



Council Meeting  
**Minutes**

Wednesday 15 April  
2026

Commencing at 7:02pm

Wycheproof Supper Room  
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan  
Chief Executive Officer



---

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

<b>1</b>	<b>COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>PROCEDURAL ITEMS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>7.1 GOVERNANCE REPORT - APRIL 2026.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>8.1 POLICY REPORTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
	8.2.1 GRAMPIANS WIMMERA MALLEE TOURISM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.....	10
	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 .....	14
	<b>8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS.....</b>	<b>28</b>
	8.3.1 DRAFT 2026/27 ANNUAL BUDGET.....	28
	<b>8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS.....</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION .....</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS .....</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>9.3 URGENT BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>36</b>
	9.4.1 INTERSTATE TRAVEL – CR MILNE.....	36
	<b>9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSE .....</b>	<b>39</b>

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 15/04/2026.****CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor) Mount Jeffcott Ward

**COUNCILLORS:**

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

**OFFICERS:**

Daniel McLoughlan Chief Executive Officer  
Travis Fitzgibbon Director Infrastructure and Delivery  
Jenna Allan Director Corporate and Organisational Performance  
Gaynor Atkin Director Community Development  
Anthony Smith Acting Manager Governance  
Paula Gardiner Senior Manager Assets and Delivery  
Georgia Brown Senior Executive Assistant

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

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne welcomed all in attendance.

**STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

**2 RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES**

Nil.

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

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

**MOVED: Cr Alan Getley**

**SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/26/15)**

#### **4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

#### **5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Graeme Milne declared a general conflict of interest in relation to Item 9.4.1 – Interstate Travel – Cr Milne due to being the recipient of Interstate Travel.

#### **6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Council received no questions from the public for this Council Meeting.

Council received five (5) registrations for Public Participation in relation Item 8.2.2 Planning Permit Application PA25031 – Use and Development of Land for Animal Production (400,000 Bird Free Broiler Farm) – Saits Road, Charlton.

Cliff Schmidt presented to Council and spoke on behalf of David Ireland (*PSA Consulting*) in relation to item 8.2.2 Planning Permit Application PA25031 – Use and Development of Land for Animal Production (400,000 Bird Free Broiler Farm) – Saits Road, Charlton.

Chris Byrne presented to Council and spoke on behalf Terry Fitzpatrick, Ian Southwell and Wayne Southwell in relation to item 8.2.2 Planning Permit Application PA25031 – Use and Development of Land for Animal Production (400,000 Bird Free Broiler Farm) – Saits Road, Charlton.

## 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.

#### MOTION

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).

**MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt**

**SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/26/16)**

#### 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:**

<b>Date/Time/Venue</b>	<b>Councillor Attendees</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
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.

<b>Daniel McLoughlan – Chief Executive Officer</b>		
<i>(5 March 2026 – 1 April 2026)</i>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
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

**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:** ED/03/04

#### **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.

#### **MOTION**

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.

**MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney**

**SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/26/17)**

## 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

## 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.

### **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 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 dischargeb) 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 Basic Right (BAR) turn treatment at the intersection of Boort-Charlton Road and Douglas Road (right turn into Douglas Road from Charlton).
  - 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:

- The development is not started within 2 years of the issued date of this permit.
- The development is not completed within 6 years of the issued date of this permit.
- 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.

**MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt**

**SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan**

*Cr Alan Getley called for a division on this item.*

#### **DIVISION**

**FOR:** Cr Stephen Barratt, Cr Charmaine Delaney, Cr Alan Getley, Cr Bernadette Hogan and Cr Bruce Stafford

**AGAINST:** Cr Graeme Milne

**CARRIED.**

**(R/26/18)**

#### **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 3,216m<sup>2</sup> each and a combined floor area of 25,728m<sup>2</sup>. 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>
The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.	<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>
How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.	<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>
Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.	<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>

	<i>The use and development will not impact on existing agricultural land use.</i>
How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.	<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>
Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.	<i>The use and development is a highly productive agricultural land use and will enhance agricultural production.</i>
Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.	<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>
The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.	<i>The proposed poultry farm will not affect surrounding and nearby agricultural uses.</i>
The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.	<i>The site has the capacity to sustain the use.</i>
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"> <li>• The nature and scale of the agricultural use.</li> <li>• The accessibility to residential areas and existing accommodation, and the remoteness of the location.</li> </ul>	<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	<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</i>

of chemicals and farm machinery, traffic and hours of operation.	<i>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>
The impact of the proposal on the natural physical features and resources of the area, in particular on soil and water quality.	<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>
The impact of the use or development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.	<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>
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.	<i>No native vegetation is proposed to be removed. Landscaping with native trees is proposed.</i>
The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.	<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>

	<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>
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.	<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>
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.	<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>  <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>
The impact on the character and appearance of the area or features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance.	<i>The development will not impact on features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of 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>

<b>Decision Guidelines – Land Subject to Inundation Overlay</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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.  The dwellings will also be built to the finished floor level provided by the NCCMA</i>
The potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with the development. Flood risk factors to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The frequency, duration, extent, depth and velocity of flooding of the site and accessway.</li> <li>• The flood warning time available.</li> <li>• Tidal patterns.</li> <li>• Coastal inundation and erosion.</li> <li>• The danger to the occupants of the development, other floodplain residents and emergency personnel if the site or accessway is flooded.</li> </ul>	<i>Risk to life health and safety are considered to be very low. Flood waters at this location are slow moving and shallow.</i>
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.	<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>

	<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>
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.	<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 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**

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

<b>Decision Guidelines</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 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>

<p>The impact the use or development will have on the current and future development and operation of the transport system.</p>	<p><i>The use and development will not have a major impact on the current and future development.</i></p> <p><i>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></p>
---	---

### 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

	GMMWater – 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

## 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** Council leadership and engagement

**Objective:** 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.

#### MOTION

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 2026.
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.

**MOVED: Cr Alan Getley**

**SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan**

**CARRIED.**

**(R/26/19)**

## **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](mailto: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:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting / Event</b>
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:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting / Event</b>
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:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting / Event</b>
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:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting / Event</b>
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.

*Councillor Graeme Milne declared a general conflict of interest in relation to Item 9.4.1 – Interstate Travel – Cr Milne due to being the recipient of Interstate Travel.*

*Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor) vacated the chair and left the meeting at 7:50pm.  
Cr Bernadette Hogan (Deputy Mayor) assumed the chair.*

#### **MOTION**

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.

**MOVED: Cr Alan Getley**

**SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney**

**CARRIED.  
(R/26/20)**

*Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor) returned to the meeting at 7:53pm and assumed the chair.*

**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, placed-based solutions that meet the needs of their communities, while addressing broader national priorities. The National General Assembly of Local Government will focus on opportunities for councils to work with the next Federal Government to deliver local solutions that will help them deliver on their vision for the nation.

**RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable.

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

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

**OPTIONS**

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**

Meeting closed at 7:54 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on 20 May 2026 at 7:00pm.