone and the overlay have been considered in this report.</i> |
| The orderly planning of the area. | <i>The proposal represents orderly planning.</i> |
| The effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area. | <i>The development will not have a significant effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area. There will be increased traffic movements on</i> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <i>Douglas Road, this road is an all- weather road, and the traffic movements are not expected to affect local amenity.</i> |
| The proximity of the land to any public land. | <i>There is no public land within close proximity to the subject land. The proposed broiler farm will not impact public land.</i> |
| Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality. | <i>The proposed use and development is designed so that it will not cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.</i> |
| Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site. | <i>The development provides an engineered stormwater management system and is generally designed to capture the rainfall runoff volume of a one in 10-year rainfall event.</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 risk of flood, erosion or fire hazard will not be significantly increased. The building regulations will require fire safety measures.</i> |
| The adequacy of loading and unloading facilities and any associated amenity, traffic flow and road safety impacts. | <i>There is adequate loading and unloading facilities provided for on the plans.</i> |
| The impact the use or development will have on the current and future development and operation of the transport system. | <i>The use and development will not have a major impact on the current and future development. There will be increased traffic movements onto Douglas Road and onto the Boort-Charlton Rd. These roads carry relatively light traffic numbers, and the increase in traffic movements will not have a significant impact on the operation of the traffic system. The intersection of Douglas Road and Boort-Charlton Rd. will be upgraded as part of this proposal.</i> |

Relevant incorporated or reference documents

Victorian Code for Broiler Farms 2009

Relevant Planning Scheme amendments

None

Summary of Key Issues

The proposed development is a large-scale poultry farm. The location is suitable for a large operation as the allotment is of a size that can accommodate all the associated infrastructure and stormwater drainage

works. The site meets separation distances from other poultry farms, sensitive land uses and is situated 9.5km from Charlton township.

Traffic movements in the immediate area will increase in number, but the increase in numbers of traffic movements will not have a significant impact on the local amenity of the area. The intersection of Douglas Road and Boort-Charlton Road will be upgraded as part of this proposal.

The subject land is affected by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, and the land may be subject to shallow, slow moving flood waters in large scale flooding events. The NCCMA have provided a condition that provides a finished floor level to prevent flood water negatively affecting the development. The NCCMA have also provided a condition requiring that the development must not cause off site flood impacts on neighbouring properties. The NCCMA have requested details of the flood modelling methodology and assumptions.

Neighbouring landholders have objected to the proposal with concerns that the development will affect the flow and disbursement of flood water, potentially diverting flood water onto neighbouring farmland. In response to the objection, the applicants engaged a civil engineer to provide a flood impact assessment.

The flood impact assessment 'concludes that any flood-related effects associated with this development will result in no significant change in offsite flood impact, will result in no detrimental effects to surrounding land and will comply with allowable offsite flood tolerances – all as nominated within the Melbourne Water Flood Impact (Afflux) Practice Note (December 2025).' 'The localised nature of the afflux, confined to areas immediately adjacent to the broiler sheds and associated dams, represents a minor redistribution of existing flood behaviour'. The effect of the development 'represents a tolerable impact that does not materially alter the flood risk profile or agricultural utility of surrounding properties. No dwellings or sensitive structures are affected.'

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Council, as the Responsible Authority, has the option to issue a Notice of Refusal *Alternative motion*:

That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. PA25031 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 35.07-1, 35.07-4 and 44.04-2 of the Buloke Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as Saits Road, Charlton (Lot 1 PS932492), for the use and development of land for animal production (400,000 bird free range broiler farm), including eight (8) sheds, associated free range areas and ancillary buildings, and two (2) manager's dwellings, with the application dated 8 October 2025.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

- Sending four notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land.

- Notice in the locally circulating newspapers

The notification has been carried out correctly.

Council has received one (1) objection to date. The objection was signed by the four (4) neighbouring farmers. The key issues that were raised in the objections are:

- That the location of the proposed broiler farm is unsuitable due to flooding issues.
- That the establishment of the farm will affect the movement of flood water and may negatively impact on the surrounding agricultural land.

Consultation was undertaken and included:

- A mediation meeting was held on 24 February 2026 between the objectors and the applicants to discuss the issues raised in the submission.
- The objectors raised their concerns with the impact of the proposed broiler farm on the movement of floodwaters and impacts on adjoining land.
- The applicants relied on the engineering report that states that the impact of the proposed broiler farm on the height and movement on floodwater will be negligible.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

External Referrals/Notices Required by the Planning Scheme:

| Referrals/Notice | Advice/Response/Conditions |
|-------------------------|---|
| Section 55 Referrals | North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) – no objection subject to conditions |
| Section 52 notices | Department of Transport and Planning – no objection subject to conditions GWMWater – no objection Agriculture Victoria – no response Powercor – no objection subject to conditions |

| Internal Council Referrals | Advice/Response/Conditions |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Assets and Infrastructure | No objection – subject to conditions |
| Municipal Building Surveyor | No objection – building permits required |

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

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

There may be costs associated with a VCAT appeal if that process occurs.

There may be increased road maintenance at the location.

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

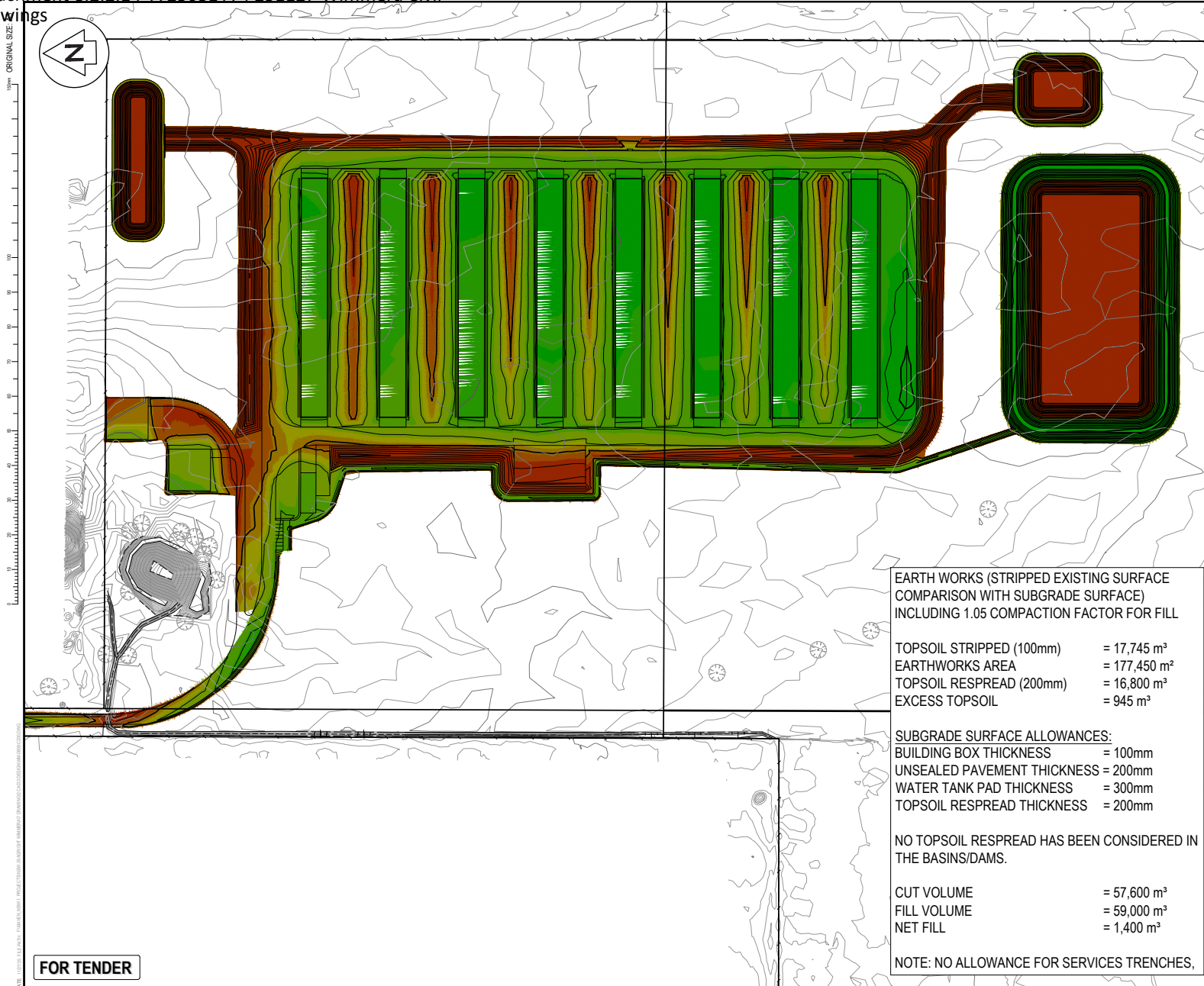
In order to promote transparency, Council will consider this resolution in on open meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.2.1 - P A 25031 A 4 251127 Wimmera Civil Drawings
2. Attachment 8.2.2.2 - P A 25031 A 1 Plans elevations



- NOTES
1. ALL WORKS TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL COUNCIL STANDARDS.
 2. CO-ORDINATES IN TERMS OF GDA2020MCA54.
 3. BENCHMARK BM XXXX DP XXXX RL XXXXMM
 4. ORIGIN OF LEVELS = SM XXXX SO XXXX(XXXX)
 5. CONTOUR INTERVAL MAJOR 1.0m MINOR 0.2m
 6. IT IS THE CONTRACTORS RESPONSIBILITY TO LOCATE ALL SERVICES THAT MAY BE AFFECTED BY THEIR OPERATIONS.
 7. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL RELEVANT OSH AND HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.
 8. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY APPROVAL FROM UTILITY OPERATORS BEFORE COMMENCING WORK UNDER OR NEAR THEIR SERVICES.
 9. SEDIMENT CONTROL SHALL BE INSTALLED AND OPERATIONAL BEFORE EARTHWORKS START ONSITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL STANDARDS.
 10. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE ASBUILT OF WORKING SEDIMENT CONTROL DEVICES AND CONFIRMATION OF POND/DAM VOLUMES TO ENGINEER.
 11. SEDIMENT CONTROL TO COMPLY WITH COUNCIL STANDARDS.

| Rev | Description | By | Date |
|-----|-------------|----|----------|
| A | DRAFT | HR | 27.11.25 |

EARTH WORKS (STRIPPED EXISTING SURFACE COMPARISON WITH SUBGRADE SURFACE) INCLUDING 1.05 COMPACTION FACTOR FOR FILL

TOPSOIL STRIPPED (100mm) = 17,745 m³
 EARTHWORKS AREA = 177,450 m²
 TOPSOIL RESPREAD (200mm) = 16,800 m³
 EXCESS TOPSOIL = 945 m³

SUBGRADE SURFACE ALLOWANCES:
 BUILDING BOX THICKNESS = 100mm
 UNSEALED PAVEMENT THICKNESS = 200mm
 WATER TANK PAD THICKNESS = 300mm
 TOPSOIL RESPREAD THICKNESS = 200mm

NO TOPSOIL RESPREAD HAS BEEN CONSIDERED IN THE BASINS/DAMS.

CUT VOLUME = 57,600 m³
 FILL VOLUME = 59,000 m³
 NET FILL = 1,400 m³

NOTE: NO ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICES TRENCHES,

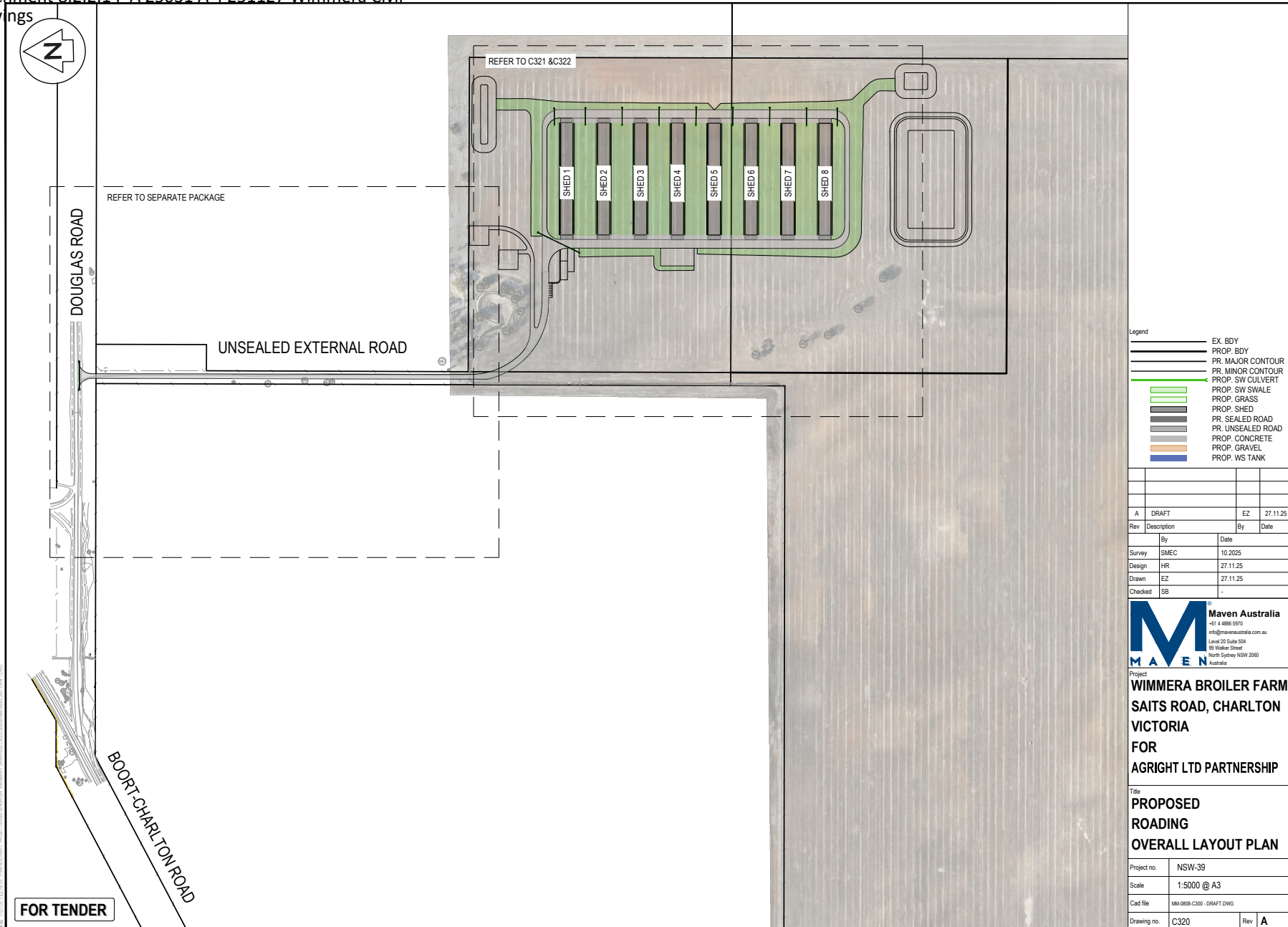


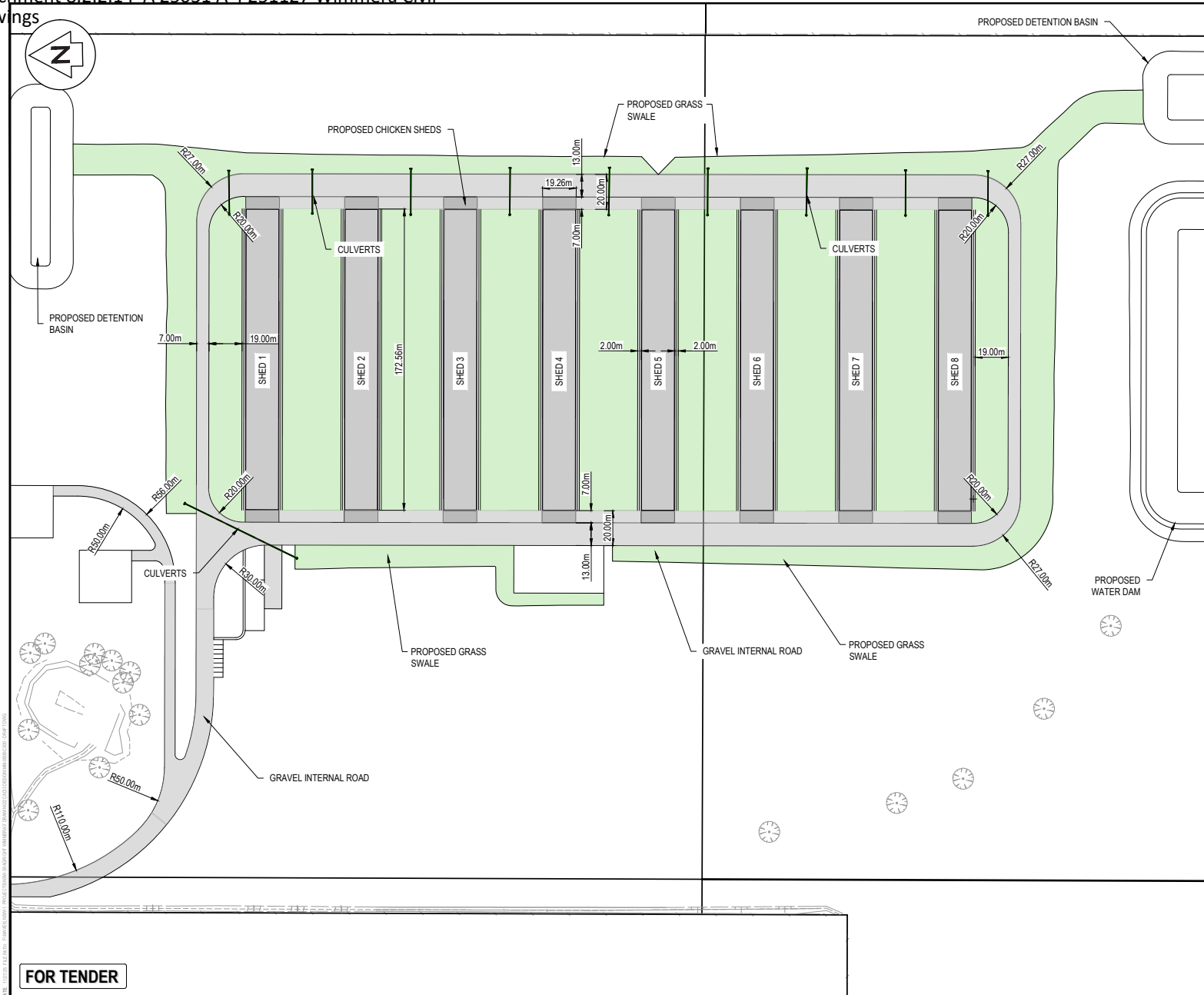
Project
WIMMERA BROILER FARM
SAITS ROAD, CHARLTON
VICTORIA
FOR
AGRILT LTD PARTNERSHIP

Title
PROPOSED
CUT/FILL
PLAN

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Project no. | NSW-39 |
| Scale | 1:2500 @ A3 |
| Cad file | MM-088-C220.DWG |
| Drawing no. | C220-1 |
| Rev | A |

FOR TENDER





Legend

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| [Line] | EX. B'DY |
| [Line] | PROP. B'DY |
| [Line] | PR. MAJOR CONTOUR |
| [Line] | PR. MINOR CONTOUR |
| [Line] | PROP. SW CULVERT |
| [Green Area] | PROP. SW SWALE |
| [Green Area] | PROP. GRASS |
| [Green Area] | PROP. SHED |
| [Grey Area] | PR. SEALED ROAD |
| [Grey Area] | PR. UNSEALED ROAD |
| [Grey Area] | PROP. CONCRETE |
| [Grey Area] | PROP. GRAVEL |
| [Blue Area] | PROP. WS TANK |

| | | | |
|-----|-------------|----|----------|
| Rev | Description | By | Date |
| A | DRAFT | EZ | 27.11.25 |
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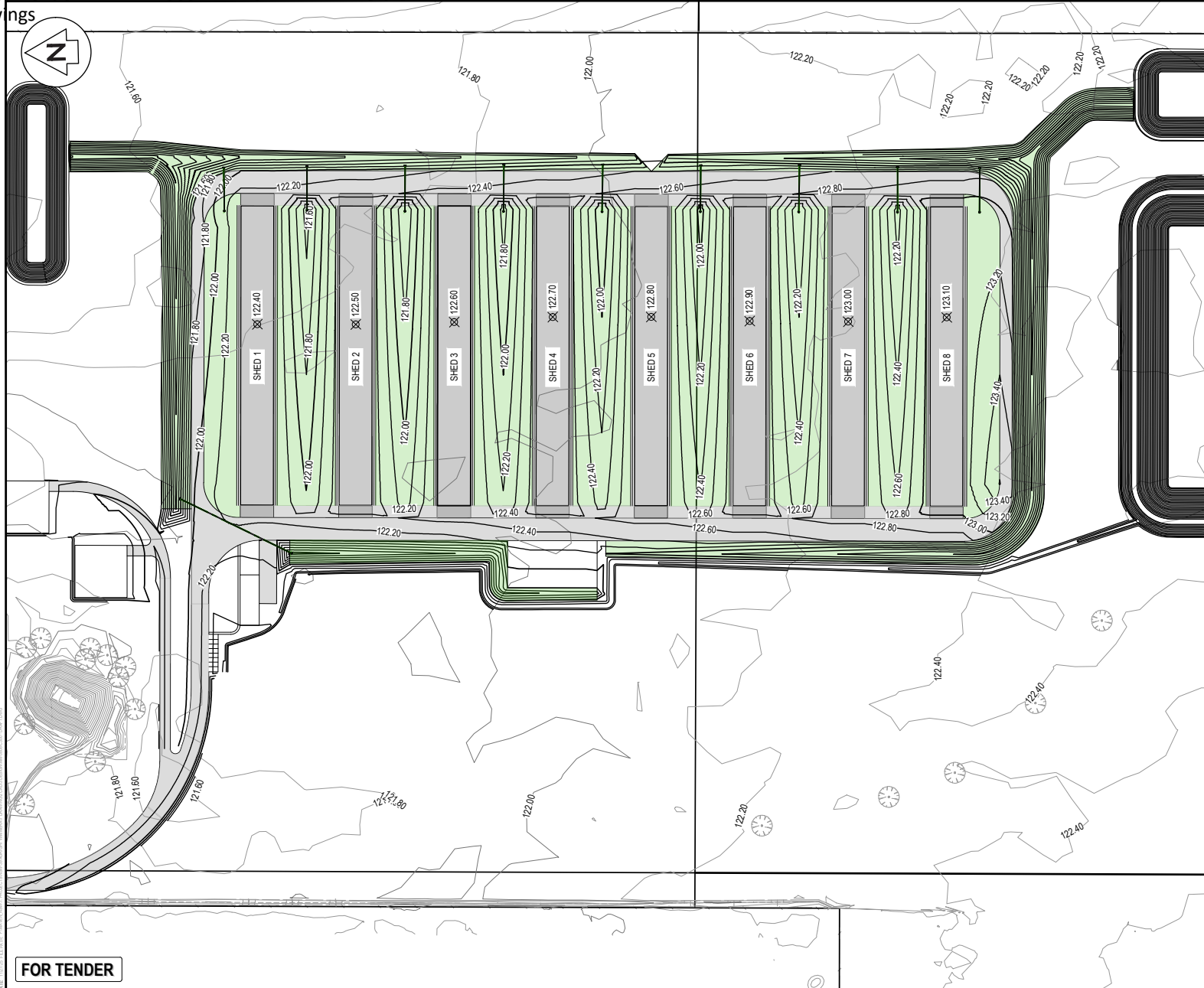
M Maven Australia
 +61 4 4886 9970
 info@mavenaustralia.com.au
 Level 20 Suite 504
 99 Walker Street
 North Sydney NSW 2060
 Australia

Project
WIMMERA BROILER FARM
SAITS ROAD, CHARLTON
VICTORIA
FOR
AGRIGHT LTD PARTNERSHIP

Title
PROPOSED
ROADING
LAYOUT PLAN

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Project no. | NSW-39 |
| Scale | 1:2000 @ A3 |
| Cad file | MM-0808-C300 - DRAFT.DWG |
| Drawing no. | C321 |
| Rev | A |

FOR TENDER



- Legend
- EX. BOY
 - PROP. BOY
 - PR. MAJOR CONTOUR
 - PR. MINOR CONTOUR
 - PROP. SW CULVERT
 - PROP. SW SWALE
 - PROP. GRASS
 - PROP. SHED
 - PR. SEALED ROAD
 - PR. UNSEALED ROAD
 - PROP. CONCRETE
 - PROP. GRAVEL
 - PROP. WS TANK

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|----|----------|
| A | DRAFT | EZ | 27.11.25 |
| Rev | Description | By | Date |
| | | | |
| Survey | SMEC | | 10.2025 |
| Design | HR | | 27.11.25 |
| Drawn | EZ | | 27.11.25 |
| Checked | SB | | 29.10.25 |

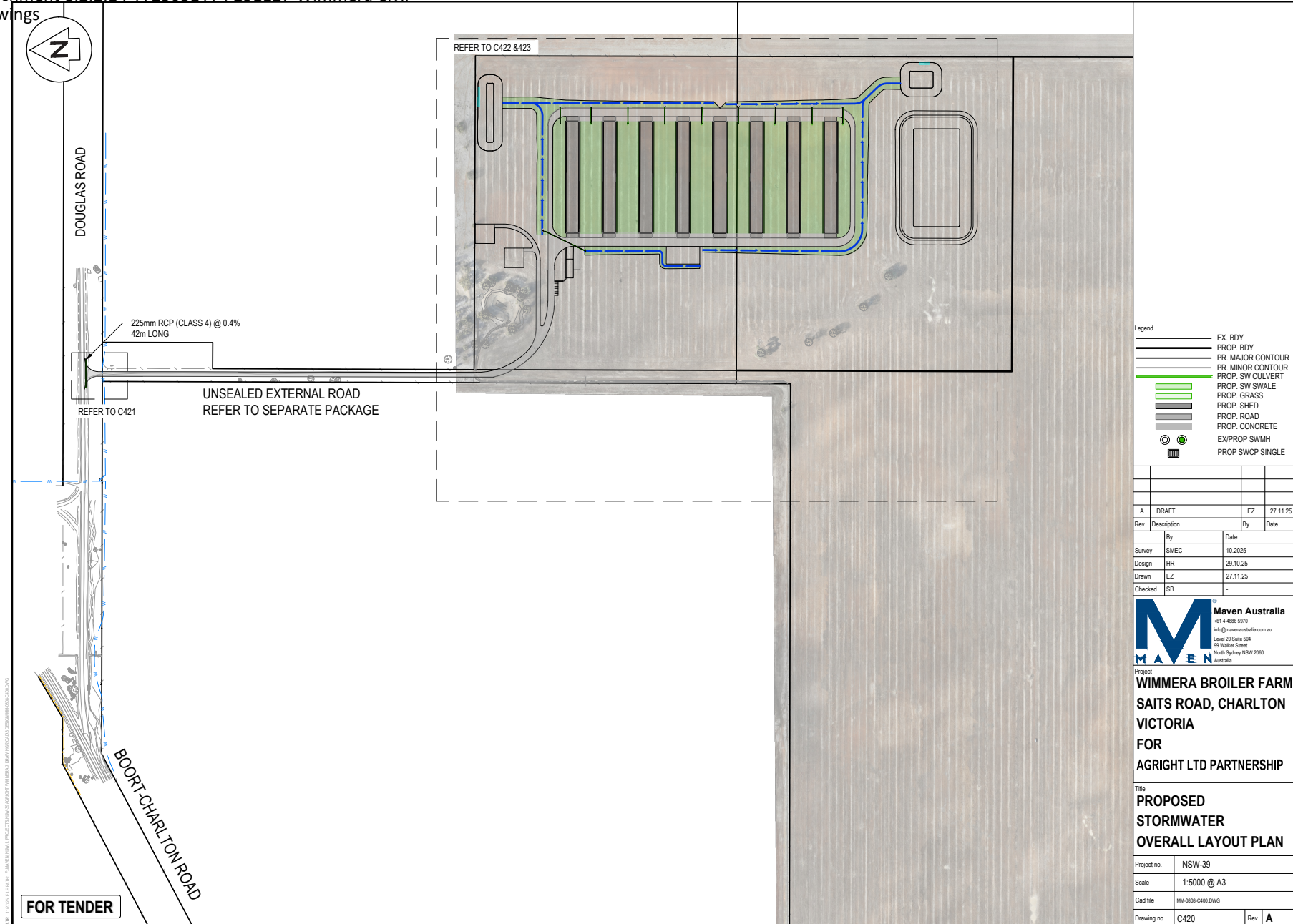


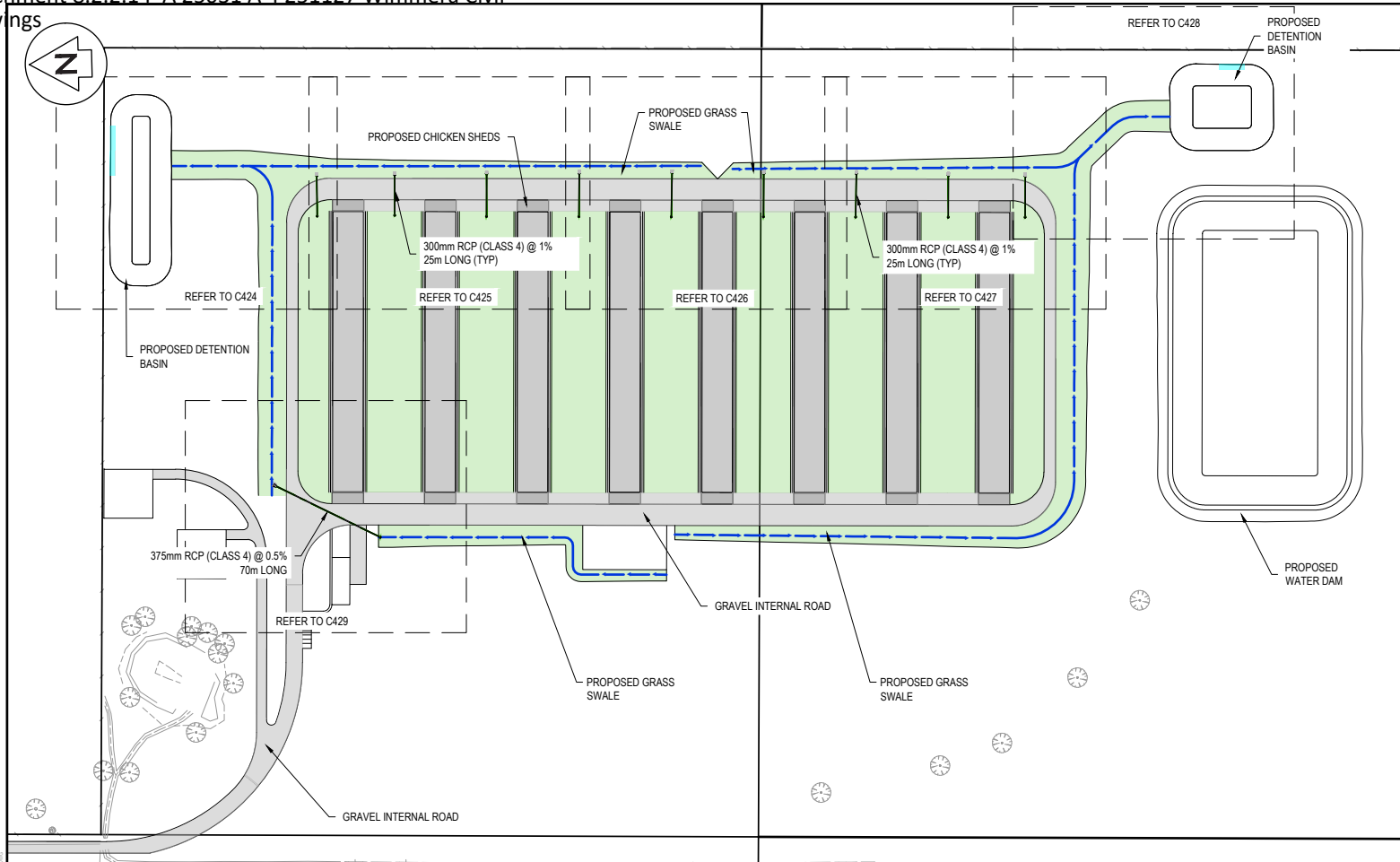
Project
WIMMERA BROILER FARM
SAITS ROAD, CHARLTON
VICTORIA
FOR
AGRIGHT LTD PARTNERSHIP

Title
PROPOSED
ROADING
SURFACE PLAN

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Project no. | NSW-39 |
| Scale | 1:2000 @ A3 |
| Cad file | MM-0808-C300 - DRAFT.DWG |
| Drawing no. | C322 |
| Rev | A |

FOR TENDER





Legend

| | |
|--|-------------------|
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| | PROP. BDY |
| | PR. MAJOR CONTOUR |
| | PR. MINOR CONTOUR |
| | PROP. SW CULVERT |
| | PROP. SW SWALE |
| | PROP. GRASS |
| | PROP. SHED |
| | PROP. ROAD |
| | PROP. CONCRETE |
| | EX/PROP SWMH |
| | PROP SWCP SINGLE |

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|----|----------|
| Rev | Description | By | Date |
| A | DRAFT | EZ | 27.11.25 |
| Survey | SMEC | | 10.2025 |
| Design | HR | | 27.11.25 |
| Drawn | EZ | | 27.11.25 |
| Checked | SB | | 29.10.25 |

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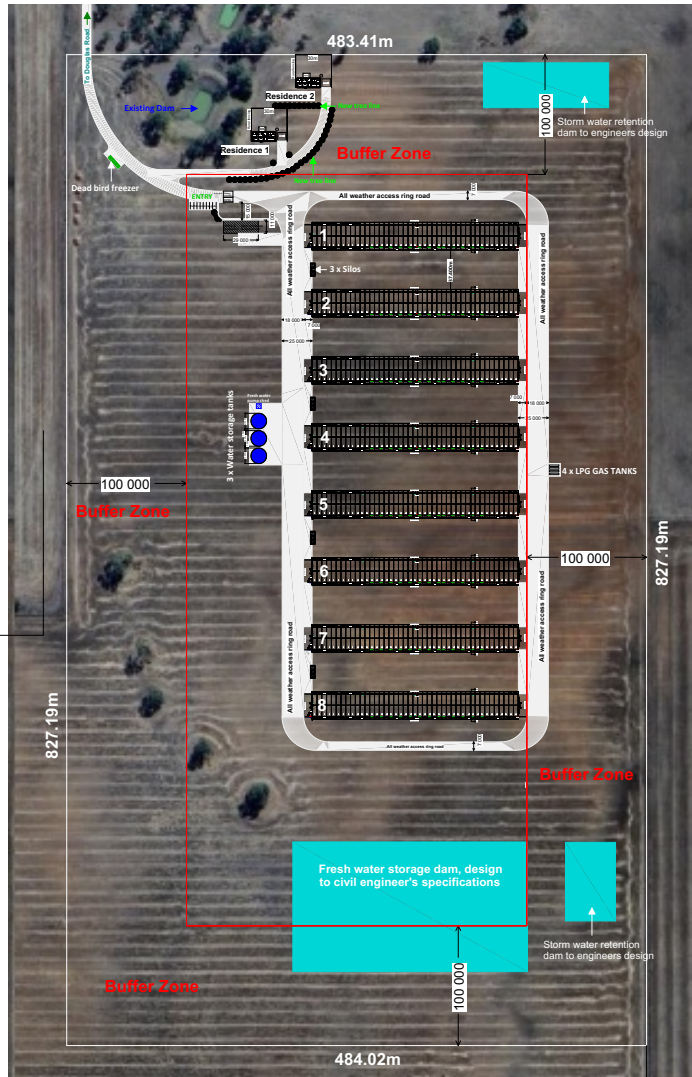
Project
WIMMERA BROILER FARM
SAITS ROAD, CHARLTON
VICTORIA
FOR
AGRIGHT LTD PARTNERSHIP

Title
PROPOSED
STORMWATER
DETAILED LAYOUT PLAN

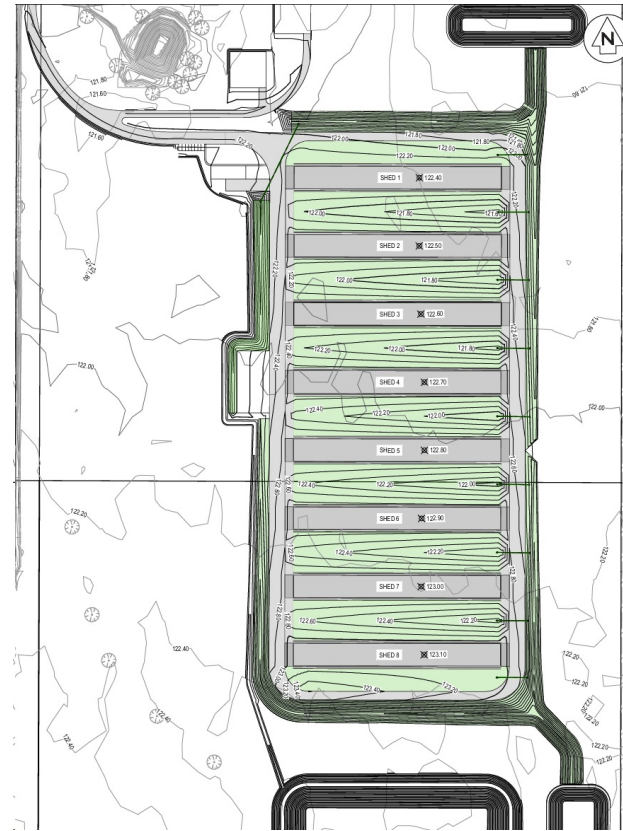
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| Scale | 1:2500 @ A3 |
| Cad file | MM-0808-C400.DWG |
| Drawing no. | C423 |
| Rev | A |

FOR TENDER

DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS. Clients/owners, Contractors & suppliers to verify drawing information including dimensions before commencement of any works.



Site Plan



Shed floor levels supplied by:



Maven Australia
+61 721156627 | +61 407 310 077
HamishR@mavenaustralia.com.au
www.mavenaustralia.com.au
Level 4 (South Tower), 339 Coronation Drive, Milton QLD 4064



Construction Cohort
Design/Drafting/Project Management/Construction

David Donaldson
M: 0428 237 467
E: david@constructioncohort.com
PO Box 102, Griffith NSW 2682
Builders License No 4177

Proposal: Use and development of land for animal production (400,000 bird free range broiler farms), including eight (8) sheds, associated free range areas and ancillary buildings, and two (2) manure handling buildings.
Address: Suits Road Charlton VIC 3525

Client name: **AGRIGHT**
Limited Partnership

Project name: Suits Road Charlton, Free Range Broiler Farm, 8 x Sheds

Project address: Suits Road, Charlton Victoria 3525

Drawing title: Site Plan & Floor Levels

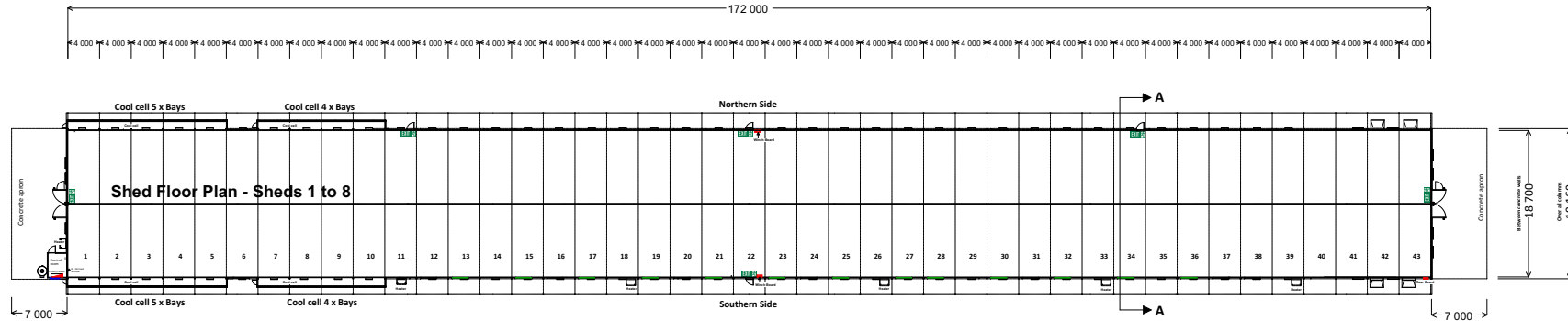
Scale: 1:1800
Date: December 2025

Drawing No: AG SR -001
Drafting by: David Donaldson

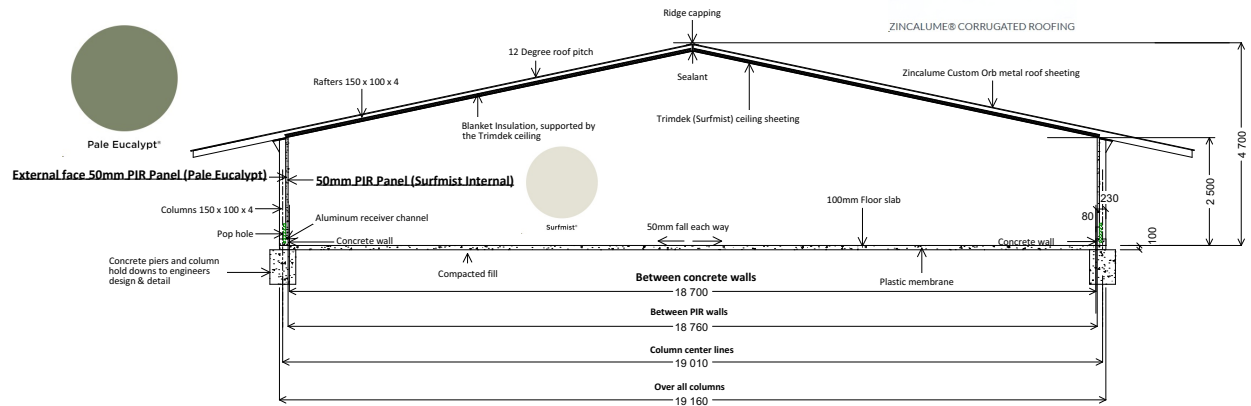
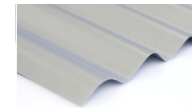
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Revisions:

DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS. Clients/owners, Contractors & suppliers to verify drawing information including dimensions before commencement of any works.



Typical Shed Floor Plan - Sheds 1 to 8



Section A - A

Construction Cohort
Design/Drafting/Project Management/Construction

David Donaldson
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PO Box 192, Griffith NSW 2682
Builders License No 4177

Proposal: Use and development of land for animal production (400,000 bird free range broiler farms), including eight (8) sheds, associated free range areas and ancillary buildings, and two (2) transport buildings.
Address: Sait's Road Charlton VIC 3525

Client name:



Project name:
Sait's Road Charlton, Free Range Broiler Farm, 8 x Sheds

Project address:

Sait's Road, Charlton Victoria 3525

Drawing title:

Typical Shed Floor Plan & Section

Scale:

1:250

Date:

December 2025

Drawing No:

AG SR -002

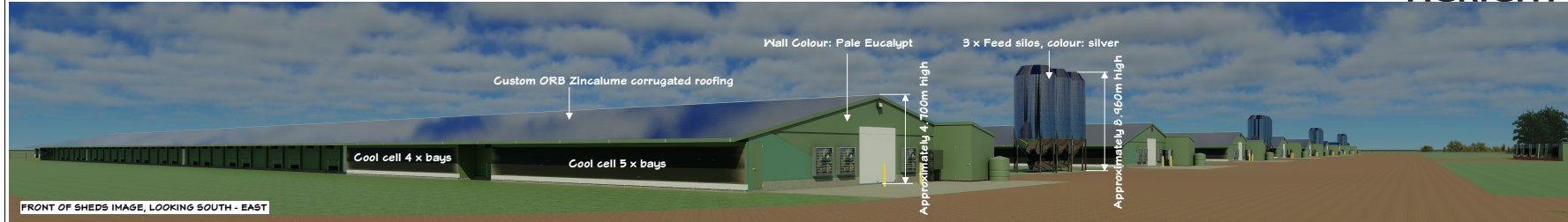
Drafting by:

David Donaldson

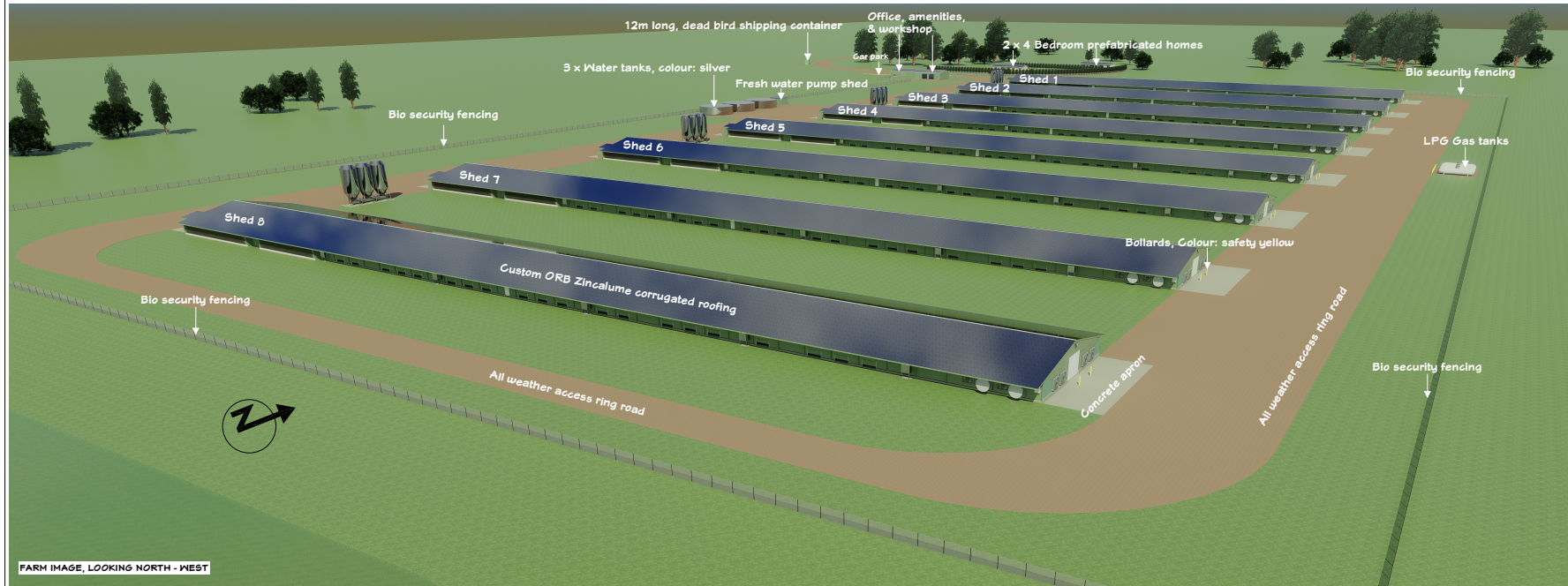
Revisions:

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS. Clients/owners, Contractors & suppliers to verify drawing information including dimensions before commencement of any works.



FRONT OF SHEDS IMAGE, LOOKING SOUTH - EAST



FARM IMAGE, LOOKING NORTH - WEST

Construction Cohort
Design/Drafting/Project Management/Construction

David Donaldson
M: 0428 237 427
E: ddonaldson@constructioncohort.com
PO Box 202, Griffith NSW 2682
Builder's License No. 4177

Proposal: Use and development of land for animal production (400,000 bird free range broiler farms), including eight (8) sheds, associated free range areas and ancillary buildings, and two (2) manure storages.
Address: Saits Road Charlton VIC 3525

Client name: **AGRIGHT**
Limited Partnership

Project name: Saits Road Charlton, Free Range Broiler Farm, 8 x Sheds

Project address: Saits Road, Charlton Victoria 3525

Drawing title: Farm Images & information

Scale: NA
Date: December 2025

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Drawing No: AG SR -004
Drafting by: David Donaldson
Revisions:

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.3.1 DRAFT 2026/27 ANNUAL BUDGET

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** FM/05/02

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Council leadership and engagement
Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to propose that Council endorse the Draft 2026/27 Annual Budget for a process of public exhibition in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy as defined by the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUMMARY

The Buloke Shire Council Draft Annual Budget 2026/27 has been developed over recent months with input from officers, community (through a period of community engagement) and Councillors (through a series of interactive workshops). Throughout these workshops and discussions to assist informing the budget process, officers and Councillors alike have acknowledged and consistently reviewed the increasing external financial pressures on critical Council services, including fuel and inflation on costs of materials and services.

The consultation and input provided to inform the development of this Draft Budget has been reviewed in alignment with the Buloke Council Plan and its strategic objectives, as well as other key strategic documents, which guide decision making.

To continue delivering essential services and capital projects for the benefit of the Buloke community, Council is proposing a 2.75% increase in general rates, consistent with the State Government's rate cap.

The 2026/27 Draft Budget has been developed in line with the recommendations of the Municipal Monitors report, including the direction that Council must maintain cash neutrality to ensure financial sustainability.

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, public exhibition will be undertaken on the draft Budget prior to Council's final consideration of the 2026/27 Budget at the June ordinary meeting.

It is proposed that this public exhibition period commences on Thursday 16 April and concludes on Thursday, 7 May 2025. An invitation will be extended to people and/or organisations who make a formal submission, to present those submissions at a public exhibition hearing to be held on Monday 25 May 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft 2026/27 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) at Attachment 1 to this report for public exhibition.

2. Gives public notice of the draft 2026/27 Budget on Council's website and invites written submissions from Thursday 16 April until Thursday 7 May 2025.
3. Notes that in accordance with Section 93 and 96(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
4. Notes that any person and/or organisation who makes a written submission in relation to the draft 2026/27 Budget may be heard by Council at the scheduled Public Submissions Hearing in Wycheproof, on Monday 25 May 2026.
5. Notes that the 2026/27 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held Wednesday, 17 June 2026 at 7.00pm.

DISCUSSION

The Draft Annual Budget 2026/27 has been developed through an intensive consultation and review process and, at the time of preparing the agenda for the April Council meeting on Friday 10 April, was still being finalised. In accordance with Council's governance rules, the Draft Budget will be published on Council's website as an addendum by 7.00 pm on Monday 13 April, being two clear business days prior to the commencement of the 15 April Council Meeting.

This approach was deliberately adopted to allow additional time for officers to complete the document, noting recent public holidays since the last FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop on 1 April. By presenting this report at the April Council Meeting, subject to Council endorsing the draft 2026/27 Budget (incorporating the four-year Budget) for public exhibition for the period recommended, officers have ensured sufficient time to Council to meaningfully consider community submissions and make any necessary amendments.

RELEVANT LAW

The draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with relevant statutory requirements, including the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Council may choose not to endorse the draft Annual Budget for public exhibition or may choose to extend the time frame for this period.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct sustainability implications associated with this report. However, the Draft Budget does include planned resource allocations toward sustainability, social and environmental services and projects.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft Budget engagement process will comprise media information across print, social and radio. A copy of the Draft Budget will be made available to community forums and be placed on the Council's website. Council invites written submissions for the duration of the public exhibition process to be made via post or email via Council's records department (buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au). The process of community engagement is consistent with the Council's community engagement policy.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Draft Budget is for the financial year 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027, and contains financial statements including a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash flows, Statement of Capital Works and Statement of Human Resources.

These statements have been prepared for the year ending 30 June 2027 in accordance with the Act and Regulations. They are consistent with the annual financial statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

The Draft Budget also includes detail about the rates and charges to be levied and other information, Council requires to make an informed decision about the adoption of the Budget.

Valuations for council rates and the emergency services volunteer levy (formerly known as the fire services levy) are made annually in accordance with the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*. They are undertaken, or overseen, by the Valuer-General. Rating valuations are used to apportion (fairly distribute) council rates to ratepayers. Council for the 2026/27 financial year has maintained the differential for farm land at 46.00%. This is in accordance with the parameters established in the Revenue and Rating Plan that a review is required when the rate burden for any differential rate category changes by +/- 10.00% or greater following a general revaluation of properties.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Consideration has been given to other regional, state and national plans and policies as required throughout the preparation of this budget.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Draft Budget provides resourcing to enable continued implementation of Council's current plans and strategies.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council's engagement approach provides for receipt and consideration of submissions to the Draft Budget at a hearing to be held Monday 25 May 2026.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: Nil

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Lower Avoca Ward

Name: Cr Stephen Barratt

Date: 5 March 2026 – 1 April 2026

Meetings Attended:

| Date | Meeting / Event |
|-------------|---|
| 12/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Customer Service Charter Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Briefing for Rural Councils on Recent Planning and Environment Act Amendments – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18 /03/2026 | Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | Draft Aquatic Strategy Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 2 – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 26/03/26 | Wycheproof Resource Centre Bus Trip – Melbourne Flower Show |
| 30/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | Men’s Shed – <i>Wycheproof</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 3 – <i>Birchip Chambers</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | Councillor Briefing – <i>Watchem Hall</i> |

Name: Cr Bruce Stafford

Date: 5 March 2026 – 1 April 2026

Meetings Attended:

| Date | Meeting / Event |
|-------------|---|
| 12/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 17/03/2026 | Local Laws Matter – <i>Charlton</i> |
| 17/03/2026 | Charlton Forum Executive Meeting |
| 18/03/2026 | Customer Service Charter Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Briefing for Rural Councils on Recent Planning and Environment Act Amendments – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18 /03/2026 | Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | Draft Aquatic Strategy Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 2 – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 30/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 3 – <i>Birchip Chambers</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | Councillor Briefing – <i>Watchem Hall</i> |

Mallee Ward

Name: Cr Alan Getley

Date: 5 March 2026 – 1 April 2026

Meetings Attended:

| Date | Meeting / Event |
|-------------|---|
| 11/03/2026 | NGSC Transmission Forum |
| 12/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Customer Service Charter Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Briefing for Rural Councils on Recent Planning and Environment Act Amendments – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18 /03/2026 | Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | Draft Aquatic Strategy Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 2 – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 30/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 3 – <i>Birchip Chambers</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | Councillor Briefing – <i>Watchem Hall</i> |

Name: Cr Bernadette Hogan

Date: 5 March 2026 – 1 April 2026

Meetings Attended:

| Date | Meeting / Event |
|-------------|---|
| 06/03/2026 | Women’s World Day of Prayer Celebration – <i>Birchip Uniting Church</i> |
| 07/03/2026 | Mali Heart Street Art Festival – <i>Birchip</i> |
| 08/03/2026 | ‘Running of the Bulls’ Birchip Annual Trots – <i>Birchip</i> |
| 11/03/2026 | NGSC Transmission Forum |
| 12/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Customer Service Charter Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Briefing for Rural Councils on Recent Planning and Environment Act Amendments – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18 /03/2026 | Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | Draft Aquatic Strategy Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 2 – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 30/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 30/03/2026 | Advance Sea Lake Meeting – <i>Sea Lake</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 3 – <i>Birchip Chambers</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | Councillor Briefing – <i>Watchem Hall</i> |

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Name: Cr Charmaine Delaney

Date: 5 March 2026 – 1 April 2026

Meetings Attended:

| Date | Meeting / Event |
|-------------|---|
| 10/03/2026 | Watchem Progress Association |
| 11/03/2026 | NGSC Transmission Forum |
| 12/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Customer Service Charter Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Briefing for Rural Councils on Recent Planning and Environment Act Amendments – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18 /03/2026 | Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | Draft Aquatic Strategy Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 2 – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 30/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 3 – <i>Birchip Chambers</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | Councillor Briefing – <i>Watchem Hall</i> |

Name: Cr Graeme Milne

Date: 5 March 2026 – 1 April 2026

Meetings Attended:

| Date | Meeting / Event |
|-------------|---|
| 10/03/2026 | Watchem Progress Association |
| 12/03/2026 | WSMCA CEO and Mayor Meeting – <i>Horsham</i> |
| 12/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 16/03/2026 | Birchip Forum |
| 18/03/2026 | Customer Service Charter Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18/03/2026 | Briefing for Rural Councils on Recent Planning and Environment Act Amendments – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 18 /03/2026 | Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 20/03/2026 | Longerenong College Awards 2025 – <i>Horsham</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | Draft Aquatic Strategy Discussion with Councillors – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 2 – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i> |
| 25/03/2026 | Birchip Leisure Centre Meeting |
| 26/03/2026 | Gender Equity – <i>Online</i> |
| 27/03/2026 | Sea Lake Tourist Information Centre Meeting – <i>Sea Lake</i> |
| 27/03/2026 | Watchem Fire Brigade Awards Night |
| 30/03/2026 | CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | FY27 Annual Budget: Councillor Workshop 3 – <i>Birchip Chambers</i> |
| 01/04/2026 | Councillor Briefing – <i>Watchem Hall</i> |

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.4.1 INTERSTATE TRAVEL – CR MILNE

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** GO/06/11

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Council leadership and engagement
Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

In accordance with Council's Expenses Policy adopted December 2024, proposed interstate travel of Councillors, requires the approval of the Council.

Cr Graeme Milne 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 22 June 2026 to 25 June 2026, 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 Milne's return flights from Melbourne to Canberra, accommodation and associated expenses, as well as registration for the event itself.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the interstate travel and its associated costs for Cr Graeme Milne'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 23 June 2026 to 25 June 2026 in Canberra.

DISCUSSION

This year is the 32nd NGA and will be held at the National Convention Centre. The theme of the 2026 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 Council Expenses Policy was adopted by Council in December 2024.

OPTIONS

Council may opt to either accept or deny approval for Councillor Milne's attendance at the ALGA 2026.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Publication of the 15 April 2026 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

Expenses for this annual event are budgeted within the Annual Budget 2025/26.

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 to approve interstate travel and associated expenses.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

Attachments: Nil

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil.

10 MEETING CLOSE