COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday 8 May 2024

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room

367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Wayne O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer
Buloke Shire Council

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley will welcome all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley 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 maybe here today.

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION:
That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 April 2024 in the Wycheproof Supper Room.

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

a) Disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by the Council's Governance Rules 2020; and

a) Exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee, and any action in relation to the matter.

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

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

NIL

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1	REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES	5
7.2	CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL	9
7.3	LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS	10
7.4	BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE	11
7.5	PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE	12
7.6	STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS	14

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS 21

NIL

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS 22

8.2.1 VNI WEST PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINES 22

8.2.2 INTERSTATE TRAVEL - CR GETLEY 24

8.2.3 LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM PHASE 3 VARIATION 25

8.2.4 COMMUNITY GRANTS 41

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS 45

8.3.1 FINANCE REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2024 45

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS 60

8.4.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 - YEAR 3 ANNUAL PLAN REVIEW 60

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS 71

NIL

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION 72

NIL

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS 72

NIL

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS 72

NIL

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS 72

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC 73

The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential matters.

9.5.1 RFQ 286 2023-24 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE NEW TRUCK MOUNTED STREET SWEEPER

9.5.2 EXERCISE OF DELEGATION BY THE CEO

If the meeting has been closed it will be brought back into open session by resolution

10. MEETING CLOSE

NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024 AT 4.30PM.

Wayne O'Toole
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO ***File No:*** GO/05/04

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council note the report of Councillor Assembly Meetings held 3 and 17 April 2024.

Attachments:
1 Councillor Briefing Record - 3 April 2024
2 Councillor Briefing Record - 17 April 2024

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Transparency is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

The Local Government Act 2020 (The Act) Section 9 (2) (i) provides that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

In accordance with Section 57 of The Act, Council at its September 2020 Ordinary Meeting, adopted a Public Transparency policy, designed to improve public transparency in Council's decision-making processes and to assist the community in understanding the information that is accessible to them.

As per the Council Meeting Schedules adopted 9 November 2022 and 8 November 2023, Councillor Briefings are held for Councillors to meet to consider matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision or for the exercise of delegation.

A record of the Councillor Briefings held on 3 and 17 April 2024 is attached for public information.

Councillor Briefing Record

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

Date:	3 April 2024	**Time**	5:00pm – 8:00pm
Location:	Birchip District Office		
Attendees:	Cr Getley, Cr Hogan, Cr Pollard, Cr Milne, Cr Warren, Wayne O'Toole, Dan McLoughlan, Travis Fitzgibbon, Jenna Allan, Nola Farlane and Ahmed Elmohandis		
Apologies:	Cr Simpson		
Guests:	Jak Goldsmith – Birchip Forum Margaret Abbey – Chair of Audit and Risk Committee Michael Jones – Wilkur Energy Park		
Acknowledgement of Country:	The Mayor will acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.		
Conflicts of Interest:			

ITEMS

NO.	MATTER FOR DISCUSSION
1.	**Councillor only time 5:00pm – 5:30pm**
2.	**Confirmation of Councillor Briefing Minutes – 20 March 2024**
3.	**Presentations**
3.1	Birchip Forum – Jak Goldsmith **5:30pm**
3.2	Audit and Risk Committee Chair Report – Margaret Abbey via zoom **5:45pm**
3.3	Wilkur Energy Park **6:00pm** Michael Jones – Senior Dev Manager & Rachael Joiner – Managing Director West Wind Energy and Bunjil Planning
	Dinner Break
3.4	Community Recovery Update: Community Recovery and Hub **6:50pm** Manager Community Recovery – Ahmed Elmohandis and Nola Farlane
3.5	Fair Access – Director Corporate and Organisational Performance – Jenna Allan **7:10pm**
4.	**Councillor Matters 7:20pm**
	Cr Milne
5.	**CEO Updates 7:40pm**
5.1	Draft Council Meeting Agenda – 10 April 2024
5.2	Councillor ANZAC Day Venue Attendances

NEXT BRIEFING
17 April 2024, Watchem Hall, 5:00pm

Councillor Briefing Record

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

Date:	17 April 2024	**Time**	5:00pm – 8:00pm
Location:	Watchem Hall		
Attendees:	Cr Getley, Cr Simpson, Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Warren, Wayne O'Toole, Dan McLoughlan, Jenna Allan and Travis Fitzgibbon.		
Apologies:	Cr Pollard		
Guests:	Watchem Progress Association Watchem Lake Committee – Stephen Baird Powercor – Daniel Smith, Emma Tyner Acting Manager Assets - Trevor Rumbold		
Acknowledgement of Country:	The Mayor will acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.		
Conflicts of Interest:	Cr Warren, item 3.5 Donald Tradie Park		

ITEMS

NO.	MATTER FOR DISCUSSION	NOTES
1.	**Councillor & CEO only time 5:00pm – 5:30pm**	
2.	**Confirmation of Councillor Briefing Minutes – 3 April 2024**	Confirmed.
3.	**Presentations**	
3.1	Watchem Progress Association	
3.2	Watchem Lake Committee	
3.3	Powercor - Transmission lines etc.	
	Dinner Break	
3.4	Monthly Capital Project Update	
3.5	Preliminary discussion – Legal advice Donald Tradie Park	**Cr Warren declared a conflict of Interest as Donald 2000 committee member. left the room at 7.14pm** **Cr Warren returned to the room at 7.52pm after the discussion concluded.**
4.	**Councillor Matters**	
5.	**CEO Updates**	
5.1	Annual Budget 2024-2025 Revised dates	

NEXT BRIEFING
1 May 2024, Wycheproof Supper Room, 5:00pm

7.2 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO ***File No:*** GO/06/0

PURPOSE

This report notes and records correspondence initiated by Council and informs the Council of the responses received from this correspondence.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council notes the record of correspondence initiated by Council and the responses received.

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Sent to	Sent	Response	Purpose of Letter/Response
Notice of Motion from	*Hon Melissa Horne MP* *Minister for Local Government* *Copy sent to:* *Jade Benham MP* *Member for Mildura*	22 Feb 2024	16 April 2024	Local Council Electoral Structure Review for BSC Minister asked me to respond on her behalf. Electoral Representation Review Panel (ERAP) who conducted the review of Council's electoral structure found, after considering the requirements of the *Local Govt Act 2020 (LGA)*, public submissions & agreed criteria, its recommended structure was best model for promoting fair/equitable representation for voters in Shire & consequently facilitate good governance. Before recommending making of an Order in Council providing for subdivision of municipal district into wards, or specification of boundaries of wards, the *LGA* requires Min Loc Gov seek to ensure two things: 1. each ward has approx equal no of voters per councillor; 2. no of voters per councillor in a ward does not vary from the average no of voters per cllr for all wards by more than 10%. Based on the advice of ERAP, the Min was satisfied those requirements have been met by the electoral structure for Council. Any further changes to the electoral structure of Council, such as cllr nos, would require Minister to reconvene ERAP to review & rec structure from 3 permitted models for Council. It is not possible to reconvene an ERAP and undertake a review prior to the Oct 2024 elections. Also as an ERAP is independent, it is possible that even if a panel was reconvened to consider 3 possible models under Act, panel's rec may be for same electoral structure as rec by the first ERAP. I trust this information has been of assistance. **Mike Gooey** Exec Director Local Gov Victoria

7.3 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO ***File No:*** CR/13/01

PURPOSE

This report acknowledges and congratulates community persons and/or groups for their success in being recognised for a significant achievement or for being a recipient of an honourable award.

The report also informs Council of any letters of congratulations or any recognition of achievement that Council has received or been awarded in the past month.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council acknowledge and congratulate the persons and/or groups mentioned in the report for their achievements.

Attachments: Nil

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Wimmera Agricultural Societies Association	Jacob Donnellon Donald	March 15 2024	Awarded the 2024 Junior Rural Ambassador Award for the Wimmera Group of the Victorian Agricultural Shows. Jacob will now compete in the State Final for the Victorian Junior Ambassador Award.

7.4 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Statutory Administration Support

Department: Community Development ***File No:*** DB/14/01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 April 2024 to 30 April 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 April 2024 to 30 April 2024.

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Council Ref.	Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20240004	8531581767324	Clifton Street Charlton VIC 3525	Demolition of a building	11/4/2024

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Council Ref.	Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
PBLD24014	3739772514464	Racecourse ROAD Donald VIC 3480	Construction of Machinery Shed	5/4/2024
PBLD24022	1692478420024	Elliots Road Bimbourie VIC 3533	Construction of Dwelling & Carport & Shed	12/4/2024
PBLD24025	2786417590838	Borung Highway Wooroonook VIC 3525	Construction of a detached dwelling	15/4/2024
PBLD24027	1053515631322	High STREET Wycheproof VIC 3527	Proposed Re-Stump of Dwelling	16/4/2024

7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Community Development ***File No:*** LP/09/01

PURPOSE

This report provides information on planning applications under consideration by staff and the status of each of these applications.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council note information contained in the report on planning applications under consideration by staff and the status of each of these applications.

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PA23026	Horace Street, Sea Lake	06/09/2023	Construct and display internally illuminated business identification sign (LED priceboard)	Awaiting amended plans
PA24001	Yeungroon Road, Yeungroon East	13/12/2023	Use and development of land for rural worker accommodation (two two-bedroom units and carport)	Permit Issued
PA24002	Borung Highway, Wooroonook	10/01/2024	Use and development of land for a single dwelling on an allotment in the Farming Zone, create or alter access to a Transport Zone and build within a setback to a Transport Zone	Permit Issued
PA24004	Borung Highway, Gil Gil	28/01/2024	Use and development of land for a place of assembly to hold the Donald B & S on one occasion in 2024 and one occasion in 2025, including patron camping for the event.	Permit Issued
PA24005	Slocombe Road, Warmur	24/01/2024	Subdivision of land (boundary realignment)	Permit Issued
PA24006	Racecourse Road, Donald	29/01/2024	Use and development of land for retail (plant nursery) and restricted retail (plant and equipment hire)	Permit Issued
PA24007	Jenkins Street, Charlton	29/02/2024	Two lot subdivision of land (boundary realignment)	Permit Issued

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PA24008	Railway Avenue, Sea Lake	26/02/2024	Use and development of land to construct four dwellings on a lot for workers accommodation	Review
PA24009	Borung Highway, Gil Gil	29/02/2024	Create or alter access to a road in a Transport Zone 2	Permit Issued
PA24010	Racecourse Road, Donald	04/04/2024	Construction of a Machinery Storage Shed	Notice of application Referral
PA24011	McLoughlans Road, Warmur	12/04/2024	Use and development of land for a dwelling in the Farming Zone within the setback to a proposed wind energy facility	Notice of application
VS24004	Charlton Boundary Road, Jeffcott	04/04/2024	Construction of a farm shed within the setback of a boundary	Permit Issued

The information published in the list provided, is in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

7.6 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO ***File No:*** GO/05/04

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action (SOA) of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action, and the SOA for the 10 April 2024 Council Meeting Resolutions.

RECOMMENDATION

Council to note the Status of Action Report for Council resolutions documented on this list.

Attachments: 1 ⇩SOA Outstanding CM Resolutions and 10 April CM - tabled - 8 May 2024

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

The Local Government Act 2020 (The Act) Section 9 (2) (i) provides that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

In accordance with the Council's Governance Rules adopted August 2022, Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured and is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

Attached to this report for public information is a list of the SOA of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action and introducing the SOA for the 10 April 2024 Council Meeting Resolutions.

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding Items 10 April 2024 CM – Tabled 8 May 2024 Council Meeting

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or Commenced
02082023	Infrastructure and Delivery	8.2.1	That Council: 1. Notes following consultation process in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy, one submission was received to the proposed nine-lot subdivision sale of land at 110 Sutcliffe Street, Sea Lake; 2. Sells nine-lot subdivision surplus land at 110 Sutcliff St, Sea Lake by private treaty or auction in accord sec 114 of the Local Gov Act 2020 and Council's Sale of Land Policy; and 3. Authorises the CEO to execute the Transfer of Land documents and any other documents required to affect the sale of the land.	Dir Infra & Del	GWMWater approval obtained, procurement for works has commenced. Civil contractor has recommenced works.	Commenced
09082023	Infrastructure and Delivery	8.2.4	**Risk and Resilience Grants Program** That Council: 1. Approve a financial co-cont of $70,000 from $200,000 Grant Oppor Reserve FY24 in addition to a $180,000 Council cash commitment in FY25 for the purposes of a funding application towards the Risk and Resilience Grants Program 2023. 2. Delegate authority to the CEO to apply for the Risk and Resilience Grants Program 2023; and	Dir Infra & Del	Expression of Interest submitted	Commenced

Tabled 8 May Council Meeting

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding Items 10 April 2024 CM – Tabled 8 May 2024 Council Meeting

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or Commenced
			3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.			
21122023	Infra & Delivery	4.1.1	Birchip Community Housing Growing Regions application stage 2 That Council: 1. Gives approval for Birchip Community Housing Incorporated to seek a bank loan of up to $350,000 to complete the construction, should their funding application be successful; 2. Provides in principle support to act as guarantor for a 10-year loan up to a maximum of $350,000; 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiation the terms and structure of the guarantor agreement with Birchip Community Housing Incorporated and the bank; 4. Allocate up to $100,000 over 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years through the established Grant Opportunity Reserve. 5. Makes the land at 56 Cumming Avenue, Birchip available to implement the construction work proposed under the Project.	Dir Infra & Del	Correspondence supporting stage 2 application sent	Complete – awaiting outcome of stage 2 process
13032024	Infra & Delivery	8.2.1	Licence NRMA Electric Highways Pty Ltd 1. Grants a licence to NRMA Electric Highways Pty Ltd for part of the land being Lot 1 TP675994	Dir Infra & Delivery		

Tabled 8 May Council Meeting

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding Items 10 April 2024 CM – Tabled 8 May 2024 Council Meeting

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or Commenced
			contained in Certificate of Title Volume 5222 Folio 214, 381 Broadway, Wycheproof, Vic, 3527 on the following terms: a) A 5-year licence commencing 1 April 2024, including one further option of 5 years, and b) A licence fee of $1 per annum plus GST, if demanded 2.Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the administrative procedures necessary to execute the Licence agreement.			
13032024	Community Development	8.2.2	Buloke Planning Scheme Review: 1. Endorse the Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report – September 2023, and 2. Publish the endorsed Buloke Planning Scheme for public feedback.	Dir Comm Development	This is available on Council's website and have been advertised in local papers, on social media and local radio.	Completed.
20032024	Infrastructure and Delivery	4.1	That Council: **1.** Approve a financial co-contribution of $250,000 ($83,333p.a.) Council cash and $250,000 ($83,333p.a.) of in-kind support, to be funded over 3 financial years from Q3 2024 to Q3 2027 for the purposes of a funding application towards the Disaster Ready Fund 2024. **2.** Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for National Emergency	DID		

Tabled 8 May Council Meeting

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding Items 10 April 2024 CM – Tabled 8 May 2024 Council Meeting

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or Commenced
			Management Agency Disaster Ready Fund Round Two 2024-2025; and **3.** Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.			
20032024	Infrastructure and Delivery	4.2 (See below as well)	That Council: **1.** Commit $266,486 over FY25 and FY26 Annual Budgets for the purposes of submitting an application to the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to apply for the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund; and 3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to underwrite a community contribution to the effect of $200,000; and **4.** Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the Council should the application be successful.	DID		
10042024	CEO	7.1	Council acknowledge & congratulate persons and/or groups mentioned in the report for their achievements.	CEO Office		Completed

Tabled 8 May Council Meeting

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding Items 10 April 2024 CM – Tabled 8 May 2024 Council Meeting

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or Commenced
10042024	DCD	8.1.1	Draft Fair Access Policy - That Council endorse the Draft Fair Access Policy to be distributed for community feedback and consultation.	DCD	Draft Fair Access policy available on Council's website. With engagement underway.	Commenced.
10042024	DCD	8.2.3	That Council adopt the Children, Youth and Families Plan.	DCD	The Plan is now on Council;'s website and being promoted via media channels.	Completed.
10042024	DCOP	8.2.4	Community Grants – Declaration of Conflict of Interest by Cr Milne	DCOP	Form was completed and signed and given by EA to Mgr Governance for the register.	Completed.
10042024	DCD	8.2.5	Buloke Planning Scheme Review - That Council: 1. Adopt the Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report – September 2023, and 2. In accordance with Section 12B (5) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 forward a copy of the adopted Buloke Planning Scheme Review Report – September 2023 to the Minister for Planning.	DCD		Commenced.

Tabled 8 May Council Meeting

Summary of Action on Council Resolutions – Outstanding Items 10 April 2024 CM – Tabled 8 May 2024 Council Meeting

Date	Directorate	Item	Resolution/Question	Actioning Officer/s	Status of Action	Complete or Commenced
1004024	Question from Cllrs	9.2.1	COUNCIL STANCE ON AEMO PROPOSAL FOR VNI WEST MEETING WITH FARMING DELEGATION – QUESTION FROM CR MILNE Cr Pollard declared an interest in this item due to his land being subject to the construction of the powerlines. Cr Pollard did not leave the room as it was only a discussion, and no decision was being made.	DCOP	Form signed and completed and signed by Cr Pollard and has been received by Mgr Governance.	Completed.

Tabled 8 May Council Meeting

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 VNI WEST PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

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

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

As a follow up to Council's communications it has had with community persons/representatives within the Shire and abroad, this report is for Council to discuss its status for the proposal of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) for the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council discuss its status for the proposal of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) for the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI), following on from its communications it has had with community persons and representatives within the Shire and abroad.

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

The VNI West project will provide a new high capacity 500 kV double-circuit line to connect Western Renewables Link (from Bulgana) with Project EnergyConnect and HumeLink (at Dinawan) via a new substation near Kerang.

At the 10 May 2023 Council Meeting, Council tabled a Notice of Motion which referred to the AEMO publishing a consultation report in February 2023 calling for submissions up to 5 April 2023, with the timeframe being extended to Victorian Farmers Federation members for a further two weeks.

The Notice of Motion noted the community believed the consultation conducted by AEMO was of a poor standard, with feedback provided by prominent matter experts appeared to have been disregarded by AEMO. At the Council Meeting, Council agreed with the stance taken by many of the Buloke community in that the consultation has been lack lustre with very limited detail, creating fear in the community.

Council, at the May 2023 Council Meeting, resolved:

That Council write to the Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources and the State Electricity Commission as well as the Chief Executive Officer of Australian Energy Market Operator, Daniel Westerman, imploring them to:

1. *Consult with the community in a genuine and deliberative manner, ensuring transparency is at the forefront of all consultation; and*

2. *Listen in a genuine and sympathetic manner to the concerns of the community and relevant subject matter experts and respond in a respectful and considered fashion.*

Councillors have since liaised with residents, ratepayers and interested community persons on this proposed project and recently participated in a very well attended meeting with farmers from the region.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Notice of Motion tabled 10 May 2023 Council Meeting. (noted in discussion of this report)

OPTIONS

Not applicable to this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Councillors have engaged with the community on an individual basis and at a meeting held in Donald on 11 April 2024.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Council has collaborated with the State Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources and the State Electricity Commission as well as the Chief Executive Officer of Australian Energy Market Operator, imploring them to communicate more effectively and transparently with the community on this proposal.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable to this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Act 2020
Electricity Safety Act 1998
Energy Safe Victoria
Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Climate Action Plan
Long Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021 – 2025
Buloke's Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Strategy & Plan

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

To promote transparency, Council needs to consider its status on this proposed project in an open meeting.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.2 INTERSTATE TRAVEL - CR GETLEY

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO ***File No:*** GO/06/11

PURPOSE

In accordance with Council's Expenses Policy adopted August 2020, proposed interstate travel of Councillors, requires the approval of the Council.

Cr Getley is seeking approval from the Council for his travel interstate to represent the Buloke Shire Council at the Australia Local Government Association (ALGA) - National General Assembly of Local Government, 2 July 2024 to 4 July 2024, also the Australia Council of Local Government on 5 July 2024. Both events are to be held in Canberra.

SUMMARY

The ALGA states the 30th NGA at the National Convention Centre is expected to be ALGA's biggest annual conference, including networking sessions and exhibitions. The Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) is also being held on Friday 5 July.

The theme of the 2024 NGA is "Building Community Trust" to acknowledge the critical importance of trust in our democracy's different level of government, its institutions, and amongst its citizens.

The conference program features a range of high profile and engaging speakers who will explore ideas about what creates trust, and how participants can develop it.

There is a new addition to this year's program, with concurrent listening sessions providing delegates the chance to have a say about federal policies affecting their communities.

The costs to be incurred by the Council will be for Cr Getley's return flights from Melbourne to Canberra, accommodation, and registration for the event.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the interstate travel and its associated costs for Cr Getley's attendance to the Australia Local Government Association (ALGA) - National General Assembly of Local Government and the Australian Council of Local Government to be held 2 July 2024 to 5 July 2024 in Canberra.

Attachments: Nil

8.2.3 LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM PHASE 3 VARIATION

Author's Title: Acting Manager Assets

Department: Infrastructure and Delivery ***File No:*** GS/03/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

This report is presented to Council to consider the approval of the variation to the project list to be funded under the Federal Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 3.

SUMMARY

Officers are recommending that Council note the variation to the project list to be funded under the Federal Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 3.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the attached variation to the list of projects to be funded by the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3.

Attachments:
1. VIC - Buloke Shire Council - P3 Approved Work Schedule
2. Letter of Variation
3. lrci-program-work-schedule-project-nomination-phase3 Variation

DISCUSSION

As part of the 2020/21 Federal Budget, the Australian Government announced further funding for Local Government under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI Program).

This program supports Local Government Areas to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Buloke Shire Council was allocated $3,199,526 for eligible projects. Eligible projects included local road or community infrastructure projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public.

Projects needed to deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity and public safety. In order to receive the funding, Council submitted a works plan for each project that demonstrated the project could be completed by 30 June, 2023.

On 24 March 2023 an extension to the construction period was announced for Phase 1, 2, and 3 of the LRCI Program for all approved projects until 30 June 2024. The Grant Agreement Period was also extended to 31 December 2024 to allow for final reporting and payments to be completed.

A Communique issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on April 17 2024 stated that "recipients have until **30 April 2024** to submit new projects for approval and inclusion in your Phases 1, 2 and 3 work schedule and/or request to vary a Phase 1, 2 or 3 Approved Work Schedule.".

Officers have reviewed the approved list of projects and have recommended several variations to ensure the fund can be fully acquitted by the project completion date of 30 June 2024. The variations are required due to ongoing delays in project delivery caused by emergency events, and resourcing issues, as detailed in the attached document. The Buloke Drainage Investigation & related capital works project has been removed from scope and will be replaced with a new application to the National Emergency Management Agency Disaster Ready Fund Round Two 2024-2025. An additional section of McLoughlan's Road rehabilitation (Ch9.000km to Ch10.730) to reconcile the funds originally allocated to the drainage project. The total project cost and LRCI Phase 3 funding required have been adjusted on other projects to better reflect actual project spend.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At the Council Meeting in August 2021, Council endorsed a recommendation to contribute $600,000 towards Regional Infrastructure Fund application for the Buloke Tourism Cabin Development.

At the Council Meeting in November 2021, Council endorsed a recommendation to approve the attached list of projects to be funded by the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3.

At the Council Meeting in March 2024, Council endorsed a recommendation to apply for the National Emergency Management Agency Disaster Ready Fund Round Two 2024-2025 for the Lidar survey and flood modelling of Buloke Shire Council.

OPTIONS

Officers are required to submit the variation request to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts by 30 April 2024. Any alterations to the list of variations presented in the report will require an additional request to the Department.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

All projects listed in the variation request have previously been published to the community in Buloke Shire Council Budget documents.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable

COLLABORATION

The project list has been developed following consultation with Councillors, Council's Executive Management Team (EMT) and Officers responsible for project delivery.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The new projects included in the Variation have previously been budgeted as a 100% council cash contribution in the Buloke Shire Council Budget. Including these projects in the LRCI funding has an impact on the funds available to Council in the FY25 Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure is a Commonwealth funding program supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Long–Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025
Annual Plan
Long Term Financial Plan
Council's Procurement Policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council has met its transparency obligations through the preparation of this document.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have a Conflict of Interest to declare.

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3
Work Schedule - Project Nomination

Declaration

I declare that:

- I have read, understood and agree to abide by the Program Guidelines on the Department's website at https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/about/local-initiatives/local-roads-and-community-infrastructure/resources.aspx as in force at the time of submission
- I have read, understood and agree to the Phase 3 Grant Agreement and a signed copy has been provided to the Department
- The information I have submitted in this form is, to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate and complete. I also understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code 1995* (Cth)
- The project is an eligible grant activity
- The project will be physically complete by 30 June 2023 unless otherwise agreed by the Department
- To the best of my knowledge there are no conflicts of interest OR I have separately provided information to the Department on any conflicts of interest
- I understand that a condition of this grant funding is that the Eligible Funding Recipient commits to a minimum level of infrastructure spending in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial Years in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Grant Agreement and Program Guidelines.
- That the Eligible Funding Recipient and its subcontractors and independent contractors will comply with all applicable laws
- I understand that the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program is an Australian Government program and that the Department will use the information provided in accordance with the following:
    - Australian Government Public Data Policy Statement
    - Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines
    - Applicable Australian laws.
- I am authorised to complete this form and to sign and submit this declaration on behalf of the Eligible Funding Recipient.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Full name: Wayne O'Toole

Position: CEO

Email address: WO'Toole@buloke.vic.gov.au

Date: 31/01/2022

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 - Work Schedule - Project Nomination

Funding Recipients are required to nominate project(s) they plan to undertake with LRCI Program Phase 3 funding by providing information to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications ('Department') via emailing LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au. A separate Project Nomination row must be completed for each project or group of small projects that an Eligible Funding Recipient wishes to undertake.
For ease of assessment, and to limit requests for more information, please complete all fields as completely and accurately as possible.

	Name [Council, State]	**Buloke Shire Council, VIC**				**LRCI Phase 3 Funding Allocation**						**$3,199,526**		
#	**Project Name** **[Project location or street address: Work category]**	**Project Description / Problem Being Addressed** **[Please align project description to project work categories on Page 3 where possible]**	**Infrastructure Type** **[Please select one item]**	**Total Project Cost** **[$]**	**LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required** **[$]**	**Construction Start Date** **[MM/YY]**	**Construction Completion Date** **[MM/YY]**	**Estimated jobs supported** **[Numerical figure – refer FAQ instructions]**		**Project Electorate** **[Please list the Federal Project Electorate]**	**Project Location**	**Project Land / Asset Owner **** **[Please select one item]**	**Indigenous employment or business use**	**Recycled materials used**
				Funding required should not exceed allocation		Construction to be within, 01/22 and 06/23 as per guidelines		**Council employees**	**Contractors**		**Coordinates**		**Yes/ no**	**Yes/ no**
1	Cabins Infrastructure for Tourism and Short Term Accommodation. Multiple Locations: **Other**	Install up to 2 accommodation cabins and associated infrastructure at 7 caravan park locations Sea Lake, Green Lake, Tchum Lake, Watchem Lake, Wooroonook Lake, Charlton and Wycheproof. Council will install and maintain asset	Community	$2,940,000	$600,000	03/22	06/23	0.75	5.55	Mallee	Sea Lake **X**: 667455 **Y**: 6069582 Green Lake **X**: 667635 **Y**: 6059281 Tchum Lake **X**: 680524 **Y**: 6014761 Watchem Lake **X**: 666200 **Y**: 5997980 Wooroonook Lake **X**: 697270 **Y**: 5984858 Charlton **X**: 711265 **Y**: 5983867 Wycheproof. **X**: 700472 **Y**: 6005999	State/Territory	No	No
2	Rehabilitation - McLoughlans Road: **Reconstruction**	A section of McLoughlans Road (Ch7.350km to Ch9.000km) will be reconstructed and increased in width from 3.8 metres to 6.6 metres.	Road	$729,000	$729,000	04/22	06/23	0	1.72	Mallee	**X**: 661977 **Y**: 6015249	Council	No	No

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Name [Council, State]		Buloke Shire Council, VIC				LRCI Phase 3 Funding Allocation						$3,199,526		
#	Project Name [Project location or street address: Work category]	Project Description / Problem Being Addressed [Please align project description to project work categories on Page 3 where possible]	Infrastructure Type [Please select one item]	Total Project Cost [$]	LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required [$]	Construction Start Date [MM/YY]	Construction Completion Date [MM/YY]	Estimated jobs supported [Numerical figure – refer FAQ instructions]		Project Electorate [Please list the Federal Project Electorate]	Project Location	Project Land / Asset Owner ** [Please select one item]	Indigenous employment or business use	Recycled materials used
				Funding required should not exceed allocation		Construction to be within, 01/22 and 06/23 as per guidelines		Council employees	Contractors		Coordinates		Yes/ no	Yes/ no
3	Buloke Drainage Investigation & related capital works Multiple Locations: **Drainage**	The drainage investigation will use Lidar Technology to identify stormwater catchment to a natural and community desired location and will include: GWM water assessment Current Drainage investigation and condition assessment Hydraulic modelling Drainage strategy Flood mitigation strategy Mapping and report Capital works plan including priority projects Capital works Identified as immediate "Priority 1" or "quick wins" will then be completed	Community	$640,000	$640,000	04/22	06/23	0	1.51	Mallee	Nullawil **X**: 696322 **Y**: 6030352 Charlton **X**: 711635 **Y**: 5983782 Donald **X**: 678473 **Y**: 5973838 Birchip **X**: 673247 **Y**: 6016005 Sea Lake **X**: 668925 **Y**: 6069193 Wycheproof **X**: 700775 **Y**: 6005746 Watchem **X**: 666132 **Y**: 5998213 Berriwillock **X**: 679893 **Y**: 6053970 Culgoa **X**: 690663 **Y**: 6044704	Council	No	No
4	Buloke Footpath and Crossover Project Multiple Locations: **Bicycle and Walking Paths**	Upgrade primary and secondary footpaths to current Vic Road standards. Upgrade crossovers to DDA standards. Increase the width and thickness of primary footpaths and secondary footpath at locations which experiences high traffic.	Road	$582,526	$582,526	04/22	06/23	0	1.38	Mallee	Nullawil **X**: 696545 **Y**: 6030254 Charlton **X**: 711119 **Y**: 5983327 Donald **X**: 678006 **Y**: 5973255 Birchip **X**: 672672 **Y**: 6016529 Sea Lake **X**: 667956 **Y**: 6069246 Wycheproof **X**: 700544 **Y**: 6005290 Watchem **X**: 667302 **Y**: 5998133 Berriwillock **X**: 680400 **Y**: 6054658	Council	No	No

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

	Name [Council, State]	Buloke Shire Council, VIC				LRCI Phase 3 Funding Allocation						$3,199,526		
#	Project Name [Project location or street address: Work category]	Project Description / Problem Being Addressed [Please align project description to project work categories on Page 3 where possible]	Infrastructure Type [Please select one item]	Total Project Cost [$]	LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required [$]	Construction Start Date [MM/YY]	Construction Completion Date [MM/YY]	Estimated jobs supported [Numerical figure – refer FAQ instructions]		Project Electorate [Please list the Federal Project Electorate]	Project Location	Project Land / Asset Owner ** [Please select one item]	Indigenous employment or business use	Recycled materials used
				Funding required should not exceed allocation		Construction to be within, 01/22 and 06/23 as per guidelines		Council employees	Contractors		Coordinates		Yes/ no	Yes/ no
5	Wycheproof Caravan Park Upgrade: **Other**	Construction of New Amenities Building & installation of associated infrastructure upgrades (electrical & hydraulic) Council will install and maintain asset	Community	$431,166	$300,000	04/22	06/23	0.25	1.02	Mallee	X: 700472 Y: 6005999	State/Territory	No	No
6	Wooroonook Lakes Camping Ground Upgrade: **Other**	Electrical & hydraulic upgrades to increase the amount of powered sites available. Council will install and maintain asset	Community	$296,146	$120,000	04/22	06/23	0.25	0.7	Mallee	X: 697270 Y: 5984858	State/Territory	No	No
7	Donald Community Precinct Improvements: **Sporting and recreation facilities**	Capital works identified under Stage 2B plans	Community	$180,000	$180,000	07/22	06/23	0.25	0.43	Mallee	X: 678178 Y: 5973771	Council	No	No
8	Aerodrome water connections. Multiple Locations: **Other**	Provide pipeline water connection to Aerodromes at Sea Lake, Wycheproof, Birchip & Charlton Council will install and maintain asset	Community	$28,000	$28,000	04/22	06/23	0.1	0.07	Mallee	Sea Lake X: 671296 Y: 6066269 Wycheproof X: 701776Y: 6006599 Birchip X: 672424 Y: 6014523 Charlton X: 709784 Y: 5981935	Council	No	No
9	Watchem Oval Water Connection: **Sporting and recreation facilities**	Provide pipeline water connection to the Watchem Oval. Council will install asset and retain ownership of the asset, committee will maintain.	Community	$20,000	$20,000	04/22	06/23	0.1	0.05	Mallee	X: 667666 Y: 5997899	State/Territory	No	No
	Total	-	-	**$5,846,838**	**$3,199,526**	-	-	**1.7**	**12.43**	-		-		

Has the availability of funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program required you to hire additional Council staff?	Yes	**Number**
		1

#	* If project is not fully funded by LRCI, state details of Council or other contribution	** If Project Land or Asset Owner is not Council, please indicate nature of permission	If applicable, details of any recycled materials used on the project
1	Funding Applications with DJPR pending approval	In principle support received from DELWP for Sea Lake, Green Lake, Wooroonook Lake & Wycheproof, final consent to be issued once designs are finalised. All other sites are council owned.	
5	Funding received from DELWP VGO - Camping & Caravan Grants Round 1 2019-2020 $125,166. Buloke Shire Council contributing $6,000	DELWP Land Owners Consent received	
6	Funding received from DELWP VGO - Camping & Caravan Grants Round 1 2019-2020 $168,146. Buloke Shire Council contributing $8,000	DELWP Land Owners Consent received	
8		DELWP Land Owners Consent required at Charlton, to be requested after agreement with GWM Water is finalised. All other sites are council owned.	
9		DELWP Land Owners Consent received	

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Project Work Categories

Work Category	Description
General Road Maintenance	Pothole repairs, vegetation clearing, minor crack sealing and grading (unless new gravel is being added) are all considered to be general maintenance.
Construction of a new road	Construction of a road where no road existed on that alignment before.
Reconstruction	Rebuilding a road that already exists (can include upgrading)
Rehabilitation	Work to return a road to its original standard
Widening	Work to make the surface or pavement of a road wider
Sheeting / Re-sheeting	Where additional gravel etc. is added on top of an existing road
Sealing	Putting a seal on an unsealed road.
Resealing	Second or subsequent sealing of roads
Bridge works	Any work involving bridges or culverts
Tunnel works	A tunnel to enable the building an underground road
Drainage	Culverts, kerb and guttering and related activities where the purpose of the works is to improve drainage only.
Traffic improvement	Works involving traffic calming devices, traffic lights, pedestrian islands, lighting, warning signs and roundabouts
Street lighting equipment	Works related to vehicle traffic and pedestrian lighting
Closed Circuit TV (CCTV)	Works associated with installing a fixed mobile CCTV system
Bicycle and Walking Paths	Works involving cycling and pedestrian infrastructure
Painting/Improvements to community facilities	Community facilities include community centres, community halls, childcare centres, educational establishment, club houses, and entertainment facilities
Repairs/Replacement of fencing	Works relating to building a new fence or repairs/replacement of existing fences
Improved Accessibility of Community Facilities and Areas	Works could include pedestrian bridges, ramps, accessible public toilets, and designated car parking for individuals with a disability
Landscaping Improvements	Works could include tree planting to increase shade, creation of green spaces, and beautification of roundabouts
Picnic Shelters or Barbeque Facilities at Community Parks	Self-explanatory
Playgrounds and Skate parks (including all ability playgrounds)	Self-explanatory
Toilet Blocks	Works relating to construction or maintenance of public toilet block amenities
Replacement of Light Bulbs in Street Lights	Self-explanatory
Noise and Vibration Mitigation Measures	Works related to reducing and mitigating noise and vibrations, such as quieter pavement surfaces and noise barriers
Off-road Car Parks	Such as off-road car parks at sporting grounds or parks
Sporting and recreation facilities	Works to upgrade, repair or maintain sporting ovals, courts, swimming pools etc
Other	Works that do not fall into the above categories

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Buloke Shire Council
89 293 793 980

Dear Grantee,

Letter of Variation

I am writing regarding the announcement on 24 March 2023 of an extension to the project construction period for Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program.

You previously entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth in relation to a grant under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program (the 'Grant'). The terms of the Grant are set out in the LRCI Grant Agreement previously entered into between the Commonwealth represented by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and the Arts and your organisation.

The Commonwealth proposes to vary the terms of all LRCI Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 Agreements to extend the Eligible Construction Time Period (ECTP) for all approved projects until **30 June 2024**. No further extensions will be granted past this date and consequently, any projects not completed by 30 June 2024 may not receive the remainder of their funding allocation under those Phases.

The Grant Agreement Period will also be extended to 31 December 2024 to allow for final reporting and payments to be completed.

These changes, including an updated reporting schedule, have been reflected in the republished LRCI Program Guidelines and take effect from 24 March 2023.

We confirm that other than these amendments plus some minor clarification adjustments, all other provisions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect. We recommend revisiting the Guidelines for all phases for your awareness.

To accept these amendments to the Agreement, please sign and return a scanned copy of this letter to the *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program at LRCIP@Infrastructure.gov.au* by 14 April 2023 otherwise this offer will lapse.

If you have any questions regarding this variation, please contact *Shane Wilson, Director – LRCI Program* at shane.wilson@infrastructure.gov.au

Kind regards,

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program
LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au

Signatures

Executed as a deed:

Buloke Shire Council 89 293 793 980 (the '**Grantee**') agrees to vary the Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Variation and the relevant Program Guidelines.

Grantee:

Signed, sealed and delivered by the Grantee's authorised representative:	
Signatory Name: (full legal name) Physical Signature: Date:	Wayne O'Toole 26/04/2023
Witness Name: Physical Signature: Date:	Trevor Rumbold 26/04/2023

Commonwealth:

Signed, sealed and delivered for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by *the LRCI Program, Department of Infrastructure.*	
Name & Position: Signature: Date:	Shane Wilson, Director – LRCI Program **24 March 2023**
Witness Name: Signature: Date:	Brittany Hayes **24 March 2023**

Instructions:

1. Complete the fillable fields , then print to sign
2. Scan signed copy back to the LRCI Program.

Note: Please ensure both pages of this letter are returned to the LRCI Administration team at LRCIP@Infrastructure.gov.au

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3
Work Schedule - Project Nomination

Declaration

I declare that:

- I have read, understood and agree to abide by the Program Guidelines on the Department's website at https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/about/local-initiatives/local-roads-and-community-infrastructure/resources.aspx as in force at the time of submission
- I have read, understood and agree to the Phase 3 Grant Agreement and a signed copy has been provided to the Department
- The information I have submitted in this form is, to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate and complete. I also understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code 1995* (Cth)
- The project is an eligible grant activity
- The project will be physically complete by 30 June 2023 unless otherwise agreed by the Department
- To the best of my knowledge there are no conflicts of interest OR I have separately provided information to the Department on any conflicts of interest
- I understand that a condition of this grant funding is that the Eligible Funding Recipient commits to a minimum level of infrastructure spending in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Financial Years in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Grant Agreement and Program Guidelines.
- That the Eligible Funding Recipient and its subcontractors and independent contractors will comply with all applicable laws
- I understand that the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program is an Australian Government program and that the Department will use the information provided in accordance with the following:
    - Australian Government Public Data Policy Statement
    - Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines
    - Applicable Australian laws.
- I am authorised to complete this form and to sign and submit this declaration on behalf of the Eligible Funding Recipient.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Full name: Wayne O'Toole

Position: CEO

Email address: WO'Toole@buloke.vic.gov.au

Date: 31/01/2022

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 - Work Schedule - Project Nomination

Funding Recipients are required to nominate project(s) they plan to undertake with LRCI Program Phase 3 funding by providing information to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications ('Department') via emailing LRCIP@infrastructure.gov.au. A separate Project Nomination row must be completed for each project or group of small projects that an Eligible Funding Recipient wishes to undertake.
For ease of assessment, and to limit requests for more information, please complete all fields as completely and accurately as possible.

Name [Council, State]						LRCI Phase 3 Funding Allocation						$		
#	Project Name [Project location or street address: Work category]	Project Description / Problem Being Addressed [Please align project description to project work categories on Page 3 where possible]	Infrastructure Type [Please select one item]	Total Project Cost [$]	LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required [$]	Construction Start Date [MM/YY]	Construction Completion Date [MM/YY]	Estimated jobs supported [Numerical figure – refer FAQ instructions]		Project Electorate [Please list the Federal Project Electorate]	Project Location	Project Land / Asset Owner ** [Please select one item]	Indigenous employment or business use	Recycled materials used
				Funding required should not exceed allocation		Construction to be within, 01/22 and 06/23 as per guidelines		Council employees	Contractors		Coordinates		Yes/ no	Yes/ no
1	Cabins Infrastructure for Tourism and Short Term Accommodation. Multiple Locations: **Other**	Install up to 12 accommodation cabins and associated infrastructure at 7 caravan park locations Sea Lake, Green Lake, Tchum Lake, Watchem Lake, Wooroonook Lake, Charlton and Wycheproof. Council will install and maintain asset	Community	$2,940,000	$600,000	03/22	06/24~~3~~	0.75	5.55	Mallee	Sea Lake X: 667455 Y: 6069582 Green Lake X: 667635 Y: 6059281 Tchum Lake X: 680524 Y: 6014761 Watchem Lake X: 666200 Y: 5997980 Wooroonook Lake X: 697270 Y: 5984858 Charlton X: 711265 Y: 5983867 Wycheproof. X: 700472 Y: 6005999	State/Territory	No	No
2	Rehabilitation - McLoughlans Road: **Reconstruction**	A section of McLoughlans Road (Ch7.350km to Ch10.7309~~.000~~km) will be reconstructed and increased in width from 3.8 metres to 6.6 metres.	Road	$1,138,017~~729,000~~	$1,138,017~~729,000~~	04/22	06/24~~3~~	0	1.72	Mallee	X: 661977 Y: 6015249	Council	No	No

Commented [TR1]: 1 cabin only installed at all 7 locat

Commented [TR2]: Additional length of road added t scope, continuous works from the original section. Costs adjusted accordingly. Note, works completed prior to variation submitted

2

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Name [Council, State]						LRCI Phase 3 Funding Allocation						$		
#	Project Name [Project location or street address: Work category]	Project Description / Problem Being Addressed [Please align project description to project work categories on Page 3 where possible]	Infrastructure Type [Please select one item]	Total Project Cost [$]	LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required [$]	Construction Start Date [MM/YY]	Construction Completion Date [MM/YY]	Estimated jobs supported [Numerical figure – refer FAQ instructions]		Project Electorate [Please list the Federal Project Electorate]	Project Location	Project Land / Asset Owner ** [Please select one item]	Indigenous employment or business use	Recycled materials used
				Funding required should not exceed allocation		Construction to be within, 01/22 and 06/23 as per guidelines		Council employees	Contractors		Coordinates		Yes/ no	Yes/ no
~~3~~	~~Buloke Drainage Investigation & related capital works Multiple Locations: **Drainage**~~	~~The drainage investigation will use Lidar Technology to identify stormwater catchment to a natural and community desired location and will include:~~ ~~GWM water assessment~~ ~~Current Drainage investigation and condition assessment~~ ~~Hydraulic modelling~~ ~~Drainage strategy~~ ~~Flood mitigation strategy~~ ~~Mapping and report~~ ~~Capital works plan including priority projects~~ ~~Capital works Identified as immediate "Priority 1" or "quick wins" will then be completed~~	~~Road~~	~~$640,000~~	~~$640,000~~	~~04/22~~	~~06/23~~	~~0~~	~~1.51~~	~~Mallee~~	~~Nullawil~~ ~~X: 696322~~ ~~Y: 6030352~~ ~~Charlton~~ ~~X: 711635~~ ~~Y: 5983782~~ ~~Donald~~ ~~X: 678473~~ ~~Y: 5973838~~ ~~Birchip~~ ~~X: 673247~~ ~~Y: 6016005~~ ~~Sea Lake~~ ~~X: 668925~~ ~~Y: 6069193~~ ~~Wycheproof~~ ~~X: 700775~~ ~~Y: 6005746~~ ~~Watchem~~ ~~X: 666132~~ ~~Y: 5998213~~ ~~Berriwillock~~ ~~X: 679893~~ ~~Y: 6053970~~ ~~Culgoa~~ ~~X: 690663~~ ~~Y: 6044704~~	~~Council~~	~~No~~	~~No~~
4	Buloke Footpath and Crossover Project Multiple Locations: **Bicycle and Walking Paths**	Upgrade primary and secondary footpaths to current Vic Road standards. Upgrade crossovers to DDA standards. Increase the width and thickness of primary footpaths and secondary footpath at locations which experiences high traffic.	Road	$670,021~~82,5~~ ~~26~~	$670,021~~82,526~~	04/22	06/24~~3~~	0	1.38	Mallee	Nullawil X: 696545 Y: 6030254 Charlton X: 711119 Y: 5983327 Donald X: 678006 Y: 5973255 Birchip X: 672672 Y: 6016529 Sea Lake X: 667956 Y: 6069246 Wycheproof X: 700544 Y: 6005290 Watchem X: 667302 Y: 5998133 Berriwillock X: 680400 Y: 6054658	Council	No	No

Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough
Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough
Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough
Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough
Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough
Commented [TR3]: Project did not progress due to im of flood event in October 2022, To be removed from sco
Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough
Commented [TR4]: Sea Lake and Berriwillock section risk of not being complete by 06/24 so removed from sc costs adjusted accordingly
Formatted: Font color: Auto
Formatted: Font color: Auto

3

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Name [Council, State]						LRCI Phase 3 Funding Allocation						$		
#	Project Name [Project location or street address: Work category]	Project Description / Problem Being Addressed [Please align project description to project work categories on Page 3 where possible]	Infrastructure Type [Please select one item]	Total Project Cost [$]	LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required [$]	Construction Start Date [MM/YY]	Construction Completion Date [MM/YY]	Estimated jobs supported [Numerical figure – refer FAQ instructions]		Project Electorate [Please list the Federal Project Electorate]	Project Location	Project Land / Asset Owner ** [Please select one item]	Indigenous employment or business use	Recycled materials used
				Funding required should not exceed allocation		Construction to be within, 01/22 and 06/23 as per guidelines		Council employees	Contractors		Coordinates		Yes/ no	Yes/ no
5	Wycheproof Caravan Park Upgrade: **Other**	Construction of New Amenities Building & installation of associated infrastructure upgrades (electrical & hydraulic) Council will install and maintain asset	Community	$582,297431166	$457,131300,000	04/22	06/243	0.25	1.02	Mallee	X: 700472 Y: 6005999	State/Territory	No	No
6	Wooroonook Lakes Camping Ground Upgrade: **Other**	Electrical & hydraulic upgrades to increase the amount of powered sites available. Council will install and maintain asset	Community	$274,503961146	$106,35720,000	04/22	06/243	0.25	0.7	Mallee	X: 697270 Y: 5984858	State/Territory	No	No
7	Donald Community Precinct Improvements: **Sporting and recreation facilities**	Capital works identified under Stage 2B plans	Community	$180,000	$180,000	07/22	06/243	0.25	0.43	Mallee	X: 678178 Y: 5973771	State/Territory	No	No
8	Aerodrome water connections. Multiple Locations: **Other**	Provide pipeline water connection to Aerodromes at Sea Lake, Wycheproof, Birchip & Charlton Council will install and maintain asset	Community	$28,000	$28,000	04/22	06/243	0.1	0.07	Mallee	Sea Lake X: 671296 Y: 6066269 Wycheproof X: 701776Y: 6006599 Birchip X: 672424 Y: 6014523 Charlton X: 709784 Y: 5981935	Council	No	No
9	Watchem Oval Water Connection: **Sporting and recreation facilities**	Provide pipeline water connection to the Watchem Oval. Council will install asset and retain ownership of the asset, committee will maintain.	Community	$20,000	$20,000	04/22	06/243	0.1	0.05	Mallee	X: 667666 Y: 5997899	State/Territory	No	No
	Total	-	-	**$5,832,838846,828**	**$3,199,526**	-	-	**1.7**	**10.92243**	-		-		

Has the availability of funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program required you to hire additional Council staff?	Yes	Number
		1

#	* If project is not fully funded by LRCI, state details of Council or other contribution	** If Project Land or Asset Owner is not Council, please indicate nature of permission	If applicable, details of any recycled materials used on the project
1	Funding Applications with DJPR pending approval	In principle support received from DELWP for Sea Lake, Green Lake, Wooroonook Lake & Wycheproof, final consent to be issued once designs are finalised. All other sites are council owned.	
5	Funding received from DELWP VGO - Camping & Caravan Grants Round 1 2019-2020 $125,166. Buloke Shire Council contributing $6,000	DELWP Land Owners Consent required	
6	Funding received from DELWP VGO - Camping & Caravan Grants Round 1 2019-2020 $168,146. Buloke Shire Council contributing $8,000	DELWP Land Owners Consent required	
8		DELWP Land Owners Consent required at Charlton, to be requested after agreement with GWM Water is finalised. All other sites are council owned.	
9		DELWP Land Owners Consent required	

Commented [TR5]: Actual spend increased from origi estimate

Commented [TR6]: Actual spend decreased from orig estimate

Commented [TR7]: Costs adjusted accordingly

Commented [TR8]: Change in jobs supported due to project removal/addition

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Project Work Categories

Work Category	Description
General Road Maintenance	Pothole repairs, vegetation clearing, minor crack sealing and grading (unless new gravel is being added) are all considered to be general maintenance.
Construction of a new road	Construction of a road where no road existed on that alignment before.
Reconstruction	Rebuilding a road that already exists (can include upgrading)
Rehabilitation	Work to return a road to its original standard
Widening	Work to make the surface or pavement of a road wider
Sheeting / Re-sheeting	Where additional gravel etc. is added on top of an existing road
Sealing	Putting a seal on an unsealed road.
Resealing	Second or subsequent sealing of roads
Bridge works	Any work involving bridges or culverts
Tunnel works	A tunnel to enable the building an underground road
Drainage	Culverts, kerb and guttering and related activities where the purpose of the works is to improve drainage only.
Traffic improvement	Works involving traffic calming devices, traffic lights, pedestrian islands, lighting, warning signs and roundabouts
Street lighting equipment	Works related to vehicle traffic and pedestrian lighting
Closed Circuit TV (CCTV)	Works associated with installing a fixed mobile CCTV system
Bicycle and Walking Paths	Works involving cycling and pedestrian infrastructure
Painting/Improvements to community facilities	Community facilities include community centres, community halls, childcare centres, educational establishment, club houses, and entertainment facilities
Repairs/Replacement of fencing	Works relating to building a new fence or repairs/replacement of existing fences
Improved Accessibility of Community Facilities and Areas	Works could include pedestrian bridges, ramps, accessible public toilets, and designated car parking for individuals with a disability
Landscaping Improvements	Works could include tree planting to increase shade, creation of green spaces, and beautification of roundabouts
Picnic Shelters or Barbeque Facilities at Community Parks	Self-explanatory
Playgrounds and Skate parks (including all ability playgrounds)	Self-explanatory
Toilet Blocks	Works relating to construction or maintenance of public toilet block amenities
Replacement of Light Bulbs in Street Lights	Self-explanatory
Noise and Vibration Mitigation Measures	Works related to reducing and mitigating noise and vibrations, such as quieter pavement surfaces and noise barriers
Off-road Car Parks	Such as off-road car parks at sporting grounds or parks
Sporting and recreation facilities	Works to upgrade, repair or maintain sporting ovals, courts, swimming pools etc
Other	Works that do not fall into the above categories

8.2.4 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Department: Community Development ***File No:*** GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

PURPOSE

To present to Council the Community Grant applications recommended for funding under the Community Grants Program.

SUMMARY

Each year, Council allocates funds in the Annual Budget to support community initiatives that align with Council's priorities and vision as outlined in the Council Plan.

In the 2023-24 Annual Budget, Council allocated $20,000 to the **Community Grants Program** and $50,000 to the **Community Sustainability Grants Program**. The purpose of these programs are:

- **Community Grants** support the strengthening of the capacity and capability of local organisations, assist with the organisation and management of events, or help with the purchase of small capital items.

- **Sustainability Grants** assist projects that contribute to reducing the community's carbon footprint, improve the environment or effectively conserve resource usage.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the following allocation of funds under the Community Grants Program:

$2,000 ANZAC Precinct Part 2 (*The Watchem Development Association Inc - Auspice for the Watchem Progress Association)*

$475 Donald Learning Group improving assets for the community (*Donald Learning Group Inc)*

$1,000 Improving capacity to light up events (*Rex Theatre Museum Ltd)*

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

Three Community Grant applications have been received since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in April 2024.

As per the current Community Grant Guidelines, each application was assessed by an Assessment Panel. The Panel of three assessors consisted of one Council officer and two external consultants.

Based on their assessment against the selection criteria, the Panel recommends the following grants for Council's consideration and final decision on the budget allocations.

Project:	**ANZAC Precinct Part 2**
Organisation:	Watchem Development Assoc Inc - Auspice for Watchem Progress Assoc
Grant Type	Community Grant
Amount Applied:	$2,000
Funding Amount Rec:	$2,000
Full project cost:	$3,106
Project Description:	To complete Part 2 of the Watchem ANZAC Precinct by erecting a steel fence behind the current monument that will better define the precinct area.
Project Benefit:	The fence will be used as a backdrop to the ANZAC lettering by providing a structure that can be used to hang and/or attach relevant ANZAC decorations and other associated pieces such as red poppies and slouch hats. The additional feature to the precinct will reflect the importance of the ANZAC memorial to the Watchem community and bring about a sense of pride and remembrance.
Assessment Panel Scoring	Average Score = 13.0 out of 20. All members of the Assessment Panel recommended the '*ANZAC Precinct Part 2*' project be funded for the full amount requested ($2,000).

Project:	**Donald Learning Group improving assets for the community**
Organisation:	Donald Learning Group Inc
Grant Type	Community Grant
Amount Applied:	$475
Funding Amount Rec:	$475
Full project cost:	$949
Project Description:	To purchase a mobile whiteboard (188mmx900mm) to provide better facilities for user groups and teachers that access the Conference area.
Project Benefit:	A mobile whiteboard will increase the teaching and engagement methods of the Donald Community Centre user groups and visitors as well as improve the usage of the Conference area.
Assessment Panel Scoring	Average Score = 19.3 out of 20. All members of the Assessment Panel recommended the '*Donald Learning Group improving assets for the community*' project be funded for the full amount requested ($475).

Project:	**Improving capacity to light up events**
Organisation:	Rex Theatre Museum Ltd
Grant Type	Community Grant
Amount Applied:	$1,000
Funding Amount Rec:	$1,000
Full project cost:	$4,825
Project Description:	To purchase a DMX Lighting Controller to expand the venue's in-house capabilities of attracting, hosting and supporting theatrical presentations of multiple genres.
Project Benefit:	A DMX Lighting Controller will provide a more user-friendly approach by enabling a large number of light fixtures to be controlled via a single laptop. Diversity and creativity in lighting schedules can also be planned and pre-programmed; the scope of stage lighting can be greatly expanded and the technical potential would be more attractive to touring shows and headline artists.
Assessment Panel Scoring	Average Score = 18.6 out of 20. All members of the Assessment Panel recommended the '*Improving capacity to light up events*' project be funded for the full amount requested ($1,000).

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable to this report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not to allocate the funds as recommended by the Assessment Panel however, such amendments to the proposed funding recommendations may undermine the integrity and fairness of the assessment process.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Applicants were contacted by either a Council officer and/or an external consultant if their application required additional information or clarification.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The allocation of funds for the three applications recommended for funding will come from the Community Grants budget ($20,000) in Council's Annual Budget 2023-24.

There is currently $12,000 remaining in the adopted Community Grants budget and $40,000 in the Community Sustainability Grants budget for the 2023-24 financial year.

Community Grants and Sponsorship 2023-2024

Organisation	Type	Amount in application	Recommended	Granted by Council
Charlton Neighbourhood House Incorporated	Project Support	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Birchip Community Forum Inc.	Project Support	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Charlton Forum Inc.	Project Support	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Charlton RSL Sub-Branch	Project Support	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Totals		**$8,000**	**$8,000**	**$8,000**

Community Sustainability Grants 2023-2024

Organisation	Type	Amount in application	Recommended	Granted by Council
Donald Golf & Bowls Club Incorporated	Community Sustainability Grant	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Totals		**$10,000**	**$10,000**	**$10,000**

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 and Long-Term Community Vision.
Community Grant Guidelines.
Community Engagement Policy.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

I, Travis Fitzgibbon, have no conflicts of interest to disclose in relation to this report.

All members of the Assessment Panel have no conflict of interest to disclose in relation to their recommendations or this report.

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.3.1 FINANCE REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Author's Title: Acting Manager Finance

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance ***File No:*** FM/19/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

To present to the Council the financial reports for the period ending 31 March 2024.

SUMMARY

The year-end surplus in the 2023/24 adopted budget was $6.2M. The current forecasted year-end surplus for the financial year is $927K, anticipating significant capital project delays impacting capital grant income recognition.

The Actuals vs. Approved (Budget) reporting year-to-date includes timing variances which relate to the months in which the income or expenditure is incurred. Timing differences are anticipated to be resolved throughout the financial year and are not expected to impact the Full Year Forecast result. As at 31 March 2024, Council has achieved an actual deficit of $4.7M which is less than the year-to-date budget for this period.

Further discussion around non-timing variances in financial reports is outlined below.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Financial Performance Report for the period ending 31 March 2024; and
2. Receives and notes the Capital Works Statement for the period ending 31 March 2024, consisting of the carry forward projects and current financial year capital projects.

Attachments:

1. Financial Statements March 2024
2. Capital Projects
3. Capex - March 2024 Carry Forwards

DISCUSSION

Report:	Report explanation:	Year to date (YTD) performance to budget and forecast commentary
Income Statement	*The **Income Statement** provides a summary of the total income and total expenditure relating to Council's annual operations for the reporting period.* *Capital grant income is included in this statement, but any related expenditure is not reflected as this is reported as increased assets on the Balance Sheet. To exclude potential distortion of underlying operations in the Income Statement, capital income is reported separately to identify the Operating Net Surplus/(Deficit).*	**Rates & charges** Unfavourable variance of $40K YTD, mainly due to supplementary rates – rural resulting in a decrease in rates. Full year forecast has been varied upward slightly to $14.98M. **Statutory fees and fines** Unfavourable variance of $13K YTD, mainly due to lower than anticipated permit applications. Full year forecast has been varied downward slightly to $209K. **User fees** Unfavourable variance of $110K YTD, mainly due to HACC Services ceasing in January 2024 therefore invoices have not been raised to HACC clients. Full year forecast has been varied downward to $639K to reflect this change. **Grants – operating** Unfavourable variance of $1.9M YTD, mainly due to the HACC grant funding ceasing as at January 2024. Full year forecast has been varied downward to $7.3M to reflect this change. **Contributions** Unfavourable variance of $73K YTD, mainly due to the State Revenue Office contribution $43K for the Fire Services Levy. Upon completion of the final Fire Services Levy reconciliation, the contribution will be paid to Council. **Other income** Favourable variance of $428K YTD, mainly due to the unbudgeted receipt of funds relating to native vegetation works which Council will conduct on behalf of the Department of Transport, Interest on Investments of $347K. Full year forecast has been varied upward to $1.9M to reflect Interest on Investments and other reimbursements relating to WorkCover insurance. **Employee costs** Unfavourable variance of $149K YTD, mainly due to the EBA negotiations and processing of the Back Pay. Full year forecast has been varied upward to $11.49M to reflect the processing of the Back Pay and the ceasing of the HACC Service. **Materials and services** Favourable variance of $275K YTD, mainly due to the procurement timing of several budgeted operational projects. Full year forecast has been varied downward to $10.5M, which is a $900k forecast underspend. This is

Income Statement (Continued)	*Prescribed expenditure of **Capital Income** is not included in the Income Statement, and this can distort the analysis of the financial performance which is better reflected by the Operating Net Surplus /(Deficit).* *Capital expenditure against capital grant income is provided in the Capital Work Program report and as additional assets on the balance sheet.*	mainly related to flood recovery expenditure, and the recognition of operating expenditure that was originally treated as capital expenditure. **Depreciation & amortisation** Unfavourable variance of $375K YTD, mainly relating to variances in budget estimates. Full year forecast has been varied upward and will continue to be reviewed particularly in relation to asset purchases which are below the $5,000 asset capitalisation threshold for plant and equipment. **Bad and doubtful debts/Borrowing costs** Traditionally these expense accounts will see actuals in the second half of the financial year. **Other expenses** Favourable variance of $357K YTD, mainly due to the timing of community contributions $339K for example Recreation Reserve Contribution $242K and Project Sustainability contributions $74K. Full year forecast has been varied upward slightly to $849K, mainly due to unbudgeted association membership costs. **Capital income** Capital grants are currently forecast to $7.8M reflecting grant income to be received during the financial year. This also reflects the capital works program carried forward works to 2024/25. Full year forecast for Other Capital Income has been varied upward by $41K due to the Nullawil Streetscape contribution. Full year forecast for Profit/(Loss) Disposal of Assets has been varied upward by $43K due to the sale of multiple Council owned vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life.
Balance Sheet	*The **Balance Sheet** summarises the value of Assets (what Council owns) and our Liabilities (what Council owes), and the difference between assets and liabilities (Net Assets or Equity) reflects Council's net worth as at the end of the month reported.*	**Cash and cash equivalents** Cash balances (incl. investments) are at $36M, which is a $4.1M decrease since 30 June 2023. This is mainly due to the payment of 30 June 2023 creditor balances, resulting in a decrease in Trade and other payables liability. **Trade and other receivables** Rates debtors are the main contributor to the $266K increase in Trade and other receivables, resulting from annual rates notices being generated and sent. **Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment** There has been a $887K decrease in this area since 30 June 2023, mainly relating to depreciation of assets which partially offsets capital expenditure year-to-date. **Trade and other payables** There has been a $1.8M decrease since 30 June 2023, mainly

		due to the volume of creditor payments which occurs prior to end of financial year. **Trust funds and deposits** There has been a $1.1M increase since 30 June 2023, mainly due to the fire services levy amounts which are held on behalf of the State Revenue Office (SRO) when rates notices are initially generated. This is then paid to the SRO on a quarterly basis. **Provisions** There has been a $417K decrease since 30 June 2023, mainly due to the HACC redundancy provision to offset salaries paid out.
Cashflow Statement	*The **Cashflow Statement** reflects actual results for the reporting period in line with statutory financial reporting.*	There has been $5.75M used to support the capital works program as at 31 March 2024. Overall, there has been a reduction in cash of $4.1M since 30 June 2023.
Cashflow Forecast	*The **Cashflow Chart** visually depicts the cashflow forecast and the updated format is illustrated in a dual design, based on best practice reporting.* *The **P & L Forecast** is a projection of cashflow for the remainder of the year based on the month-end cash balance, the monthly budgets, specified timing parameters (such when BAS/super are due and quarterly rate receipts) and capital expenditure.*	Timing assumptions have been made regarding capital project income and expenditure for 2023/24. While this is still being confirmed in accordance with capital project delivery, all income and expenditure is reported in June 2024 by default unless otherwise specified. The cashflow forecast across the 12 months results in an increase of approximately $5.7M. This is however highly dependent on decisions that will be made around the timing of the Financial Assistance Grants, expected in May/June 2024.
Capital Works Program	*The **Capital Works Statement** lists the expenditure for each project incurred to date.*	**The total capital works program for 2023/24 is $24.3M,** which includes: • 2022/23 carry forward project budget $10.7M • 2022/23 night art activation project, originally listed as a carry forward $0.4M • 2023/24 budgeted capital projects $13.2M The total delivery as at 31 March 2024 was $5.83M, representing 24% of the total capital works program including carry forwards. A number of large value capital projects are currently in early procurement stages and it is expected that much progress will occur in the June 2024 quarter with known carry forward projects also included in the 2024/25 Budget.

RELEVANT LAW

This report is consistent with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Council adopted its Annual Budget 2023/24 on the 27 June 2023.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

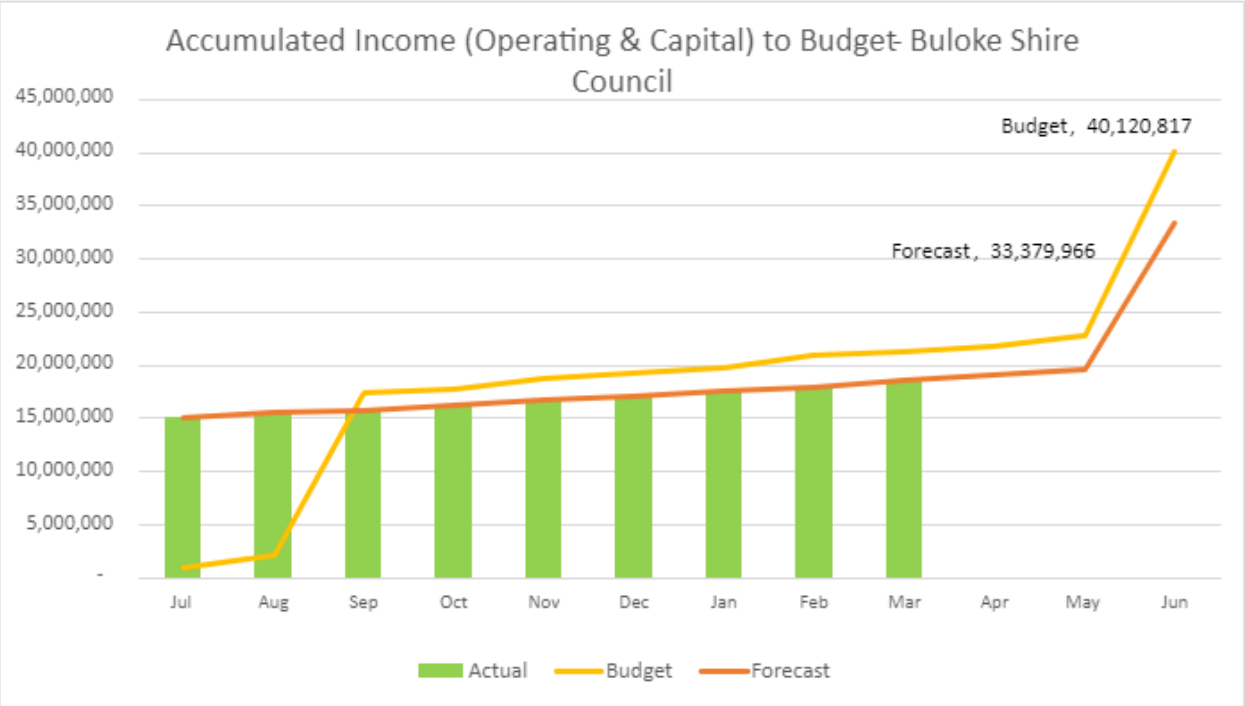
Not applicable.

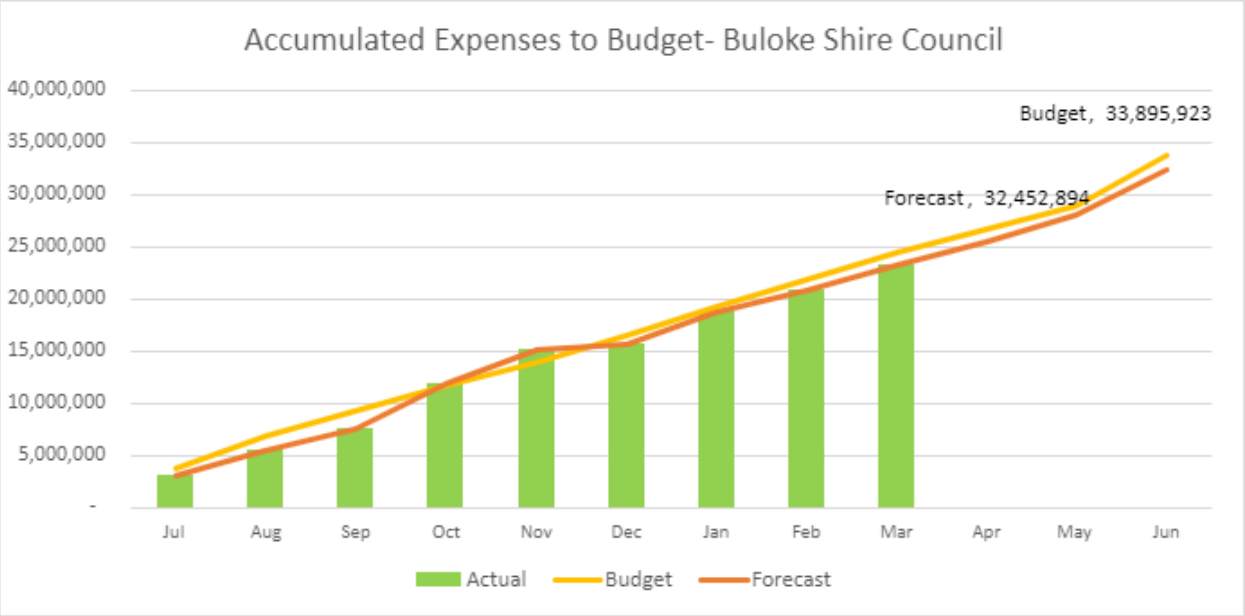
COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The tables below provide an overview of Council's financial performance against Adopted budget income and expenses at 31 March 2024.





REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council adopted its Annual Budget 2023/24 on the 27 June 2023. The Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 outlines Council's commitment to developing responsible cash flow budgets to achieve long term financial sustainability and reporting quarterly against their delivery.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Financial reporting ensures the Council and the Buloke community are aware of financial implications of decisions and actions. Reporting Council's financial position allows the Council to monitor and respond to financial risk.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

Income Statement — Buloke Shire Council

MONTH: MAR 2024

	Jul 2023 - Mar 2024			Full Year Budget		
	Actuals	Approved	Variance	Approved	Forecast	Variance
Operating Income						
Rates & Charges	14,958,574	14,998,657	(40,083)	15,018,657	14,978,574	(40,083)
Statutory fees and fines	177,376	190,825	(13,449)	240,865	208,909	(31,955)
User fees	411,012	521,122	(110,110)	813,596	639,412	(174,184)
Grants - operating	1,737,062	3,696,693	(1,959,631)	9,747,461	7,279,092	(2,468,369)
Contributions	990	74,116	(73,126)	74,416	44,506	(29,910)
Other Income	1,032,964	604,655	428,309	814,540	1,883,579	1,069,039
Total Operating Income	**18,317,978**	**20,086,068**	**(1,768,090)**	**26,709,535**	**25,034,073**	(1,675,462)
Total Income	**18,317,978**	**20,086,068**	**(1,768,090)**	**26,709,535**	**25,034,073**	(1,675,462)
Operating Expense						
Employee Costs	8,881,601	9,030,525	148,923	11,660,465	11,488,016	172,449
Materials and services	7,344,227	7,619,620	275,393	11,414,390	10,516,958	897,432
Depreciation & Amortisation (Leasing)	6,724,199	7,099,621	375,421	9,862,298	9,486,733	375,565
Bad and doubtful debts	2,946	0	(2,946)	78,000	80,946	(2,946)
Borrowing costs	0	0	0	32,995	32,995	0
Other expenses	355,218	712,845	357,627	847,773	849,642	(1,868)
Total Operating Expense	**23,308,192**	**24,462,611**	**1,154,419**	**33,895,923**	**32,455,290**	1,440,632
Operating Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**(4,990,214)**	**(4,376,543)**	**(613,671)**	**(7,186,388)**	**(7,421,218)**	(234,830)
Capital Income						
Grants - capital	199,154	1,200,000	(1,000,846)	12,946,256	7,799,154	(5,147,102)
Other Capital Income	41,309	0	41,309	465,026	506,335	41,309
Net Profit/(Loss) disposal of PIPE	42,800	0	42,800	0	42,800	42,800
Total Capital Income	**283,263**	**1,200,000**	**(916,737)**	**13,411,282**	**8,348,289**	(5,062,993)
Net Surplus/Deficit	**(4,706,952)**	**(3,176,543)**	**(1,530,409)**	**6,224,894**	**927,071**	(5,297,823)

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

Balance Sheet — Buloke Shire Council

MAR 2024

	Mar 2024	Jun 2023	Variance	% Variance
Asset				
Current assets	**42,773,987**	**47,131,361**	**(4,357,375)**	**(9%)**
Cash and cash equivalents	36,194,125	40,320,373	(4,126,248)	(10%)
Trade and other receivables	5,871,106	5,604,854	266,252	5%
Inventories	260,322	181,298	79,024	44%
Prepayments	95,281	315,633	(220,352)	(70%)
Other assets	164,542	387,184	(222,642)	(58%)
GST	188,611	322,019	(133,408)	(41%)
Non-current assets	**300,066,087**	**300,954,776**	**(888,689)**	**0%**
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	300,066,087	300,954,776	(888,689)	0%
Right of Use Assets	976,279	976,279	0	0%
Total Asset	**343,816,352**	**349,062,416**	**(5,246,064)**	**(2%)**
Liability				
Current liabilities	**13,154,935**	**13,277,406**	**122,471**	**1%**
Trade and other payables	1,313,830	3,159,804	1,845,973	58%
Trust funds and deposits	1,418,903	344,100	(1,074,803)	(312%)
Unearned Income	6,878,283	5,796,618	(1,081,665)	(19%)
Provisions	3,609,096	3,681,977	72,881	2%
Leases	(65,318)	283,669	348,986	123%
PO Accrual	141	11,239	11,098	99%
Non-current liabilities	**1,246,830**	**1,663,471**	**416,641**	**25%**
Leases	701,028	701,028	0	0%
Provisions	545,802	962,443	416,641	43%
Total Liability	**14,401,765**	**14,940,877**	**539,112**	**4%**
Net Assets	**329,414,587**	**334,121,538**	**(4,706,952)**	**(1%)**
Equity				

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

	Mar 2024	Jun 2023	Variance	% Variance
Accumulated Surplus	129,611,435	120,561,909	9,049,526	8%
Reserves	204,510,104	204,510,104	0	0%
Current Earnings	(4,706,952)	9,049,526	(13,756,477)	(152%)
Total Equity	**329,414,587**	**334,121,538**	**(4,706,952)**	**(1%)**

Cashflow Statement — Buloke Shire Council

JUL 2023 - MAR 2024

	Jul 2023 - Mar 2024
	Actuals
Bank at Beginning	**40,316,932**
Cashflow from Operating Activities:	
Net Profit	**(4,706,952)**
Adjustments to Net Profit for Non-Cash Activities:	
Non - Cash expenses	**6,724,199**
Depreciation	6,724,199
Total Adjustments to Net Profit for Non-Cash Activities	**6,724,199**
Adjustments to Net Profit for Non-Operating Activities:	
Operating Activities	**(42,800)**
Cash Inflows - Operational Income	(42,800)
Total Adjustments to Net Profit for Non-Operating Activities	**(42,800)**
Adjustments for Balance Sheet Movement on Operating Activities:	
Current assets	**234,526**
Cash and cash equivalents	3,399
Trade and other receivables	(266,252)
Inventories	(79,024)
Prepayments	220,352
Other assets	222,642
GST	133,408
Current liabilities	**(122,424)**
Trade and other payables	(1,845,927)
Trust funds and deposits	1,074,803
Unearned Income	1,081,665
Provisions	(72,881)

Leases	(348,986)
PO Accrual	(11,098)
Non-current liabilities	**(416,641)**
Provisions	(416,641)
Total Adjustments for Balance Sheet Movement on Operating Activities	**(304,540)**
Net Cashflow from Operating Activities	**1,669,908**

Cashflow from Investing Activities:

Operating Activities	**42,800**
Cash Inflows - Operational Income	42,800
Non-current assets	**(5,751,299)**
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(5,751,299)
Net Cashflow from Investing Activities	**(5,708,499)**

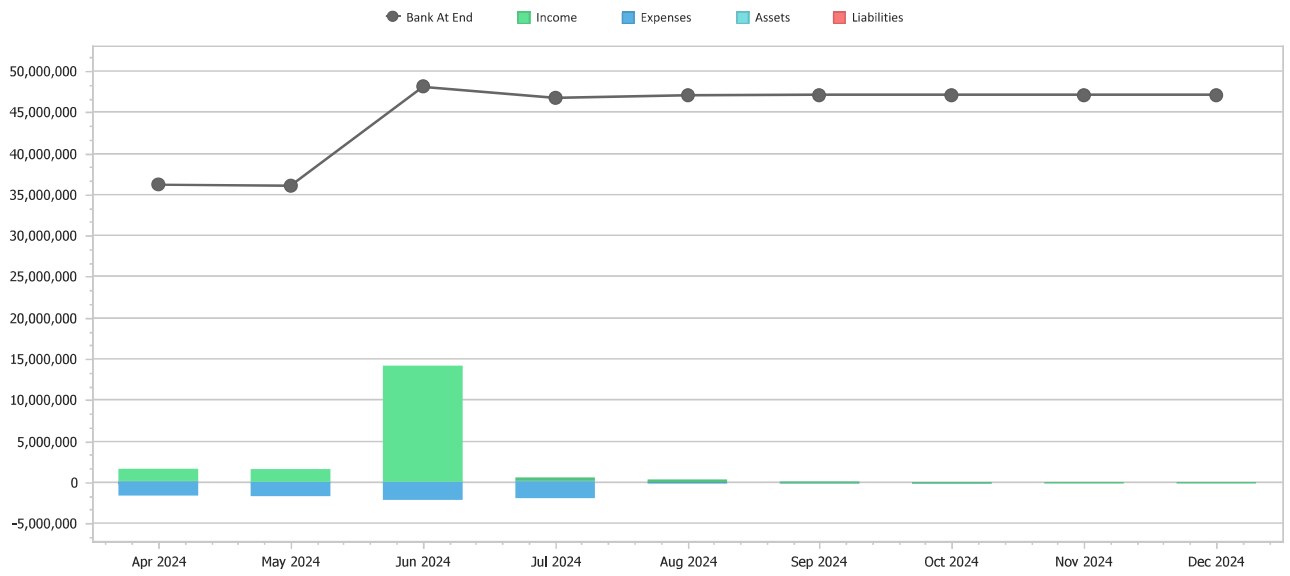
Cashflow from Financing Activities:

Current liabilities	**(47)**
Trade and other payables	(47)
Net Cashflow from Financing Activities	**(47)**

Net Cashflows	**(4,038,637)**
Discrepancy	**(84,211)**
Bank at End	**36,194,083**

Cashflow Chart — Buloke Shire Council

APR 2024 — DEC 2024



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

19/04/2024 05:19

Page 1 of 1

P & L Forecast - Chart input — Buloke Shire Council

JUL 2023 - JUN 2024

	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Projected Total
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
400 · Income													
Total Income	**15,044,353**	**479,520**	**303,082**	**481,684**	**498,112**	**300,029**	**495,232**	**262,123**	**737,105**	**479,481**	**518,202**	**13,781,043**	**33,379,967**
Gross Profit	**15,044,353**	**479,520**	**303,082**	**481,684**	**498,112**	**300,029**	**495,232**	**262,123**	**737,105**	**479,481**	**518,202**	**13,781,043**	**33,379,967**
600 · Expense													
Total Expense	**3,064,461**	**2,471,713**	**2,080,006**	**4,382,017**	**3,150,023**	**648,385**	**2,984,610**	**2,055,577**	**2,471,399**	**2,289,901**	**2,522,263**	**4,332,539**	**32,452,896**
Operating Profit	**11,979,892**	**(1,992,193)**	**(1,776,924)**	**(3,900,333)**	**(2,651,911)**	**(348,356)**	**(2,489,378)**	**(1,793,453)**	**(1,734,294)**	**(1,810,420)**	**(2,004,061)**	**9,448,504**	**927,071**
Net Profit	**11,979,892**	**(1,992,193)**	**(1,776,924)**	**(3,900,333)**	**(2,651,911)**	**(348,356)**	**(2,489,378)**	**(1,793,453)**	**(1,734,294)**	**(1,810,420)**	**(2,004,061)**	**9,448,504**	**927,071**

Business Unit(s)	Buloke Shire Council
Budget Version	Q3 FORECAST
Account Tree	BSC - Bal Sheet
Account Types	Income, Cost of Sales, Expense, Other Income, Other Expense

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL
CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT - 2023/24 Capital Projects (excl. Carry Forwards)
July to March 2024

Row Labels	Carry Forward (negative - to reduce budget)	2023/24 Approved Budget	Total Budget + Carry Forward	YTD Actual Expenditure	YTD Remaining Budget
Drainage	**-**	**289,175**	**289,175**	**26,484**	**262,691**
Drainage Works	-	269,175	269,175	16,379	252,796
Kaye St Rehabilitation design	-	20,000	20,000	10,105	9,895
Footpaths and cycleways	**-**	**60,000**	**60,000**	**-**	**60,000**
Footpaths & Crossovers	-	60,000	60,000	-	60,000
Land improvements	**- 21,680**	**629,725**	**608,045**	**175,939**	**432,107**
Dog Pound Fence, Wycheproof Depot	-	28,500	28,500	-	28,500
Night Art Activation	- 4,074	361,225	357,151	174,734	182,418
Transfer Station (Glass Out)	- 17,606	200,000	182,394	1,205	181,189
Wycheproof saleyards rural water connection	-	40,000	40,000	-	40,000
Opex	**-**	**-**	**-**	**30,042**	**- 30,042**
Donald Stadium water supply upgrade	-	-	-	1,500	- 1,500
Berriwillock bowling club surface repairs	-	-	-	649	- 649
Birchip Recreation Reserve Masterplan	-	-	-	3,650	- 3,650
Birchip Town Centre	-	-	-	-	-
Donald pre-fabricated levee	-	-	-	9,010	- 9,010
Wycheproof Library	-		-	15,233	- 15,233
Other infrastructure	**-**	**200,000**	**200,000**	**-**	**200,000**
Town entry signage	-	200,000	200,000	-	200,000
Parks, open space and streetscapes	**- 114,347**	**6,424,045**	**6,309,698**	**1,040,949**	**5,268,749**
Birchip Netball court 2 remediation	-	20,000	20,000	3,567	16,433
Birchip Streetscape lighting	-	199,064	199,064	-	199,064
Buloke Playspaces		1,743,755	1,743,755	-	1,743,755
Donald memorial park Changing Places	-	383,097	383,097	7,068	376,029
Donald tennis court synthetic resurfacing	-	53,500	53,500	48,383	5,117
Public showers automatic timers	-	24,771	24,771	19,019	5,752
Raise Nullawil toilet block	-	34,313	34,313	-	34,313
Sea Lake apex park shelter	-	38,287	38,287	19,326	18,961
Sea lake streetscape lighting	-	206,223	206,223	4,805	201,418
Swimming pool improvements	-	40,000	40,000	-	40,000
Wooroonook Septic replacement	-	300,000	300,000	-	300,000
Wyche Wetlands	-	310,270	310,270	-	310,270
Wycheproof recreation reserve public toilets	-	100,000	100,000	8,993	91,007
Cabins	- 114,347	2,970,765	2,856,418	929,789	1,926,628
Plant and equipment	**-**	**1,275,000**	**1,275,000**	**136,983**	**1,138,017**
Computers and telecommunications	-	183,000	183,000	69,698	113,302
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	65,000	65,000	-	65,000
Library books	-	27,000	27,000	3,899	23,101
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	63,387	936,614
Recreational leisure and communities facilities	**-**	**550,000**	**550,000**	**4,725**	**545,275**
Sports ground lighting	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
Wycheproof Recreation reserve multi-sport change facility	-	500,000	500,000	4,725	495,275
Roads	**-**	**4,149,000**	**4,149,000**	**663,365**	**3,485,635**
Grain Receival Access: Donald	-	100,000	100,000	3,250	96,750
Grain Receival Access: Nandaly	-	100,000	100,000	3,633	96,367
Grain Receival Access: Wycheproof	-	100,000	100,000	3,440	96,560
Major Patching	-	100,000	100,000	-	100,000
Rehabilitation	-	1,900,000	1,900,000	-	1,900,000
Rehabilitation R2R	-	-	-	460,855	- 460,855
Reseal Program	-	1,200,000	1,200,000	-	1,200,000
Resheet Program	-	649,000	649,000	192,187	456,813
Grand Total	**- 136,027**	**13,576,945**	**13,440,918**	**2,078,487**	**11,362,431**

Night Art Activation - Not included on final carry forward list, listed as new instead (above)	361,225
2022/23 Carry Forward Capital Projects	**10,677,168**
2023/24 Approved Capital Projects	**13,440,918**
Total Capital Works Program 2023/24 + 2022/23 Carry Forwards	**24,118,086**

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL
CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT - Carry Forwards Only
July to March 2024

Projects	Carry Forward Budget 2022/23	YTD Actual Expenditure	YTD Remaining budget
Aerodromes	**23,324**	**3,059**	**20,265**
Aerodrome Water Connections	23,324	3,059	20,265
Building improvements	**70,982**	**78,903**	**- 7,921**
Donald Community Precinct Stage 2	10,557	7,955	2,602
Litchfield Hall ceiling lining, lighting & solar	60,425	70,611	- 10,186
Watchem Hall Enterance	-	336	- 336
Drainage	**732,600**	**3,513**	**729,087**
Birchip Oval Drainage	59,323	-	59,323
Drainage Plans	390,651	3,320	387,331
Nullawil - West/East drainage (Calder Hwy Pipeworks)	282,626	192	282,433
Footpaths and cycleways	**808,790**	**208,976**	**599,814**
Crossovers	243,918	33,627	210,291
Footpaths	564,872	175,349	389,523
Land	**332,942**	**34,273**	**298,669**
Sea Lake Housing Development	332,942	34,273	298,669
Land improvements	**61,668**	**81,758**	**- 20,090**
Nullawil Silo Art Carpark	41,264	40,857	408
Wycheproof Saleyards Masterplan Implementation	20,404	40,901	- 20,498
Parks, open space and streetscapes	**1,855,207**	**648,245**	**1,206,961**
Birchip Streetscapes	-	7,462	- 7,462
Charlton Streetscapes	-	9,059	- 9,059
Donald Streetscapes	551,566	136,382	415,183
Sea Lake Streetscapes	402,600	154,655	247,945
Wyche Wetlands	901,041	327,090	573,951
Wycheproof Streetscapes	-	13,597	- 13,597
Recreational leisure and communities facilities	**2,679,938**	**2,097,568**	**582,371**
Berriwillock Pool Fence Replacement	21,882	21,845	37
Buloke Playspaces Trail: Berriwillock	284,111	273,028	11,084
Buloke Playspaces Trail: Birchip	628,456	377,146	251,310
Buloke Playspaces Trail: Charlton	464,405	41,327	423,078
Buloke Playspaces Trail: Donald	265,680	408,250	- 142,570
Buloke Playspaces Trail: Wycheproof	259,987	258,338	1,649
Charlton Riverfront	40,399	4,028	36,371
Culgoa Dump Point (Septic Upgrade)	52,154	3,709	48,445
Donald caravan Park cabins	107,018	131,471	- 24,453
Donald Riverfront	65,787	115	65,672
Lake Tyrell	19,892	-	19,892
LUB Birchip Football Oval	362,866	411,869	- 49,003
Tchum Lakes Septic Works	-	3,118	- 3,118
Watchem Oval Water Connection	4,223	1,147	3,076
Watchem Toilet Lake Remediation	-	8,943	- 8,943
Wooroonook Lakes Camping Ground	68,383	12,185	56,198
Wycheproof Caravan Park	34,695	141,049	- 106,354
Roads	**4,111,717**	**599,307**	**3,512,410**
Berriwillock Birchip Rd Rehab and Final Seal	569,432	-	569,432
Boundary Street Birchip Seal	14,056	-	14,056
Jeffcott Road Rehabilitation	350,000	-	350,000
Marlbed Curyo Rehab Ch0 to 1.075km	453,754	271,740	182,015
McLoughlan Road (Ch 7.350 to Ch 9 kms)	252,935	144	252,790
McLoughlan Road Rehabilitation Ch9.000km to Ch10.730km	211,875	14,644	197,231
Nullawil-Birchip Final Seal	131,806	177,661	- 45,854
Nullawil-Birchip Road Rehab Ch21.910 to 23.760 1.85km	754,800	-	754,800
Reseal Program (R2R)	68,634	22,874	45,760
Resheet Program	385,574	112,244	273,330
Sea Lake - Lascelles Road Final Seal (Ch 9.915 - Ch 11.32 kms)	68,000	-	68,000
Traynors Lagoon Rd Rehab Ch1.855 to 2.950km 1.095km	17,735	-	17,735
Watchem-Corack Rd Rehab Ch3.560 to 4.785km 1.225km	23,795	-	23,795
Wedderburn Buckrabanyule Road Design	29,891	-	29,891
Wilkur Watchupga Road Ch29.26km - Ch31.06km	779,429	-	779,429
Grand Total	**10,677,168**	**3,755,601**	**6,921,567**

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 - YEAR 3 ANNUAL PLAN REVIEW

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Department: Community Development ***File No:*** CM/13/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on the actions taken against the Council Plan 2021-2025 - Year 3 Annual Plan.

SUMMARY

Council at its 16 June 2021 Meeting adopted its Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 and subsequently developed an Annual Plan for the implementation of the strategic objectives in each subsequent financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the progress made to deliver the strategic objectives noted in the Year 3 Annual Plan for the Buloke Council Plan 2021-2025.

Attachments: 1 ⇩Year 3 Annual Plan for the Buloke Council Plan 2021-2025

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Annual Plans is for Council to develop a series of actions, projects, programs and initiatives, to achieve the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Council receives progress reports against the Year 3 Annual Plan throughout the financial year. The report outlines delivery against the Annual Plan, and the overarching Council Plan 2021-2025.

Some of the key actions are:

- Development and adoption of a Buloke Aquatic Strategy
- Completion of construction of Playspaces for Berriwillock, Donald, and Wycheproof
- Preparation of Buloke Drainage Plans
- Preparation of Community Plans
- Recreation Reserve Planning projects for Birchip, Donald, and Sea Lake
- Development and adoption of an Integrated Community Planning Framework
- Development and adoption of the Children, Youth and Families Strategy
- Delivery of Silo Art Night Activation
- Delivery of the Safer Together Program

RELEVANT LAW

The Annual Plan forms part of the review of the Council Plan, required under the *Local Government Act* 2020.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This item responds directly to the adoption of the Year 3 Annual Plan on 9 August 2023 and noting of progress against the plan on 8 November 2023 and 14 February 2024.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was significant consultation undertaken in the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025, which is the basis of this document. Further actions have been developed through consultation with the community over the past two years. Many of the actions have a high level of community engagement.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Reporting on the delivery of strategic objectives ensures continuous improvement and accountability to the community.

COLLABORATION

Many actions achieved in the Annual Plan rely upon the collaboration of other Councils and key peak bodies, local stakeholder groups and the community.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The items listed in the Annual Plan have been factored into the Annual Budget, which is reported on regularly.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report responds directly to the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the adopted Annual Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The adoption of regular reporting on the Annual Plan provides strong transparency to the community regarding the key focus areas of Council over the 2023/24 year and how Council is tracking against those actions.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No staff member involved in the compilation of this report has a conflict of interest to declare.

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025

Annual Plan - Year 3 - Periodic Report

Priority 1:
Our Built and Natural Environment.

The Vision: Our future Buloke has quality, safe and accessible infrastructure valued by and responsive to the community alongside attractive streetscapes and a protected and celebrated natural environment reflecting Buloke pride.

Initiative	Council Plan Relevance	Measure	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Strategy	1.1 Work Towards Sustainability	Funding sought to continue the implementation of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Strategy.	**June 2024**	**Commenced**	Working with the CVGA with an eye to the Federal Government's $100 million Community Energy Upgrades Fund and the Regional Greenhouse Alliance Neighbourhood Battery Investigation.
Community-based Solar Bulk-Buy Initiatives	1.1 Work Towards Sustainability	Support community groups to purchase and implement solar initiatives through the Community Sustainability Grants Program and other external funding sources and programs.	**June 2024**	**Commenced**	Council is transitioning its community grant streams to the Smarty Grants platform. A review of the Community Grants Guidelines and Program is required to better support the community in accessing the Community Sustainability Grants Program pool.

Rural Land Use Strategy	1.2 Suitable Housing Options	Continue to investigate a Buloke Shire Rural Land Use Strategy to provide strategic direction and a consistent approach to use and development of rural land for rural-style living.	**June 2024**	**Commenced**	Councillors have undertaken a workshop with the consultant as this priority progresses. Community Consultation to be undertaken in short term. In September last year, a Notice of Motion was moved to write to the Minister for Planning in relation to the impacts of a Windfall Gains Tax on small rural communities. Council's Planning Scheme Review Report was noted at the April Meeting of Council after community consultation.
Housing and Development Incentives	1.2 Suitable Housing Options	Implement New Housing Rates Incentive Program.	**June 2024**	**Commenced**	A preliminary assessment was made during the 2023/24 budget development process and will be further developed for Council consideration.
Buloke Drainage Plans	1.3 An Attractive and Well Maintained Buloke	Revisit preparation of Buloke Drainage Plans and associated flood modelling in partnership with Catchment Management Authorities.	**June 2024**	**Commenced** **multi-year*	MCMA were successful in their application to the risk and resilience fund. BSC has applied to the Disaster Ready Fund in collaboration with NCCMA for remaining LiDAR. LiDAR survey may take up to 12 months to complete. Project for DAMP and drainage plan development not

					fully scoped and on hold until LiDAR survey details available.
Streetscape Upgrades	1.3 An Attractive and Well Maintained Buloke	Complete Streetscape upgrades in Donald and Sea Lake.	**June 2024**	**Commenced** **Donald PC FY25*	Sea Lake to be completed pending resolution of contract. Donald will have some components which are anticipated to be carried forward to FY25 – specifically non-slip treatment. Project Advisory Group advised and agreed with proposed delay. Dja Dja Wurrung engaged to complete mural; laneway upgrade with footpath, lighting, etc. EV charger installed. Replacement of trees to be finalised.
Buloke Playspaces Trail	1.3 An Attractive and Well Maintained Buloke	Complete Construction of Playspaces for Berriwillock, Donald, and Wycheproof.	**June 2024**	**Commenced** **multi-year* **additional scope (LRCI) FY25 pending budget discussions*	Original funded scope to be completed FY24; additional scope (lighting all sites, and shade structures Wyche) not in funded project and proposed additional work – pending FY25 budget discussion outcomes these components will be completed FY25
Key Heavy Road Upgrades	1.4 A Safe and Active Buloke	Complete Key Heavy Road upgrade projects including Marlbed-Curyo Road and Jeffcott Road.	**June 2024**	**Commenced**	Marlbed- Curyo Road works underway, ready for seal. Jeffcott Road delayed until after resheet program is complete. Final seals will be applied in FY25.

Road Services Internal Service Review	1.4 A Safe and Active Buloke	Road Services Internal Service Review completed with report to Councillor briefing.	**June 2024**	**Completed**	Briefing with Councillors held in November 2023.
Buloke Shire Council Aquatic Strategy	1.4 A Safe and Active Buloke	Develop and adopt Buloke Shire Council Aquatic Strategy.	**September 2024**	**Delayed**	Previous strategy and process reviewed; new RFQ document collation paused. Significant OHS and plant/equipment services reviews have been undertaken as priority works to prepare for and deliver pool season. Condition Assessments and review and update of Lifeguard Manuals prioritised.
Birchip Recreation Reserve Masterplan	1.4 A Safe and Active Buloke	Complete Birchip Recreation Reserve Masterplan.	**June 2024**	**Nearing Completion**	This process is progressing well but will now be finalised in June.
Donald Recreation Reserve Masterplan	1.4 A Safe and Active Buloke	Complete Project Plan for Donald Recreation Reserve Masterplan ahead of Plan development in 2024/25.	**December 2024**	**Commenced Delayed**	Recreation allocations have been subjected to a more transparent governance process to adhere to the *Local Government Act* 2020. This process has taken priority ahead of the master planning process advancement.
Sea Lake Recreation Reserve Masterplan	1.4 A Safe and Active Buloke	Complete Project Plan for Sea Lake Recreation Reserve Masterplan ahead of Plan development in 2024/25.	**December 2024**	**Commenced Delayed**	Recreation allocations have been subjected to a more transparent governance process to adhere to the *Local Government Act* 2020. This process has taken priority

					ahead of the master planning process advancement.

Priority 2:
Our Community Wellbeing.

The Vision: Our future Buloke is a welcoming, well-connected and inclusive community built around social connections for all age groups and backgrounds and access to, as well as ongoing advocacy for, vital services.

Initiative	Council Plan Relevance	Measure	Timeframe	Status	Comments
VicHealth Local Government Partnership	2.1 Partnerships to Outcomes	VicHealth Local Government Partnership Project Year 3 delivered.	**June 2024**	**Ongoing**	VicHealth Local Government Partnership Project is ongoing with funding received to extend the program and employment of Council's Youth Officer. Year 3 delivery modules on track.
Land Use Activity Agreements	2.2 Inclusiveness Plan in Action	Achievement of Land Use Activity Agreements for the Donald Playspace Project and Flood Initiatives.	**June 2024**	**Commenced** **LUAA projects/initiatives multi-year*	LUAA for Donald Playspace finalised – works/projects under LUAA ongoing; LUAA requirements for Donald prefab levee to be determined (likely alteration to existing CHMP required given funding success).
Gender Equality Action Plan	2.2 Inclusiveness Plan in Action	Submit Gender Equality Action Plan Progress Report to the Commissioner for Gender Equality.	**20 February 2024**	**Completed**	Reporting to the Commissioner for Gender Equality was completed in February 2024.

Library Services Review	2.3 Well Supported Community	Undertake Library Service Review and develop subsequent Library Service Plan.	**November 2024**	**Commenced Delayed**	Initial internal review of policies and procedures being undertaken, RFQ document being drafted. Changes in funding to Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) new trial system for inter library loans has delayed review process. PLV lobbying State Government for increased Libraries funding currently.
Buloke Shire Children, Youth & Families Strategy	2.3 Well Supported Community	Finalise and adopt the Buloke Shire Children, Youth & Families Strategy.	**December 2023**	**Completed**	The Buloke Shire Children, Youth and Families Plan was adopted in April 2024.
Buloke Shire Integrated Community Planning Framework	2.4 Increased Community Wellbeing	Prepare and adopt the Buloke Shire Integrated Community Planning Framework.	**March 2024**	**Commenced Delayed**	An internal working group has been established. The working group has engaged with several other Councils to assist in the planning stage. The project is currently behind schedule.
Community Plans	2.4 Increased Community Wellbeing	Work with communities to prepare Community Plans for localities to drive community connectedness and outcomes.	**June 2024**	**Ongoing**	Five plans are now completed with another in draft.
Home and Independence Support Services Transition	2.4 Increased Community Wellbeing	Help facilitate transition of community members receiving Home and Independence Support Services to new providers under the Federal	**December 2023**	**Completed**	Transition was completed in December 2023 to four new service providers. Administration staff finished in February 2024. Thank you to everyone involved in this service provision over nearly 40 years.

		Government's Support at Home Program.			
Viable Childcare Services Advocacy	2.4 Increased Community Wellbeing	Continue to advocate for the provision of viable childcare services for Buloke Shire and rural communities.	**June 2024**	**Ongoing**	Continued work to leverage the Creating Viable Childcare Service in Rural Areas document. Children, Youth and Families plan adopted.

Priority 3:
Our Economy.

The Vision: Our future Buloke is an innovative and strong economy with agriculture, small business and industry capitalising on new ideas to provide a range of employment and tourism opportunities backed by the services, connectivity and housing to achieve population stability.

Initiative	Council Plan Relevance	Measure	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Silo Art Night Activation	3.1 Tourism	Silo Art Night Activation installed.	**June 2024**	**Ongoing**	Projection Equipment installed and tested. Content development underway with input from PAG group.
Birchip Civic and Community Hub Project	3.2 Attraction and Promotion of Local Businesses	Preparation of feasibility study for the Birchip Civic and Community Hub Project.	**June 2024**	**Ongoing**	Community consultation ongoing. Community planning process for the township has taken precedent and will help progress this project through the calendar year.

Implement Interim Economic and Tourism Development Strategy	3.3 Employment Opportunities	Implement identified initiatives from the Interim Economic and Tourism Development Strategy.	**June 2024**	**Commenced**	Collaborating with North Central LLEN to provide career pathways for students. Meeting semi-regularly with Victorian Skills Authority to speak about employment gaps and areas of opportunity with state support.

Priority 4:
Our Council and Community Leadership.

The Vision: Our future Buloke is dynamically led by a council that informs community, has active partnerships, authentic advocacy and quality customer service delivering valued responsive community services in a responsible way.

Initiative	Council Plan Relevance	Measure	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Safer Together Program	4.1 Active Leaders and Volunteers	Deliver the Safer Together Program in conjunction with Gannawarra Shire Council and report to Council Safer Together Program progress.	**June 2024**	**Ongoing**	Project is progressing well in the consultation phase.
Customer Experience Strategy	4.2 Community Engagement	Implement identified initiatives from the Customer Experience Strategy.	**June 2024**	**Ongoing**	Website information review progressed with Social Pinpoint integration planning continuing. Key Council staff took leading roles at the LG Pro Social Media

					conference to speak to customer engagement at a rural level. Review of Business Concierge model and material underway. New ways to understand customer service data being explored.
Advocacy Strategy	4.4 A Well Governed and Healthy Organisation	Review, update and adopt Council's Advocacy Strategy in line with Council's Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025.	**June 2024**	**Commenced**	Review undertaken of Councill's Notices of Motion and relevance of current items. It is anticipated this document will now come to Council in June to be fully informed by the draft Annual Budget 2024-2025.

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil

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

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION:

That pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following reports that are considered to contain confidential information on the grounds provided in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as indicated:

9.5.1	RFQ 286 2023-24 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE NEW TRUCK MOUNTED STREET SWEEPER	(g(ii)) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)
9.5.2	EXERCISE OF DELEGATION BY THE CEO	(g(ii)) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council reopens the meeting to the public pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.

10. MEETING CLOSE