



# **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday 9 October 2019**

**Commencing at 7.00pm**

**Wycheproof Supper Room**

**367 Broadway, Wycheproof**

**Anthony Judd  
Chief Executive Officer  
Buloke Shire Council**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 9 October 2019 commencing at 7.00pm in the Wycheproof Supper Room, , 367 Broadway, Wycheproof**

**PRESENT**

**CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Carolyn Stewart                                  Mount Jeffcott Ward

**COUNCILLORS:**

Cr Ellen White    Mallee Ward  
Cr David Vis    Mallee Ward  
Cr David Pollard    Lower Avoca Ward  
Cr Bronwyn Simpson                                        Lower Avoca Ward  
Cr Graeme Milne    Mount Jeffcott Ward  
Cr Daryl Warren    Mount Jeffcott Ward

**OFFICERS:**

Anthony Judd    Chief Executive Officer  
Wayne O'Toole     Director Works and Technical Services  
Rose Harris    Director Community Development  
Travis Fitzgibbon     Manager Customer Engagement

**AGENDA**

**1. COUNCIL WELCOME**

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Carolyn Stewart 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**

Nil.

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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 September 2019 and Council adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Wednesday, 2 October 2019.

**MOVED: CR DAVID VIS**

**SECONDED: CR ELLEN WHITE**

**CARRIED.**

**(R638/19)**

**4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

**5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Cr Carolyn Stewart declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 8.2.5 Community Grants and Sponsorship, due to being a Director of the Rex Theatre, a recipient of funds to be allocated as noted in the recommendation of the report .

Cr David Pollard declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 8.2.5 Community Grants and Sponsorship, due to being a Board Member and the Treasurer of the Rex Theatre, a recipient of funds to be allocated as noted in the recommendation of the report.

Cr Daryl Warren declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 8.2.5 Community Grants and Sponsorship, due to being a Board Member and signed the grant application for the Rex Theatre, a recipient of funds to be allocated as noted in the recommendation of the report.

Cr Ellen White declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 7.4 Building Permits Update, due to one of the Permit applications related to building works on her property.

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

NIL 5

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## **NEXT MEETING**

THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.00PM.

**Anthony Judd**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Nil

## **7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

### **7.1 REPORT OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS MEETINGS**

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GO/05/04

**Attachments:** 1 [⇒](#)Councillor Briefing Record - 4 September 2019  
2 [⇒](#)Councillor Briefing Record - 18 September 2019

#### **MOTION:**

That the Council note the report of Assembly of Councillor Meetings held on 4 and 18 September 2019.

**MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS**

**CARRIED.**

**(R639/19)**

#### **1. Key Points/Issues**

The Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) provides that a record must be kept of any Meeting of Councillors and Staff deemed to be an Assembly of Councillors Meeting as defined in the Act.

An Assembly of Councillors Meeting is defined in the Act as a meeting of Councillors if the meeting considers matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision or the exercise of delegation and the meeting is:

A planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half of the Councillors and a member of Council Staff; or

An Advisory Committee of the Council where one or more Councillors are present.

The Act also provides that the record of any Assembly of Councillors is to be reported to the next practicable Council Meeting and recorded in the Minutes.

A record of the Assembly of Councillors Meetings held on 4 September and 18 September is attached.

## 7.2 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** CR/13/01

**Attachments:** Nil

**MOTION:**

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

**MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE**

**CARRIED.**

**(R640/19)**

### 1. Executive Summary

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.

### 2. Recognition of Achievement Items

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
University of New England, Armidale, NSW	Kerryanne Graham	30 August 2019	Graduated with a Master of Arts (English Literature) degree. Kerryanne is now in the process of completing a Master of Arts (Religious Studies)
AFL Central Victoria	Jarrold Tyler	21 September 2019	Awarded AFL Central Victoria Galley Café and Advanced High performance Youth Coach of the Year.

### 7.3 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GO/06/06

**Attachments:** Nil

**MOTION:**

That Council notes the record of correspondence sent and responses received.

**MOVED: CR ELLEN WHITE**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS**

**CARRIED.**

**(R641/19)**

#### Table of Correspondence

Council Initiative	Correspondence sent to	Date sent	Date of Response	Summary of Response
Requesting action on the poor condition of the Donald Murtoa Road	Jaala Pulford, Minister for Roads	Sent 26 September 2019		
	Regional Roads Victoria, Northern Region Office	Sent 26 September 2019		
Support for a Container Deposit Scheme in Victoria	Minister for Environment  Hon Lily D'Ambrosio	Sent 20 August 2019	2 Oct 2019	Having heard from many Councils in support of Scheme. Monitoring and investigating the scheme proposal further. Referring to Vic Gov commitments and initiatives to tackle waste and pollution.
	CEO of Municipal Association of Victoria	Sent 20 August 2019		
	Mayor Frankston City Council	Sent 20 August 2019		



<b>Council Initiative</b>	<b>Correspondence sent to</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date of Response</b>	<b>Summary of Response</b>
Social Housing Flats in Wycheproof to be replaced; investigate social housing stock in Buloke Shire in general, and Buloke Shire investigate opportunities to increase social housing in Buloke Shire with relevant partners such as Haven: Home, Safe.	Deputy Secretary of Housing and Infrastructure, Dept of Health and Human Services;	Sent 21 August 2019		
	Mr Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Housing; and	Sent 20 August 2019		
	CEO of Haven; Home, Safe.	Sent 27 August 2019	5 September 2019	Forwarded a copy of letter they sent to Director of Housing, Chris Hotham and Loddon Area Director DHHS, Nathan Chapman affirming their support for Council's request to address dire local social housing situation.

## 7.4 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

**Author's Title:** Compliance Administration Officer

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** DB/14/02

**Attachments:** Nil

Cr Ellen White declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 7.4 Building Permits Update, due to one of the Permit applications related to building works on her property.

Cr White vacated the Council Chamber at 7:06 pm.

### MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 September 2019 to 30 September 2019.

**MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN**

**SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE**

**CARRIED.  
(R642/19)**

### 1. Executive Summary

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 September 2019 to 30 September 2019.

### 2. List of Building Permits Approved by Council Surveyor

Council Ref Permit No.	BAMS Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20190050	3706814155993	Mildura Way, CHARLTON	Alteration: Fire Services (Charlton Park)	12/09/2019
20190051	9292989997017	236 Hogans Road, DOOBOOBETIC	New Building: Hay Shed	12/09/2019
20190052	3345583547972	111 Ferrier Road, JIL JIL	New Building: Hay Shed	12/09/2019
20190053	7746343941336	3064 Charlton – Swan Hill Road, TOWANINNY	New Building: Shed	12/09/2019
20190054	1866654443487	11 Horace Street, SEA LAKE	New Building: Shed	12/09/2019
20190055	9823596287797	1844 Charlton-St Arnaud Road, COONOOER	New Building: Hay Shed	12/09/2019

<b>Council Ref Permit No.</b>	<b>BAMS Permit No.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
20190056	3414544328877	862 Kinnabulla West Road, KINNABULLA	New Building: Swimming Pool & Safety Barrier	12/09/2019
20190057	8478796712069	35 Corack Road, BIRCHIP	New Building: Shed	12/09/2019
20190058	9964727201328	24 Houston Street, DONALD	New Building: Garage/Carport	12/09/2019
20190059	2228509369698	12 Meyer Street, DONALD	New Building: Carport	12/09/2019
20190060	8224182800988	31 Woods Street, DONALD	Alteration: Alteration to Assembly Building	12/09/2019
20190061	6839858265845	4567 Birchip-Sea Lake Road, BANYAN	Demolition: Demolish Toilet Block	12/09/2019

### 3. List of Building Permits Approved by Private Surveyor

<b>Council Ref No.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
20190062	5046 Birchip Sea Lake Road, Sea Lake	New Building: Hay Shed	09/07/2019
20190063	1939 Borung Highway, JEFFCOTT	New Building: Hay Shed	22/08/2019
20190064	101 Slaters Road, CORACK	New Building: Hay Shed	29/08/2019
20190065	343 Gil Gil Road, Gil Gil	New Building: Farm Shed	29/08/2019
20190066	395 Renneys Road, BERRIWILLOCK	New Building: Hay Shed	23/08/2019
20190067	1247 Curyo West Road, CURYO	New Building: Hay Shed	11/09/2019
20190068	2955 Sunraysia Highway, CURYO	New Building: Hay Shed	12/09/2019
20190069	629 Corack East-Chirrup Road, CORACK EAST	New Building: Hay Shed	17/09/2019
20190070	268 Reillys Road, CORACK	New Building: Hay Shed	17/09/2019

<b>Council Ref No.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
20190071	169 Pier Millan-Chinkapook Road, PIER MILAN	New Building: Farm Shed	04/09/2019
20190072	1044 Berriwilllock-Birchip Road, WHIRLY	New Building: Farm Shed	05/09/2019
20190073	1174 Nullawil-Birchip Road, WHIRILY	New Building: Farm Shed	05/09/2019
20190074	Gretgrix Road, WYCHEPROOF	New Building: Shed	09/09/2019
20190075	121 Bourkes Lane, JEFFCOTT	New Building: Farm Shed	17/09/2019
20190076	3 Halliday Street, CHARLTON	New Building: Storage Shed	17/09/2019

**Cr White returned to the Council Chamber at 7:08pm.**

## 7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

**Author's Title:** Planning Officer

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** LP/09/01

**Attachments:** Nil

### 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 VIS**

**CARRIED.**

**(R643/19)**

### 1. Executive Summary

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

### 2. List of Planning Applications

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA801/19	TJ & WJ Bath	Culgoa-Lalbert Road, Culgoa (Lot 2 PS311691)	12/06/2019	Use and development - Rural Store	Permit issued
PPA811/19	James Course	Calder Highway, Wycheproof (Lot 1 PS820286)	25/07/2019	Construct and display a Major Promotion Sign	Permit issued
PPA812/19	Mark Yates	126 Biddlestones Road, Charlton	09/08/2019	Use and development - Renewable Energy Facility (340.2kW Solar Farm)	Notice of application Referred
PPA813/19	Charlton Community Theatre	30-34 High Street, Charlton	14/08/2019	Installation of solar panels on roof of Rex Theatre	Permit issued
PPA814/19	Ararat Survey Pty Ltd	31 Bunker Road	21/08/2019	Two lot subdivision (boundary re-alignment)	Awaiting report

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA815/19	Blair Architects	22 Camp Street, Donald	23/08/2019	Goodwin Village upgrade – Construction of 5 additional bedrooms, 3 offices, storage areas and communal areas for residents	Referred
PPA816/19	Jaymie Buhagiar (DCA Design)	11-13 Learmonth Street, Charlton	05/09/2019	Use and development – 2 dwellings	Awaiting report
PPA817/19	Buloke Shire Council	2A High Street, Charlton (CA 2056 Parish of Charlton East)	10/09/2019	Removal of native vegetation – Charlton Riverfront Project	Notice of application Referred
PPA818/19	Buloke Shire Council	1 Lake Road, Sea Lake	10/09/2019	Silo Art project	Vicsmart application Permit issued
PPA819/19	KA & PR Walder	548 Watchem West School Road, Watchem	23/09/2019	Building & works – construction of a shed	Vicsmart application Permit issued

## 7.6 CIRCULAR MOTION - C67 2019/20 DIREL (LAKE TYRRELL) CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Author's Title:** Chief Executive Officer

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GS/03/05

**Attachments:** Nil

### **Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Support our councillors, staff, volunteers and the community to make informed and transparent decisions.

### **MOTION:**

That Council notes the motion circulated and Council's decision in relation to Contract C67 – 2019/20 Direl (Lake Tyrrell) Conservation Management Plan

**MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS**

**CARRIED.  
(R644/19)**

### 1. Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to note the circular motion regarding Contract C67 – 2019/20 Direl (Lake Tyrrell) Conservation Management Plan.

### 2. Discussion

A Circular Motion was distributed to all Councillors, via email on 23 September 2019. The Circular Motion considered by Council is set out below:

*That Council:*

1. *Awards Contract Number C. 67 2019/20 to Dr Vincent Clark and Associates for the Direl (Lake Tyrrell) Conservation Management Plan for the fixed lump sum of \$355,510 (ex GST) and affixes the common seal*
2. *Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve payments to an appointed contractor for undertaking the works associated with the Contract;*
3. *Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve all variations under the Contract;*
4. *Notes and declares the Confidential Attachment to this report for Contract No. C63 2018/19 – External Plant Hire & Associated Rates (Schedule of Rates) of the Local Government Act 1989 on the grounds that it relates to contractual matters as described in s 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989.*

Councillors did not unanimously approve the Circular Motion.

As a result, Council then considered the same motion at a Special Meeting of Council held on 2 October 2019, and the motion was carried.

Council's Meetings Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2019 outlines that any circular motion, whether carried or not, must be reported to the next Ordinary Meeting.

**3. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications in this report.

**4. Cost Shift Considerations**

There are no cost shift considerations in this report.

**5. Community Consultation**

There was no community consultation completed under this report.

**6. Internal Consultation**

Staff from Council's Senior Leadership Team, were consulted in the development of this report.

**7. Legislative / Policy Implications**

The process for a Circular Motion must be administered in accordance with Part 4, Section 71 of Council's Meetings Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2019.

**8. Environmental Sustainability**

There are no environmental sustainability considerations in this report.

**9. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

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

**10. Conclusion**

That Council notes the motion circulated and Council's decision in relation to Contract C67 – 2019/20 Direl (Lake Tyrrell) Conservation Management Plan



## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **8.1 POLICY REPORTS**

#### **8.1.1 RESCISSION OF POLICIES**

**Author's Title:** Director Corporate Services

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** IT|15|01

**Attachments:** Nil

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Deliver our service in a financially viable way

#### **MOTION:**

That Council rescinds the following policies:

- Website and Intranet Content Management Policy;
- IT Disaster Recovery Policy;
- Electronic Communication Policy;
- Information Security Policy;
- Mobile Phone and GPS Usage Policy; and
- Mobile Phone Policy.

**MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN**

**SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON**

**CARRIED.  
(R645/19)**

#### **1. Executive Summary**

In 2013 Council adopted four separate information and communication technology (ICT) policies which set out operational controls for appropriate access to and use of technology for Council workers.

This report proposes Council rescind these policies due to their operational nature.

#### **2. Discussion**

Council Officers have undertaken a review of the following policies in accordance with the policy schedule:

- Website and Intranet Content Management Policy
- IT Disaster Recovery Policy
- Electronic Communication Policy
- Information Security Policy
- Mobile Phone and GPS Usage Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy

As part of the review, Council Officers determined the above policies are operational in nature, and neither support nor inform Council's strategic direction. Rather, they are designed to establish measures required to protect Council information, systems and ICT infrastructure, as

well as requiring all electronic communications undertaken for Council business purposes are conducted in a professional manner.

The above policies are identified for rescission by Council but will remain in place as operational documents.

### **3. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications in relation to the rescission of the policies identified in this report.

### **4. Cost Shift Considerations**

There are no cost shift implications from this report.

### **5. Community Consultation**

The policies are internal in nature with very little impact or change for the community.

### **6. Internal Consultation**

Various departments of Council have been requested to review their policies to be updated where appropriate. Council's IT Disaster Recovery policy is considered by the Audit Committee.

### **7. Legislative / Policy Implications**

Council will continue to adhere to appropriate legislation. Councillor obligations in relation to appropriate access to and use of resources, including ICT resources, are well defined within the Councillor Code of Conduct.

### **8. Environmental Sustainability**

There are no environmental sustainability implications associated with this report.

### **9. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

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

### **10. Conclusion**

Council has previously adopted policies concerning operational and staff based matters or matters that addressed by legislation and other requirements. This report recommends their rescission.

## 8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

### 8.2.1 INDUCTION OF COUNCILLOR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GO/06/13

**Attachments:** 1 [⇒Declaration by Form of Affirmation - Cr Simpson](#)  
2 [⇒Declaration to abide by the Code of Conduct - Cr Simpson](#)

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Support our councillors, staff, volunteers and the community to make informed and transparent decisions.

#### **MOTION:**

That Council:

1. Note the report;
2. Note that Affirmation of Office completed by Cr. Simpson in accordance with Section 63(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 is recorded in the Minutes of this Council Meeting; and
3. Note the Code of Conduct declaration made by Cr Simpson in accordance with Section 63(3) of the Local Government Act 1989 is recorded in the Minutes of this Council Meeting.

**MOVED: CR ELLEN WHITE**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS**

**CARRIED.**

**(R646/19)**

#### 1. Executive Summary

This report is presented to advise Council in relation to the process undertaken pursuant to Section 37A of the Local Government Act 1989 to fill by Countback the Extraordinary Vacancy resulting from the resignation of former Cr John Shaw.

#### 2. Discussion

Following the resignation of Cr John Shaw effective 19 August 2019, a vacancy was created in the Lower Avoca Ward. The CEO notified both the VEC and the Minister of Local Government as required under the Act.

The VEC then fulfilled the duties of Returning Officer for the purpose of the Countback to be conducted to fill the Extraordinary Vacancy caused by the resignation of former Cr Shaw.

On September 17 2019, the Victorian Electoral Commission conducted a countback for this Ward from the Council elections held in November 2016.

Bronwyn Simpson was elected as a result of this countback and completed the declaration required which enabled the Returning Officer to proceed with the declaration of the Countback result, which was done at the VEC's head office at 1.30pm on Wednesday 18 September 2019.

At 6:00pm on Monday 23 September 2019 Cr Simpson took the Oath of Office and signed the following two declarations which are attached to this report:

- a) Declaration by form of Affirmation; and
- b) Declaration to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Before being capable of acting as a Councillor, all persons elected to be Councillors must:

- take the oath of office;
- read the Council's Councillor Code of Conduct; and
- make a declaration that they will abide by the Council's Code of Conduct.

This oath of office must be:

- made before Council's Chief Executive Officer; and
- dated and signed before the Council's Chief Executive Officer; and
- recorded in the minutes of Council.

### **3. Financial Implications**

The VEC were required to undertake the process of the Countback under the terms of the Contract with Victorian Electoral Commission for the conduct of the 2016 General Election of Councillors. The cost of conducting the Countback procedures hasn't been finalised and submitted by the VEC.

### **4. Cost Shift Considerations**

There are no cost shift considerations applicable to this report.

### **5. Community Consultation**

All Public Notices required under the Legislation were given by the Victorian Electoral Commission and the appointed Returning Officer

### **6. Internal Consultation**

There was no internal consultation applicable to this report.

### **7. Legislative / Policy Implications**

This report enables Council to meet its obligations under the *Local Government Act 1989*.

### **8. Environmental Sustainability**

There are no environmental sustainability considerations applicable to this report.

### **9. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

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

### **10. Conclusion**

It is recommended for Council to note and record that recently elected Cr Bronwyn Simpson has:

- taken the oath of office;
- read the Council's Councillor Code of Conduct; and
- made declaration that she will abide by the Council's Code of Conduct;

before the Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Judd, on Monday 23 September 2019.

## 8.2.2 SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATING SYSTEM REVIEW

**Author's Title:** Chief Executive Officer

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GR/17/11

**Attachments:** 1 [⇒](#)Buloke Shire Submission to the Victorian Local Government Rating System Review

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Deliver our service in a financially viable way

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Endorse and submit the attached submission to the Victorian Local Government Rating System Review; and
2. Forward copies to Member for Mildura, Ali Cupper, and Member for Ripon, Louise Staley.

**MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**CARRIED.**

**(R647/19)**

### 1. Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider a submission to the Victorian Local Government Rating System Review.

### 2. Discussion

In response to the Parliament of Victoria's Inquiry into the Sustainability and Operational Challenges of Victoria's Rural and Regional Councils the Government has commenced an inquiry into the local government rating system to identify changes that will improve its fairness and equity.

The Minister for Local Government has appointed a Panel to lead the Victorian Local Government Rating System Review and staff and councillors have made verbal representations at a consultation session held in Swan Hill. The Panel is now accepting written submissions until 1 November 2019.

In making this submission (attached), Council has addressed some of the specific consultation questions requested by the Panel, but largely the focus is on the inequity of the rating system on rural areas. The submission includes a table comparing metropolitan, regional and rural Councils, which highlights the very clear and direct relationship between low population density and increasing cost of rates charged.

A copy Council's recently adopted Revenue and Rating Strategy will also be included in Council's submission.

The review will conclude in March 2020, when the Panel provides their recommendations to the Minister.

### **3. Financial Implications**

The attached submission highlights the variance of cost of rates across different municipalities.

### **4. Cost Shift Considerations**

There are no known cost shift considerations to Council.

### **5. Community Consultation**

A lot of the content in this submission follows the development and adoption of the Revenue and Rating Strategy in 2019, which was subject to extensive community consultation efforts.

### **6. Internal Consultation**

This submission has been discussed by Council's Senior Leadership and Finance Teams

### **7. Legislative / Policy Implications**

The final report of the review is likely to recommend changes to the relevant legislation around local government rates.

### **8. Environmental Sustainability**

There are no known environmental sustainability considerations.

### **9. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

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

### **10. Conclusion**

It is recommended that Council endorse and submit the attached submission to the Victorian Local Government Rating System Review.

### **8.2.3 YEAR 3 ANNUAL PLAN 2019/20 - QUARTERLY UPDATE**

**Author's Title:** Chief Executive Officer

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GS/02/03

**Attachments:** 1 [⇒](#)Year 3 Annual Plan Comments

#### **Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Support our councillors, staff, volunteers and the community to make informed and transparent decisions.

#### **MOTION:**

That Council note the progress against the Year 3 Annual Plan 2019/20 – Quarterly Update.

**MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE**

**CARRIED.**

**(R648/19)**

#### **1. Executive Summary**

Council, at its Special Meeting 21 June 2017, adopted the Buloke Council Plan 2017-2021 and has subsequently developed and adopted a Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 Annual Plan for the implementation of the strategic objectives. Quarterly progress reports are to be presented to Council throughout 2019/20.

#### **2. Discussion**

The purpose of these Annual Plans is for Council to develop a series of actions, projects, programs and initiatives to achieve on the Council Plan 2017-2021.

Council has received progress reports against the Year 3 Annual Plan throughout the 2019/20 year, and attached is the final report on the Plan.

The attached table highlights the updates against each of the annual plan actions, with solid progress being made against many of the items. Actions that have been noted as complete include:

- Construction of Charlton Park 2020 Facility
- New finance reporting template
- Commencing the partnering with Northern District Community Health Service on the Tactics for Tough Times Project
- Completion of works under stream 3 of Sustainability Victoria funding to retrofit community buildings for better energy efficiency.
- Development of Councillor Professional Development Plan

Some of the other items that have had notable progress include:

- Deliver on art projects at Sea Lake silo (commenced), Nullawil silo (complete) and Charlton (progressing) murals
- Partnering with the BCG to run a climate change / farm diversification event in October
- Redevelopment of the risk register and presenting to the audit committee
- Maternal Child Health service survey to inform the Municipal Early Years Strategy.

The next update on the Annual Plan will be presented in February 2020.

### **3. Financial Implications**

The costs of the actions were included in the 2018/19 budget.

### **4. Cost Shift Considerations**

There are no cost shift considerations applicable to this report.

### **5. Community Consultation**

The Annual Plan for Year 3 was adopted by Council at the July 2019 Ordinary Meeting, and has been published on the Council website.

The development of the Council Plan included extensive community consultation.

In the past twelve months, as per the planned actions, community consultation on a range of topics including economic development and tourism, community planning, community grants, rate revenue strategy and early years have taken place that have informed the Year 3 Annual Plan.

### **6. Internal Consultation**

Internal consultation has taken place with the wider Management Team.

### **7. Legislative / Policy Implications**

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* Council must prepare and approve a Council Plan.

The 2017-2021 Year 3 Annual Plan reviews the proposed tasks, measures and completion dates for the last financial year, in order to deliver the strategic objectives of the adopted Council Plan 2017-2021 required by the *Local Government Act 1989*.

### **8. Environmental Sustainability**

The natural environment and sustainability considerations are included in many of the proposed actions, and actions already undertaken.

### **9. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

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

### **10. Conclusion**

That Council note the progress made to deliver the strategic objectives noted in the adopted Year 3 Annual Plan for the Buloke Council Plan 2017-2021.



## 8.2.4 ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

**Author's Title:** Manager Customer Engagement

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** CM/16/06

**Attachments:** 1 [⇒Buloke Shire Council Annual Report 2018-19](#)

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Deliver our service in a financially viable way

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Buloke Shire Council Annual Report 2018/19 presented as an attachment to this report; and
2. Advertises that copies of the Annual Report are available at Council's Wycheproof office and on Council's website.

**MOVED: CR ELLEN WHITE**

**SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE**

**CARRIED.**

**(R649/19)**

### 1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive and consider the Buloke Shire Council Annual Report 2018/19.

### 2. Discussion

Sections 131 and 134 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), require that Councils prepare an Annual Report each financial year. A further requirement is for Council to meet to consider the Annual Report after Council has sent the report to the Minister for Local Government. The report highlights the incredible amount of work that the Council has undertaken on behalf of the Buloke community in the 2018/19 year.

### 3. Financial Implications

The cost of producing the Annual Report is accounted for in the Annual Budget as well as operational costs.

### 4. Cost Shift Considerations

There are no cost shift considerations.

### 5. Community Consultation

Council advertised that the Annual Report would be presented at this meeting with 14 days notice or more in each of the three local newspapers as required by the Act.

### 6. Internal Consultation

The preparation of the Annual Report occurred with input from across the organisation.

**7. Legislative / Policy Implications**

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 134 of the Local Government Act and was supplied to the Minister for Local Government before 30 September 2019.

**8. Environmental Sustainability**

Council now produces far fewer hard copies of the Annual Report and heavily promotes the digital access of these and all Council reports.

**9. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

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

**10. Conclusion**

That Council receives and notes the Buloke Shire Council Annual Report 2018/19 and advertises its availability.

## 8.2.5 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

**Author's Title:** Community Development Officer

**Department:** Community Development

**File No:** GS/09/42

**Attachments:** 1 [⇒](#)2019-20 grants and sponsorships

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Build a healthy and active community

Cr Carolyn Stewart declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 8.2.5 Community Grants and Sponsorship, due to being a Director of the Rex Theatre, a recipient of funds to be allocated as noted in the recommendation of the report .

Cr David Pollard declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 8.2.5 Community Grants and Sponsorship, due to being a Board Member and the Treasurer of the Rex Theatre, a recipient of funds to be allocated as noted in the recommendation of the report.

Cr Daryl Warren declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 8.2.5 Community Grants and Sponsorship, due to being a Board Member and signed the grant application for the Rex Theatre, a recipient of funds to be allocated as noted in the recommendation of the report.

**MOTION:**

For Councillor Milne to take the Chair

**MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS**

**CARRIED.**

**(R650/19)**

Councillors Stewart, Pollard and Warren left the Council Chamber at 7:23pm. Councillor Milne took the Chair at 7:23pm.

**MOTION:**

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

- \$1,082 project support to the Rex Theatre; and
- \$902 Project support to Donald 2000.

**MOVED: CR ELLEN WHITE**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS**

**CARRIED.**

**(R651/19)**

## 1. Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider the allocation of funds from the Community Grants and Sponsorship Program. One project is not recommended for funding

## 2. Discussion

Project:	Touch On Cash at The Rex*
Organisation:	The Rex Theatre Museum Ltd
Amount Applied:	\$1,082.00/Community Grant
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$1,082.00
Project Description:	The Rex Theatre is responding to patron and volunteer requests through offering EFTPOS services. This project (with a total value of \$2,165) will see the installation of iPad Point of Sales systems and the "Square" system for both candy bar and ticket sales. The Rex Theatre Museum Ltd is contributing the balance of funds to enable the project.
Project Benefit:	This will result in a simpler, more accurate cash handling and recording system, providing a better volunteer workflow. Volunteer burden has been recognised through the Buloke Shire Volunteer Strategy. Organisations are coming up with innovative ways to overcome these challenges. Embracing the advantages of technology is one way to build capacity and support volunteers. The application for this project notes more than 40 volunteers contribute to the operation of the Rex Theatre and the installation of this equipment will not only ease the burden on volunteers during operation, but also lessen the amount of work needed for office bearers (such as banking, recording ticket and candy bar sales and admin in generating monthly reports). The availability of EFTPOS has become an expectation among user groups, so the realisation of this project creates the potential to increase numbers of both locals, and especially tourists looking to enjoy the offerings of The Rex, with the benefits of electronic transactions.

\*This application was deferred from the August Ordinary Meeting of Council due to a quorum not being reached.

Project:	Donald, Buy In For Less
Organisation:	Donald 2000 INC
Amount Applied:	\$902/Project Support Grant
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$902
Project Description:	This project (total project cost \$1085) will produce 1000 copies of a town prospectus, with the aim of attracting new residents and investors into the Donald community.
Project Benefit:	The project addresses an issue raised through the Buloke 2030 community planning consultations in Donald, namely that population decline is a concern to the Donald community. This project will produce a tool that assists in the attraction of population and investment to Donald and the Buloke Shire. The prospectus has been developed by a dedicated group of local people and a sample prospectus was provided as part of the funding application.

The following application has not been recommended by the Panel.

Project:	Family Kite Fun Day
Organisation:	Charlton Forum

Amount Applied:	\$500/Sponsorship
Funding Amount Recommended:	Not recommended
Project Description:	A kite and kite flying exhibition to held in Charlton on Sunday October 13 (total project cost \$1028).
Reason for Recommendation:	Insufficient event and risk management was provided in this application. Project budget information showing costings and other sources of funding secured or sought was not provided. Further information was sought from the applicants but sufficient information was not provided.

### 3. Financial Implications

This brings the allocation under the community grants scheme for the 2019 – 20 financial year to \$3,952 out of a total of \$20,000. The sustainability fund contributions so far totals \$0 out of \$50,000 available.

### 4. Cost Shift Considerations

There are no cost shift considerations in this report

### 5. Community Consultation

Staff have sought clarification where necessary from community groups.

### 6. Internal Consultation

Council officers have consulted with the applicants and reviewed all documentation associated with the sponsorship applications

### 7. Legislative / Policy Implications

The community grants and sponsorship program has been developed in response to the Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate guidelines

### 8. Environmental Sustainability

There are no environmental sustainability matters considered in this report.

### 9. Conflict of Interest Considerations

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

### 10. Conclusion

It is recommended that Council considers providing funding allocations to the Donald 2000 and Charlton Rex Cinema projects.

**Councillors Stewart, Pollard and Warren returned to the Council Chamber at 7:29pm.**

**Councillor Stewart returned to the Chair.**

## 8.2.6 LETTER TO SHIRE - MAC FARLANES RD

**Author's Title:** Manager Infrastructure Planning

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** RO/15/01

**Attachments:**

- 1 [↳ Letter of request](#)
- 2 [↳ MacFarlane Road Map 1](#)
- 3 [↳ MacFarlane Road Map 2](#)
- 4 [↳ MacFarlane Road Photo](#)

### **MOTION:**

That Council consider upgrading MacFarlane Road Birchip from a minor road to an access road on the condition that the full upfront cost for the upgrade be paid for by the requestor.

**MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON**

**CARRIED.**

**(R652/19)**

### 1. Executive Summary

Council received a joint letter from six local businesses on 12 August 2019 requesting an upgrade to MacFarlane Road Birchip from a minor road to a gravel road. Council noted the letter at its Ordinary Meeting on 11 September 2019 and requested a report be prepared for the October Ordinary Meeting in order to respond to this request.

### 2. Discussion

MacFarlane and Lees Road, Birchip, were inspected on 17 September 2019 and the section from the Birchip Corack Road to the occupied residence is an access road (gravel) 4.770 kilometres in length. This section has been rated to be in in good to fair condition

The remaining section from the residence to Lee's Road is classified as a minor (earth) road and is 1.490 kilometres in length. The section from Lees Road to the property entrance is classified as minor and is 0.190 kilometres in length.

The total distance of the road requested to be upgraded is 1.680 kilometres, this section is well formed and in reasonably good condition.

Council's 2017-21 Road Management Plan states that any request for a road upgrade will be at the cost of the requestor/s.

#### *7.1 Road Classification*

##### *Access Road –*

*Upgrading of a road at the request of a landowner needs to be approved by Council and to Council specification.*

**3. Financial Implications**

The upgrade to MacFarlane Road has been costed by staff has been costed at approximately \$51,000.00 and under the officer recommendation, those costs would be the responsibility of the landowner.

There would be ongoing maintenance cost for grading of approximately \$3,500.00 per year and resheeting every 15 to 20 years costing approximately \$37,000.00, which would be the responsibility of Council.

**4. Cost Shift Considerations**

There are no cost shift considerations in this report.

**5. Community Consultation**

Officers have consulted with a number of the requestors informing them of the process for having a road upgraded.

**6. Internal Consultation**

Internal Consultation has occurred between Planning, Works and Assets Departments.

**7. Legislative / Policy Implications**

Council's Road Management Plan 2017-21 states all requested road upgrades are at the cost of the requestor/s.

**8. Environmental Sustainability**

There are no environmental sustainability considerations in this report.

**9. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

No Conflict of Interest has been identified by officers preparing this report.

**10. Conclusion**

That Council consider upgrading MacFarlane Road Birchip from a minor road to an access road on the condition that the full upfront cost for the upgrade be paid for by the requestor.

## 8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

### 8.3.1 DRAFT AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Author's Title:** Governance Officer

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** FM/02/09

**Attachments:** 1 [⇒Draft Audit Committee Meeting Minutes - September 2019](#)

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Deliver our service in a financially viable way

#### **MOTION:**

That Council notes the draft Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 4 September 2019.

**MOVED: CR ELLEN WHITE**

**SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON**

**CARRIED.**

**(R653/19)**

#### 1. Executive Summary

The Audit Committee is a statutory committee of Council which considers matters of governance, finance and risk management. The Committee is comprised of three independent members and the Mayor. The Committee provides advice on the integrity and effectiveness of Council's financial reporting and risk management system.

#### 2. Discussion

At its 4 September 2019 meeting, the Committee considered the following matters:

- Outstanding Actions
- Audit Committee Work Plan
- Risk Management Register
- Asset Management status update
- Draft Internal Audit Scope: Grant Acquittal Process
- Internal Audit Report: Plant and Fleet
- Progress on Internal Audit Plan
- Draft 2018/19 Financial and Performance Statements
- Draft Annual Report
- Review of Audit Committee Self-Assessment survey
- Review of Audit Committee Charter
- Financial Performance as at 31 May 2019
- 2019 JLT Risk Report
- Local Government Inspectorate Review: West Wimmera Shire Council
- VAGO Closing Report and Management Letter



**3. Financial Implications**

The cost of the Audit Committee function is incorporated into the 2019/20 Annual Budget.

**4. Cost Shift Considerations**

There are no cost shift implications associated with the Committee.

**5. Community Consultation**

Not applicable.

**6. Internal Consultation**

Councillors and senior staff are invited to attend, and present as required to at Committee meetings. Recommendations from the Committee are communicated to relevant staff members for action.

**7. Legislative / Policy Implications**

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 1989* to create and maintain an Audit Committee.

**8. Environmental Sustainability**

Not applicable.

**9. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

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

**10. Conclusion**

The draft Audit Committee minutes are attached for the information of Council.

## 8.3.2 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

**Author's Title:** Manager Finance

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** FM/19/03

**Attachments:**

- 1 [Income Statement 31 Aug 19](#)
- 2 [Balance Sheet 31 Aug 19](#)
- 3 [Cashflow Statement 31 Aug 19](#)
- 4 [Cashflow Chart 31 Aug 19](#)
- 5 [Capital Work Program 31 Aug 19](#)

### **Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Deliver our service in a financially viable way

11

#### **MOTION:**

That Council receives and notes the Financial Performance Report for the month ending 31 August 2019.

**MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**CARRIED.  
(R654/19)**

### 1. Executive Summary

The **Income Statement** provides a summary of the total income and total expenditure relating to Council's annual operations. Capital grant income is included in the calculation of the Council's total surplus/(deficit) but is presented separately in "Other Income" to distinguish operational activities. Capital grant income is specifically used to fund expenditure on Council assets which is reported on the balance sheet.

The reported surplus as at 31 August 2019 is \$11.7m. Excluding capital grant income of \$1m, the operating surplus is \$10.7m. The operating surplus is lower than budget (surplus \$11.1m) mostly due to the variation of payment timing of the Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) in the current financial year. The adopted budget allowed for the 2019/20 FAG to be paid quarterly over the year but in a late decision by the State government, 50% of the 2019/20 FAG was paid in last financial year and now forms part of carried forward surplus.

The **Balance Sheet** summarises of the value of Assets (what we own) and our Liabilities (what we owe), and the difference between assets and liabilities (Net Assets or Equity) reflects our net worth. Council's net worth as at this accounting period is \$285m due to the recognition rate income at this early stage of the financial year. Net worth is anticipated to decrease to \$279m by 30 June 2020 as budgeted expenditure occurs (\$273m as at 30 June 2019).

The **Cashflow Statement** reflects actual results for the year to date (July – August) and a projection of cashflow for the remainder of the year based on the annual budget and specified timing parameters (such when BAS/super are due and quarterly rate receipts). At 31 August 2019, Council's Cash and Cash Equivalents were \$18.7m. Cashflow remains strong in readiness for the \$7m loan repayment scheduled for November.

The **Cashflow Chart** visually depicts the cashflow statement and the updated format is illustrated in a dual design, based on best practice reporting.

The cashflow chart shows:

1. The line graph to reflect the ending bank balance each month for the year to date and a projection of the ending bank balance for the rest of the year.
2. The column graph which summarises what has or will happen during each month's cashflow to explain the change in the bank balance. For example, in November the large pay out of the loan (shown by the negative cashflow red block) will significantly decrease the bank balance. Conversely, the following months show income (positive green cashflow blocks) exceeds expenses and asset expenditure (negative blue cashflow blocks) leading to some increase of the bank balance.

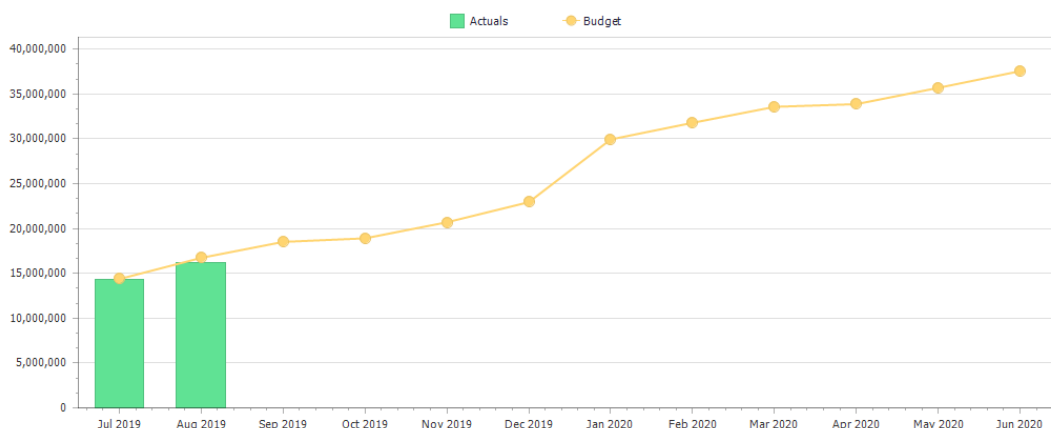
The bank balance is expected to remain positive throughout the 2019/20 financial year. Negative values used in this chart do not reflect any bank balance deficit but positive or negative cashflows in and out of the bank balance. That being Income (green) is a positive cashflow and expenses, assets expenditure and liabilities are generally negative cashflows. The small positive liability cashflow in January and April reflect the outcome of an anticipated BAS refund (GST is usually represented as a liability).

The **Capital Works Program** depicts \$1.73m of capital works having been expended or committed during July – August. However, this does not reflect actual completion of construction works. Due to the significant changes made to financial systems since the start of the financial year, the format of the capital works program report is still being finalised. The final format of this report, to be present next month, will include indication of progress of actual construction as well as year to date expenditure against budget.

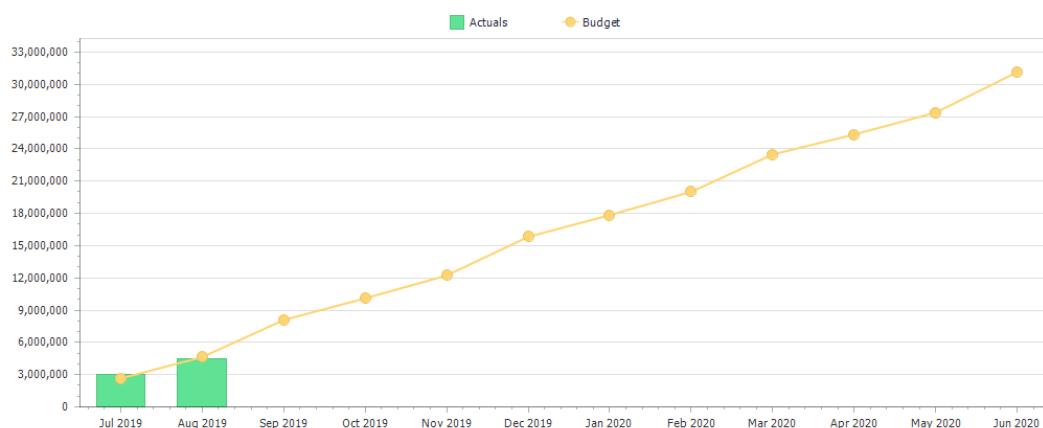
The Annual Budget for capital works is \$11.754m to be funded by Capital Grants of \$7.6m.

## 2. Financial Implications

The tables below provides an overview of Council's financial performance as at 31 August 2019  
Accumulated Income to Budget — Buloke Shire Council



## Accumulated Expenses to Budget — Buloke Shire Council



The following commentary is provided:

**a. Total income**

At this early stage of the financial year, income remains on budget. The variance caused by the upfront payment of the FAG not materially impact total income as it was partially offset by capital contributions received for the Donald Community Precinct included in the 2018/19 budget not the current financial year. The revised schedule for the FAG will be included in the budget forecast update in December.

**b. Total expenses**

Total expenses in the chart above reflect operational expenses and not capital expenditure. Year to date operational expenses reflects some immaterial under-spend for July and August across most expense categories which are anticipated to level out over the year to remain in line with the annual budget.

**c. Other Income - Capital Grants**

Whilst the timing of capital projects is being finalised, the capital income budget has been agreed to actual receipts in July and August. The projection for the rest of the year will be updated in next month's reports.

**d. Capital Works Program Expenditure**

The timing of capital works expenditure for the rest of the year will be updated in next month's reports.

**e. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Council has cash of \$18.7m. At this stage of the financial year the balance of restricted funds for capital projects is low.

**3. Community Consultation**

No consultation with the community was required for the production of this report.

**4. Internal Consultation**

The reports have been prepared in consultation with the budget managers directly responsible for Council budgets.

**5. Legislative / Policy Implications**

The report is consistent with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

**6. Environmental Sustainability**

This report has no direct impact on environmental sustainability.

**7. Conflict of Interest Considerations**

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

**8. Conclusion**

As at 31 August the year to date surplus is mostly in line with budget and the budget for the remainder of the year is only expected to be impacted by the timing of the FAG.

The cash position is strong in preparation for the \$7m loan repayment early November.

## **8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS**

Nil.

## **8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

**Cr David Vis left the Council Chamber at 07:47 pm.**

**Cr David Vis returned to the Council Chamber at 07:49 pm.**

### **Cr Daryl Warren (Deputy Mayor)**

12 September 2019	ABC Radio Interview
12 September	VEC Electoral Review Presentation Wycheproof
13 September	Wimmera Mallee Transport meeting Horsham
17 September	Donald Riverfront Development meeting Donald
18 September	Council Briefing Nullawil
25 September	Donald Community Precinct meeting
25 September	Donald 2000 meeting
30 September	Buloke Tourism Board meeting Donald
2 October	Council Briefing and Special meeting at Culgoa
9 October	Council Meeting Wycheproof

### **Cr David Pollard**

13 September 2019	Livestock Saleyards Committee Bendigo
18 September	Council Briefing Nullawil
23 September	Cr Simpson Oath of Office ceremony Wycheproof
24 September	Lake 3 amenity building opening Wooroonook
25 September	Police remembrance day Kerang
28 September	Charlton Bowling Club 100 year anniversary Charlton
1 October	Charlton 2020 Committee Charlton
2 October	Council Briefing Culgoa
9 October	Seniors Event at the Rex Charlton

### **Cr Ellen White**

#### DELEGATE MEETINGS

##### Central Murray Regional Transport Forum

CMRTF recently held a tour in Mildura. I was unable to attend as it was on the same night as a council briefing, but the following topics were discussed over the two days:

- CMRTF overview and Introduction and launch of the recently endorsed Strategy
- NHVR
- Bus tour to Mildura fruit Co, Rail Freight Intermodal Terminal and other priority sites
- Freight industry round table
- Meeting with Victorian Cross Border commissioner, NHVR and Freight Victoria
- Discussion re progress of regional transport priorities
- I am happy to distribute the notes from the meeting if you would like to see them

**Cr Ellen White cont.**Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

I attended the Introduction to Emergency Management 2 day training program in Huntly. It provided an opportunity to talk to other councils about how they do emergency management planning. The Integrated model where other councils work together seems to be worthwhile exploring for Buloke.

Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee

No meeting this month

Mallee Local Transport Forum

The Mallee Local Transport Group will launch the information flyers in Swan Hill on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October. All are welcome to attend.

Lake Tyrrell Project Control Group

No meeting held this month

Buloke Library Steering Committee

No meeting held this month

Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Group

I did not attend this month's meeting

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- Councillor Briefing Nullawil
- Councillor Briefing Culgoa
- Advance Sea Lake meeting
- Nullawil Progress Association meeting

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **9.1.1 CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND TRANSITION PLAN**

**Author's Title:** Councillor Ellen White

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** ED/03/04

**Attachments:** Nil

#### **MOTION:**

That Council:

1. Develop a climate change policy and transition plan; and
2. Include in the policy the goal to reach zero net emissions by 2030.

**MOVED: CR ELLEN WHITE**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS**

**NOT CARRIED.**

#### **MOTION:**

That Council:

1. Acknowledge that the climate is in a state of change; and
2. Will consider affordable methods of greenhouse gas reduction when opportunities arise.

**MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN**

**CARRIED.**

**(R655/19)**

#### **1. Background**

The reports now being provided by peer reviewed researchers across a range of scientific, social and economic disciplines are showing that human induced climate change is warming the planet. The warming is affecting all ecosystems, with many animals and plants becoming extinct or under threat of extinction.

The latest report from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) says that:

- The average global temperature has risen by 1.1<sup>0</sup>C since pre industrial period and by 0.2<sup>0</sup>C compared to 2011-15
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) concentrations have increased to record levels, 20% higher than previous 5 years



- GHG are on track to reach or exceed 410ppm by end of 2019
- Sea level rise has accelerated by 5mm in 2014 – 19. The decline in Arctic and Greenland ice sheets will exacerbate future sea level rises
- More than 90% of natural disasters are related to weather:
  - Storms and flooding have the highest economic negative impact
  - Droughts and heatwaves lead to human losses, intensification of bushfires and loss of harvest
  - Heatwaves were the deadliest meteorological hazard in the 2015 – 19 period, affecting all continents and resulting in new temperature records
  - Fires inject a massive increase in CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. In the Arctic fires last year, over 50MT were released.

Since 2000, in Buloke we have experienced extreme droughts, extreme temperatures, highest flooding events ever and with increased frequency, all of which have impacted on our communities, businesses and council operations.

Our Council plan includes objectives to:

- Advocate for community and public transport
- Encourage and support renewable energy options
- Build community preparedness and resilience to the effects of extreme weather events
- Ensure the practical management and protection of the Shires natural environment
- Develop a plan to reduce councils carbon footprint

The WMO report states that while mitigation is required, we also require adaptation. We need to reduce GHG emissions, particularly from energy, transport and industry.

While Buloke has completed or is in the process of completing a number of projects to reduce emissions, we do not have a policy platform or plan to do this.

**9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Nil

**9.3 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil

**9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

Nil

**10. MEETING CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 8:07pm