



COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Friday 23 February 2024

Commencing at 1:30 PM

via zoom

**Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer
Buloke Shire Council**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 23 February 2024 commencing at 1:30 PM in the via zoom**PRESENT****CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Alan Getley Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Bernadette Hogan Mallee Ward
Cr David Pollard Lower Avoca Ward
Cr Graeme Milne Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Wayne O'Toole Chief Executive Officer
Daniel McLoughlan Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery
Trevor Rumbold Acting Manager Assets

AGENDA**1. COUNCIL WELCOME**

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who maybe here today.

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Cr Bronwyn Simpson Mount Jeffcott Ward
Cr Daryl Warren Mount Jeffcott Ward

3. DECLARATION of PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**4**

4.1. TINY TOWNS FUND - BERRIWILLOCK, CULGOA, NANDALY, NULLAWIL & WATCHEM APPLICATIONS

4**5. MEETING CLOSE**

NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 2024 AT 7:00PM.

Wayne O'Toole

4. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

4.1. TINY TOWNS FUND - BERRIWILLOCK, CULGOA, NANDALY, NULLAWIL & WATCHEM APPLICATIONS

Author's Title: Acting Manager Assets

Department: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: GS/09/61

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

This report is presented to Council to consideration the allocation of up to \$67,762 in the FY25 Annual Budget for the purpose of a co-contribution to support applications to the Tiny Towns Fund 2024 Round 1.

The proposed projects to be submitted under the applications are:

- Berriwillock: Repair and resurface 2 tennis courts installing new net posts.
- Culgoa: New town entry x2 and wayfinding signage x4.
- Nandalay: Repair and resurface 2 tennis courts installing new net posts and basketball ring.
- Nullawil: Renovations to the old MCH building to allow it to be repurposed for community use.
- Watchem: Streetscape/Walking track Improvements including lights, seating, signage and landscaping.

A further recommendation seeks Council consideration to grant delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer to submit an application for the funding round.

SUMMARY

The Victorian Government has established the Tiny Towns Fund with investment of \$20 million over four years, starting in 2023-24. The Tiny Towns Fund will support local projects in communities with a population of up to 5,000 people in the 48 local government areas of regional Victoria, Alpine Resorts, and the 10 interface local government areas.

The Fund will support the delivery of community infrastructure, facilities and capacity-building projects in Victoria's smallest towns. The Fund will be delivered by Regional Development Victoria, part of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (the department), with support from the Office for Suburban Development.

The Tiny Towns Fund responds to the needs of local people and aims to increase liveability, opportunity and prosperity in small towns in Victoria. The fund will:

- Address gaps in community infrastructure and facilities in Victoria's smallest communities build community pride and enhance living, working, socialising and recreation in small towns
- Support the development of small towns as places of economic activity where local business can thrive
- Support the increased participation in community life and community inclusion of all residents, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians, people living with disability, LGBTQIA+ communities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and isolated communities
- Strengthen social cohesion by increasing the capacity of community groups and local organisations to provide leadership and connect, service and engage residents in small towns.

Applicants may apply for a minimum grant of \$5,000 and a maximum grant of \$50,000 (not including GST) per project. Applications open 27 November 2023 and close 5pm 25 February 2024.

This Report recommends the Council use this funding opportunity to support projects in the 5 smaller towns of the Shire: Berriwillock, Culgoa, Nandaly, Nullawil and Watchem. The projects represent a mixture of upgrades to sporting facilities, building improvements that will create valuable community assets and streetscape improvements to benefit local residents and increase the offerings to tourists.

The projects in Berriwillock, Nandaly and Nullawil are located on Crown Land with community groups as Committee of Management. The Culgoa and Watchem projects are located on Council owned or managed land.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Commit \$67,762 in the FY25 Annual Budget for the purposes of submitting 5 applications to the Tiny Towns Fund Round 1.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for the 5 applications for the Tiny Towns Fund Round 1; and
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreements on behalf of the Council should the applications be successful.

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.
(R017/24)**

Attachments: 1 Tiny Towns Fund 2024 Round 1 Site Details

DISCUSSION

Each of the projects proposed in this funding opportunity align with the Tiny Towns Fund outcomes and display a need to the projects, The suitability of each project is detailed below.

The refurbishment of the tennis courts in Berriwillock is critical to retaining and growing participation levels in organised sport within Berriwillock as it is one of only 3 clubs active in the town, the others being Golf and Lawn Bowls. Without intervention the courts will continue to degrade to an unplayable and dangerous standard. Currently the Tennis Club has participation from 40 junior members and 40 senior members.

New and refreshed signage throughout the township of Culgoa is aimed at not only increasing the positive perception of place but also engaging visitors to the town stay a little longer and explore what Culgoa has to offer. The wayfinding signage will include a walking trail map which will highlight the points of interest in the town and surrounds. The main street of Culgoa is bypassed by the Calder highway which makes it difficult to attract passing traffic to stop and utilise the amenities and businesses in town. However, there are positive developments by the traders highlighted by the Kaneira Hotel in Culgoa recently being nominated in the Grey Nomad Awards, Best Pub Stay Category. This project looks to further capitalise on the increase in visitation.

The refurbishment of the tennis courts in Nandaly is critical to retaining and growing participation levels in organised sport as it is the only year-round facility available in the township. Without intervention the courts will continue to degrade to an unplayable and dangerous standard. Currently the Tennis Club has participation from 10 members.

The redevelopment of the building in Nullawil for Community use has the potential to have a dramatic impact on liveability for the residents and allow the community to enhance the economic benefit potential from visitors to the towns Silo Art mural. The recently updated Nullawil Community Plan completed by the Nullawil Progress Association Inc identifies the development of a community store as one of its main priorities. There are currently no stores operational in Nullawil so residents must travel 26km to the nearest supermarket for basic necessities with no feasible public transport opportunities for residents without access to a vehicle. After these works are completed, the building could be converted into a store by obtaining the relevant permits.

Revitalisation of the Watchem streetscape by the extension of the lake walking track with associated beautification works and creation of a tourist information area can lead to a positive perception of place and enhanced liveability as well as increased potential to attract more visitation by encouraging visitors to explore the area. A walking trail map featured on the wayfinding signage will also direct visitors past businesses on the main street creating the opportunity for economic interactions.

The overall project budget is based on costings obtained from specialist contractors where required and internal estimates based on comparisons with recently completed works of a similar nature. Applications submitted by Council must have a financial co-contribution totalling at least 25% of the overall project budget. Applications submitted by community groups must have a co contribution totalling at least 20% of the overall project budget, half of this contribution can be delivered as In-Kind contributions such as voluntary labour and project management to reduce the costs incurred by contractors, the other half must be a financial contribution.

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Buloke Shire Council Advocacy Strategy 2023 includes the development of master plans to be undertaken to support the upgrade of town centres, streetscapes and parks across the smaller towns of Nullawil, Watchem, Berriwilllock, Nandaly and Culgoa.

OPTIONS

The Council may elect not to pursue some or all these funding opportunities.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Resurfacing and renovation projects ensure intervention on assets is completed before they degrade to a state where they must be replaced at a higher cost. High efficiency water fixtures and lighting will be used where appropriate.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council has worked directly with the Committees of Management, sporting clubs, Community Forums and Progress Associations involved in the projects presented for consideration. Of the communities who have completed their updated community plans in 2024, the proposed projects for their communities have been identified in those plans.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The resurfacing of the tennis courts allows for multisport line marking to be applied to the tennis courts and new removable net posts allows the courts to be modified for a range of different uses to cater for changing trends.

COLLABORATION

Landowners consent will be required from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to undertake the proposed works on Crown Land. Support letters for the funding application have been issued by DEECA.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The total budget forecast for the project is \$337,824 comprising \$230,750 funding from the Victorian Government, \$39,312 value of In-Kind contributions from Community Groups and \$67,762 Council Cash. The Council Cash contribution is to be allocated in the upcoming FY25 Council Budget.

It should be noted that any spend committed to through successful funding applications will be subtracted from the available Council funds for capital projects in that financial year. Any ongoing maintenance and associated costs would be contained in Council's operational budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Key plans the projects takes into consideration are:

- Active Victoria
- VicHealth Physical Activity Strategy
- Design for Everyone Guide.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposals address elements and actions from the Buloke Shire Inclusiveness Plan whilst also complimenting the outcomes of the Masterplan.

The proposal will allow much greater opportunity for community-based events to promote inclusivity in public open spaces and recreational activity that may be supported through the availability of appropriate facilities.

The proposal demonstrates a collaborative approach between community forum, sporting/recreation-based groups, and community members with special needs in order to achieve an outcome with highly beneficial long-term effects for the broader Buloke local government area.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

Council officers have engaged with Community Forums, Crown Land Committees of Management, Sporting Clubs and DEECA to seek support and feedback regarding the proposed projects.

If Council resolve to accept the recommendations to access the required Council funds and apply for this Tiny Towns Fund Round 1, officers will:

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

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have been required to declare a conflict of interest.

5. MEETING CLOSE

1:45PM