





BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday 21 October 2026

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room

367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan
Chief Executive Officer

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Minutes of the Meeting held on 21/10/2026.

CHAIRPERSON:

Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor)	Mount Jeffcott Ward

COUNCILLORS:

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

OFFICERS:

Daniel McLoughlan	Chief Executive Officer
Travis Fitzgibbon	Director Infrastructure and Delivery
Anthony Smith	Acting Manager Governance
Georgia Brown	Senior Executive Assistant

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

OFFICERS:

Jenna Allan	Director Corporate and Organisational Performance
Sarah Kernohan	Director Community Development
Jessie Holmes	Executive Lead, Regional Growth and Strategic Advocacy

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 September 2026.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley

CARRIED.

(R/26/66)

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Stephen Barratt has made a request for a leave of absence for the period from 17 to 21 November 2026.

MOTION

That Cr Stephen Barratt be granted a leave of absence for the period 17 to 21 November 2026.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.
(R/26/67)

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil.

7 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 GOVERNANCE REPORT - OCTOBER 2026

Author's Title: Acting Manager Governance

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 the Council.

The Governance report includes:

- Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held.
- Record of Councillor Briefings, at Attachment 7.1.1 to this report.
- Chief Executive Officer Activity Report.
- The Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions at Attachment 7.1.2 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 7.1.1 to this report.
3. Notes the Chief Executive Officer Activity Report.
4. Notes the Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions at Attachment 7.1.2 to this report.
5. 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 Bruce Stafford

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/26/68)

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 3 September 2026 to 7 October 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.

Date/Time/Venue	Councillor Attendees	Meeting Type
9 September 2026 10:00am *Wycheproof Supper Room*	Cr Delaney, Cr Hogan, Cr Milne	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
10 September 2026 5:30pm *Online*	Cr Delaney, Cr Getley, Cr Milne, Cr Stafford	CEO and Councillor Only Time
16 September 2026 7:00pm *Wycheproof Supper Room*	Cr Barrat, Cr Delaney, Cr Getley, Cr Hogan, Cr Milne, Cr Stafford	Council Meeting
7 October 2026 5:00pm *Birchip Council Chambers*	Cr Barrat, Cr Delaney, Cr Getley, Cr Hogan, Cr Milne, Cr Stafford	Councillor Briefing

Chief Executive Officer Activity Report from 3 September 2026 to 7 October 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 *(3 September 2026 - 7 October 2026)*		
Date	**Activity**	**Location**
03/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria - Annual Forum (Day One)	Swan Hill
04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria - Annual Forum (Day Two)	Swan Hill
07/09/2026	Gold FM Radio	Radio
07/09/2026	Commissioner Dr Niki Vincent and BSC CEO	Online
09/09/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting: Buloke Shire Council	Wycheproof
09/09/2026	Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy - Council Briefing	Online
10/09/2026	R U OK? Day – All Staff Event	Wycheproof
10/09/2026	Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Alliance: Mayor and CEO Meeting	Horsham
10/09/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time	Online
11/09/2026	Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils	Bendigo
14/09/2026	Gold FM Radio	Radio
14/09/2026	Birchip Cropping Group and BSC CEO Meeting	Online
16/09/2026	Council Meeting	Wycheproof
21/09/2026	Gold FM Radio	Radio
21/09/2026	MAV | Monday Connect	Online
24/09/2026	Loddon Campaspe Councils CEOs	Online

02/10/2026	CEO and Mayor Catch-Up	Donald
02/10/2026	Liberal/National Party Members Visit - Northwest Councils	Donald
02/10/2026	Kookas Factory Visit	Donald
07/10/2026	Loddon Mallee Drought and Regional Ag Meeting *(Executive Lead, Regional Growth and Strategic Advocacy attended on behalf of CEO)*	Online
07/10/2026	Councillor Briefing	Birchip

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.

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).

Council at its meeting held Wednesday, 17 December 2025 resolved as follows:

That Council:

1) *Increase the Financial delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer from $300,000 (excluding GST) to $1,500,000 (excluding GST).*
2) *Authorised the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the increased financial delegation of $1,500,000 (excluding GST) for the procurement of goods, services and works only when the following conditions are satisfied:*
    a. *Contracts and works are directly related to projects associated with the 2022 and 2023 flood events, namely:*
        i. *AGRN 1037 (October 2022 Flooding Event).*
        ii. *AGRN 1096 (December 2023 Flooding Event).*
    b. *Council Flood Support Fund Approved Works Schedule (AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096, AGRN 1108).*
    c. *Funded flood studies and Laser imaging Detection and Ranging projects (funded due to the 2022 and 2023 flood events).*
3) *Receive a report at the next available Council Meeting clearly identifying each Contract awarded via exercising of the temporary increased financial delegation.*
4) *Authorises the temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation up to 30 June 2027, or earlier by resolution of Council.*

There have been no contracts awarded in the past month.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing Record - 7 October 2026
2. Attachment 7.1.2 - SOA - Council Resolutions - tabled 21 October 2026

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 PROPOSAL TO APPLY FOR A CREATING SAFER PLACES GRANT - DONALD CCTV PROJECT

Author's Title: Executive Lead, Regional Growth and Strategic Advocacy

Directorate: Regional Growth and Strategic Advocacy ***File No:*** GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Services supporting our communities to thrive

Accessible and responsive health and community services

PURPOSE

To provide a summary of the proposed Creating Safer Places Grant to enable CCTV to be located strategically throughout the Donald community following the recent unlawful events.

SUMMARY

The Department of Justice and Community Safety release an annual Creating Safer Places Grant that is open to all 79 Local Government Areas for grants of between $50,000 and $250,000. A request from the Donald community to install several CCTV cameras in public areas following the tragic death earlier this year has been received and is presented to Council for consideration.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Endorses the funding application for the Creating Safer Places Grant for the Donald Closed Circuit Television Project.
2. Notes the Closed Circuit Television locations in Donald include:
    a. Councils Donald Depot, Shire Office and Landfill
    b. Train Park and Main Park
    c. Both ends of the main street
    d. Bullocks Head Lookout
3. Notes the implementation costs associated with the grant and the ongoing operational maintenance costs associated with the application.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/26/69)

DISCUSSION

The Donald community is still coming to terms with the tragic death of a young teenager earlier this year and as a result feeling safe in public places is compromised.

A request from community for the installation of CCTV in key public areas has been made including:

- Councils Donald Depot, Shire Office and Landfill
- Train Park and Main Park
- Both ends of the main street
- Bullocks Head Lookout

This network of CCTV would allow for a significant portion of area across Donald to be under surveillance should law enforcement need to access footage.

The procurement including installation of the CCTV would be carried out with a reputable regional company familiar with the extensive legislation governing the use of public CCTV and all locations would carry the required signage.

Access to the footage would be under the purview of the Councils adopted CCTV Policy, in accordance with data safety provisions.

The ongoing maintenance for the network of CCTV across Donald would be budgeted for and there would need to be provision made for the capital replacement costs of the physical cameras.

The grant application for the funding would need to be submitted by 26 October 2026 and requirements of the grant guidelines include a Letter of Support from Victoria Police along with Letters of Support from the community and Land Owners Consent for any locations that CCTV is proposed to be installed.

RELEVANT LAW

Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 – Vic

Surveillance Devices Act 1999

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

Public Records Act 1973

Privacy Act 1988

Commonwealth Evidence Act, 2008,

Vic Freedom of Information Act, 1982, Vic

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted the Closed Circuit Television Policy in September 2019 which details when and how CCTV can be used by Council in public areas for public safety.

OPTIONS

That Council does not make an application for the Creating Safer Places fund.

The application can only be made by a Local Government Agency, and the request has come from the community. Given the grant requires no co contribution and Council is already operating CCTV at two locations in Donald, it would be a positive signal to the community following recent events.

That Council makes a more significant application, covering multiple townships.

There have been requests from two other communities for CCTV. Given the ongoing maintenance cost of running a network of CCTV including an average 5 year capital cost replacement- additional data regarding criminal activity in those communities would need to be considered. This could be undertaken over the next 12 months as these grants are released annually.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The capital replacement and ongoing maintenance costs associated with the CCTV proposal are considered in the financial viability section of this report.

There are no environmental sustainability considerations regarding the installation of the network as proposed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The request for the funding has come from the community and there will be consultation with a range of community groups and Victoria Police to provide with the application. A list of appropriate community stakeholders is being prepared by the Donald Neighbourhood house and the CCTV cameras proposed to go in the main street will be discussed with business owners as will the CCTV proposed to go on Committee of Management Land to ensure Land owners consent is provided for the application.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The request for CCTV has come from the community following the recent tragic events in Donald. The close collaboration with community, Victoria Police and Council has been instrumental in maintaining the community fabric. The rationale for the grant, to strengthen community safety is understandable following the events and support from Council will continue to demonstrate commitment to ensure members of the community can rebuild their trust in using Public spaces.

COLLABORATION

The ongoing collaboration with Victoria Police and community groups in Donald will continue and strengthen with the consideration of their request for CCTV.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Community Safety Grant does not require matched or contribution funding, however there is the forward maintenance and replacement costs associated with the network.

Maintenance costs ascribed by Security Work who have provided the cost to purchase, and install are estimated at $2,000 per year for the 8 locations in Donald. Replacement costs are estimated at $7,000 per unit with an expected life cycle of 5-7 years.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Australian Standard AS4806.1-2006 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Management and Operation

Victorian Ombudsman's Closed Circuit Television in Public Places Guidelines (November 2012)

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025-2029
Closed Circuit Television Policy 2019

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Should the application for the Community Safety Grant be endorsed, an outcome of the resulting project will be taken to the next available Council meeting following completion through Council's quarterly performance reporting.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No member of Council staff has a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - Closed Circuit Televison Policy (1)

8.2.2 CENTRAL MURRAY REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2024

Author's Title: Senior Manager Assets and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery ***File No:*** GR/09/08

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective:

Built and natural environment
Advocate and plan for, and manage community buildings, roads and transport networks

Council leadership and engagement
Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

To seek endorsement of the Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy 2024.

SUMMARY

The Central Murray Regional Transport Forum (CMRTF) represents six (6) Councils across the north-west region of the Victoria and into New South Wales being Swan Hill Rural City Council, Murray River Council, Gannawarra Shire Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Buloke Shire Council, and Balranald Shire Council.

The structure of the forum includes a steering committee and a technical committee. The technical committee is made up primarily of Council Chief Executive Officers, Directors and other agencies attending as required. The steering committee consists of one Councillor representative from each participating Council and the members of the technical committee.

The forum engaged and worked closely with a consultant to develop the Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy 2024. The strategy was endorsed by the steering committee in early 2025.

MOTION

That Council endorses the Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy 2024.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/26/70)

DISCUSSION

The CMRTF engaged the services of a consultant to work with all the individual participating Councils to develop a comprehensive strategic document around transport priorities for our region. The Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy 2024 (Strategy) was endorsed by the steering committee in early 2025. Endorsement of the Strategy is now sought from all the participating Councils.

This strategy supports the liveability for local residents while also focusing on upgrading the capability and capacity of infrastructure to support industry growth.

A copy of the endorsed strategy is shown in Attachment 1.

The four goals for transport in the region are to:

- Increase supply chain efficiency and support economic development by improving freight transport access.
- Improve community access to services through efficient and affordable mobility solutions.
- Increase community safety and well-being and decrease supply chain disruptions and productivity impacts by improving transport network safety and resilience.
- Improve community health and environmental outcomes and decarbonise supply chains through sustainable transport modes and infrastructure.

These goals will be achieved through the following ten priorities:

1. Swan Hill bridge upgrade and other priority regional bridge crossings.
2. Grow freight on rail.
3. High Productivity Freight Vehicle network for the Central Murray region.
4. Key highway upgrades.
5. Mildura freight links.
6. New and improved regional public transport.
7. Improved local bus services and active transport.
8. Road improvements for enhanced transport safety and access.
9. Climate change resilience and adaptation.
10. Supporting new industries.

These priorities also include a list of key actions that can be continuously worked on throughout the life of the strategy. Our partner agencies have supported the development of this document and have also advised that other levels of government are much better positioned to consider strategies on behalf of a region and emphasised the importance of having alignment amongst all 6 Councils, which this document achieves.

The strategy is extremely comprehensive and enables the region to work together and have a united voice around priorities for our region which can then be used to attract funding.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

There are no previous decisions of Council with respect to this matter.

OPTIONS

Option 1 (Officer Recommended);

Endorse the Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy 2024 without change.

Option 2 (Not Recommended);

Seek changes to the Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy 2024 via the Central Murray Regional Transport Forum. This option would be difficult to achieve as the Strategy has been endorsed by other member Council's including Swan Hill Rural City Council. The best option to seek updates and amendments to the Strategy would be in approximately 12 months' time when the Strategy is scheduled for further review.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No formal community engagement was undertaken in the preparation of the Strategy.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The final strategy supports growth in the region and the social benefits which align with population growth, economic growth and industry growth.

COLLABORATION

The development of the strategy has included all Councils, various state departments and key stakeholders. The document has also been endorsed by the Central Murray Regional Transport Forum technical and steering committee.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The cost of the consultant for the development of the strategy was $88,220 (incl GST). This has been funded by the participating Councils who pay an annual amount to support the forum.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The matter is being considered in an open Council meeting to ensure transparency of Council decisions.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer declared an interest with respect to the matters considered within this report.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.2.1 - Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy 2024

8.2.3 EXPANSION OF TEMPORARY INCREASE TO CEO FINANCIAL DELEGATION

Author's Title: Senior Manager Assets and Delivery

Directorate: Infrastructure and Delivery ***File No:*** PE/02/01

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 seek Council approval to expand the scope of the temporary increased financial delegation previously granted to the Chief Executive Officer to include additional Australian Government Reference Number (AGRN) disaster events declared since Council's original resolution of 17 December 2025.

SUMMARY

Council previously approved a temporary increase to the Chief Executive Officer's financial delegation to facilitate the efficient delivery of disaster recovery projects arising from AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096 and AGRN 1108, and other flood related projects at the Council Meeting held on 17 December 2025.

Since that resolution, additional disaster events have been declared within the municipality and are expected to generate further infrastructure restoration, emergency response and recovery works funded through State and Commonwealth disaster recovery programs.

The current Council resolution is limited to the AGRN events specifically identified at the time of adoption.

To ensure efficient delivery of recovery works and avoid unnecessary delays in procurement and contract awards, it is proposed that Council expand the scope of the existing delegation to include additional AGRN events and any future AGRN declarations occurring before the delegation expires.

The proposed amendment does not increase the delegation amount previously approved by Council. It only expands the categories of eligible recovery works that can utilise the existing delegation, and the timeframe for which the temporary delegation applies.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes that Council previously resolved to increase the Chief Executive Officer's financial delegation from $300,000 (excluding GST) to $1,500,000 (excluding GST) for the procurement of goods, services and works associated with AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096 and AGRN 1108.
2. Notes that Council previously resolved to authorise the temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation up to 30 June 2027, or earlier by resolution of Council.
3. Authorises the expansion of the conditions associated with the exercising of the increased financial delegation of $1,500.000 (excluding GST) to include;
    a. AGRN 1270 (March 2026 Flooding Event)
    b. AGRN 1294 (August 2026 Flooding Event)

c. Any additional AGRN events declared within the Shire of Buloke and approved under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) until the expire of the delegation.

4. Authorises the extension of the period for which the temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation can apply through to 31 December 2027.

5. Confirms that all other conditions of Council's original resolution remain unchanged.

6. Continues to receive reports identifying contracts awarded under the temporary increased delegation at the next available Council Meeting.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/26/71)

DISCUSSION

At its meeting of 17 December 2025, Council resolved to temporarily increase the Chief Executive Officer's financial delegation from $300,000 (excluding GST) to $1,500,000 (excluding GST) for procurement associated with disaster recovery and flood related projects. The resolution made at this meeting was;

MOTION

That Council:

1. *Increase the Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer from $300,000 (excluding GST) to $1,500,000 (excluding GST).*
2. *Authorised the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the increased financial delegation of $1,500,000 (excluding GST) for the procurement of goods, services and works only when the following conditions are satisfied:*
    a. *contracts and works are directly related to projects associated with the 2022 and 2023 flood events, namely;*
        i. *AGRN 1037 (October 2022 Flooding Event).*
        ii. *AGRN 1096 (December 2023 Flooding Event).*
    b. *Council Flood Support Fund Approved Works Schedule (AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096, AGRN 1108).*
    c. *Funded flood studies and Laser imaging Detection and Ranging projects (funded due to the 2022 and 2023 flood events).*
3. *Receive a report at the next available Council Meeting clearly identifying each Contract awarded via the exercising of the temporary increased financial delegation.*
4. *Authorises the temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation up to 30 June 2027, or earlier by resolution of Council.*

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Bruce Stafford

CARRIED.

(R/25/135)

The purpose of the increased delegation was to enable the timely engagement of contractors, consultants and service providers required to deliver restoration programs funded under disaster recovery arrangements.

Since Council adopted the resolution, further natural disaster events have occurred, and additional funding opportunities are anticipated through State and Commonwealth recovery programs.

The scale and complexity of flood and storm recovery works within the municipality continues to place significant demands on Council's resources and procurement processes.

Disaster recovery funding programs generally operate within prescribed delivery timeframes and require works to be completed in accordance with approved schedules. Delays in procurement and contract execution can affect Council's ability to meet program milestones and funding requirements.

The original resolution achieved its intended objective by allowing recovery works associated with specified AGRN events to proceed more efficiently while maintaining transparency through reporting to Council.

However, the wording of the current resolution restricts the delegation to a specified list of AGRN events and limits the timeframe for when the temporary delegation increase will expire.

As new disaster events are declared, Council is required to consider additional reports to amend the resolution before recovery works can proceed under the higher delegation threshold. Extending the scope of the delegation to include additional AGRN events and extend the period the temporary delegation increase can apply will:

- improve responsiveness to disaster recovery requirements;
- reduce administrative delays associated with repeated Council reports;
- support the timely delivery of externally funded recovery works;
- maintain consistency in procurement decision-making; and
- continue to provide Council oversight through regular reporting requirements.

The proposed change is administrative in nature and does not alter Council's governance framework, procurement policies or reporting obligations.

RELEVANT LAW

The tender processes were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Council's Procurement Policy

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council considered this matter and carried the following Motion at the 17 December 2025 Council Meeting;

MOTION

That Council:

1. *Increase the Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer from $300,000 (excluding GST) to $1,500,000 (excluding GST).*
2. *Authorised the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the increased financial delegation of $1,500,000 (excluding GST) for the procurement of goods, services and works only when the following conditions are satisfied:*
    a. *contracts and works are directly related to projects associated with the 2022 and 2023 flood events, namely;*

i. AGRN 1037 (October 2022 Flooding Event).

ii. AGRN 1096 (December 2023 Flooding Event).

b. Council Flood Support Fund Approved Works Schedule (AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096, AGRN 1108).

c. Funded flood studies and Laser imaging Detection and Ranging projects (funded due to the 2022 and 2023 flood events).

3. *Receive a report at the next available Council Meeting clearly identifying each Contract awarded via the exercising of the temporary increased financial delegation.*
4. *Authorises the temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation up to 30 June 2027, or earlier by resolution of Council.*

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Bruce Stafford

CARRIED.

(R/25/135)

OPTIONS

Option 1:
Council approves the expansion of the current resolution carried at the 17 December 2025 Council Meeting to make provision for additional declared disaster events and extend the period of time for which the temporary financial delegation increase will apply.

Option 2:
Council does not approve the expansion of the current resolution carried at the 17 December 2025 Council Meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified sustainability implications relating to this matter.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

There are no innovation and/or continuous improvement opportunities identified relating to this matter.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

There would be no financial implications if the financial delegations are expanded as detailed within this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council's Procurement Policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The consideration of this matter in an open Council Meeting ensures Council decisions are made in full view of the community.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

Attachments: Nil

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT 2026 STATE ELECTION ADVOCACY

Author's Title: Executive Lead, Regional Growth and Strategic Advocacy

Directorate: Regional Growth and Strategic Advocacy ***File No:*** GR/17/11

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Council leadership and engagement

Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

To provide Buloke Shire Council with a Draft 2026 State Election Advocacy Document to adopt and present to potential political candidates and senior bureaucrats.

SUMMARY

The upcoming 2026 State Election provides an opportunity for Buloke Shire Council to advocate to prospective political candidates on key priorities across the Shire. The attached draft 2026 State Election Advocacy document provides a basis for this targeted advocacy seeking election commitments.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Adopts the Draft 2026 State Election Advocacy Document as attached.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make editorial, formatting, typographical amendments and financial data updates as identified to the Draft 2026 State Election Advocacy Document as required.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley

CARRIED.

(R/26/72)

DISCUSSION

Buloke Shire Council is one of 79 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) across Victoria vying for the attention of political candidates in the lead up to the 2026 State Election to be held Saturday 28 November 2026.

As part of the election campaign period, Councilors and Council Staff are meeting with a range of candidates to ensure they understand the priorities of Council.

The draft 2026 State Election Advocacy Document sets out the priority projects taken from a Community Plans, the Council Plan 2025-2029 and adopted policies and strategies by Buloke Shire Council.

The document is intended to make it as accessible and efficient as possible for candidates to understand the key projects that could form an election commitment in Buloke Shire Council. It is not intended to limit any additional advocacy efforts across government and parliament, and a larger Buloke Advocacy

Strategy will be developed in 2027 considering several Council based strategies that are currently in the community for consultation.

The priorities identified in each of the five larger communities reflect community and Council priorities whilst also aligning with state priorities across recreation, housing, industrial precinct development and there is also a heavy focus on roads given its critical importance across the LGA.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Local Government Act 2020* sets out the role of Council and section 9 (b) describes one of those roles is:

Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;

In adopting the draft 2026 State Election Advocacy Document, Council is ensuring it is advocating for the community and progressing the community's strategic direction.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Council does not support the 2026 State Election Advocacy Document or;

Council makes amendments to the proposed 2026 State Election Advocacy Document.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The projects contained in the 2026 State Election Advocacy Document have a range of sustainability implications, including any built outcomes meeting environmental sustainability requirements and lower emissions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The priorities set out in the 2026 State Election Advocacy Document are collectively taken from a range of Council documents that have been the result of community engagement including Master planning, community plans, and Councilor informed input.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Buloke Shire Council has previously developed advocacy documents and specifically documents for the federal election. This document builds on that by having a state election focused document.

COLLABORATION

The Draft 2026 State Election Advocacy Document has been developed with local and regional community stakeholders including regional transport groups, emergency and recreational bodies, our business community and Rail Freight Alliance. Seeking to have these projects funded by State government through relevant departments including Sport and Recreation Victoria and Regional Development Victoria demonstrates alignment with the state's strategic direction.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Buloke Shire Council is heavily reliant on external funding to ensure appropriate assets in the community, including renewal and new infrastructure. The need for capital funding across recreation, housing, aerodromes, civic centers and the significant road networks is a priority of Council and the 2026 State Election Advocacy Document aligns with Councils 10-year financial plan. Any funding received aligns with Council adopted plans and strategies, and whole life costs have been factored in.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Resource Ready - North-Western Victoria Energy & Mining Impact & Readiness Strategy 2026

Plan for Victoria

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2025-2029

Council leadership and engagement - Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The 2026 State Election Advocacy Document has been prepared in consultation with Councilors and Council staff with reliance on Council Strategies, Community Plans, and ongoing alignment with existing local and regional priorities.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No member of Council staff that has prepared this document has a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.4.1.1 - Buloke Advocacy 2026

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Lower Avoca Ward

Name: Cr Stephen Barratt
Date: 3 September 2026 – 7 October 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
03/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria - Annual Forum (Day One) – *Swan Hill*
04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria - Annual Forum (Day Two) – *Swan Hill*
06/09/2026	Birchip Silo Art Opening – *Birchip*
09/09/2026	Cuppa with a Councillor – *Wycheproof Resource Centre*
15/09/2026	Men's Shed – *Wycheproof*
16/09/2026	Council Meeting – *Wycheproof Supper Room*
17/09/2026	Aerodrome Strategy - Stafford Strategy (Councillor Session) – *Online*
30/09/2026	Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Committee Meeting – *Wycheproof*
04/10/2026	Dr Ken Mulligan Farewell – *Wycheproof Golf Club*
07/10/2026	One Foot Forward Walk – *Birchip*
07/10/2026	Councillor Briefing – *Birchip Council Chambers*

Name: Cr Bruce Stafford
Date: 3 September 2026 – 7 October 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
03/09/2026	Walklate Lane Unveiling – *Charlton*
10/09/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – *Online*
16/09/2026	Council Meeting – *Wycheproof Supper Room*
21/09/2026	Aerodrome Strategy - Stafford Strategy (Councillor Session) – *Online*
07/10/2026	One Foot Forward Walk – *Birchip*
07/10/2026	Councillor Briefing – *Birchip Council Chambers*

Mallee Ward

Name: Cr Alan Getley
Date: 3 September 2026 – 7 October 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
03/09/2026	Walklate Lane Unveiling – *Charlton*
07/09/2026	Advance Sea Lake Inc. Meeting – *Sea Lake*

09/09/2026	Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy - Council Briefing – *Online*
09/09/2026	NGSC Transmission Forum – *Online*
10/09/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – *Online*
16/09/2026	Council Meeting – *Wycheproof Supper Room*
17/09/2026	Calder Highway Improvement Committee Meeting – *Online*
29/09/2026	Wimmera Mallee Recreation Lakes Alliance Meeting – *Birchip*
06/10/2026	Regional Recreation Water Users Group Meeting – *Jeparit*
05/10/2026	Advance Sea Lake Inc. AGM – *Sea Lake*
07/10/2026	Councillor Briefing – *Birchip Council Chambers*

Name: Cr Bernadette Hogan
Date: 3 September 2026 – 7 October 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
03/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria - Annual Forum (Day One) – *Swan Hill*
04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria - Annual Forum (Day Two) – *Swan Hill*
06/09/2026	Birchip Silo Art Opening – *Birchip*
07/09/2026	Advance Sea Lake Inc. Meeting – *Sea Lake*
09/09/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting: Buloke Shire Council – *Wycheproof Supper Room*
09/09/2026	Birchip Cropping Group's Main Field Day – *Curyo*
16/09/2026	Council Meeting – *Wycheproof Supper Room*
17/09/2026	MAV Annual Oration with Ms Patricia Karvelas – *Melbourne*
20/09/2026	Birchip Watchem Football Club Vote Count – *Birchip*
05/10/2026	Advance Sea Lake Inc. AGM – *Sea Lake*
07/10/2026	One Foot Forward Walk – *Birchip*
07/10/2026	Councillor Briefing – *Birchip Council Chambers*

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Name: Cr Charmaine Delaney
Date: 3 September 2026 – 7 October 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
06/09/2026	Birchip Silo Art Opening – *Birchip*
08/09/2026	Watchem Progress Association - Community Meeting – *Watchem*
09/09/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting: Buloke Shire Council – *Online*
09/09/2026	Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy - Council Briefing – *Online*
10/09/2026	R U OK? Day – All Staff Event – *Wycheproof*

10/09/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – *Online*
16/09/2026	Council Meeting – *Wycheproof Supper Room*
23/09/2026	Donald Family Precinct Meeting – *Donald*
30/09/2026	Donald 2000 AGM – *Donald*
07/10/2026	Councillor Briefing – *Birchip Council Chambers*

Name: Cr Graeme Milne

Date: 3 September 2026 – 7 October 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
03/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria - Annual Forum (Day One) – *Swan Hill*
04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria - Annual Forum (Day Two) – *Swan Hill*
06/09/2026	Birchip Silo Art Opening – *Birchip*
08/09/2026	Watchem Progress Association - Community Meeting – *Watchem*
09/09/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting: Buloke Shire Council – *Wycheproof Supper Room*
10/09/2026	Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Alliance: Mayor and CEO Meeting – *Horsham*
10/09/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – *Online*
11/09/2026	Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils – *Bendigo*
14/09/2026	Birchip Community Forum – *Birchip*
16/09/2026	Council Meeting – *Wycheproof Supper Room*
17/09/2026	MAV Annual Oration with Ms Patricia Karvelas – *Melbourne*
20/09/2026	Birchip Watchem Football Club Vote Count – *Birchip*
21/09/2026	Buloke Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee Meeting – *Wycheproof*
23/09/2026	Donald Family Precinct Meeting – *Donald*
26/09/2026	Donald Show Working Bee – *Donald*
28/09/2026	Buloke Tourism Board Monthly Meeting – *Culgoa Hall*
30/09/2026	Donald 2000 AGM – *Donald*
30/09/2026	ABC Mildura Interview - *Radio*
02/10/2026	CEO and Mayor Catch-Up
02/10/2026	Liberal/National Party Members Visit - Northwest Councils – *Donald*
02/10/2026	Kookas Factory Visit – *Donald*
02/10/2026	Charlton Art Show Opening – *Charlton*
03/10/2026	Back to Berriwillock Event – *Berriwillock*
06/10/2026	Rail Freight Alliance - Finance Meeting – *Online*
07/10/2026	One Foot Forward Walk – *Birchip*
07/10/2026	Councillor Briefing – *Birchip Council Chambers*

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1.1 RECREATIONAL WATER SUPPLY

Author's Title: Senior Executive Assistant

Directorate: Office of the CEO ***File No:*** GO/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Services supporting our communities to thrive

Active advocacy and participation in service networks

PURPOSE

Councillor Alan Getley has given notice of their intention to move the motion below at the 21 October 2026 Council Meeting.

The purpose of this Notice of Motion is to seek Council's support to write to the Minister for Water, the Hon. Michaela Settle MP, and local candidates standing in the 2026 Victorian state election, asking each of them to commit to:

- fully funding the supply of recreational water to all water bodies in the Wimmera Mallee Recreational Lake Alliance; and
- raising the security of that recreational water supply to the same level as Stock and Domestic water, as originally promised in the business case for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

Recreational lakes and weir pools are central to the wellbeing, liveability and visitor economy of our communities. Securing these commitments before the election will help give these water bodies a reliable, long-term supply.

SUMMARY

The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline was completed in 2010. It replaced around 17,500 km of open earthen channels with more than 9,000 km of pressurised pipeline, supplying water to about 9,000 farms and 34 townships. When the pipeline was planned, the communities of the Wimmera and Mallee were informed that some of the water it saved would go to recreational lakes. The project was to make available up to 3,000 ML a year for recreational lakes, and Stock and Domestic supply was to have 96% security. During that process, the community made clear that strategically located lakes needed high-security water, like Stock and Domestic water.

That promise has not been fully delivered. The recreation entitlement sits as a separate line item in the Bulk Entitlement Order and has lower reliability than other pipeline products.

The 2026 Victorian state election on Saturday 28 November gives Council a timely chance to raise this with the Minister for Water and local candidates. The notice of motion recommends that Council write to them seeking two commitments: full funding of recreational water for all Alliance water bodies, and an increase in its supply security to the same level as Stock and Domestic water.

MOTION

That Council writes to the Minister for Water, the Hon. Michaela Settle and local candidates standing in the Victorian 2026 state election asking each candidate to commit to:

1. fully funding the supply of recreational water to all water bodies in the Wimmera Mallee Recreational Lake Alliance.
2. lifting the security of that recreational water supply to the same level of security as Stock and Domestic water, as was originally promised in the business case for the building of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/26/73)

Attachments: Nil

9.1.2 CALDER HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Author's Title: Senior Executive Assistant

Directorate: Office of the CEO ***File No:*** GO/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Objective: Built and natural environment

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

PURPOSE

Councillor Alan Getley has given notice of his intention to move the notice of motion below at the 21 October 2026 Council Meeting.

The purpose of this Notice of Motion is to seek Council's support to raise serious concerns about the dangerous condition of the Calder Highway, particularly the section north of Berriwillock. Council would do this by:

- writing to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Paul Hamer MP, and the Regional Director of Transport and Planning, Mr Anthony Judd, to highlight the dangerous conditions on this section of the Calder Highway
- seeking an urgent onsite meeting with Mr Anthony Judd
- seeking a timeline for repairing and rehabilitating the section north of Berriwillock, and a commitment to ongoing maintenance of the Calder Highway.

The Calder Highway is a vital freight, agricultural and community link for our region. Its current condition is a significant safety risk for residents, visitors and heavy vehicle operators. This motion aims to make sure the State Government understands how urgent the issue is and commits to a clear plan for repair and long-term maintenance.

SUMMARY

The Calder Highway is a key state-managed freight, agricultural and community route through the Buloke Shire. Under Council's Road Management Plan, it is maintained by the State, not by Council. The section north of Berriwillock, towards Sea Lake, has become seriously unsafe and is a growing concern across the Mallee.

There have been several recent incidents and near misses within the immediate area north of Berriwillock along the Calder Highway, with increasing concerns raised by our local community, as well as travellers and heavy vehicle operators passing through the area. More recently a truck lost control after hitting a large pothole between Culgoa and Sea Lake. The impact snapped an axle on its trailer. Additionally, emergency services recently attended another incident approximately six kilometres from Berriwillock, where a vehicle broke its axle in a pothole on the Calder Highway.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Paul Hamer and the Executive Director Loddon Mallee and Hume at the Department of Transport and Planning, Mr. Anthony Judd, highlighting the dangerous conditions on the Calder Highway and in particular the section North of Berriwillock.

2. Seeks an urgent onsite meeting with the Executive Director Loddon Mallee and Hume at the Department of Transport and Planning, Mr. Anthony Judd.

3. Seeks a timeline for the repair and rehabilitation of this section North of Berriwillock and a commitment to the continuing ongoing maintenance of the Calder Highway.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/26/74)

Attachments: Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Bruce Stafford raised an item of Urgent Business concerning support for Dr Helen Haines MP and her family.

MOTION

That Council admits an item of urgent business that relates to a motion of support for Dr Helen Haines MP and her family.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/26/75)

MOTION

That Council:

1. Expresses its profound shock and distress at the senseless and horrific attack on Dr Helen Haines MP, Federal Member for Indi, and unequivocally condemns violence against any person, including those who serve our communities in public life.
2. Extends, on behalf of the Buloke community, its heartfelt wishes for Dr Haines recovery, and its deepest care and support to her husband, her family, friends and staff as they face this devastating ordeal.
3. Recognises that beyond her public responsibilities, Dr Haines is a much-loved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, whose suffering is felt most deeply by those who love her. Council holds them in its thoughts and hopes they find strength in one another and comfort in the compassion surrounding them.
4. Acknowledges the courage and compassion of those who came to Dr Haines aid and expresses its gratitude to the emergency responders and medical teams caring for her.
5. Affirms that everyone who serves their community should be able to do so safely, and that respect, kindness and peaceful disagreement must remain at the heart of our democracy.
6. Writes to Dr Haines and her family conveying this resolution and with the following message:

   "From our communities here in Buloke to you and your loved ones, we send our warmest wishes, our compassion and our hope. At a time when words can feel so inadequate, please know that people beyond your own electorate are holding you close in their thoughts. We wish you strength through the days ahead, comfort in the love of your family, and steady progress towards recovery."

MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford

SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley

CARRIED.

(R/26/76)

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil.

10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 8:11 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on 18 November 2026 at 6:30pm.