



COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 8 May 2024

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room

367 Broadway, Wycheproof

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 May 2024 commencing at 7:00pm in the Wycheproof Supper Room, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof**PRESENT****CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Alan Getley

Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Bernadette Hogan

Mallee Ward

Cr David Pollard

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Graeme Milne

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Cr Bronwyn Simpson

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Cr Daryl Warren

Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Travis Fitzgibbon

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Daniel McLoughlan

Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Jenna Allan

Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

AGENDA**1. COUNCIL WELCOME****WELCOME**

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Cr Carolyn Stewart

Lower Avoca Ward

Wayne O'Toole

Chief Executive Officer

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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 April 2024.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CARRIED.

(R045/24)

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Pollard declared an interest in Item 8.2.1 VNI West Proposed Transmission Lines due to being an owner of land that would be subject to the proposed power lines being installed.

Cr Pollard declared an interest in Item 8.2.4 Community Grants, due to being a Director of the Rex Theatre, a potential recipient listed in the report for receipt of funds from the scheme.

Cr Milne declared an interest in Item 8.2.4 Community Grants, due to being a member of the Watchem Progress Association, a potential recipient listed in the report for receipt of funds from the scheme.

Cr Getley declared an interest in Item 8.2.2 due to being the Councillor who is seeking permission from the Council for his proposed interstate travel to Canberra for the National General Assembly in July 2024.

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| | The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential matters. | |
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| | If the meeting has been closed it will be brought back into open session by resolution | |
| 10. | MEETING CLOSE | |

NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM, 20 MAY 2024 AT 5:00PM.

Wayne O'Toole
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

6.1 KEVIN O'DEA – PUBLIC POSITION OF COUNCIL ON TCV PROPOSAL

The purpose of this question is to ascertain Public position of Council in relation to the proposal by TCV. Mr O'Dea outlines a meeting held yesterday in Birchip attended by some Councillors, given these are his notes of that meeting and not minutes, we will withhold that in a public forum, Councillors have that text. Mr O'Dea is requesting a public statement from tonight's meeting to inform local farmers of the Council's position on this important matter.

RESPONSE FROM THE MAYOR – Council will tonight discuss this matter directly later in the agenda. Council has passed a Notice of Motion in relation to the VNA West project at its May 2023 Meeting imploring them to:

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

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.

6.2 SHERRILL O'CONNOR – BULOKE WOODLANDS

Buloke Woodland now only occupies about 3 percent of the area it once did before European settlement.

Buloke Woodland is a listed endangered ecological community under Commonwealth legislation. We are greatly appreciative that the Shire has retained the name of the Buloke in honour of the historical and wide-spread nature of this special tree. Further that there are significant remnant areas of this special tree.

Buloke is one of only three species on which the endangered South-eastern Red-tail Black-cockatoo feeds. This special species of parrot is endangered and the buloke is important to the survival of this handsome and unique bird. Buloke Woodland is also home to a number of threatened plant species such as the Pink Mulla-mulla and other threatened or endangered plants. There are ongoing threats to the long-term survival of the buloke, being:

disturbance, rabbits, fragmentation of habitat, grazing by stock, etc.

1. Does the Shire have any policy:

- a) to assist farmers to maintain and to promote the survival of the bulokes or other threatened/endangered species on their properties, or,
- b) to maintain those bulokes growing on road-side verges throughout the Shire. If so, where is the policy detailed and is it available publicly?

2. Is the Shire able to source any Commonwealth or State grant monies to maintain and preserve this precious woodland community, and, if so, what are these sources?

3. Would the Shire be amenable to signing the remnant pockets of bulokes with appropriate signs?

6.2 Cont'd

A number of members of the below organisations have expressed their wish to come to the Shire to carry out regenerative planting of bulokes and associated vegetation along some of the roadside verges, for example as would be nominated by your Environmental Compliance Officer, Ms. Anna Arkoudis. Seedlings are available having a local provenance and would be bought and planted by the below organisations,

We note that permission to undertake revegetative planting has already been given by the Shire at the time of the Maitreya Festival and work on that was carried out by attendees of the Festival at that time. Given that permission was previously granted by Council, and the project to be overseen by a Council officer, we look forward to Council's general agreement to this proposal.

RESPONSE FROM THE MAYOR –

- (a) No Direct policy. Private landowners can apply through Trust for nature to lock/protect areas with Bulokes on their land. Council will then give those landowners a rate rebate on that land as they no longer use that land with the Buloke for farming. If landowners want to remove any native vegetation from their land, an application for a permit to remove native vegetation must be lodged with the relevant responsible authority, which is usually the local council. In addition to the application requirements for the native vegetation removal regulations, further information may be required by the local planning scheme. There are three assessment pathways, Basic, Intermediate and Detailed.

Each pathway is determined by the amount of native vegetation to be removed and the location. There are offsets which will need to be met and these are purchased through a register Broker. These calculations are made when the landowner applies on the Native Vegetation Regulations website.

- (b) For this purpose, council refers to its Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Council could, but none currently applied for or available. Landcare groups within the Shire sometimes do apply for Landcare grants to undertake revegetation works on roadside which Council approve.

It may be worth considering, but there are many elements to consider and budget implications to consider.

Other questions posed within the text to be answered or commented on:

Red-tail Black-cockatoo largely inhabit areas in the South West of Victoria.

To undertake revegetation on council roadsides, we would need to determine the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) of each roadside to see if Buloke have grown there in the past. A large amount of analysis would need to happen.

Any plantings would need to look natural and approval would sit with DEECA.

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

CARRIED.

(R046/24)

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.

7.2 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/06

PURPOSE

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

CARRIED.

(R047/24)

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

| Council Initiative | Sent to | Sent | Response | Purpose of Letter/Response |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|---------------|--|
| Notice of Motion from | <p><i>Hon Melissa Horne MP</i> <i>Minister for Local Government</i></p> <p><i>Copy sent to:</i> <i>Jade Benham MP</i> <i>Member for Mildura</i></p> | 22 Feb 2024 | 16 April 2024 | <p>Local Council Electoral Structure Review for BSC</p> <p>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 <i>Local Govt Act 2020 (LGA)</i>, public submissions & agreed criteria, its recommended structure was best model for promoting fair/equitable representation for voters in Shire & consequently facilitate good governance.</p> <p>Before recommending making of an Order in Council providing for subdivision of municipal district into wards, or specification of boundaries of wards, the <i>LGA</i> 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%.</p> <p>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</p> |

| Council Initiative | Sent to | Sent | Response | Purpose of Letter/Response |
|--------------------|---------|------|----------|--|
| | | | | <p>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.</p> <p>Mike Gooley Exec Director Local Gov Victoria</p> |

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.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

CARRIED.
(R048/24)

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 Show Rural Ambassador Award for the Wimmera Group of the Victorian Agricultural Shows. Jacob will now compete in the State Final for the Junior Ambassador Award. |
| Buloke Shire Council | Joanne Postlethwaite | May 2 2024 | Contribution toward 'The Paddock' initiatives in Councils response to the October 2022 flood event. Resulting in Buloke Shire Council receiving Outstanding Small Rural Council Initiative award at the LGPro Awards for Excellence Gala Dinner 2024. |

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.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R049/24)

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 | Elliot's Road Bimbourie VIC 3533 | Construction of Dwelling & Carport & Shed | 12/4/2024 |
| PBLD24025 | 2786417590838 | Borong 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.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R050/24)

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 | Borong 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 | Borong 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 |

| Application No | Address | Date Rec | Summary of Proposal | Status |
|----------------|----------------------------------|------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 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 | Borong 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*.

QUESTION: Cr Warren -Query with Planning Permit for Sea Lake Railway Ave Works accommodation

TAKEN ON NOTICE

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.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

**CARRIED.
(R051/24)**

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.

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

Cr Pollard declared an interest in Item 8.2.1 VNI West Proposed Transmission Lines due to being an owner of land that would be subject to the proposed power lines being installed.

Cr Pollard vacated the Council Chamber at 7.17pm.

The Mayor, Cr Getley vacated the position of Chair at 7.30pm, to be able to contribute to the debate.

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Simpson, assumed the role of Chair at 7.31pm.

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.

Cr Getley assumed the role of Chair at 7.32pm.

Cr Pollard returned to the Council Chamber at 7.51pm.

8.2.2 INTERSTATE TRAVEL - CR GETLEY

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/11

Cr Getley declared in interest in Item 8.2.2 due to being the Councillor seeking permission from the Council for his proposed interstate travel to Canberra for the National General Assembly in July 2024.

Cr Getley stood down from the role of Chair, and vacated the Council Chamber at 7.51pm.

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Simpson, assumed the role of Chair at 7.51pm.

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.

MOTION:

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.

Moved: CR DAVID POLLARD

Seconded: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

FOUR – IN FAVOUR.

ONE – AGAINST

DIVISION WAS CALLED FOR BY CR WARREN

CRS POLLARD, SIMPSON, HOGAN AND MILNE – IN FAVOUR.

CR WARREN - AGAINST.

CARRIED.

(R052/24)

Attachments: Nil

Cr Getley returned to the Council Chamber at 7.56pm and assumed the role of Chair.

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.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.

(R053/24)

Attachments:

- 1 VIC - Buloke Shire Council - P3 Approved Work Schedule
- 2 Letter of Variation
- 3 Irci-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.

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

Cr Pollard declared in interest in Item 8.2.4 Community Grants, due to being a Director of the Rex Theatre, a potential recipient listed in the report for receipt of funds from the scheme.

Cr Milne declared in interest in Item 8.2.4 Community Grants, due to being a member of the Watchem Progress Association, a potential recipient listed in the report for receipt of funds from the scheme.

Crs Pollard and Milne vacated the Council Chamber at 8.00pm.

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.

MOTION:

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*)

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R054/24)

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: | The Watchem Development Association Inc - Auspice for the Watchem Progress Association |
| Grant Type | Community Grant |
| Amount Applied: | \$2,000 |
| Funding Amount Recommended: | \$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 Recommended: | \$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 ' <i>Donald Learning Group improving assets for the community</i> ' 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 Recommended: | \$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 ' <i>Improving capacity to light up events</i> ' 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.

Crs Pollard and Milne returned to the Council Chamber at 8.03pm.

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.

MOTION:

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.

Moved: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

Seconded: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R055/24)

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 | <p><i>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).</i></p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Income Statement (Continued) | <p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>Capital expenditure against capital grant income is provided in the Capital Work Program report and as additional assets on the balance sheet.</i></p> | <p>mainly related to flood recovery expenditure, and the recognition of operating expenditure that was originally treated as capital expenditure.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Bad and doubtful debts/Borrowing costs Traditionally these expense accounts will see actuals in the second half of the financial year.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Full year forecast for Other Capital Income has been varied upward by \$41K due to the Nullawil Streetscape contribution.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Balance Sheet | <p><i>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.</i></p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Trade and other payables There has been a \$1.8M decrease since 30 June 2023, mainly</p> |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| | | <p>due to the volume of creditor payments which occurs prior to end of financial year.</p> <p>Trust funds and deposits</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Provisions</p> <p>There has been a \$417K decrease since 30 June 2023, mainly due to the HACC redundancy provision to offset salaries paid out.</p> |
| Cashflow Statement | <i>The Cashflow Statement reflects actual results for the reporting period in line with statutory financial reporting.</i> | <p>There has been \$5.75M used to support the capital works program as at 31 March 2024.</p> <p>Overall, there has been a reduction in cash of \$4.1M since 30 June 2023.</p> |
| Cashflow Forecast | <p><i>The Cashflow Chart visually depicts the cashflow forecast and the updated format is illustrated in a dual design, based on best practice reporting.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Capital Works Program | <i>The Capital Works Statement lists the expenditure for each project incurred to date.</i> | <p>The total capital works program for 2023/24 is \$24.3M, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>The total delivery as at 31 March 2024 was \$5.83M, representing 24% of the total capital works program including carry forwards.</p> <p>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.</p> |

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

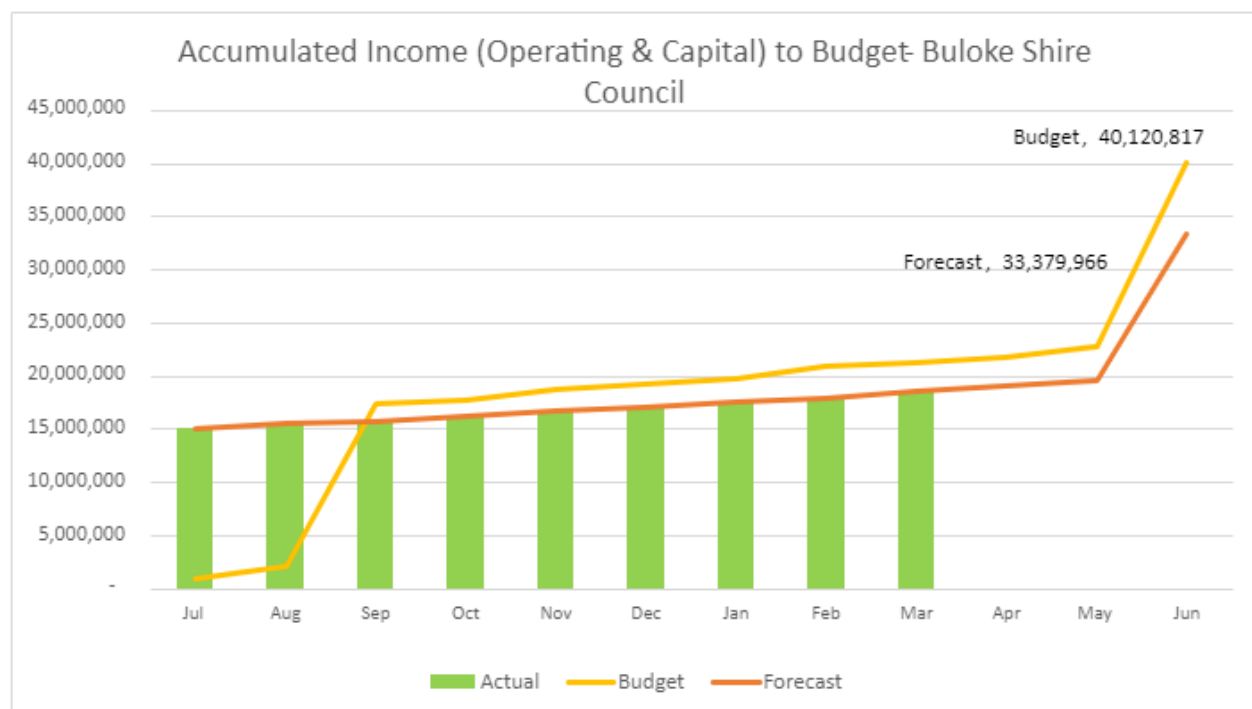
Not applicable.

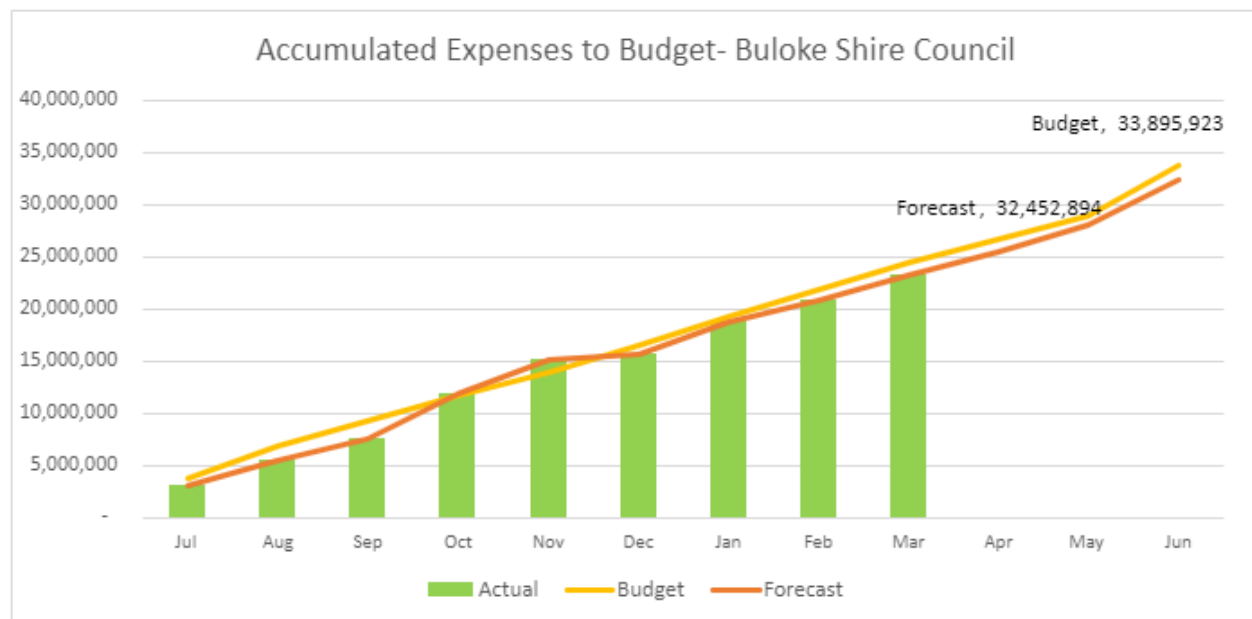
COLLABORATION

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.

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.

MOTION:

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.

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.
(R056/24)**

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.

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Mayor Cr Alan Getley

Weekly Meetings with CEO Wayne O'Toole
 Monthly Briefings
 Council Meeting
 Birchip Renewable Meeting
 Transmission Lines Shire Meeting
 Community Reference Group Meeting (TCV)
 ABC interview Horsham Shire Issues
 Swan Hill Guardian Interview
 Flow FM Interview
 Loddon Campaspe Mayors & CEO Meetings
 Budget Briefing Sessions X 2
 Charlton Forum Meeting
 ANZAC Day Service Culgoa
 ANZAC Day Service Charlton
 WSMD Board Meeting
 Mayoral Forum Local Gov't Victoria
 Chair Charlton Parks Committee

Cr Bernadette Hogan

15/04/2024 Budget Update Meeting – Wycheproof
 17/04/2024 Council Briefing - Watchem
 21/04/2024 ANZAC Day Luncheon – Culgoa
 22/04/2024 Budget Update Meeting – Wycheproof
 25/04/2024 ANZAC Dawn Service – Sea Lake Anzac Service – Curyo
 ANZAC Service & Speech - Nullawil Anzac Service – Birchip
 1/05/2024 Audit and Risk Committee In-Camera Meeting – Wycheproof
 Audit and Risk Committee May Meeting – Wycheproof
 Councillor Briefing – Wycheproof
 7/05/2024 Community Wind Farm/Transmission Line Meeting – Birchip 08/05/2024
 8/05/2024 Council Meeting – Wycheproof

Cr Daryl Warren

11/04/24 AEMO/Farmers Meeting in Donald
 11/04/24 Workspace Meeting Bendigo
 14/04/24 Working Bee Donald Community to Dismantle Maze
 14/04/24 Donald Skatepark Opening.
 17/04/24 Council Briefing Watchem
 18/04/24 Donald Show AGM
 19/04/24 Sea Lake Visitor Centre
 24/04/24 DCP Meeting Donald
 Donald 2000 Meeting
 25/04/24 ANZAC Day Donald and Sea Lake
 10/05/24 Audit and Risk Meeting Wycheproof
 Council Briefing Wycheproof
 20/05/24 Meetings with Ratepayers over AEMO Power Lines
 8/05/24 Council Meeting Wycheproof

9. OTHER BUSINESS**9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS**MOTION:**

Council to address a matter of Urgent Business in relation to the Item 8.2.1 VNI West Transmission Lines proposal.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN**SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE****CARRIED.****(R057/24)**

Cr Pollard vacated the Council Chamber at 8.23pm due to the having a declared conflict of interest for this matter, as disclosed in Item 8.2.1.

MOTION:

Propose Council formally invite Minister Ambrosia to visit the Buloke Shire Council for the purpose of engaging directly with the community members impacted by the proposed Victorian and New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI) project.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN**SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE****CARRIED.****(R058/24)**

Cr Pollard returned to the Council Chamber at 8.29pm.

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

MOTION:

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 |

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R059/24)

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R062/24)

10. MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.