



COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday 9 March 2022

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 Daryl Warren will welcome all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Daryl Warren 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 and its Confidential Meeting held on Wednesday, 9 February 2022.

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

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NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2022 AT 7:00PM.

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 2 and 16 February 2022.

- Attachments:**
- 1 [Councillor Briefing Record - 2 February 2022](#)
 - 2 [Councillor Briefing Record - 16 February 2022](#)

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 Schedule adopted 10 November 2021, 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 2 and 16 February 2022 is attached for public information.

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL
RECORD
Councillor Briefing

Date and Time:	2 February 2022	Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Location:	Culgoa Hall	

ITEMS

NO.	TOPIC	PURPOSE/PRESENTER
	Councillor only time 5:00pm	
1.	Welcome	
2.	Apologies	Cr Vis and Cr Stewart
3.	Attendees	
4.	Visitors	Reid Mather – Rail Freight Alliance Rodney Hotker – BSC Cecilia Connellan – BSC Daniel McLoughlan – BSC
5.	Declarations of Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest	Nil
6.	Confirmation of Councillor Briefing Notes – 15 December 2021	Confirmed
7.	Presentations	
7.1	2022 RFA Member Council Briefings Reid Mather 5:30pm	
7.2	Planning Permit Application 928/21 – Use And Development Of Land For A Service Station (Fuel Cell) – 2 Campbell Street, Birchip – Rodney 6:00pm	
7.3	Business Transformation Strategy – Cecilia 6:15pm	
7.4	Roadside Management Report 6:30pm – Dan McLoughlan	
8	Items for Discussion	
9.	Councillor Matters	

10. CEO Updates

- Draft Agenda 9 February 2022
-

13. Next Briefing:

Date and Time:	16 February 2022	Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Location:	Nandaly Hall	

14. Briefing Close



Councillor Briefing Record

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

Date:	16 February 2022	Time:	5:00pm – 8:00pm
Location:	Nandaly Hall		
Distributed To:	Cr Warren, Cr Getley, Cr Pollard, Cr Stewart, Cr Simpson, Cr Milne , Wayne O'Toole, Hannah Yu, Travis Fitzgibbon, Aileen Douglas		
Apologies:	Cr Vis, Cr Stewart, Aileen Douglas		
Acknowledgement of Country:			
Conflicts of Interest:	Nil		

ITEMS

NO.	MATTER FOR DISCUSSION	Notes
1.	Councillor and CEO Only Time 5pm	
2.	Confirmation of Councillor Briefing Notes – 2 February 2022	
3.	Presentations	
3.1	Nandaly Progress Association 5:30pm	
3.2	Draft Interim Economic Development and Tourism Strategy - Amber, James and Kerrie and external guest Wayne Street 5:45pm	
3.3	Draft Birchip Park and Civic Precinct Masterplan - Amber & Darci, with external guests Craig Kenny and James Staughton 6:15 pm	
3.4	Roadside Management Report – postponed - to be presented at a future briefing -Dan McLoughlan	
4.	Councillor Matters	
5.	CEO Updates	
	NEXT MEETING 2 March 2022 - 5:00pm Sea Lake Senior Citizens	

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.

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 be sent to	Sent	Response	Purpose of Letter/Response
Write to local Federal member and State members expressing concern for people who are sitting outside the legal status of vaccination currently in place. Urging for a review.	Ms Louise Staley MLA	20/12/21	23/12/21	Acknowledged Council's proactive work to unite the Shire. Advised that the National Liberals have been calling for consistent National Cabinet approach to mandate vaccines and passports, however the Andrews Government has flagged the retention of vaccine passports until 2023. Will continue to address inequities and call on the State Government to address the issues impacting our community.
Above letter	Mr Stuart Grimley MLC	20/12/21	22/12/21	Acknowledged letter and will look into it further.
Above letter	Mrs Beverley McArthur MLC	20/12/21		
Above letter	Ms Ali Cupper MLA	20/12/21		
Above letter	Dr Anne Webster MP	20/12/21		

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 particular 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
National Emergency Services	Janet Stafford	January 2022	Recipient of National Emergency Medal for outstanding contribution and work for the Red Cross Organisation.
National Emergency Services	Jenny McGillivray	January 2022	Recipient of National Emergency Medal for outstanding contribution and work for the Red Cross Organisation.
National Emergency Services	Joy Freeman	January 2022	Recipient of National Emergency Medal for outstanding contribution and work for the Red Cross Organisation
Baking Association of Australia	Sharps Bakery Birchip	February 2022	Australia's National Best Vanilla Slice 2022 Winner
Donald Lions Club	Noah Slater	February 2022	Lions Youth of the Year for Donald and District

7.4 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Statutory Administration Support

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: DB/14/01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 December 2021 to 28 February 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 December 2021 to 28 February 2022.

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Permit No.	BAMS Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20210135	1265214752553	Racecourse Road, Donald	Storage Shed (Extension)	02/12/2021
20210136	8598242604302	Elizabeth Street, Donald	Garage/Storage Shed	09/12/2021
20210137	6938009942292	Mullane Road, Watchem	Installation of Fire Services, New Amenities Building & Completion of Broiler Sheds (x2)	09/12/2021
20210138	7238254750568	Sutcliff Street, Sea Lake	Garage/Storage Shed	09/12/2021
20210139	6988935358948	Wright Street, Charlton	Garage/Storage Shed	09/12/2021
20210140	1374627331266	Mildura Way, Charlton	Demolition of Stables	16/12/2021
20210141	7185807927822	Yeungroon-Coonooer Road, Yeungroon	Shelter	16/12/2021
20210142	7874334962506	Mildura Way, Charlton	Stables (Small)	16/12/2021
20210143	5407162918764	Mildura Way, Charlton	Stables (Large)	16/12/2021
20220001	N/A	Recreation Reserve, Calder Highway, Culgoa	Place of Public Entertainment – Weekend With Hooks, Culgoa	20/01/2022
20220004	110648961047	Calder Highway, Wycheproof	Swimming Pool & Safety Barrier	07/02/2022

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE SURVEYOR

Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20210167	Aitken Avenue, Donald	Farm Shed	01/12/2021
20210168	Wilsons Road, Buckrabanyule	Re-stump & re-join of relocated dwelling – Stage 1	01/12/2021
20210169	Elizabeth Street, Donald	Dwelling & Shed	02/12/2021
20210170	Aitken Avenue, Donald	Re-stump of Dwelling	06/12/2021
20210171	Back St Arnaud Road, Charlton	Horse Training Stable/Shed	07/12/2021
20210172	High Street, Charlton	Partial Demolition of Existing Building (Toilet Block at Rear) – Stage 1	08/12/2021
20210174	P Nicholls Road, Wycheproof South	Dwelling and Alfresco Area	20/12/2021
20210175	Woods Street, Donald	Dwelling & Garage	22/12/2021
20210176	Racecourse Road, Donald	Factory, Office & Showroom	22/12/2021
20210177	Inkerman Street, Watchem	Single Storey Dwelling	22/12/2021
20210178	Railway Avenue, Sea Lake	Re-stump of Dwelling	23/12/2021

7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Works and Technical Services

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

Applic No	Date Rec	Address	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA970/22	28/12/2021	Anderson Avenue, Wycheproof (Lot 2 PS 63654)	Three lot subdivision of land (boundary realignment)	Awaiting report
PPA969/21	16/12/2021	Sproats Lane, Donald (Lot 5 PS 76601)	Two lot subdivision of land	Awaiting report
PPA968/21	10/12/2021	Donald-Swan Hill Road, Corack East (CA 1 Sec C Parish of Corack East)	Installation of solar panels on roof of Corack Public Hall	Awaiting report
PPA967/21	02/12/2021	Corack Road, Wycheproof (Lot 1 PS658906)	Use and development of land for the construction of a single dwelling and associated shed	Awaiting report
PPA962/21	11/11/2021	Corack Road, Donald (Lot 1 & 2 PS 216306M)	Use and development of land for a service station, construct and display a business identification sign and create or alter access to Road Zone, Category 1	Objections
PPA955/21	12/10/2021	Fawcetts Road, Wycheproof (CA 14 & 14A Section A Parish of Bunguluke)	Three lot subdivision of land (boundary realignment and dwelling excision)	Permit issued

Applic No	Date Rec	Address	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA928/21	13/05/2021	Campbell Street, Birchip (Lot 6, 7, 8 & 9 PS 058023)	Development of land for a service station (fuel cell), construct and display a business identification sign and alter access to Road Zone, Category 1	Notice of Decision to refuse
PPA965/21	29/11/2021	Anderson Avenue, Wycheproof (Lot 2 PS 63654)	Replacement signage at existing service station	Permit issued
PPA966/21	29/11/2021	Sproats Lane, Donald (Lot 5 PS 76601)	Replacement signage at existing service station	Permit issued

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Author's Title: Manager Assets

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: RO|15|01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

For the Council to note outcomes of initial community engagement activities associated with the review of the Road Management Plan (RMP) and to endorse additional engagement as outlined in this Report.

SUMMARY

The RMP Review 2022 Report (Review) outlines the feedback and data collected during the 12 community consultation sessions held during November 2021. The feedback and data have been incorporated into Council's proposed recommendations. In accordance with requirements to ensure deliberative engagement principles are met, this Report proposes the release of the Review for further community comment prior to finalising and presenting Council's final RMP for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. Notes and receives initial feedback from the Buloke community; and
2. Authorises Officers to release the feedback in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Attachments: 1 [Road Management Plan Review 2022 Report](#)

DISCUSSION

The Council has initiated a comprehensive review of its RMP in accordance with its responsibilities under the *Road Management Act 2004* (Act). The final RMP must be adopted by the Council by June 2022.

Community engagement activities were held in November 2021 to seek feedback and involvement of the Buloke community in the revision of the RMP. These engagement activities included 12 consultation sessions held across all areas, and aimed to:

- Educate, connect with, and inform the community
- Determine the reasons for the reported shortfall in community expectations in Council's road management activities, and ascertain their willingness to pay for alternative service levels
- Understand existing service levels experienced by the community
- Improve Council's level of service within budget constraints, and
- Document agreed levels of service for inclusion in the RMP.

Responses and comments received during the consultation sessions have been incorporated in the attached Review for the information of the Council.

Council Officers propose to take steps through Council's established deliberative engagement processes to ensure the final RMP reflects, wherever possible, the community interest and requirements. To that end, it is proposed that Council Officers release the attached Review for further consultation over a 2-week period prior to presenting the penultimate draft RMP for consideration of the Council at the April 2022 Council Meeting. Any additional commentary following release of the Review will be outlined at that Meeting for Councillor and community information.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016* (Regulations) require that the RMP be reviewed at regular intervals to meet the objectives of the Act.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to proceed with the preparation of the draft RMP without releasing the Review for further comment and feedback, noting the draft RMP will be subject to a further round of community engagement activities.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The RMP seeks to support and/or improve, where possible, the social and environmental sustainability of the Council and its residents. When determining road hierarchy and the associated service levels/road renewal specification particular consideration will be given to financial sustainability of industry.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Review is a summary of the abovementioned community engagement activities undertaken to date. These deliberative engagement sessions attracted more than 100 residents and were attended by key staff and Councillors.

The next phase of community engagement proposed is to release the paper for a period of 14 days to ensure full transparency of any amendments to the current RMP. Recommendation 10 references the need to establish an ongoing community reference group to ensure fluid and ongoing regular community engagement.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The RMP workshops were designed to generate innovative ideas with respect to a strategic unsealed road network.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Community engagement process has indicated potential need for changes to delivery of service provided by Council's Road Maintenance service. This may require increased operational expenditure to accommodate in future years that has not yet been considered in the 10-year Financial Plan.

Consideration is being made in the upcoming 2022-23 budget to engage Roads Maintenance service review consulting to explore efficiencies and refocus of resources and some legal advice on the collaborative maintenance ideas raised. The budget impacts of any proposals will be discussed further by Council's Manager Finance in coming budget briefing.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Regulations state that in conducting a review of its RMP a road authority must ensure that the standards in relation to, and the priorities to be given to, the inspection, maintenance and repair of the roads and classes of road to which the plan applies are appropriate.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The review of the RMP is in accordance with, and complementary to the Council Plan, the Community Engagement Policy and is a requirement of the Annual Plan. The RMP is a key operational plan that informs the relevant Asset Management Plans (currently in review), determining the long-term capital works program and Financial Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report and the Review outline the information received during the community engagement processes for the information of the Council and the community.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Officers involved in the preparation of this Report or the RMP have a conflict of interest.

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW 2022



BULOKE
SHIRE COUNCIL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Buloke Shire Council has initiated a comprehensive review of the Road Management Plan (RMP) to be conducted in close consultation with the Buloke Shire community.

Five key aims of the consultation were:

- To educate, connect and inform the community;
- To determine the reasons for the shortfall in the communities' expectations and their willingness to pay for alternative service levels;
- To understand existing service levels;
- Improve Councils levels of service within budget constraints; and
- To document agreed levels of service for inclusion in the RMP.

This report provides a summary and analysis of data collected during the twelve resident focus groups and community survey. A summary of the 11 recommendations are presented below:

1. Conduct a service review of Councils maintenance team;
2. Council to reclassify roads identified in the engagement activity;
3. Council to confirm traffic volumes of roads where there is ambiguity around existing traffic movements;
4. Continue to advocate for additional external funding from relevant transport authorities and both State and Federal Government;
5. Adjust response times (service levels) in RMP to align with existing budget allocation;
6. Investigate communication tools with the rate payer with particular reference to level of expenditure on the road network;
7. Review customer contact standards. Council should look at informing residents on the steps taken in the investigation process of a road maintenance request;
8. Seek advice with relation to risk to have residents conduct work on our network.
9. Council to review techniques and funding of roadside vegetation and weed spraying program;
10. Council establish a community reference group to provide industry specific feedback on strategic decision making in relation to the road network;
11. Council to investigate financial partnerships with industry;

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The information gleaned during the qualitative research program has been described and interpreted. This section outlines implications of this information for road management in the Buloke Shire Council. Recommendations are provided at appropriate points in the discussion.

Condition of existing network

The majority of participants were satisfied with the overall maintenance of Buloke Shire Councils sealed road network. However, it was noted during the survey, that the repair of edge breaks is currently at a very low standard and can take an extended length of time to repair following the lodgement of a customer service request. Many roads were thought to be carrying large volumes of traffic and as a result were in need of minor works, in particular, narrow road shoulders and potholes were identified as a safety hazards.

In addition, the majority of respondents in both the survey and community consultation meetings reported the overall maintenance of Councils unsealed road network, reported low to very low satisfaction with Councils maintenance on unsealed roads.

Existing maintenance activities such as grading were thought to be largely ineffective and irregular. There was some comparison drawn with the current and past road grading teams, with a significant reduction in team.

60% of respondents scored rural roadside drainage was low to very low.

Drainage infrastructure noticeably reaching end of life.

Satisfactory signage, street furniture, street sweeping and maintenance of footpaths.

Recommendation 1: Conduct a service review of Councils maintenance team. Council should review its resource allocation, suitability of heavy plant, internally managed services vs externally managed services, plant hire and funding arrangements in order to provide the most efficient and effective service.

Road Network – Road classification

Twelve public consultation sessions were undertaken, during these engagement sessions Council provided residents with details of the capital and maintenance funding arrangements and discussed with residents' strategies to increase cost efficiencies of the road network. One of these strategies is for residents to nominate roads within the network which are being over serviced.

Results of the community survey and engagement activity show that the community are unwilling to reduce road standards any further. Few roads were nominated.

Recommendation 2: Council to reclassify roads identified in the engagement activity. This includes potentially increasing the standards of some roads, (for example, intensive farms), while decreasing others. Roads identified as not required for residential access, should be assessed by council for reclassification.

Many residents at the community consultation believe Council underestimates the traffic volumes on the current road network and should look at heavy vehicle movement traffic counts on roads to better understand increased movement on roads.

Residents highlighted roads that seemed to be utilised beyond its existing classification. These roads will have a lower upfront cost, but result in performance issues, increasing the lifecycle cost of the road due to the increased maintenance requirement.

Recommendation 3: Council to confirm traffic volumes of roads where there is ambiguity around existing traffic movements. This will provide Council with further data to enable informed decision making and enable Council to increase the initial outlay, lowering the overall lifecycle cost of road management.

External funding

Council should consider increasing lobbying efforts to both State and Federal governments in order to increase its external funding to roads, particularly with heavy vehicle operation for industries operating within the Buloke Shire. Council has a small rate base and a large road network compared to other municipalities within the State of Victoria. One approach to do this is demonstrating the engagement activity undertaken and the detailed review of its road network to highlight its deficiencies.

Recommendation 4: Continue to advocate for additional external funding from both the State and Federal Government by demonstrating community engagement and the proactive steps undertaken to most efficiently manage our road network. Council to consider joint advocacy with transport authorities, industry groups and other Councils.

Existing Funding

There was a reasonable level of support for the improvement of critical roads without the need to finance through a rate rise. Residents are unwilling to reduce level of service and not willing to support a possible rate rise. However, quantification of the prevalence of support (or not) for increasing the road management budget through a rate increase, budget reshuffle or sourcing external funding would require further research work.

Despite Council conducting deliberative engagement and understanding community concerns with the road network, Council is not in the position to meet the demands to increase response times in its RMP, due to constrained funding.

The recommendations outlined in this report provide Council with the tools to increase efficiencies and better manage community expectations.

Noting the above Council must adjust its response times to limit its liability under the Road Management Act 2004, by adjusting its response times to align with budgetary constraints.

Recommendation 5: Adjust service levels in RMP to align with existing budget allocation.

Feedback from the consultation sessions indicated a lack of community awareness of Councils expenditure and how it is used. One method used by many Councils across Australia, is a basic pie chart of describing the breakup of expenditure of the rate dollar.

Recommendation 6: Investigate communication tools with the rate payer with reference to level of expenditure on the road network.

Customer Service Requests

The road maintenance response time were generally thought to be poor with many participants expressing doubt regarding Council's ability to deliver on service request efficiently. Thus, Council faces a credibility gap when communicating with the community regarding its road maintenance service. A review of the method of maintenance requests and a reporting system which enables residents to track progress made with respect to the repair of specific defects and to access an overview of maintenance undertaken each year would be a useful in mitigating resident concerns.

Recommendation 7: Review customer contact standards. Council should look at informing residents on the steps taken in the investigation process of a road maintenance request.

Partnership with community and industry

Residents expressed their support and willingness to work with Council in brainstorming potential solutions. Some residents/farmers expressed interest in maintaining roads primarily used for their business activity. To support this approach, Council would need to consider taking on the liability of both the activity and the completed works. Council currently has an existing process for managing this process with its contractors, however as this work is in-kind, Council will need to consider the cost benefit and develop a process to support these types of works.

Some residents said they would supply gravel material, at no cost to Council, if it meant, more roads around the property could be maintained to an acceptable standard. To do this Council would need ensure the same standards apply as per other road construction activities e.g. Quality, safety, insurances, supervision, traffic management etc.

Recommendation 8: Seek advice with relation to risk to have residents conduct work on our network.

It is essential that vegetation is managed along roadsides so as provide safe clearance for road users the degree of clearance required may vary according to the standard of road, the type and amount of traffic and the characteristics of vegetation. As along most rural roads, clearance to the necessary safety standards has already taken place, but regrowth may be encroaching back into clearance envelope.

Recommendation 9: Council to review current vegetation management techniques, including controlling of weeds and a roadside tree trimming program (targeted towards maintenance of vertical and lateral clearance).

Community were happy to take part in the consultation, however expressed that more ongoing and regular consultation was required.

Recommendation 10: Council establish a community reference group to provide industry specific feedback on strategic decision making in relation to the road network.

Industry expressed their support and willingness to work with Council in brainstorming potential solutions. Some industry expressed interest in maintaining roads primarily used for their business activity.

Recommendation 11: Council to investigate financial partnerships with industry.

INTRODUCTION

Buloke Shire Council (BSC) is the coordinating road authority for local roads within the municipality. As per the [Road Management Act 2004](#), BSC has adopted a RMP (RMP) as part of its approach to managing road infrastructure. The RMP aims to:

- Contribute to the provision of a safe and efficient road network for public use
- Establish management system for roads that Council is responsible for based on policy, operational objectives and available resources
- Set the standards of the road management functions around inspections, maintenance and repairs

The [Road Management Act 2004](#) requires that the RMP be reviewed at set time intervals, as described in the [Road Management \(General\) Regulations 2016](#). This review is to be completed by June 2022. The Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 state that in conducting a review of its RMP a road authority must ensure that the standards in relation to, and the priorities to be given to, the inspection, maintenance and repair of the roads and classes of road to which the plan applies are appropriate.

The RMP delivers a considered and planned approach to the operational management of assets. By providing a framework for optimising future expenditure to match the community's desired levels of service, the plan will enable the most efficient allocation of resources. This has the two key benefits of providing:

- the right service at the lowest long-term cost; and
- a business planning tool to maximise efficiency.

Levels of service that the Council is delivering on behalf of the community, in this instance those assets associated with the road environment, for example, local roads and footpaths, are determined by:

- Legislative requirements;
- Technical standards and codes of practice;

- Strategic and corporate goals or key directions for the delivery of services; and
- Input from the community.

As indicated above, Council recognises that consultation with the community is especially important and is a key to understanding community expectations.

AIM

Five key aims of the consultation were:

- To educate, connect and inform the community.
- To determine the reasons for the shortfall in the communities' expectations and their willingness to pay for alternative service levels;
- To understand existing service levels;
- Improve Councils levels of service within budget constraints; and
- To document agreed levels of service for inclusion in the RMP.

Influence

Participants can influence:

Definition of the functions, activities, and services to be supported by future assets.

Final decision process of Council through the project consultation, adoption process, and future budget processes.

Engagement objectives

To provide an open and transparent consultation process that builds understanding and acceptance of the process and outcome.

To ensure a diverse range of participants from the Shire.

To build community understanding of the financial capability and capacity of Buloke Shire (as a small rural shire) to effectively maintain assets for small communities.

To build further trust and confidence between Council and the community.

METHODOLOGY

The following tasks were undertaken:

A series of engagement activities conducted with users of Council's roads. The following groups represented included:

- Farmers
- Victorian Farming Federation
- Grain Growers Association
- Birchip Cropping Group
- Emergency Services
- Business associations
- Councillors
- Local Residents

A survey listed online through the BSC website also allowed residents the opportunity to provide feedback on the road network.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council representatives met with approximately 100 Buloke residents over the two-week community consultation.

These community consultations were held in the following areas:

- Birchip Cropping Group (21/10/21)
- Curyo CFA (21/10/21)
- Watchem Hall (22/10/21)
- Wilkur CFA, (22/10/21)
- Corack Hall (27/10/21)
- Donald Hall (27/10/21)
- Sea Lake Senior Citizens (28/10/21)
- Nandaly Hotel (28/10/21)



- Wycheproof Hall (29/10/21)
- Nullawil Sports Complex (29/10/21)
- Charlton Park (4/11/21)
- Buckrabanyule CFA (4/11/21)



Residents attending the community consultations were presented with a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix 1) detailing information on the Road Management Act, Council's obligations as the road authority, the current state of our road network, our budget and resource constraints and a discussion with the community on how we can close our level of service gap.



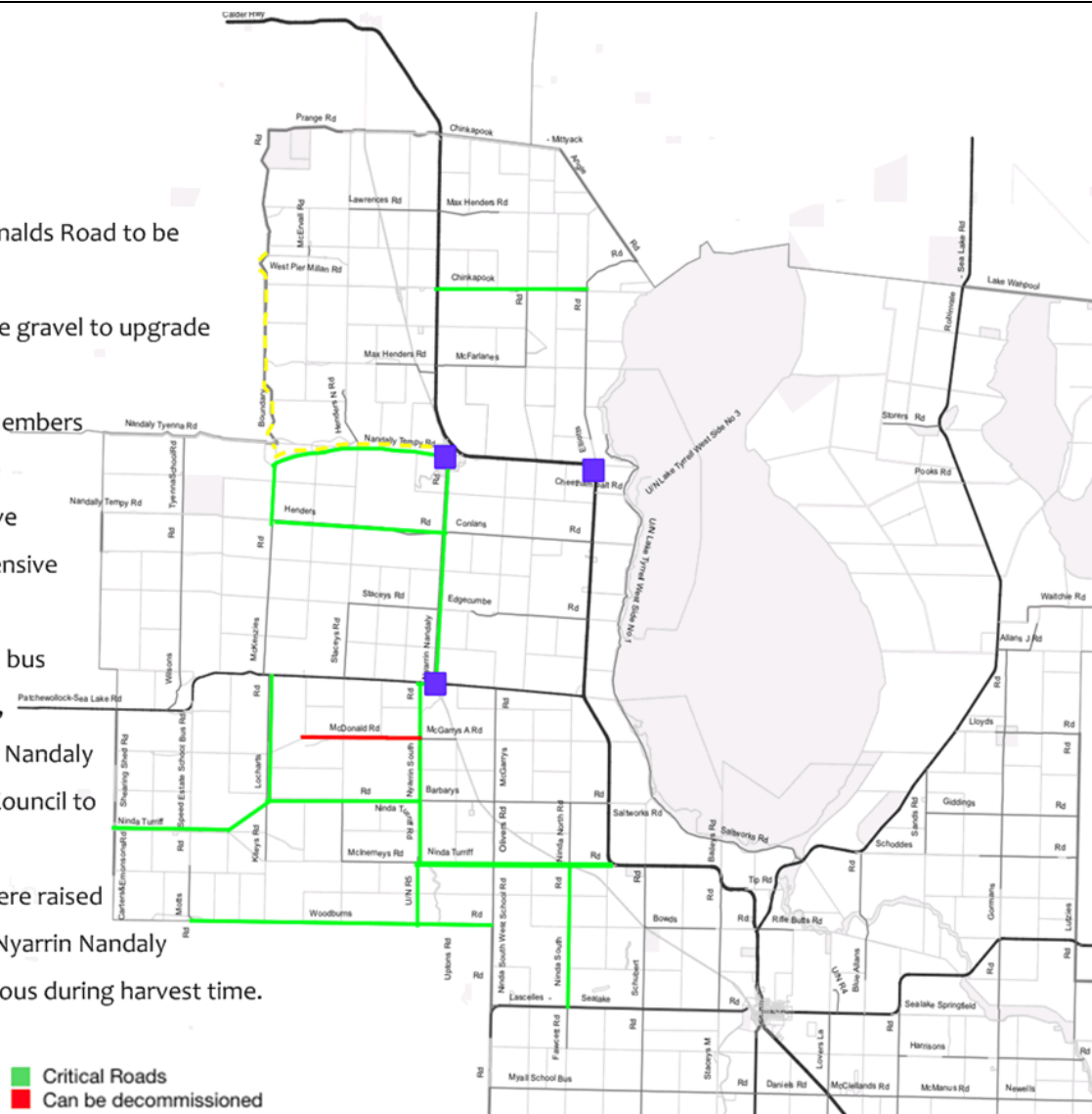
Summary of maps

At the end of each session residents were given the opportunity to identify:

- Roads critical to them;
- Issues with roads;
- Roads that can be reclassified to a lower standard;
- Roads that can be decommissioned.



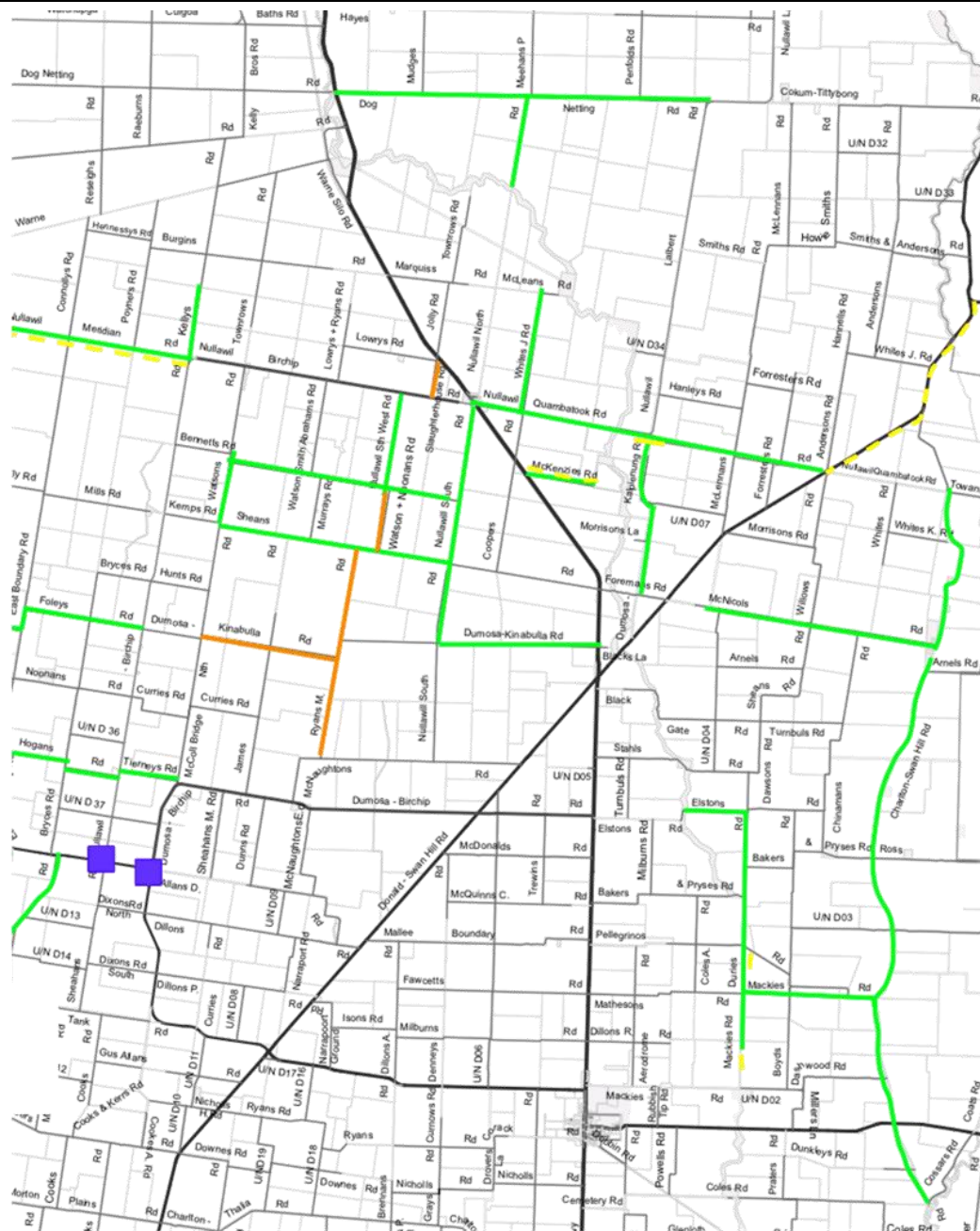
- Hazards ■ Critical Roads
■ Requires Maintenance ■ Can be decommissioned
■ Utes Only Roads

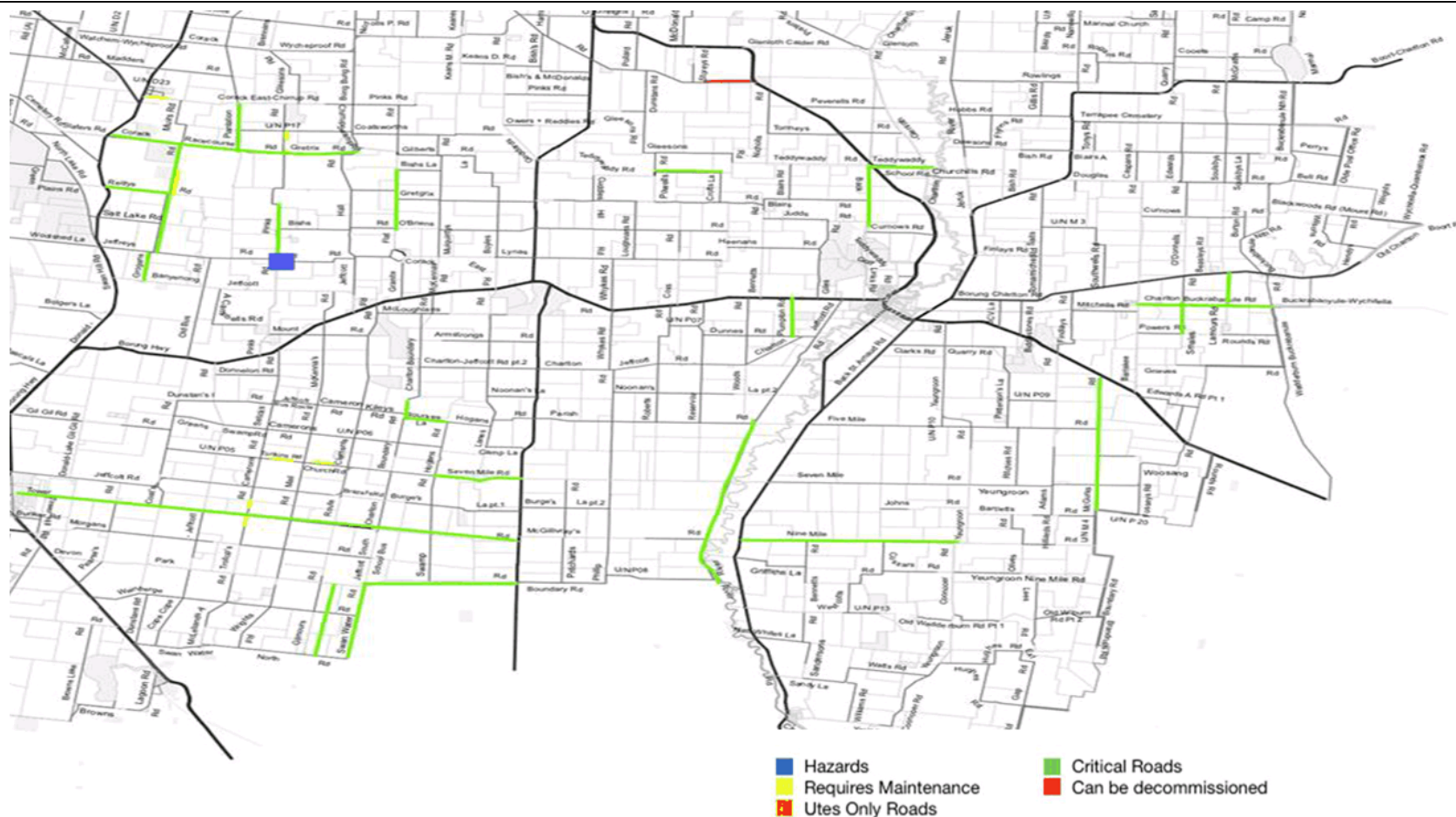


- Ryans M Road, Dumosa- Kinabulla Road, Watson Noonans Road and Slaughterhouse Road need only be maintained for Ute access



19



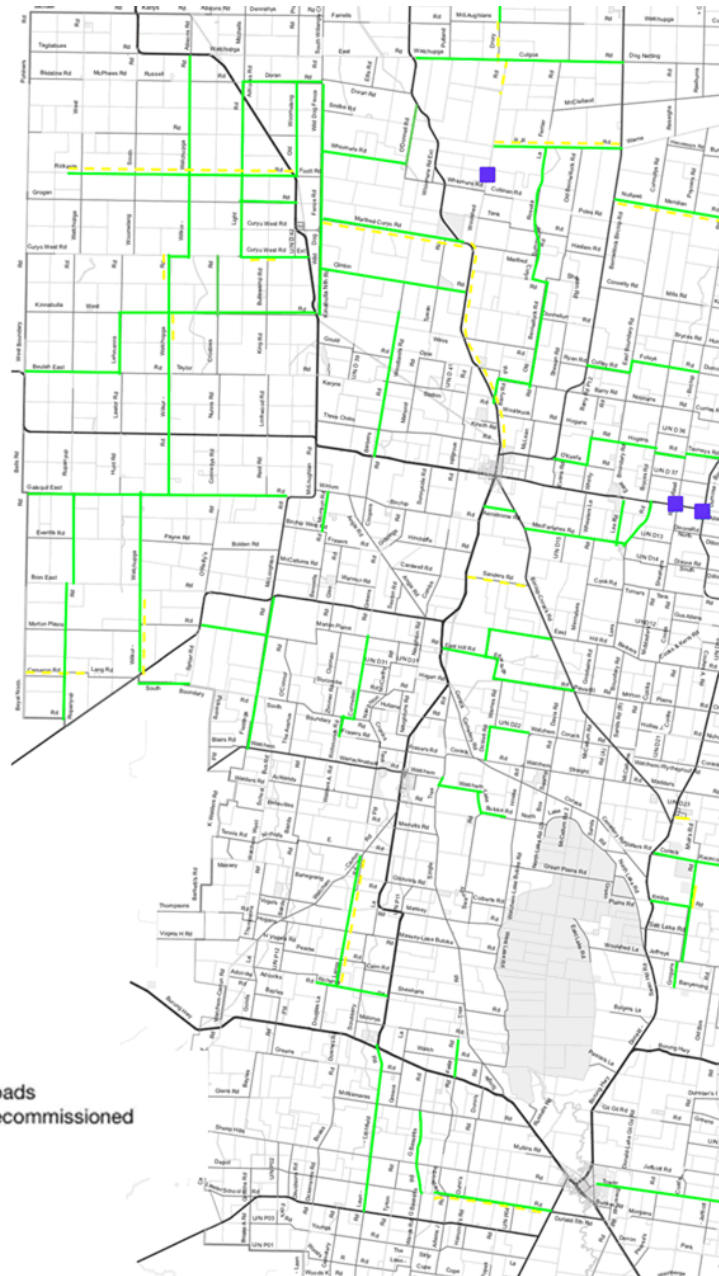


Residents identified Charlton-Thalia Road as having no residents and may be considered for decommissioning.

Plumpton road has been mentioned multiple times as critical to intensive farming industries should consider upgrade as it is currently gravel.

Charlton-Buckrabanyule Road was also mentioned multiple times as being a critical road in poor condition.

Larmours Road could be graded of lesser priority as voiced by community members.



General comments from the community consultation

Heavy vehicles avoiding VicRoads roads because of poor maintenance and causing issues to local roads as a result of increased traffic has been a common theme among residents.

“The trucks come off the VicRoads maintained roads and come tear up our roads because they are in better condition (Resident).”

There was mixed feedback on the general condition of the road network, although most comments reflected that the roads were typically well maintained for accessibility.

Intensive farming industry business owners have also raised issues of roads being too narrow during harvest season. Farm holdings are generally getting larger with block spread throughout the shire during harvest, which results in increased travel and movement of machinery.

More generally, it was stated repeatedly throughout the community consultation groups that the roads in business districts within the Buloke region were designed to accommodate traffic volumes typical in small semi-rural settlements. However, due to rapid intensive farming business growth in recent years, rural roads such as that depicted were considered incapable of accommodating existing traffic volumes and larger size of trucks. Statements such as the following were common

“Roads need to be required at a basic level to allow business farmers access to property” (Resident).

“Narrow roads getting a lot of traffic during harvest” (Resident)

The importance of customer feedback was raised during the consultations. Specifically, feedback on how a maintenance request was dealt with was considered very important. Some participants expressed frustration at the lack of feedback they had received in the

past, stating that they felt like they had been ‘*ignored numerously*’ and that a ‘*sense of hopelessness*’ resulted.

“Have received no response to service request” (Survey participant)

“No follow up from complaint” (Resident)

Farming community believe they are deserving of more respect and maintenance of roads as they pay the highest percentage of rates. Residents believe service and grading works request getting lost.

*“I have stopped calling and complaining to council because it gets nowhere”
(Resident)*

A Buloke resident and business owner stressed that Watchem-Lake Buloke road is of high use for intensive farming and business and road is poorly maintained.

Several community members believed that rather than remove roads they believed more government funding was needed to improve business access road

Residents approved of the presence of potholes in the road network, but that depending on the usage pattern of the road, almost all considered that the pothole did present as a safety risk as that presented by the condition of some rural roads. Moreover, it was stated that Council should fix problems with the road network based on an assessment of the safety risk posed by particular hazards. Following this logic, residents were concerned with maintenance standards with suggestions council should adopt quicker response times for potholes on minor roads, with several residents having to fill potholes themselves.

*“I’ve had to go on the and fill the potholes because council take too long”
(Resident)*

When discussing the repair of potholes several individuals expressed the view that repairs carried out in the past had not been effective with problems resurfacing within a matter of days, for example:

“They use such poor-quality material on roads, it doesn’t last” (Resident)

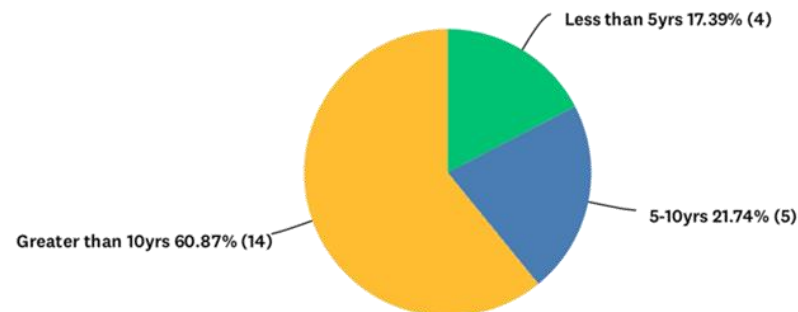
Many voiced their concerns at the current vegetation management not properly maintained and creating possible hazards on the roads. Increased amount of soursob, poorly maintained trees creating hazard and graders dragging weeds were voiced to Council representatives.

“We can’t get our machinery through because there’s too many trees in the way” (Resident)

SURVEY RESULTS

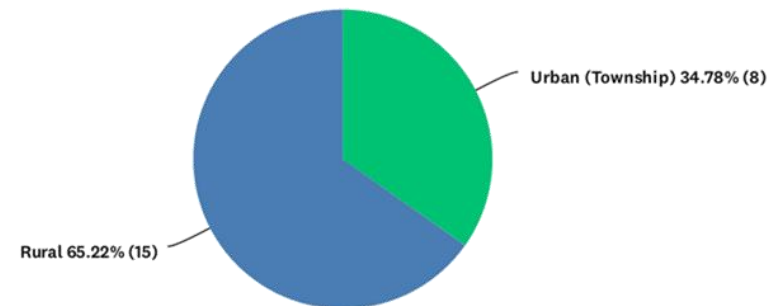
Q1 How long have you lived within Buloke Shire?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0



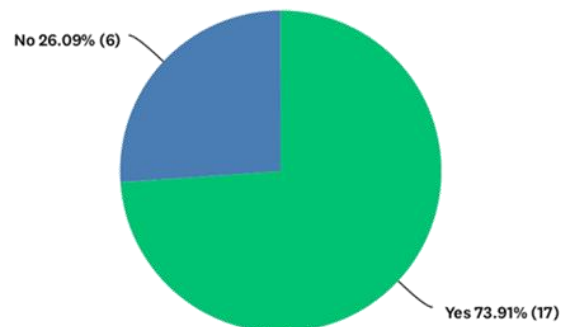
Q2 Which of the following best describes where you live?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0



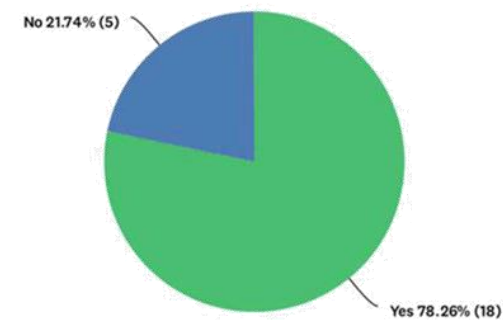
Q3 Are you aware of Council's Road Management Plan?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0



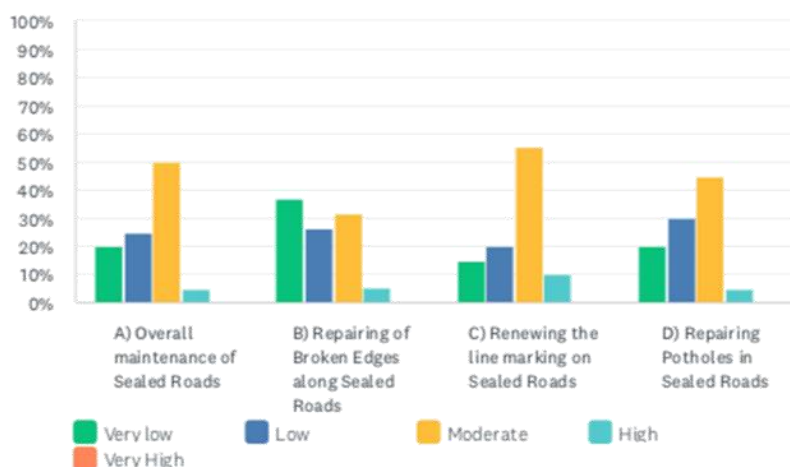
Q4 Have you accessed the Buloke Shire Council website?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0



Q5 Maintaining of Sealed Bitumen Roads

Answered: 20 Skipped: 3

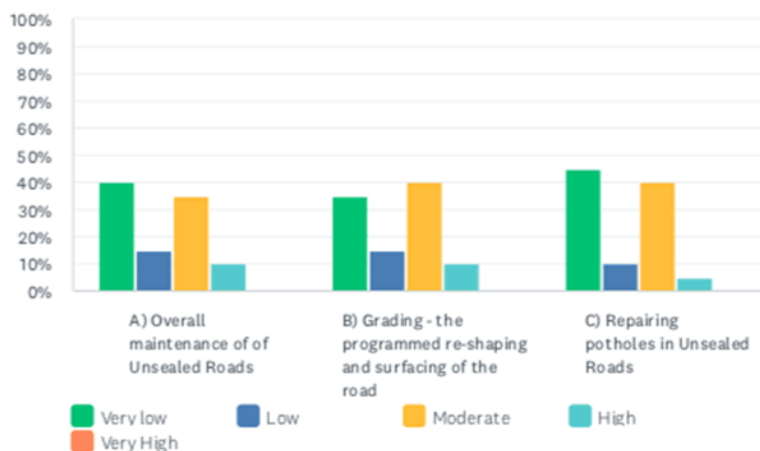


	VERY LOW	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	TOTAL
A) Overall maintenance of Sealed Roads	20.00% 4	25.00% 5	50.00% 10	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	20
B) Repairing of Broken Edges along Sealed Roads	36.84% 7	26.32% 5	31.58% 6	5.26% 1	0.00% 0	19
C) Renewing the line marking on Sealed Roads	15.00% 3	20.00% 4	55.00% 11	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	20
D) Repairing Potholes in Sealed Roads	20.00% 4	30.00% 6	45.00% 9	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	20

#	IF YOU HAVE RATED ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS AS VERY LOW OR LOW, PLEASE TELL US WHY.	DATE
1	can take excessive time for repairs to happen	11/23/2021 9:33 AM
2	Corner of Bunker Rd and Racecourse Rd in Donald is very poor. Has been in this condition for many years. Current patch up job isn't and doesn't last long. Fix properly.	11/3/2021 5:38 AM
3	Roads and shoulders are a disgrace	11/2/2021 8:14 PM
4	The roads are terrible. Feel like staying home.	10/29/2021 3:13 PM
5	many roads don't have line marking or guide posts to mark the edge of the roadway including shoulder	10/26/2021 3:30 PM
6	Donald-Murtoa arterial road is unsafe and in desperate need of rebuilding. Putting 80 kph signs up is like putting a band aid on a broken leg	10/25/2021 10:36 AM
7	Poor state of repair	10/25/2021 10:28 AM
8	Long existing road damage is neglected.	10/20/2021 12:32 PM
9	Poor line marking on most roads	10/19/2021 5:21 PM
10	Because if you don't own a 4wd it's dangerous to get off some roads due to single road as the drop off is huge. The gravel roads in the shire are better then the bitumen ones.	10/19/2021 4:35 PM

Q6 Maintaining of Unsealed (Gravel) Roads

Answered: 20 Skipped: 3

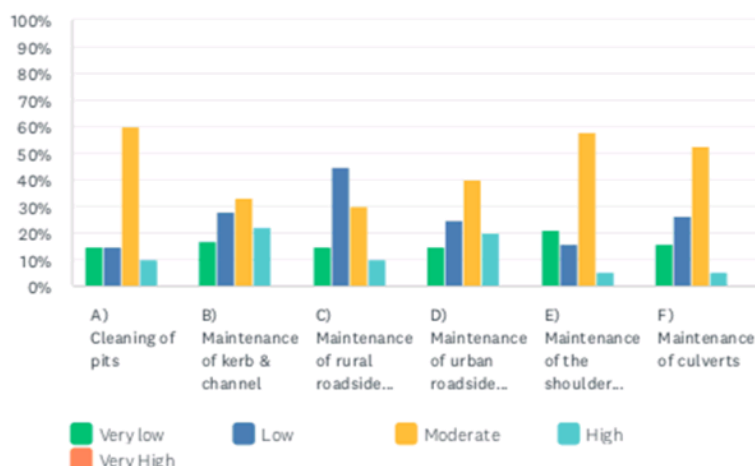


	VERY LOW	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	TOTAL
A) Overall maintenance of Unsealed Roads	40.00% 8	15.00% 3	35.00% 7	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	20
B) Grading - the programmed re-shaping and surfacing of the road	35.00% 7	15.00% 3	40.00% 8	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	20
C) Repairing potholes in Unsealed Roads	45.00% 9	10.00% 2	40.00% 8	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	20

#	IF YOU HAVE RATED ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS AS VERY LOW OR LOW, PLEASE TELL US WHY.	DATE
1	can take 2 to 3 years before a road is graded after its been graded	11/23/2021 9:33 AM
2	Maintenance not regular enough, time between grading is too long allowing roads to deteriorate to undrinkable levels	11/6/2021 6:13 AM
3	One side of road loddon Shire immaculate buloke Shire on other side pathetic .same traffic	11/2/2021 8:14 PM
4	Got to maintain them your self.	10/29/2021 3:13 PM
5	The conditions on our unsealed roads is terrible and requires urgent attention	10/28/2021 5:16 PM
6	Some roads used by corporate farmers have no respect on keeping roads in good condition ie ploughing up and down with tractors and heavy machinery which don't qualify for using the roads especially under wet conditions and lack of repairing sinkholes and washaways that are causing damage to machinery breaking axles	10/27/2021 10:25 PM
7	These are all pretty much for our road, C McQuinn's Road. We have lived here for 11 years and not once has a pot hole been repaired by the Shire, not once has any roadside maintenance been done by the Shire. I have asked a few times coming up to fire season if the roadsides could be cleared, slashed. I was informed that the Shire did not do any roadside maintenance or fire season preparation on unsealed roads. I have also queried why the section of the road from the highway to our front gates are not graded but the remainder of the road and neighbouring roads are. I was told that that particular 800m long section does not get graded because it apparently is made up of a stronger gravel and the Shire does not have a grader strong enough to grade that section.	10/26/2021 7:58 PM
8	Very rarely addressed, and only then by persistent requests.	10/20/2021 12:32 PM
9	Roads around Corack are extremely poorly maintained. Jeffrey's Rd is downright dangerous and has been for some time.	10/19/2021 5:21 PM
10	The corrugations on some of these roads are horrendous	10/19/2021 4:35 PM

Q7 Draining Maintenance

Answered: 20 Skipped: 3

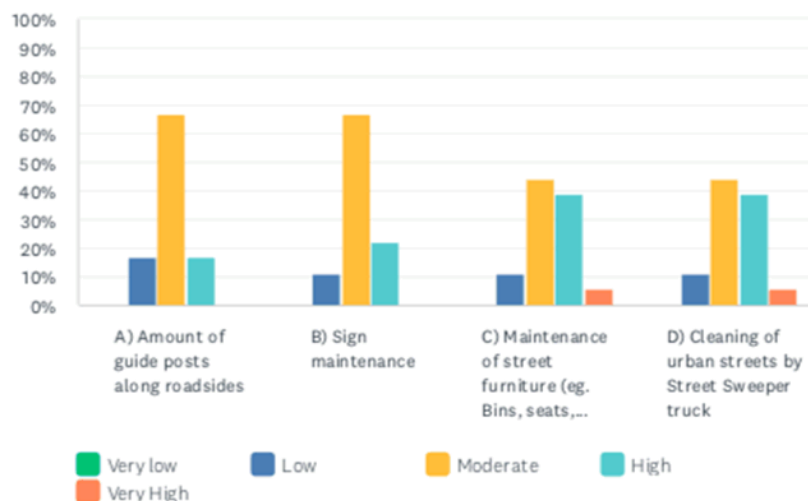


	VERY LOW	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	TOTAL
A) Cleaning of pits	15.00% 3	15.00% 3	60.00% 12	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	20
B) Maintenance of kerb & channel	16.67% 3	27.78% 5	33.33% 6	22.22% 4	0.00% 0	18
C) Maintenance of rural roadside drainage (open drains)	15.00% 3	45.00% 9	30.00% 6	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	20
D) Maintenance of urban roadside drainage (open drains)	15.00% 3	25.00% 5	40.00% 8	20.00% 4	0.00% 0	20
E) Maintenance of the shoulders of roads	21.05% 4	15.79% 3	57.89% 11	5.26% 1	0.00% 0	19
F) Maintenance of culverts	15.79% 3	26.32% 5	52.63% 10	5.26% 1	0.00% 0	19

#	IF YOU HAVE RATED ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS AS VERY LOW OR LOW, PLEASE TELL US WHY.	DATE
1	kerb and channel in towns is mostly broken does not flow water and just lets it sit and block up, pits are really sucked out by the sweeper,	11/23/2021 9:33 AM
2	Build up of water & materials during heavy rain events	11/6/2021 6:13 AM
3	Jenkins st charlton no drainage	11/2/2021 8:14 PM
4	Overgrown. Roads flood when it rains.	10/29/2021 3:13 PM
5	Some noticeable culverts are falling apart	10/27/2021 10:25 PM
6	I have never seen any maintenance of rural roadside drainage.	10/26/2021 7:58 PM
7	Charlton - is there maintenance of open drains??	10/26/2021 3:30 PM
8	Inadequate vegetation management.	10/25/2021 10:36 AM
9	Over growth of vegetation and weeds	10/25/2021 10:28 AM
10	They only seemed to get cleaned out when we have had an inch of rain or decent rainfall coming	10/19/2021 4:35 PM

Q8 Road Related Maintenance

Answered: 18 Skipped: 5

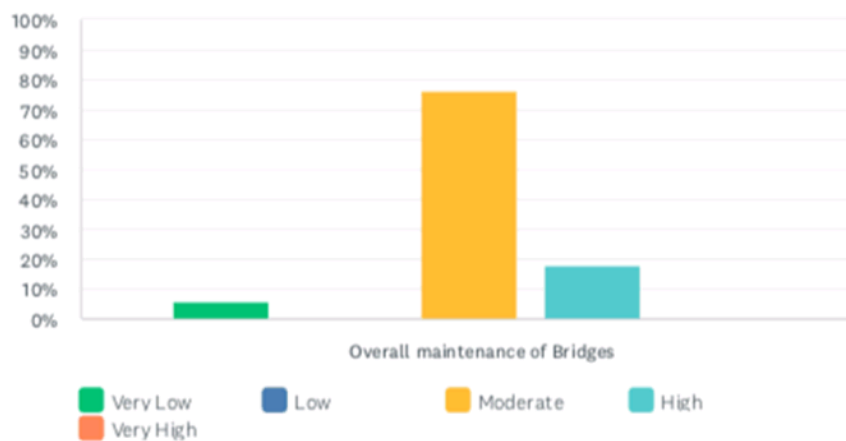


	VERY LOW	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	TOTAL
A) Amount of guide posts along roadsides	0.00% 0	16.67% 3	66.67% 12	16.67% 3	0.00% 0	18
B) Sign maintenance	0.00% 0	11.11% 2	66.67% 12	22.22% 4	0.00% 0	18
C) Maintenance of street furniture (eg. Bins, seats, bollards)	0.00% 0	11.11% 2	44.44% 8	38.89% 7	5.56% 1	18
D) Cleaning of urban streets by Street Sweeper truck	0.00% 0	11.11% 2	44.44% 8	38.89% 7	5.56% 1	18

#	IF YOU HAVE RATED ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS AS VERY LOW OR LOW, PLEASE TELL US WHY.	DATE
1	Many roads don't seem to have guide posts, if they do there are a long distance between	10/26/2021 3:32 PM
2	The shire is great for putting reduce speed limit signs up instead of actually fixing the roads	10/19/2021 4:36 PM

Q9 Bridge Maintenance

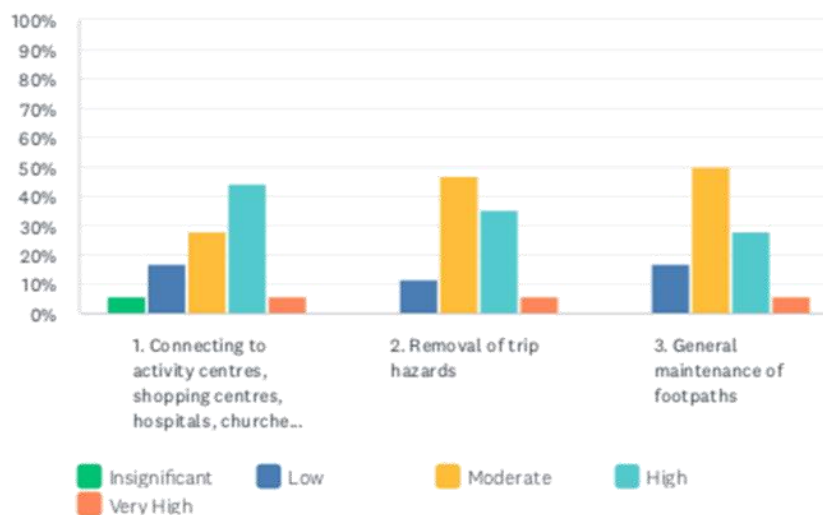
Answered: 17 Skipped: 6



	VERY LOW	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	TOTAL
Overall maintenance of Bridges	5.88%	0.00%	76.47%	17.65%	0.00%	
	1	0	13	3	0	17

Q10 Footpaths

Answered: 18 Skipped: 5

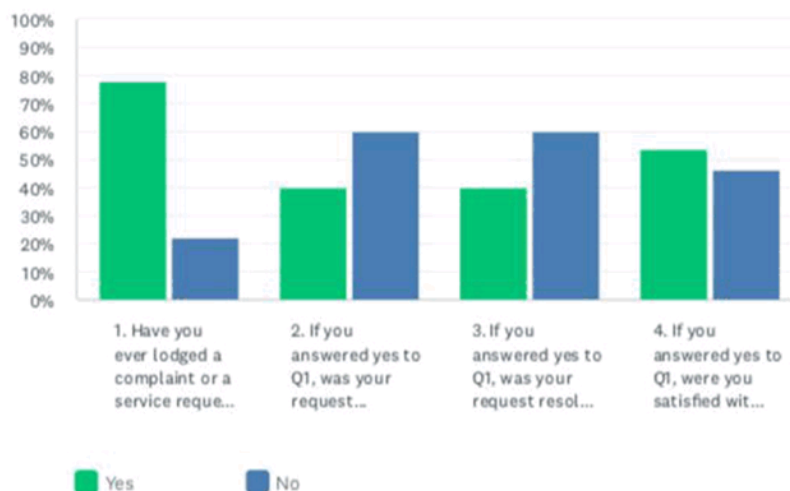


	INSIGNIFICANT	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH	TOTAL
1. Connecting to activity centres, shopping centres, hospitals, churches, schools etc.	5.56% 1	16.67% 3	27.78% 5	44.44% 8	5.56% 1	18
2. Removal of trip hazards	0.00% 0	11.76% 2	47.06% 8	35.29% 6	5.88% 1	17
3. General maintenance of footpaths	0.00% 0	16.67% 3	50.00% 9	27.78% 5	5.56% 1	18

#	ANY OTHER COMMENTS?	DATE
1	Define trip hazard, a 20mm footpath lift may be a hazard to 70% of the population but a 10mm lift maybe a trip hazard to 40%????? not clear	10/26/2021 3:34 PM
2	Mount st Wycheproof at back of hospital is disgraceful	10/25/2021 3:51 PM
3	look after the townies and overtax the country farmers	10/25/2021 10:29 AM

Q11 SERVICE REQUEST/COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Answered: 18 Skipped: 5



	YES	NO	TOTAL
1. Have you ever lodged a complaint or a service request with Council?	77.78% 14	22.22% 4	18
2. If you answered yes to Q1, was your request responded to within 3 days?	40.00% 6	60.00% 9	15
3. If you answered yes to Q1, was your request resolved within 3 weeks?	40.00% 6	60.00% 9	15
4. If you answered yes to Q1, were you satisfied with the outcome of your request?	53.85% 7	46.15% 6	13


#	IF YOU ANSWERED "NO" PLEASE TELL US WHY.	DATE
1	Deterioration of road was only half repaired still a risky large pothole	11/6/2021 6:16 AM
2	Put sign up slow down never fixed a thing	11/2/2021 8:16 PM
3	Action not taken. Work taken was wrong.	10/29/2021 3:15 PM
4	No follow up from the complaint	10/28/2021 5:19 PM
5	Have received no response to request	10/27/2021 10:25 PM
6	Maintenance of unsealed road as per previous question	10/26/2021 8:03 PM
7	Too many beaurocratic hoops	10/25/2021 10:39 AM
8	no comment	10/25/2021 10:31 AM

Q12 If you would like to stay informed of, or contribute to the improving of the road maintenance across the Shire please provide your details below.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 19


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	4
Company	0.00%	0
Address	100.00%	4
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	100.00%	4
Phone Number	100.00%	4

APPENDIX 1



Road Management Plan Review


Building a Better Buloke - a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community



Overview



- Provide overview of the Act
- Councils responsibilities
- Where we are currently and where we would like to get to
- Discussion

Building a Better Buloke - a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community




Road Management act 2004

Came into effect as of 1 July 2004
 Removal of **non-feasance** defence as of 1 January 2005 (failure to perform an act that is required by law.)


Building a Better Buloke - a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community



Road Management Act - Purpose

- Enable coordinated management of **public** roads - safe & efficient State and local public **road networks** and responsible **use** of road reserves.
- Where it can be shown that **reasonable** road management policies apply & Council has **complied** with these policies this may be used as defence to civil action of negligence.


Building a Better Buloke - a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community



Road Management Act - Purpose

- To set out powers, duties and functions of highway authorities: **inspection, maintenance and repair of public roads;**
- To establish a **legal framework** for the management of public roads, define rights, powers and duties of road authorities and other persons or bodies; and
- To enable Council to **develop and publish their Road Management plans:** in relation to the inspection, maintenance and repair of public roads, having regard to the type of road, the **resources** available to the authority and its **budgetary and policy priorities**

Building a Better Buloke - a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community




STATUTORY DUTIES OF ROAD AUTHORITIES

Statutory duty to inspect, maintain and repair public road (s. 40):

- To standard in road management plan
- If no standard, to a reasonable level

Duty extends to roadways, pathway on public roads, shoulder and road infrastructure


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Road-related Assets the Council is responsible for

Carriageway
 Kerb and channel
 Paths (pedestrian and shared)
 Drainage system
 Rural road shoulders and open drains
 Bridges
 Council owned car parks
 Traffic control devices (signals, roundabouts signs line-marking etc)
 Streetlights
 Road Furniture (bus stops, seats etc)

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Building a Better Buloke - a healthy, connected, inclusive and prosperous community



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8.2.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Author's Title: Community Development Officer

Department: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

PURPOSE

This report is presented to Council to consider the allocation of funds from the Community Grants and Sponsorship Program.

SUMMARY

Presenting one application for the Community Grants and Sponsorship program and for the Financial Year 2021/2022 and one Sustainability Grant application for the Financial Year 2022/2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council allocates the following funding under the Community Grants and Sponsorship program:

\$2000 Project Support Grant to Rex Theatre; and

\$10,000 Sustainability Grant, for the 2022/2023 Financial Year on the provision of them being successful in their Small Towns, Big Difference Application for their project.

Attachments: 1 [Community Grants 2021 - 22 Council Report March](#)
2 [2022-2023 Community grants](#)

DISCUSSION

The following applications for funding are being put forth to Council for final decision.

Each of these applications have been assessed as per the Community Grant Guidelines as accepted by Council. The Senior Leadership Team recommends the following grants for council's consideration and final decision on the allocations.

Project:	Don't Mess with the Dummies Concert
Organisation:	Rex Theatre Charlton
Grant Type	Project Support Grant
Amount Applied:	\$2000
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$2000
Full project cost:	\$7300.00
Project Description:	Live Show performance of "Don't Mess with the Dummies" and Circus Skills workshop for our younger members of the community. Funding from Buloke will subsidise the cost of the tickets, so that they are more affordable for families to attend.
Project Benefit:	The chance for the community to see acrobatics, learn new skills and to

	<p>having the opportunity to talk with all the artists post-performance will have an invigorating effect on the community and their participation in live show events.</p> <p>Through the circus skills workshop linked to the show, the Charlton community will have the opportunity to obtain new skills and knowledge and be given access to educational opportunities that they would otherwise not be able to experience.</p>
Project: Lowering the Carbon Footprint of the Rex	
Organisation:	Rex Theatre Charlton
Grant Type	Sustainability Grant
Amount Applied:	\$10,000
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$10,000
Full project cost:	\$32,450.00
Project Description:	The Rex Theatre will be installing three batteries on the building to store the energy that is generated from their solar panels. This will enable the Rex to use energy stored throughout the day for their night cinema showings, and reduce their costs as well as their impact on the environment
Project Benefit:	In addition to the climate benefits, the installation will lower the operating costs of the theatre which will allow them to maintain the affordability of cultural entertainment and activities for the Charlton and surrounding communities which will reduce barriers to access the Rex's arts and cultural experiences. This will help maintain the sustainability of the Theatre for current and future generations.
Comments	The Rex will be applying for the Small Towns Big Difference Grant funding, and they have indicated that this project will only be able to take place if they receive the funding from the Small Towns Big Difference grant program.

RELEVANT LAW

Not Applicable

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not Applicable

OPTIONS

Council has the option not to allocate funds as per recommended or defer for further information.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Stored energy from daily production to be used in place of grid power, reducing the carbon footprint of the REX

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Manager of Community Services or Community Development Officer engaged with each applicant listed.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not Applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

These applications for the 2021/22 Financial Year from the \$20,000 allocation for Community Grants and the Sustainability Fund \$50,000 allocation.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

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.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers involved in this report have a conflict of interest.

Community Grants, Sponsorship

2021-2022

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Type</i>
Charlton Probus Club	Small Equipment Grant
Charlton Golf Club	Sponsorship
<i>North Central LLEN</i>	<i>Sponsorship</i>
Watchem Development Association	Project Support Grant
Donald Friends & Neighbours	Small Equipment Grant
Wycheproof Mens Shed	Small Equipment Grant
Wycheproof Caravan Park	Small Equipment Grant
Charlton Rotary Club	Sponsorship
Wycheproof Community Resource Centre	Sponsorship
Wycheproof and District Lawn Tennis Club	Small Capital Equipment Grant
Mallee Sports Assembly	Sponsorship
Birchip Playgroup	Small Capital Equipment Grant
<i>Donald 2000</i>	<i>Project Support Grant</i>
Birchip Business and Learning Centre	Project Support Grant
Charlton Lions Club	Sponsorship
Buloke Youth Health Expo	Project Support Grant

Birchip Business and Learning Centre	Project Support Grant
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Rex Theatre Charlton	Project Support Grant
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2021-2022	Sustainability Fund
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Watchem Development Association	Sustainability Grant
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Wycheproof and District Lawn Tennis Club	Sustainability Grant
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Donald 2000	Sustainability Grant
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& Sustainability Fund

<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount in Application</i>	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Granted by Council</i>
22/06/2021	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
29/06/2021	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
11/06/2021	\$ 500.00	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
6/07/2021	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
14/07/2021	\$ 933.00	\$ 933.00	\$ 933.00
13.8.21	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
11.8.21	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
20.8.21	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
14/0/2021	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
20/10/2021	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
27/10/2021	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
16/11/2021	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
26/10/2021	\$ 2,000.00	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
12/11/2021	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
3/12/2021	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
23/11/2021	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

13/11/2021	\$ 2,000.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
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18/02/2022	\$ 2,000.00	\$	2,000.00		
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		\$	16,533.00	\$	14,533.00
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23/07/2021	\$ 8,090.00	\$	8,090.00	\$	8,090.00
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20/10/2021	\$ 7,466.80	\$	5,500.00	\$	5,500.00
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10/11/2021	\$ 6,535.00	\$	8,713.33	\$	8,713.33
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		\$	22,303.33	\$	22,303.33
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2021-2022		Community Grants, Spon
<i>Organisation</i>		<i>Type</i>
Birchip Playgroup		Project Support Grant
2022-2023		Sustainability Fund
Rex Theatre		Sustainability Grant

sorship & Sustainability Fund

<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount in Application</i>	<i>Recommended \$</i>	
15/11/2021	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
		\$ 2,000.00	
18/02/2022	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	

Granted by Council

\$	2,000.00
\$	2,000.00

8.2.3 WYCHEPROOF COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE

Author's Title: Manager Facilities and Projects

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: CM/17/04

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

To appoint additional members to the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee, appoint a new Chairperson of the Committee, and to note the minutes of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM).

SUMMARY

The Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee was established at the ordinary meeting of Council in 2020 in accordance with s65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). In November 2021, the committee held its AGM whereby new members were put forward to be appointed to the committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in exercise of the power conferred by s65 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act):

1. Appoints additional members of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee (Committee):
 - (a) Jenna Allan
 - (b) Jessica Turner
 - (c) Thomas Draffen
2. Delegates additional members of the Committee to have voting rights on the Committee;
3. Appoints Thomas Draffen as the Chairperson; and
4. Notes the minutes of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Attachments: 1 [Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee AGM](#)
- 11 November 2021

DISCUSSION

At its September 2020 Ordinary Meeting the Committee was established in accordance with s65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. In November 2021, the committee held its Annual General Meeting whereby new members were put forward to be appointed to the committee. Officers of Council have met with members of the Committee to receive the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and discuss the proposed appointment of additional committee members and the appointment of a new Chairperson.

It is proposed that Council appoint additional members to the Committee: Jenna Allan, Jessica Turner and Thomas Draffen, and that Mr Draffen is appointed as the Chairperson of the committee.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 65 of the Act provides that Council may establish a Community Asset Committee and appoint as many members to the Community Asset Committee as the Council considers necessary to enable to Community Asset Committee for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipal district. Section 47 of the Act provides the Chief Executive Officer with the power to delegate to those persons appointed as members of the Community Asset Committee.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At its September 2020 Ordinary Meeting the Committee was established in accordance with s65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Committee has been consulted.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Community Asset Committees have certain obligations and limitations imposed for financial management responsibilities, to ensure transparency in the use of financial resources for community benefit.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Governance Rules 2020 shall apply.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Any Community Asset Committee shall be bound to observe the meeting procedure requirements of the Governance Rules 2020.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

ALL CORRESPONDENCE and ENQUIRIES TO:
E: wycherecreserve@gmail.com



WYCHEPROOF RECREATION RESERVE COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Multi-Purpose Room Wycheproof P-12 College

NOVEMBER 11TH 2021

Present: Peter Coles, Claire Phyland, Mel Waters, Tom Draffen, Alan Wallace, Martin Duke, Sue Morrison, Wendy Turnbull, Trevor Rumbold, Jacqui Noonan, Cathy Grant, Jess Turner, Ian McDonald, Jenna Allan

Apologies: Dick McLennan, Alan Jones, Peter Hogan Moved: Jenna Allan Sec: Tom Draffen

Minutes of previous meeting: July 28th 2020 as per circulated Motion that the minutes of the previous General meeting held on July 28th 2020 be confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: Wendy Turnbull Sec: Martin Duke

Business Arising from minutes: Nil

Correspondence: Tennis Club re: GWM Accounts; Croquet Club re: solar panels and other discussion points, Bowls Club re: Committee representative. Buloke Shire re: meeting on the 18th November to discuss Governance arrangements of the site

Motion: "The committee shall contact the Shire requesting a change of date and time with regards to the meeting between Council Representatives and Recreational Reserve Community Asset Committee to discuss current governance arrangements with our site as we are currently in the middle of personnel changes. "

Correspondence to be sent to Darci Tierney and Amber Ricks

Moved: Martin Duke

Sec: Tom Draffen

Carried

This correspondence has been authorised by the Chairperson of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee using power delegated by a *C7 Instrument of Delegation by the CEO Buloke Shire to Community Asset Committee* in exercise of the power conferred by s 47(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)* dated **September 1st, 2020**

ALL CORRESPONDENCE and ENQUIRIES TO:
E: wycherecreserve@gmail.com



Treasurers Report:

Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Committee

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1/7/2019 – 30/6/2020

INCOME

Balance 1/7/2019 \$38,342.49

Shire Allocation \$33,562.00

\$71,904.49

EXPENDITURE

GWM Water \$5,943.30

Allocations to Sporting Clubs \$24,182.00

Stuart Nicholls Plumbing \$477.40

Australia Post \$45.00

WCRC \$79.10

Wycheproof Golf Club \$150.00

Total \$30,876.80

Balance \$41,032.30

Unpresented Cheques

WCRC \$23.55

GWM Water \$1,404.08

Total \$1,427.63

Bank Balances

Cheque Account \$41,032.30

-Less unpresented cheques -\$1,427.63

\$39,604.67

Term Deposit

Balance 1/7/2019 \$15,755.42

Balance 30/6/2020 \$16,025.49

Next Review 20/7/2020

Net Worth at 30/6/2020 \$55,629.67

Moved: Mel Waters

Sec: Sue Morrison

This correspondence has been authorised by the Chairperson of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee using power delegated by a *C7 Instrument of Delegation by the CEO Buloke Shire to Community Asset Committee* in exercise of the power conferred by s 47(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)* dated **September 1st, 2020**

ALL CORRESPONDENCE and ENQUIRIES TO:
E: wycherecreserve@gmail.com



General Business:

Trevor Rumbold gave a brief account of the major works being undertaken by the Shire at the Rec Reserve.

Wycheproof Wetlands Development.

Designs are complete and a contractor is in place to begin works removing the western bank of the redundant GWM Water reservoirs from around the old sheep pavilion to the racecourse. The reclaimed soil from the bank will be filled into the north-eastern reservoir to create a wetlands area that will filter storm water run off from the Charles St. dam. This filtered water will flow into a recreational lake that will stretch from the football oval to the golf course and be used for paddling, swimming and fishing. A walking track will be installed in the area where the banks are removed. An information session will be held at the football rooms from 4-6pm on the 23rd Nov for members of the public to drop in and learn more about the project. A Project Control Group will be formed after that meeting to finalise the wetland precinct designs, it would be appreciated if a member from the rec reserve committee could be involved in that group.

Football & Hockey Lighting Projects.

A contract has been awarded for the works, to be completed by 4th April 2022

Buloke Council Recreation Reserve Master plan

Council aim to review and decide if the plan is adopted at the December meeting.

Election Of Office Bearers:

Peter Coles vacated the chair and handed it over to Martin Duke to oversee the election.

Chairperson: Tom Draffen (Tennis Club)

Nominated: Trevor Rumbold Seconded: Jenna Allan Duly elected

Secretary: Jenna Allan (Race Club)

Nominated: Tom Draffen Seconded: Jess Turner Duly elected

Treasurer: Jess Turner (Netball Club)

Nominated: Tom Draffen Seconded: Jenna Allan Duly elected

All new members of the committee where congratulated on their new positions and wished all the best.

This correspondence has been authorised by the Chairperson of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee using power delegated by a *C7 Instrument of Delegation by the CEO Buloke Shire to Community Asset Committee* in exercise of the power conferred by s 47(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)* dated **September 1st, 2020**

ALL CORRESPONDENCE and ENQUIRIES TO:
E: wycherecreserve@gmail.com



Other Business:

General discussion regarding the possibilities of a grounds keeper for the Rec Reserve area and entering into an employment contract

General discussion regarding the pros and con of the committee becoming an incorporated body.

Allocation of funds- Tom Draffen let it be known that the water meters had not yet been read.

Motion. "The Recreational reserve Community Asset Committee take responsibility for paying GWM accounts for tennis, hockey, football, tennis and cricket." Moved: Peter Coles Sec: Martin Duke Carried

Motion: "That the Rec Reserve Community Asset Committee hold of allocation of funds until a better understanding of the Committee's Governance" Moved: Tom Draffen Sec: Peter Coles Carried

Martin Duke will follow up with Darci Tierney (Buloke Shire) re: solar panels

Tom Draffen will touch base with council regarding the drainage at the Rec Reserve.

Any club in need of immediate funds should contact the committee.

Meeting Closed 8.03pm

8.2.4 BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2021/2022

Author's Title: Chief Executive Officer

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CM/13/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

This report is presented to give Council a progress update on the actions taken against the 2021/22 Annual Plan.

SUMMARY

Council, at its Ordinary Meetings in June and July 2021, adopted the Buloke Council Plan 2021-25 and the Year 1 Annual Plan for the implementation of the strategic objectives. This is the second quarterly progress report against that plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the progress made to deliver the strategic objectives noted in the adopted Year 1 Annual Plan for the Buloke Council Plan 2021-2025.

Attachments: 1 [Annual Plan 2021/2022 Second Quarter](#)

DISCUSSION

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

Council will receive quarterly progress reports against the plan and this is the second report for the financial year.

The attached report highlights the progress against the key actions noted in the plan. Some of the highlights of the report are:

- Adoption of the Climate Change and Adaptation Strategy
- Awarding of the Kerbside Collection Contract
- Near completion of the Birchip streetscape
- Completion of lighting installation at the tennis clubs
- Awarding of multiple roads contracts including Sea Lake - Lascelles Road, McLoughlans and Jeffcott Roads
- Submission of Gender Equality Audit
- Upgrades to library service
- Continued community and business support with COVID-19 recovery
- Review of Economic development and Tourism strategy in draft
- Extensive consultation on Road Management Plan

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 the adoption of the Year 4 Annual Plan in July 2021.

OPTIONS

Not Applicable

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Projects such as the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy are identified in the plan and will have enhanced sustainability outcomes for Council.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was significant consultation undertaken in the development of the Council Plan, which is the basis of this document. Many of the actions have a high level of community engagement.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not Applicable

COLLABORATION

Many actions rely upon the collaboration with 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 and the adopted Annual Plan 21/22.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The adoption and regular reporting of an Annual Plan provides good strong transparency to the community regarding the key focus areas of Council over the 21/22 year and how Council is tracking against those actions.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

2021/22 Annual Plan						
Our Built and Natural Environment						
Action	Description of activity	Strategic Basis	Measure	Completion date	Status	Comments
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	Adopt Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	Council Plan 1.1	Strategy Adopted	Sep-21	Complete	The Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy was adopted by Council at its November 2021 Council Meeting.
Buloke Shire Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	Install dedicated glass collection bins at Transfer Stations across the Shire	Council Plan 1.1	Bins installed	Jun-22	In progress	Funding submission made for glass bins. Awaiting outcome from DELWP. Entered into user agreement with Yarriambiack for glass crusher.
Find innovative solutions to hard rubbish needs across the Shire	Partner with local business suppliers to find user-pay solutions to the desire for hard rubbish collection	Council Plan 1.1	Solution implemented	Nov-21	In progress	Expression of Interest was run Nov 21 , no suitable applications made, working with local providers and new kerbside contractor to operate a service.
Kerbside Collection contract	Enter into long-term contract for new kerbside collection services	Council Plan 1.1	Contract awarded	Feb-22	Complete	Contract awarded December 2021. New contract to commence 1 July 2022.

Suitable Housing	Undertake subdivision and servicing of old Primary School site in Sea Lake	Council Plan 1.2	Properties on the market	Aug-22	In progress	Designs for subdivision planning permit underway, designs will form basis of procurement documentation for civil works.
Suitable Housing	Advocate for funding for the expansion of Birchip Community Housing onto old bowling green site	Council Plan 1.2	Applications submitted	Dec-21	Complete	Funding application submitted to Regional Development Victoria.
Drainage Planning	Complete town drainage strategy for Nullawil	Council Plan 1.3	Plan completed	Dec-21	In progress	Draft plan received, currently undergoing internal review to be followed by community consultation.
Upgrading sporting facilities	Complete lighting projects across sporting fields in Donald, Wycheproof, Charlton and Nullawil	Council Plan 1.3	Construction completed	Jun-22	In progress	Tennis club projects complete. Football, hockey and netball courts to be completed by end of May.
Streetscape upgrades	Complete streetscape upgrades for all five townships	Council Plan 1.3	Construction completed	Jun-22	In progress	Birchip and Wycheproof works underway. Sea Lake tender awarded. Charlton PCG to review final designs prior to going to tender and Donald designs being finalised with community ahead of procurement.

Playspace Strategy Implementation	Construction of playspaces for Berriwillock, Birchip, Wycheproof, Charlton and Donald	Council Plan 1.3	Construction completed	Sep-22	In progress	Detailed designs for civil works underway, equipment orders have commenced.
Seek funding for regional supply chain strategies (Road and Rail)	Applications submitted for upgrades to key heavy road	Council Plan 1.4	Applications submitted	Jun-22	Not yet started	No funding opportunities have presented.
Community Hub Planning	Seek funding for Charlton Community/Civic Hub	Council Plan 1.4	Applications submitted	Aug-21	In progress	Briefings to Councillors. Project to be suspended for further consideration.
Key freight route upgrades	Complete key heavy road upgrade projects, including Sea Lake Lascelles Road, Birchip Nullawil Road and Jeffcott Road	Council Plan 1.4	Construction completed	Jun-22	In progress	Sea Lake Lascelles and Birchip Nullawil Road works underway, tender awarded for McLoughlans and Jeffcott Roads.
Our Community Wellbeing						
Action	Description of activity	Strategic Basis	Measure	Completion date	Status	Comments
Youth Planning for health outcomes	Enact first year of VicHealth Local Government Partnership	Council Plan 2.1	Youth Officer employed and four community workshops completed	Feb-22	In progress	Youth Officer employed, two workshops complete. Planning for remaining workshops underway.

Implement Workforce Development and Training Needs Analysis	Work with regional stakeholders to attract Job and Skill Centre presence in the Shire	Council Plan 2.1	Provision of service available in Buloke (min. 1 day per week)	Mar-22	In progress	Engagement commenced with SuniTafe who hold the funding for this program.
Gender Equality Planning	Undertake Gender Equality Action Plan	Council Plan 2.2	Plan completed	Dec-21	In progress	State Government has extended the completion date to March 2022. Staff survey and Gender Audit completed.
Ongoing improvement of library service	Library Van upgraded to be more accessible and versatile	Council Plan 2.3	Upgrades to van completed	May-22	In Progress	Upgrades commenced, shelving, steps and hand rails installed, awaiting installation of final (power pack) component.
Planning for upgrades to early years facilities	Strategic plans completed for upgrades at Birchip and Donald Early Years Facilities	Council Plan 2.3	Plans completed	Mar-22	In progress	Engagement occurring with both Committees - a consultant has been engaged for the works. RFQ in progress. Some delays, complete date now set for August 2022.

COVID-19 recovery activities to reconnect the community	Support the delivery of all CASI funded projects and report on the benefits of the program	Council Plan 2.3	Projects and events completed. Report completed	Feb-22	In progress	Due to the fluctuating nature of current COVID-19 restrictions, some of the funded events have been postponed or cancelled. Council officers continue to work with successful candidates. Some funding has been made available to the community.
Supporting the implementation of Community Plans	Support the Small Towns Big Difference program to deliver an expanded dedicated community grants program to the community	Council Plan 2.3	Funding program available to community	Dec-21	In progress	Information Sessions were held across the Shire in mid February ahead of the fund opening in March 2022.
Our Economy						
Action	Description of activity	Strategic Basis	Measure	Completion date	Responsible officer	Status
Prioritise the funding application for cabins at caravan parks	Apply for cabin accommodation at caravan parks and lakes across the Shire	Council Plan 3.1	Applications submitted	Aug-21	Completed (application submitted)	Applications lodged with Federal and State Government.

Expand street art across the Shire	Undertake the Buloke Street Art Festival at Birchip and Watchem	Council Plan 3.1	Festival undertaken and additional art installations completed	Apr-22	In progress	Street Art Festival scheduled for March.
Tourism activation	Partner with key agencies including Wimmera Mallee Tourism and Buloke Tourism to deliver activation projects	Council Plan 3.1	Activation undertaken	Jun-22	In progress	Planning underway
Night activation of the art trail	Deliver on funding for the night activation of the Silo Art Trail	Council Plan 3.1	Night activation installed	Aug-22	In progress	Planning in progress. Project control group established.
Birchip Town Centre proposal development	Development of feasibility study for the Birchip Civic and Community Hub project	Council Plan 3.2	Feasibility study adopted by Council	Apr-22	In progress	Draft presented to Councillors at February briefing, released for community feedback.
Planning for Donald Tradie Park	Submit funding application for planning of Donald Tradie Park proposal	Council Plan 3.2	Application submitted	Sep-21	Completed (application submitted)	Application submitted in partnership with Wimmera Development Association.
Redevelop Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	Redevelop Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	Council Plan 3.3	Strategy adopted	Mar-21	In progress	Draft presented to Councillors at February briefing, for release to community for feedback.
Incentives for housing and business development	Develop and present options paper of appropriate incentives for housing and business development	Council Plan 3.3	Council position adopted	Nov-21	In progress	Options presented to Councillors in budget workshop, update provided to Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee in March.

Removing mobile blackspots	Undertake a review of mobile blackspots across the Shire and prioritise three most required.	Council Plan 3.4	Blackspots identified and form part of Advocacy Strategy	Oct-21	Complete	Mobile blackspot incorporated in Advocacy Strategy. State Government requesting blackspot information from community.
Upgrades to broadband in Sea Lake	Prioritise the advocacy for upgrades to Sea Lake broadband to fibre	Council Plan 3.4	Advocacy activity undertaken and reported on	Jun-22	In progress	Consulting heavily with NBN Co. to produce build costs and lodge applications for Sea Lake and Birchip under the Regional Connectivity Program.
Internet of Things rollout across key assets	Implement the Internet of Things project to transition Council towards smart region technology	Council Plan 3.4	Project implemented	May-22	In progress	First round of equipment has been installed at Donald public toilets, installation at airstrip about to commence and reviewing additional sites for Lake Tyrrell.
Our Council and Community Leadership						
Action	Description of activity	Strategic Basis	Measure	Completion date	Responsible officer	Status

Supporting Buloke volunteers	Alongside Vounteer Co-ordinator position (RDV) re-develop and implement the Volunteer Action Plan	Council Plan 4.1	Plan completed	Mar-22	In progress	Consultant appointed and of works is underway.
Review Council grants, contributions and donations	Undertake a review of Councils grants, contributions and donations and redevelop policy	Council Plan 4.1	Review complete and policy developed	Oct-21	In progress	Council reviewed its grants, contributions and donations in October 2021. A policy will be redeveloped for the 2022-2023 program.
Develop Communication Strategy	Continue to enhance our online and traditional communication presence to reach all community members with Council information by developing a Communication Strategy.	Council Plan 4.2	Communication Strategy completed	Feb-22	In progress	Draft document completed. This project has been slightly delayed owing to the recruitment of the Manager Customer Engagement role.
Increase our communication and involvement with the community in decision making	Provide high quality customer service and a foster an all of organisation customer service approach through a revised Customer Service Strategy.	Council Plan 4.2	Report against progress of customer service strategy	Jun-22	In progress	Internal consultation has commenced with Council's Management Team.

Redevelop Council's Road Management Plan	Develop a new Road Management Plan	Council Plan 4.3	Plan adopted	Jan-21	In progress	1st round of community consultation completed prior to harvest. "review" doc to go to 1st briefing in March then public consultation for the remainder of march. Revised RMP draft doc to 2nd briefing in April. 2nd round RMP doc to council in May.
Efficient and flexible service delivery	Finalise the Business Transformation Strategy	Council Plan 4.3	Strategy completed	Sep-21	Complete	Strategy presented to Councillors at February briefing.
Adherence to Local Government Act	Complete a review of the Procurement Policy and develop the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy	Council Plan 4.3	Policies adopted	Dec-21	Complete	CEO Employment and Remuneration policy adopted October 2021. Procurement policy adopted December 2021.

Manage our Assets in an effective manner	Develop suite of Asset Management Plans	Council Plan 4.3	Plans developed	Jun-22	In progress	Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) Draft to go to 1st briefing in May, Final to June meeting.
Complete Workforce Plan	Develop a 4-year Workforce Plan	Council Plan 4.4	Workforce plan completed	Dec-21	Complete	Workforce Plan adopted December 2021
Renew the Advocacy Strategy	Complete a review and redevelop the Advocacy Strategy to align with Council and community vision	Council Plan 4.4	Advocacy Strategy completed	Sep-21	Complete	Advocacy Strategy adopted by Council in September
Build community preparedness and resilience to the effects of extreme weather events	Safer together program in partnership with Gannawarra	Council Plan 4.4	Works completed	Jun-22	In progress	Initially unable to fill the project officer position. Working with State Government to address the project rollout over a 2 year period.

Reduce the asset renewal gap	Undertake the next review of Councils land and building stock and identify surplus assets	Council Plan 4.4	Presented to Council briefing	Jan-22	In progress	Officers commenced review of asset list
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8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Nil

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil

8.6 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil

9. OTHER BUSINESS**9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION****9.1.1 RAIL-CROSSINGS - DONALD AND SWAN HILL ROAD (LALBERT) AND BOORT-CHARLTON ROAD (CHARLTON)**

Author's Title: Councillor

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: RO/07/03

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice of Motion is for Council to continue its advocacy to the State Government for works to be undertaken with the rail crossing on the Donald-Swan Hill Road north of Lalbert and the rail crossing on the Boort-Charlton Road north-east of Charlton.

SUMMARY

Both of the rail crossings are highly dangerous with its current infrastructure and need urgent attention to address the clearly evident safety issues before a tragic accident occurs.

Council has on previous occasions advocated to the State Government on the safety issues of both of these crossings and unfortunately to date, no progress has been undertaken to upgrade these sites.

Public safety should be a high priority of Council, and I am therefore asking Council to consider this Motion.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council forward a letter to both the Minister of Transport, Jacinta Allan and Minister for Roads and Roads Safety, Ben Carroll seeking its urgent attention to continue to advocate to the responsible authorities for the upgrade of:

1. The rail crossing north of Lalbert on the Donald-Swan Hill Road; and
2. The rail crossing north-east of Charlton on the Boort-Charlton Road.

Attachments: Nil

BACKGROUND**RAIL-CROSSING – DONALD – SWAN HILL ROAD – LALBERT**

The rail-crossing on the Donald-Swan Hill Road has been identified by road users over a long period of time, as being highly dangerous for all users.

This road is an arterial road, school-bus route and in addition to the regional traffic, is a heavy-traffic route for south west Victoria's transport users to New South Wales, through Horsham via Swan Hill.

The approaches from both north and south sides of the crossing, creates blind spots upon entry to the intersection for all modes of transport.

Currently there are give-way signs only at the point of the crossing.

It is my belief that warning lights and bells should be installed as well as other warning devices to alert vehicles to the approaching crossing.

RAIL-CROSSING – BOORT-CHARLTON ROAD – CHARLTON

The Boort-Charlton Road is also an arterial road (Regional Roads Victoria managed and maintained) and links Charlton to Boort, Kerang, Borung and the regional centre of Echuca.

This road is also a school bus route and carries a large amount of heavy freight vehicles, being surrounded by many agricultural primary producers. According to Regional Roads Victoria, the road currently has approximately 190 vehicles per day, which clearly increases in peak harvest season.

The angled intersection with the railway line, makes it extremely difficult for visibility of the trains from the cab of a truck.

Community members have been for a long period of time, urging for safety improvements to this intersection, including for it to be fitted out with boom gates and flashing lights, which is often the safety treatment on the other arterial roads across Victoria.

These upgrades would provide a safer level crossing for all road users and trains.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

10. MEETING CLOSE