



# **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday 9 December 2020**

**Commencing at 7.00pm**

**Wycheproof Supper Room**

**367 Broadway, Wycheproof**

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



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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 23 November 2020.

**MOVED: CR DAVID VIS**

**SECONDED: CR ALAN GETLEY**

**CARRIED.  
(R863/20)**

**4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

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

Cr Getley declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 8.2.4 due to his membership with the Charlton Forum, a recipient recommended in the report to receive a Community Grant.

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

NIL

**7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

7.1	LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS	6
7.2	BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE	7
7.3	PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE	10

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS****8.1 POLICY REPORTS 13**

NIL

**8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS 14**

8.2.1	RESOLUTION TO ADOPT, AND TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C42 - TO REMOVE SCHEDULE 2 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY	14
8.2.2	C14 WASTE SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION	17
8.2.3	CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT	19
8.2.4	COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP	21
8.2.5	NEW MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE ACTIONS	25
8.2.6	REVISED GOVERNANCE RULES	29
8.2.7	COUNCILLOR AND MAYORAL ALLOWANCES	32
8.2.8	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT - DECEMBER 2020	35
8.2.9	LEASE OF WYCHEPROOF TURNTABLE	38
8.2.10	LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM	41

**8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS 44**

8.3.1	FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2020	44
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<b>8.4</b>	<b>ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS</b>	<b>47</b>
8.4.1	ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	47
8.4.2	BULOKE SHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20	49
<b>8.5</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>8.6</b>	<b>MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC</b>	<b>53</b>
The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential matters.		
8.6.1	CONTRACT C85 2020/21 BIRCHIP NETBALL COURT REDEVELOPMENT	
8.6.2	CONTRACT C87 2020/2021 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION WORKS - CULGOA LALBERT ROAD FROM CH 2.620KM TO CH 4.440KM	
If the meeting has been closed it will be brought back into open session by resolution		
<b>9.</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b>	<b>54</b>
NIL		
<b>9.2</b>	<b>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>54</b>
NIL		
<b>9.3</b>	<b>URGENT BUSINESS</b>	<b>54</b>
NIL		
<b>9.4</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	<b>54</b>
NIL		
<b>10.</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSE</b>	

#### **NEXT MEETING**

THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.00PM.

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

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Nil

## 7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

### 7.1 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.

#### MOTION:

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

**MOVED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**SECONDED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.**  
**(R864/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

#### RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
	Kim Walsh JP		Retiring President of the Altona Village Traders President of the Altona Traders for the past 18 years. Buloke Shire Hobsons Bay Friendship Alliance established in 2006
	Father Eugene McKinnon		Father is leaving his Parish mid-January 2021 after serving as Parish Priest for 9 years in many locations in the Wimmera Mallee District.
Governor of Victoria Hon Linda Dessau AC Commonwealth of Nations	Kate Maddern BCG's Research Agronomist	31 October 2020	For being a recipient of the prestigious Victorian Rhodes Scholarship (international postgraduate award) for 2021 to study at the University of Oxford, England. Kate is the second Australian recipient to have an Agricultural background for this Scholarship, and will undertake a Masters in Policy and a Masters in Economics, and bring her own interests to the case studies.

## 7.2 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 October 2020 to 30 November 2020.

#### MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by the private Building Surveyor from 1 October 2020 to 30 November 2020.

**MOVED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**SECONDED:** CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.**

**(R865/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

**LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR**

<b>Permit No.</b>	<b>BAMS Permit No.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
20200174	1474575453334	52 High Street, Charlton	Storage Shed/Carport	08/10/20
20200175	8305009023231	437 Broadway, Wycheproof	Re-stump of Dwelling	08/10/20
20200176	2298454383423	7 Orr Street, Charlton	Demolition of Dwelling	2/10/20
20200177	6012799564895	124 Sutcliff Street, Sea Lake	Garage/Storage Shed	22/10/20
20200190	4937329272951	24 Elizabeth Street, Donald	Garage/Storage Shed	29/10/20
20200191	2605826274447	206 Banyenong-Jeffcott Road, Jeffcott North	Garage/Storage Shed	29/10/20
20200192	4078173564910	3196 St Arnaud- Wycheproof Road, Jeffcott	Machinery Shed	05/11/20
20200201	4443507537380	75 Camp Street, Watchem	Carport	12/11/20
20200202	2496503584261	1 M Keanes Road, Wycheproof South	Relocation / re-stump of dwelling to external lock-up stage only	12/11/20
20200203	6550588389800	147 Woods Street, Donald	Swimming Pool/Spa Safety Barrier	12/11/20
20200204	1838363577526	38 Armstrong Street, Charlton	Garage/Storage Shed	12/11/20
20200205	5585471067735	895 Charlton-Glenloth Road, Glenloth	Storage Shed	19/11/20
20200206	5824878380518	1763 Seven Mile Road, Charlton	Hay Shed	19/11/20
202000209	1762990011336	12 Willow Court, Donald	Deck	26/11/20
20200210	8093644095042	12 Willow Court, Donald	Swimming Pool/Spa Safety Barrier	26/11/20
20200211	2178658381920	337 McClellands Road, Willangie	Swimming Pool & Safety Barrier	26/11/20

**LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE SURVEYOR**

<b>Permit No.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
20200172	2199 Single Tree Road, Watchem	Hay Shed	18/09/20
20200173	587 McNicols Road, Towaninny South	Hay Shed	17/09/20
20200178	23 Jubilee Street, Wycheproof	Shed	22/09/20
20200179	1939 Borung Highway, Jeffcott	Farm Shed	25/09/20
20200180	236 McPhees Road, Watchupga	Farm Shed	29/09/20
20200181	110 Woodlands Road, Karyrie	Single Storey Dwelling	30/09/20
20200182	3503 Waitchie Road, Tyrrell Downs	Hay Shed	02/10/20
20200183	196 Nullawil North Road, Nullawil	Hay Shed	05/10/20
20200184	337 McClellands Road, Willangie	Hay Shed	05/10/20
20200185	Calder Highway, Berriwillock	Hay Shed	08/10/20
20200186	1044 Berriwillock-Birchip Road, Whirily	Farm Shed	14/10/20
20200187	18 Johnson Street, Birchip	Single Storey Dwelling & Attached Garage	16/10/20
20200188	207-209 Woods Street, Donald	Re-stump of dwelling	19/10/20
20200189	63 Nicholls Road, Teddywaddy	Open Bay Shed	19/10/20
20200193	36 High Street, Wycheproof	Early Learning Centre & Maternal Child Health Offices	22/10/20
20200194	5968 Sunraysia Highway, Massey	Hay Shed	27/10/20
20200195	90 Mullane Road, Watchem	Farm Shed	28/10/20
20200196	371 Hogans Road, Jeffcott	Farm Shed	28/10/20
20200197	591 Donald-Stawell Road, Donald	Farm Shed	29/10/20
20200198	16-18 Aitken Avenue, Donald	Swimming Pool & Safety Barrier	02/11/20
20200199	343 Charlton-Tahlia Road, Thalia	Hay Shed	05/11/20
20200200	1304 Dumosa-Birchip Road, Narraport	Farm Shed	06/11/20
20200207	144 Kellys Road, Watchupga	Farm Shed Extension	17/11/20
20200208	38 Meyer Street, Donald	Storage Shed	20/11/20

### 7.3 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.

#### 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 BRONWYN SIMPSON

**SECONDED:** CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.**

**(R866/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

<b>Application No</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date Rec</b>	<b>Summary of Proposal</b>	<b>Status</b>
PPA868/20	GW & BJ Kelly	406 Stannard Road, Watchupga	06/07/2020	Construction of a pig shed	Permit Issued
PPA875/20	Charlton Harness Racing Club	Mildura Way Charlton (CA 17 Sec. A Parish Charlton East)	11/08/2020	Demolition of three buildings and the construction of a veterinary services shed	Permit Issued
PPA879/20	Wombalina Holdings Pty Ltd	7 Gil Gil Road, Gil Gil	18/08/2020	Use/development of land for animal prod (poultry farm), construction of two sheds & inc capacity to 60,000 birds	Permit Issued
PPA882/20	Kristy Zhang	Calder Highway, Berriwillock (Lot 2 PS306136)	21/08/2020	Installation of a telecommunication facility	Permit Issued
PPA883/20	Charlton Harness Racing Club	Mildura Way Charlton (CA 17 Sec. A Parish Charlton East)	24/08/2020	Construction of horse stalls	Permit Issued
PPA884/20	Charlton Harness Racing Club	Back St Arnaud Road, Charlton (CA 3 Sec. 14 Parish of Charlton East)	24/08/2020	Construction of a machinery shed	Permit Issued
PPA886/20	Mogas Holdings	148-150 High Street, Charlton	01/09/2020	Use and development of land for a service station (self-bunded diesel fuel cell)	Referral Objection
PPA887/20	WS Wharton	27 Taverner Street, Berriwillock	04/09/2020	Use of land for a cafe	Permit Issued
PPA888/20	DR Bradshaw	11 O'Connor Street, Wycheproof	09/09/2020	Construction of a carport and fence in a Heritage Overlay	Permit Issued
PPA889/20	Sea Lake Recreation Reserve Committee	15 Best Street, Sea Lake	03/09/2020	Installation of a cabin containing 4 self-contained rooms	Notice of Application
PPA890/20	WM Harvey	12 Willow Court, Donald	30/09/2020	Construction of a deck and installation of a spa in an Environmental Significance Overlay	Permit Issued
PPA891/20	Action Steel Industries Pty Ltd	591 Donald –Stawell Road, Donald	06/10/2020	Construction of a hay shed	Permit Issued

<b>Application No</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date Rec</b>	<b>Summary of Proposal</b>	<b>Status</b>
PPA892/20	UCM Properties Pty Ltd	31 Bunker Road, Donald	09/10/2020	Building and works to locate an office/amenities building	Permit Issued
PPA893/20	GWM Water	Charlton-Thalia Rd, Wycheproof Sth; Brennans Rd, Corack East; Calder Hwy, Dumosa; Hillgroves Rd, Birchip	07/10/2020	Removal of native vegetation for the decommissioning of road structures at four sites	Request for further information
PPA894/20	Tommy Lucin	40 Armstrong Street, Charlton	19/10/2020	Construction of a single dwelling	Permit Issued
PPA895/20	Cheetham Salt Ltd.	100 Cheetham Salt Road, Lake Tyrrell	16/11/2020	Construction of a weighbridge	Referral
PPA896/20	NL Harris	22 Racecourse Road, Donald	19/11/2020	Construction of an extension to an existing food production facility	Referral Notice of Application

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8.1 POLICY REPORTS**

Nil

## 8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

### 8.2.1 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT, AND TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C42 - TO REMOVE SCHEDULE 2 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY

**Author's Title:** Planning Officer

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** LP/08/04

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Responding to and enhancing our built and natural environment

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C42, and that Council submit the amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval. Adoption of an amendment cannot be delegated to Officers, it must be by resolution of the planning authority and recorded in its minutes.

#### SUMMARY

At the Buloke Shire Council Ordinary Meeting on 10 July 2019, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister to prepare Amendment C42 – remove Schedule 2 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (called C38 at time of resolution – changed due to DELWP administrative requirements). Council Officers have since prepared the amendment, achieved authorisation from the Minister, conducted notice requirements and the amendment is now ready for Council to adopt and submit to the Minister for approval.

#### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Adopts proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C42; and
2. Seeks approval from the Minister for Planning for Planning Scheme Amendment C42.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID VIS

**SECONDED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**CARRIED.**  
**(R867/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

#### DISCUSSION

The amendment proposes to remove Schedule 2 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) as the objectives and purpose of this schedule are now redundant. The purpose of the schedule was to protect the earthen channels that made up the stock and domestic water supply by requiring a planning permit for works in the vicinity of a channel. Due to the commissioning of the Wimmera Mallee Stock and Domestic Water Pipeline System, the earthen channel system is no longer used for stock and domestic

water supply and is now redundant. Schedule 2 to the ESO is triggering unnecessary planning permit applications, increasing the administrative burden on landowners and council officers.

As the Schedule to the Overlay is no longer required to protect water quality in the now decommissioned channel system, this amendment is required to remove the redundant land use control, which will provide a net community benefit through reduced planning permit applications and associated costs.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

The amendment is consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes under Section 7(5) of the Act.

The amendment has been drafted in accordance with the Ministerial Direction No.11 – Strategic Assessment of Amendments.

The amendment will meet the required timeframes as set out in the Ministerial Direction No. 15 – The planning scheme amendment process.

The Planning Scheme Amendment process is consistent with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Ordinary Meeting of Council, Wednesday 10 July 2019.

#### **MOTION:**

*That Council seeks authorisation from the Minister of Planning to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C38 to remove Schedule 2 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO2).*

**MOVED:** CR DAVID POLLARD

**SECONDED:** CR DARYL WARREN

**CARRIED.**

(R585/19)

#### **OPTIONS**

This report and the associated resolution are largely administrative in nature. Council has the option of not adopting the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment, thereby leaving Schedule 2 to the ESO in place. This would have the effect of continuing to require planning permit applications, assessments and approvals for works and development in the vicinity of the location of former earthen channels. These channels have now largely been filled in.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The amendment seeks to remove a redundant planning control and as such will have no relevant social or environmental effects. A minor economic effect will result from removing the need for unnecessary planning permits.

Environment protection controls incorporated throughout the Buloke Planning Scheme ensure there are no gaps in environmental protection caused by the removal of Schedule 2 to the ESO.

The controls at Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation will continue to provide for the protection of native vegetation in areas previously covered by the ESO2. The ESO Schedule 1 will continue to provide for strong environmental protection on natural watercourses in the Municipality, including the requirement for a planning permit for the removal of vegetation. The Buloke Planning scheme also utilises the Vegetation Protection Overlay Schedule 1 to provide environmental protection of existing indigenous vegetation and rare and threatened flora and fauna species on linear reserves including roadsides.

The Buloke Planning Scheme utilises the Flood Overlay (FO) and the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) to identify land affected by floodwaters and to ensure that any development maintains passage of floodwater and is compatible with local drainage conditions. The FO and the LSIO also add to environmental protections by ensuring that development maintains river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Notice of the amendment has been given by placing notices in all newspapers circulating within the Municipality. Notice has been given in the Victoria Government Gazette in the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 edition. Notice of the amendment was also given on Buloke Shire Council webpage and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) public inspection web page. All notices given invited submissions, closing date for submissions was the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020. No submissions have been received.

### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

This amendment is in line with the recommendations of the *Cutting Red Tape in Planning Report (DSE 2006)* by reducing the number of matters that unnecessarily require planning approval and therefore saving on scarce planning resources.

### **COLLABORATION**

Notice of the amendment has been given to:

- Neighboring Municipalities; Gannawarra Shire Council, Loddon Shire Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council;
- First Nations Legal and Research Services;
- GWMWater;
- North Central Catchment Management Authority, Mallee Catchment Management Authority and Wimmera Catchment Management Authority; and
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Forest Fires and Regions Group.

Two responses were received:

- DELWP – advises that it supports the proposed amendment; and
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority – does not object to, or seek to alter the amendment.

### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Not applicable

### **REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable

### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable

### **TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

In order to promote transparency Council will consider this report and the associated resolution in an open meeting of Council.

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

## 8.2.2 C14 WASTE SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION

**Author's Title:** Superintendent Waste and Environment

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** WM/02/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

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

### PURPOSE

C14 Waste Contract Extension

### SUMMARY

In 2014 Council entered into a five year contract with Four Seasons Waste (FSW) for the collection of waste and recycling. The contract contains options for three one-year extensions. FSW provides a professional and cost competitive service, and Officers are recommending Council exercise the third and final extension option.

### MOTION:

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the final one-year option to extend contract C14 for the provision of waste and recycling collections services to Four Seasons Waste from 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2022.

**MOVED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**SECONDED:** CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.**  
**(R868/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

### DISCUSSION

Officers have reviewed Contract C14 and held discussions with FSW to negotiate the final one-year extension available under the contract. The extension has been agreed to at the collection rates set out in the contract schedule. FSW has provided a consistent and effective service over the life of the existing contract, Officers are of the view FSW will continue to provide this level of service for the remainder of the contract.

This extension will allow Council to undertake the appropriate planning set out under the Waste Strategy to address the Victorian Governments Circular Economy Policy, prior to going to tender for a new contract in September/October 2021.

### RELEVANT LAW

N/A

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Contract C14 was awarded at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 9 April 2014.

This extension will allow for appropriate planning for the introduction of changes to the next kerbside collection contract in line with the Circular Economy policy and Waste Management Strategy, adopted in 2020.

**OPTIONS**

Nil

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Council will continue to work with the contractor to identify improvement opportunities for resource recovery.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community consultation has occurred in relation to this proposed contract extension.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

N/A

**COLLABORATION**

Council Officers have discussed this internally with relevant staff including the Senior Leadership Team.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Council's garbage charge fee is set out in the budget papers each year. The fee covers for Council's activities in waste management including kerbside collection. Councils 2021/22 budget will continue to include these fees in order to pay for waste collection.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

N/A

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Council's Waste Management Strategy 2020-2025 sets out Councils responsibilities in relation to waste collection

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

N/A

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

### 8.2.3 CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

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

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** CM/14/22

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

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

**PURPOSE**

This report is presented to give Council an update on the progress of the actions contained in the Customer Service Strategy 2018-2021.

**SUMMARY**

Council at its September 2018 Ordinary Meeting adopted its first ever Customer Service Strategy which contained an Action Plan for the life of the document.

**MOTION:**

That Council note the progress made to deliver the action plan adopted in the Customer Service Strategy 2018-21.

**MOVED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**SECONDED:** CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.**

**(R869/20)**

**Attachments:** 1 Customer Service Strategy Actions

**DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the Customer Service Strategy is to set a framework of customer service delivery, improvement and evaluation.

Delivery was built around a strategic direction to:

1. Empathise
2. Simplify
3. Personalise
4. Inspire

An Action Plan was developed within the document to build and drive standards and with actions based around key initiatives:

1. Inspire a culture of Customer Service
2. Improved Customer Service accessibility
3. Consistency and reliability of services across our organisation
4. Providing a safe environment for staff and our customers
5. Improve information sharing within organisation

There were 20 actions adopted to deliver on these initiatives. For the most part these actions are completed or, for the purpose of customer service delivery, ongoing.

There is still work to be done, which is scheduled and outlined in the attached evaluation report, to continue to improve the areas of culture and customer requests systems.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

The report forms part of the Council Plan 2017-21 - Year 4 Annual Plan, a review of the Council Plan, required under the *Local Government Act*.

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

This report responds directly to the Council Plan 2017-21 - Year 4 Annual Plan.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Online form solutions identified in the action plan will have enhanced sustainability outcomes for Council and the community.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council utilises social media and Community Update advertisements in local newspapers to promote initiatives from the Customer Service Strategy and has displayed our Customer Service Charter in the Wycheproof Service Centre and on Council's website.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The Action Plan contained in the report and the evaluation of it are designed to drive innovation and continuous improvement.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Manager Customer Engagement leads internal collaboration between departments of Council to ensure timely and quality customer service outcomes.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The costs of providing the actions within the report is accommodated within the existing operational budget.

#### **REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable.

#### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Council Plan 2017-21  
Council Plan 2017-21 - Year 4 Annual Plan  
Customer Service Strategy 2018-21  
Customer Service Charter  
Complaints Handling Policy

#### **TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Annual Report is a key document within the Planning and Accountability Framework found in the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (the regulations).

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## 8.2.4 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

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

**Department:** Community Development

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

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

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

Cr Getley declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 8.2.4 due to his membership with the Charlton Forum, a recipient recommended in the report to receive a Community Grant.

Cr Getley vacated from the Council Chamber at 7.11pm before the discussion of this item.

### PURPOSE

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

### SUMMARY

Three Project Support applications presented and one application presented for the Sustainability Grants Stream.

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Allocates the following funding under the Community Grants and Sponsorship program:
  - \$576.63 Project Support Grant to Charlton Forum
  - \$1,310.60 Project Support Grant to Donald Learning Centre
2. Allocates \$8,778 to the Birchip Cropping Group under the Sustainability Grants program.
3. Approves the request to re-allocate funds previously granted to the Charlton Croquet Club for curtains to a new History of the Club book.

**Moved:** CR DAVID POLLARD

**Seconded:** CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.  
(R870/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

**DISCUSSION**

<b>Project:</b>	<b>Charlton Tourism Signage Update</b>
Organisation:	Charlton Forum
Amount Applied:	\$576.63
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$576.63
Total project cost:	\$1,153.26
Project Description:	Charlton Forum requests funding to update three historical photo panels in High Street. These were produced in 2013 and normally have a 7 year lifespan. Their condition is poor. In addition, the Forum seeks to update the Traveller's Rest map. The map is located in a high traffic area and is now outdated and in need of update and restoration.
Project Benefit:	Charlton is located on a high traffic tourist route. The Forum believes this project will benefit the local economy.
<b>Project:</b>	<b>BCG Place Renewal</b>
Organisation:	Birchip Cropping Group
Amount Applied:	\$8778
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$8778
Total project cost:	\$13,116.88
Project Description:	Works to renew garden beds, upgrade the watering system, renovate the stage area and re-stabilise the raised garden bed edging. Purchase of new plants that specifically suit a dry climate and have the ability to withstand the hot conditions of a Mallee summer. Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) own the land and take on the responsibility of site maintenance and insurances. Project supports the aim of creating and maintaining inspiring shared spaces that can be accessed by the whole community.
Project Benefit:	The existing gardens were constructed in 2002, and BCG have maintained them since that time. Project supports the aim of creating and maintaining inspiring shared spaces that can be accessed by the whole community.
<b>Project:</b>	<b>B Bac Productions – "Crazy Ladies"</b>
Organisation:	Donald Learning Group
Amount Applied:	\$1,310.60
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$1,310.60
Total project cost:	\$1,727.80
Project Description:	Donald Learning Group seeks funding to support a ZOOM based Presentation of light entertainment for up to 1000 Donald and district residents. A previous B Bac production in Donald was very successful and raised funds for the Donald Community car.
Project Benefit:	Local GPs report that some 51% of patients are reporting some degree of mental health problems. The production addresses themes such as resilience, domestic violence and gender bias in a non-threatening way. This was well received at the previous performance.

<b>Project: Curtains for Clubhouse windows</b>	
Organisation:	Charlton Croquet Club
Amount Applied:	\$731
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$731
Total project cost:	\$1,331.00
Project Description:	Charlton Croquet Club has requested permission to re purpose the funds previously granted to the Curtains for Clubhouse Project to help finance the publication of the History of the Charlton Croquet Club that is being produced by Anne Kenny and Carolyn Olive in time for their 140 years celebration in February.
Request rationale:	The club was able to purchase materials at a price significantly below the original quote for the Curtains Project. A generous local donation meant that the club was able to cover the cost of the curtains from their own funds.  The new project of a History of the Charlton Croquet Club book was deemed by the Panel to be a valid and worthwhile project to support.

<b>Community Grants, Sponsorship &amp; Sustainability Fund</b>					
<b>2020-2021</b>					
Organisation	type	Date received	Amount in Application	Recommended \$	
Charlton Croquet Club	Project Support Grant	23/03/2020	\$731	\$731	
Charlton Golf Club	Project Support Grant	7/07/2020	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Sea Lake Golf & Bowls club	Project Support Grant	29/10/2020	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Charlton Lions	Project Support Grant	7/10/2020	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Charlton Park Committee	Sustainability Grant	2/09/2020	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
Charlton Forum	Project Support Grant	24/11/2020	\$ 576.63	\$ 576.63	
Birchip Cropping Group	Sustainability Grant	23/11/2020	\$ 8,778.00	\$ 8,778.00	
Donald Learning Group	Project Support Grant	9/11/2020	\$ 1,310.60	\$ 1,310.60	
			\$27,396	\$26,396	

**RELEVANT LAW**

Not Applicable

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not Applicable

**OPTIONS**

Not Applicable

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

**Economic Tourism** - contributes to the Buloke community through money spent by visitors. The historical and significance and pleasant environmental spaces enhance visitor experiences. Buloke communities are also promoted as great places to live. Local businesses being used for 2 projects.

**Social** – the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic are contributing to significant Pandemic Fatigue and isolation of community members. Productions that inject humour into important messages and that remind people that they are still part of a community are critical recovery initiatives.

**Environmental** – the enhancement of communal spaces setting an example of adapting to climatic changes and modelling effective plant choices impacts positively on community response to climate impacts.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Grant Applicants have consulted with relevant stakeholders prior to submitting applications.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not Applicable

**COLLABORATION**

Not Applicable

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Within allocated budget

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not Applicable

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2017-21

Buloke Shire Council Inclusiveness Plan

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not Applicable

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

**Cr Getley returned to the Council Chamber at 7.15pm after this item was addressed by Council.**

## 8.2.5 NEW MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE ACTIONS

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

**Department:** Community Development

**File No:** ES/13/07

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Responding to and enhancing our built and natural environment

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report presents recommendations to Council in order to align with the reformed emergency management planning arrangements outlined in the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (EMLA Act).

### SUMMARY

Municipal level amendments in the EMLA Act came into effect on December 1, 2020. This report is presented to outline key changes and the responsibility of Council to respond. From 1 December 2020, the legislation shifts responsibility for municipal emergency management planning from the council to the reformed, multi-agency Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). This shift of responsibility highlights the intent of the reform which supports emergency management planning as an integrated, multi-agency and collaborative effort.

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Authorises the disestablishment of the existing Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) established under s21(3)-(5) of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*, in recognition that on 1 December these provisions are repealed by s82(2) of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* and replaced by the provisions of s68 of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*.
2. Authorises the CEO to facilitate the establishment of the MEMPC in accordance with the provisions of s68 of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (which inserts a new 'Part 6-Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees' into the *Emergency Management Act 2013* on 1 December 2020).
3. Notes that, under the MEMPC Terms of Reference provided and the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (which inserts s59 and 59F into the *Emergency Management Act 2013* on 1 December 2020), Council's role is to establish the committee. Once established, the committee exists separately to Council and is not a committee of Council.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID POLLARD

**SECONDED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**CARRIED.**

**(R871/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

## **DISCUSSION**

In 2020 the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (EMLA Act 2018) introduced changes to emergency management planning under the Emergency Management Act 2013 (EM Act 2013), this has been a rolling process from State, to Regional and now to Municipal.

Significantly, the Emergency Management Act 2013 (as amended by the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (EMLA Act)) transfers responsibility for municipal level planning from councils to new MEMPCs. This reflects significant feedback from councils that councils should not own the plans, but they should be multi-agency plans. Importantly, it is the responsibility of the committee as a whole to deliver the emergency management plan and not that of the chair. Councils will convene and chair the committees which recognises their expertise, networks, and ability to coordinate across agencies at this level. However, planning is a shared responsibility of the MEMPC.

Core membership for MEMPCs includes the council or alpine resort management board, Victoria Police, Country Fire Authority and/or Fire Rescue Victoria, Ambulance Victoria, Victoria State Emergency Service, Australian Red Cross and the Department of Health and Human Services. The MEMPCs also require at least one additional recovery representative, one community representative, and one other representative (for example, industry).

The new MEMPCs will be responsible for integrated EM planning for its municipal district or alpine resort, including mitigation for fires and other emergencies. Once the municipal planning arrangements take effect, each current municipal plan will continue as a transitional measure until its next natural review period, at which point the plan will be prepared under the new framework. A rolling schedule to prepare and undertake assurance of new MEMPCs will be established based on the current three-year schedule.

From 1 December 2020, the municipal emergency resource officer (MERO) no longer has legislative backing. Instead there will be a new role of municipal emergency management officer (MEMO) and the role of municipal recovery manager (MRM) will be formalised. Until this point, the functions of the MERO continue. The role of the municipal fire prevention officer (MFPO) will continue under the planning reform but will no longer include a legislated planning function. Instead, fire planning will fall under the new integrated planning arrangements. Municipal emergency management plans (MEMPCs) will be required to cover mitigation, response and recovery, and address the roles and responsibilities of agencies in relation to emergency management. Plans are also intended to be integrated and comprehensive.

Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) has developed an assurance framework for state, regional and municipal levels under the changes made through the EMLA Act. EMV will work with VICSES to transition from the current audit requirements to the new assurance framework. Once the municipal phase commences, the relevant Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (for Buloke, Loddon Mallee REMPC) will be responsible for providing assurance and approving the MEMPC.

Should this recommendation be passed, the next steps will be to issue letters to invite members to form the new Buloke MEMPC.

The Emergency Management Manual Victoria has been published since 1997 as a multi-part manual for emergency management in Victoria and previously set out the way for municipal emergency management. The Victorian State Emergency Plan came into effect on 30 September 2020 and replaced the following parts of the EMMV:

- Part 3: State Emergency Response Plan
- Part 4: State Emergency Relief and Recovery Plan
- Part 7: Emergency Management Agency Roles
- Part 8: Appendices and Glossary

The remaining EMMV chapters and appendices are discontinued from 1 December 2020 as they are published elsewhere or superseded by the regional and municipal level reforms in the EMLA Act, including the Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans, and existing doctrine, policy and procedures.

A comprehensive resource library has been developed (<https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/emergency-management-planning/resource-library>).

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

*Emergency Management Act 1986*

*Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*

*Emergency Management Act 2013*

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

There are no related Council decisions.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no sustainability implications of this report.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The reform was discussed at the most recent meeting of the existing MEMPC on December 1. The new framework calls for community members to be a part of the MEMPC.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

This is borne out of reform of emergency management arrangements from the State Government, looking to improve the performance of agencies in emergencies.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Collaboration during emergencies is critical, and this committee will form a strong collaboration to guide planning for emergencies.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Not applicable

#### **REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

State Emergency Management Plan

Loddon Mallee Regional Emergency Management Plan

#### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Municipal Emergency Management Plan and Sub Plans

Council Plan 2017-2020

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

This resolution through Council provides Council and community with clear direction on the future

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## 8.2.6 REVISED GOVERNANCE RULES

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

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** GO/10/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

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

### PURPOSE

To provide council with the revised Draft Governance Rules for community consultation.

### SUMMARY

Section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to adopt and apply Governance Rules (Rules) which describe the way it will conduct Council meetings and make decisions. Revised Draft Rules have been prepared to enable the Mayor to call a Meeting of the Council.

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Having prepared the Revised Draft Governance Rules in accord with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020 commences community engagement in relation to the Revised Draft Governance Rules and makes the Revised Draft Governance Rules available on Council's website;
2. Allows persons to make submissions in writing in relation on any proposal contained within the Revised Draft Governance Rules; and
3. Allows presentations in support of written submissions to be heard at the Council Meeting on 10 February 2021 prior to adoption of the Governance Rules at this Meeting.

**MOVED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**SECONDED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**CARRIED.**  
**(R872/20)**

**Attachments:** 1 Draft Governance Rules

### DISCUSSION

Council adopted its Governance Rules at the August 2020 Council Meeting following a period of community engagement.

The Governance Rules do not provide for a Council Meeting to be called outside of the Council Meeting schedule adopted at the Statutory Meeting each year.

An amendment has been made to the Revised Draft Governance Rules attached to enable the Mayor, by written notice delivered to the Chief Executive Officer, to call a meeting of the Council.

This report recommends Council adopt the draft Rules and apply a community engagement process allowing submissions to be received for a 28-day period. It is proposed that submissions are considered at the Council Meeting scheduled 10 February 2021, and the Governance Rules be adopted at this meeting following consideration of submissions.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

The Revised Draft Rules contain the requirements under section 60 of the Act.

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Council adopted its Governance Rules at its August 2020 Council Meeting.

#### **OPTIONS**

Council may determine not to provide that the Mayor to call a meeting of the Council within its Governance Rules. This option is not recommended due to the previous provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* for Special Meetings not being replicated within the *Local Government Act 2020*. Meetings outside of the adopted Meeting Schedule may be used for awarding of contracts and for the Mayor to present the Annual Report of Operations to the Buloke community, for example.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council may amend its Rules at a Council meeting following community engagement. Given the uncontroversial nature of the ability of the Mayor to call a Council meeting, it is proposed a notice be placed on Council's website explaining the proposed amendment and inviting submissions to be considered at the February 2021 Council Meeting, with the adoption of the Rules proposed to occur at this meeting.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Not applicable. Section 62 of the Act provides for joint meetings of two or more councils. This provision is not referenced in the Revised Draft Rules.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

There are no financial viability implications associated with the Revised Draft Rules. Penalty rates applicable under the Act in relation to inappropriate use of Council resources, and publicity which might influence the outcome of a Council election are outlined in Schedule 3 – Election Period Policy.

#### **REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable.

#### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Council's Election Period policy is incorporated into the Draft Revised Rules as required under the Act. No changes are proposed to the Election Period policy.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Draft Revised Rules demonstrate Council continues to provide good governance through the performance of its role in accordance with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles of the Act.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

In preparing this report I, Hannah Yu, have no conflicts of interest to declare.

## 8.2.7 COUNCILLOR AND MAYORAL ALLOWANCES

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

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** GO/06/11

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

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

### PURPOSE

This report recommends allowances for the Mayor and Councillors are set at the highest level for Category 1 councils in recognition of the work and responsibilities of Councillors and the Mayor.

### SUMMARY

Council must set the level of Councillor and Mayoral allowances within a period of six months after a general election or by next 30 June. The level of allowances, as set by Council through the review process will be the base rate for the term of this Council until the first Determination made by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal. Council must give notice of its intention to set allowances for Councillors and the Mayor pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (1989 Act).

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Gives notice pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of its intention to set the annual allowances for Councillors and the Mayor as follows:
  - Councillors: \$21,049
  - Mayor: \$62,884with the intention to adjust the above allowances in accordance with any adjustment factor determined by the Minister until such time as the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal has made a determination under the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Consider all submissions made with respect to the review of Councillor and Mayoral allowances following conclusion of the public submission process.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID POLLARD

**SECONDED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**CARRIED.**

**(R873/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

### DISCUSSION

Councils are designated either a category 1, 2 or 3. The categories are derived by Local Government Victoria from a formula based on an individual Council's population and annual revenue.

Buloke is a Category 1 Council and allowances paid currently are set at 100% of the uppermost allowance limit within the range for this category:

- Councillors: \$8,833 to \$21,049
- Mayor: up to \$62,884

Allowances are payable in advance at the start of each month. The payments are to compensate Councillors for the duties performed as an elected local government Councillor. Mayoral and Councillor allowances are subject to an additional 9.5% superannuation guarantee.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

Whilst the Councillor allowance provisions of the 1989 Act were revoked on 6 April 2020, and replaced with section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal has yet to determine an allowance for Mayors, Deputy Mayors or Councillors.

Despite the repeal of the Councillor allowance provisions under the 1989 Act, section 39(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides that the 1989 Act provisions continue to apply in respect of allowances payable to Mayors and Councillors until the first Determination is made by the Remuneration Tribunal. Accordingly, section 74(1) of the 1989 Act requires that Councils must review and determine the level of the allowances by 30 June 2021 unless the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal determines the allowances beforehand.

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Allowances set for the 2016/21 Council term were adopted in February 2017 at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

#### **OPTIONS**

Council may determine to pay less than the uppermost allowance limit applicable under the 1989 Act in advertising its intention to set allowances, or following receipt of submissions under section 223.

The 1989 Act provides a Council must pay a Councillor allowance or a Mayoral allowance in accordance with any review and determination made by Council under section 74. The 1989 Act further provides a Council does not have to pay an allowance to a Councillor or Mayor who does not want to receive an allowance.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The submissions process under section 223 of the 1989 Act continues to apply in the determination of allowances because that section has not been revoked and is presently not intended to be revoked. Following consideration of public submissions, Council can determine the allowance level for the Mayor and Councillors. The allowances become applicable from the date of the resolution following consideration of any submissions.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable

#### **COLLABORATION**

Not applicable

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Upon the completion of the section 223 process and the setting of the allowances, the amount of the allocation will be confirmed as part of the 2021/22 Annual Budget.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Estimations for Councillor and Mayoral allowance amounts are incorporated into the Council's Strategic Resource Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Council will set allowances for the Councillors and Mayor at an open meeting of Council following consideration of any submissions under the 1989 Act.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* state that for the purposes of section 129(g) of the *Local Government Act 2020* an exemption for conflicts of interest is applicable in determining the payment of Councillor and Mayoral allowances provided for under section 39(6) of the Act.

## 8.2.8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT - DECEMBER 2020

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

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** ED/03/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Diversify and enhance our local economy.

### PURPOSE

This report is presented to Council to provide an update on the actions against the priorities identified in the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

### SUMMARY

In August 2018, Council adopted a new Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. One of the key actions in the Annual Plan was to report on the progress of the implementation of the Strategy twice per year.

### MOTION:

That Council note the report of progress against Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.

**MOVED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**SECONDED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.  
(R874/20)**

**Attachments:** 1 Progress against Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

### DISCUSSION

The attached report highlights the range of actions undertaken against each priority and also highlights some of the work still come.

The COVID-19 pandemic has both provided challenges to the Economic Development and Tourism service and also provided a heightened importance as part of the recovery process. Given the focus on housing, tourism, small business support, outdoor activation, investment attraction and population attraction, the workplan for the Economic Development and Tourism service will need be carefully considered in the coming twelve months.

Some of the highlights over the past six months include:

- Council stepping forward to run the Working for Victoria Program, creating fifty new jobs in the Shire.
- Attraction of additional funding for key transport link roads, including the Birchip Berriwillock Road, with applications also in place for the Nullawil Birchip Road.

- Approval of 4 planning permit applications for intensive animal production operations since the May/June report. A strengthened partnership with the Northern Poultry Cluster has developed other opportunities.
- Over 30 farmers have joined the Internet of Things project being run by Agriculture Victoria, with support from Council.
- Housing Sub-Committee established, and developing a Housing Strategy (draft by December 2020).
- Support for hospitality businesses for outdoor activation and to develop COVID Safe Plans
- Progression of childcare provision, with new construction commenced at Wycheproof, a contract let for Charlton and tender released for the Sea Lake Early Learning Centre.
- Commencement of streetscape works at Birchip and progression of plans in other communities.
- Business case underway for a 'Tradie Park' in the Donald Industrial Estate
- Progress on the township brochures, to be completed in February 2021.
- Development of a Buy Buloke website, with further work needed to promote the local buy promotion.
- Funding secured for tourism related projects, including Mount Wycheproof, Charlton Rex Cinema and further funding for the Silo Art trail across the Wimmera Mallee region.

Full commentary is included in the attached report.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Council adopted the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy in 2018, with regular progress going to Council on six monthly basis.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The strategy highlights environmental sustainability initiatives, which can also drive economic development throughout the Shire.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Strategy was established through a community engagement process and Council continues to have a range of meetings with stakeholders and community groups about the priorities in the Strategy.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Officers intend on reviewing the focus of the service once the appointment of a new Economic Development Lead occurs. This will ensure the focus of the small amount of resources are used in the most effective place.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Council continues to operate and collaborate with different stakeholder groups, such as the Northern Poultry Cluster, Wimmera Mallee Tourism, Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee and Mallee Regional Partnerships

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Not applicable

#### **REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Council's service does align and shift with relevant regional and state plans, such as the Regional Growth Strategy.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

This report is relevant to the Council Plan, Community Plan and Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Presenting progress reports on strategies adopted is keeping with good practice of communicating outcomes with the community.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## 8.2.9 LEASE OF WYCHEPROOF TURNTABLE

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

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** CP/22/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Diversify and enhance our local economy.

### PURPOSE

This report presented to Council to seek formal community feedback on a proposal to lease the Wycheproof (Railway) Turntable to Steamrail Victoria.

### SUMMARY

Council will seek community feedback on the proposal to lease the Wycheproof (Railway) Turntable.

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Advertises the intent to enter into a lease or license of the Wycheproof (Railway) Turntable to Steamrail Victoria for a period of ten years;
2. Calls for comment and feedback from the community; and
3. Considers the approval of a lease following the closure of the submission process at the February Ordinary Meeting 2021 of Council.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID POLLARD

**SECONDED:** CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.**  
**(R875/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

### DISCUSSION

Council has recently received a request from Steamrail Victoria to lease the Council-owned Wycheproof (Railway) Turntable.

Steamrail Victoria is a volunteer not for profit organisation based in Newport Victoria at the Newport Railway Workshops. They currently operate short train rides, day trips, overnight tours and charters across the state of Victoria on the V/Line Broad Gauge Railway Network. They currently are custodians of seven former Victorian Railways steam locomotives in serviceable condition and a large fleet of rollingstock, some of which is owned by Steamrail and some owned by the State Government of Victoria and placed into their care.

Steamrail Victoria last visited Wycheproof in October 2017, which was slated to be the last trip with the impending standardisation of the lines. Given this project appears to be in doubt, the potential for

further trips and promotion of tourism in the region, is one that both Council and Steamrail Victoria are excited about.

Steamrail Victoria Inc. is an Accredited Rail Transport Operator (RTO) and Railway Infrastructure Manager (RIM) within Newport Workshops and our Ballarat East Depot. These accreditations would allow Steamrail Victoria to operate the turntable. Council, not being a rail authority or railway user, does not hold these accreditations.

Steamrail Victoria have indicated the current lack of access to a turntable is a key blocker of having more tours, and that the current turntable needs investment to bring it back to an operational standard.

In considering some of the terms of the lease, the following would be recommended:

- Council would enter the lease at a peppercorn rent (i.e. \$1 per year);
- Steamrail would be responsible for the initially required upgrades and ongoing maintenance for the turntable (noting Council would seek State and Federal government grants also);
- 10 year lease;
- Valid copies of insurances and accreditations would be required; and
- Access also be provided to other rail tour operators, such as 707 Operations.

Providing access to an operable turntable will increase the rail-based tourism potential of the Wycheproof area and all towns on the Kulwin (Calder Highway) railway line.

Council will seek comment from the community before considering a final decision on the proposal to enter a lease or license for the turntable.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable.

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

There are no previous Council decisions related to this request.

#### **OPTIONS**

There are no other options at this point for Council consideration, as it will need to advertise its intention to the public to lease the Wycheproof (Railway) Turntable to seek the communities' feedback and comment on this proposal.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Steamrail Victoria proposal would reap social and economic benefits and promote tourism and economic development further within the Shire.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council will need to advertise to the public, its intention to lease the Wycheproof (Railway) Turntable, to seek feedback and comment from the community before considering its final decision on this proposal.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

This proposal is an innovative and creative opportunity to promote rail-based tourism on the Kulwin (Calder Highway) railway line, the unique identity of the railway line going through the main street (Broadway) in Wycheproof, the amazing silo art in Nullawil and Sea Lake, and provides continued improvement on tourism opportunities and economic development in the Shire.

**COLLABORATION**

Council would commit to working with Steamrail Victoria to seek State and Federal grants to assist with the development of this initiative.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

There would be very minimal financial implications direct to Council as the intention is to enter into a lease at a peppercorn rent (i.e. \$1 per year); and Steamrail Victoria would be responsible for the associated costs for the required upgrades, maintenance and insurance.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

The Loddon Mallee Regional Economic Growth Plan, developed in partnership between local government and state agencies, provides Council broad direction for regional land use and development in the region. This plan considers a range of land uses including tourism.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

In line with the Council Plan 2017 – 2021, this proposal provides Council an opportunity to capitalise on any possible and viable tourism opportunities.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Publically advertising Council's intention to lease the Wycheproof Railway Turntable is in line with Council's Plan 2017 – 2021 to support our Councillors, Staff, Volunteers and Community to make informed and transparent decisions.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no Conflict of Interest considerations applicable to this report.

## 8.2.10 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

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

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GS/03/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

**Strategic Objective:** Responding to and enhancing our built and natural environment

### PURPOSE

This report is presented to Council to consider applying for funding under the Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

### SUMMARY

Officers are recommending that Council apply for funding to upgrade the Nullawil Birchip Road, where key sections of the road are nearing the end of its useful life.

### MOTION:

That Council:

1. Applies for \$1.3million funding under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program for the upgrade of the Nullawil Birchip Road; and
2. Considers the allocation of \$300,000 of matching funding in the development of the 2021/22 capital budget.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID POLLARD

**SECONDED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.  
(R876/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

### DISCUSSION

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

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

Council has been allocated \$1.3million from this fund for eligible projects. Eligible projects include local road or community infrastructure projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public. Projects will need to deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity and safety benefits.

Councils will need to complete all project works by 31 December 2021 to receive their full nominal share of funding.

In reviewing Council's project pipeline the priority project recommended for Council consideration meets the criteria of:

- Having community support;
- Aligning with Council's strategic and community plans;
- Assisting in Council's asset management challenges; and
- Being able to be delivered in the twelve-month timeframe.

The project being recommended is the widening and strengthening of 3,970metre section of the Nullawil Birchip Road at a value of \$1,600,000. To complete this project, Council would need to consider the allocation of funding from the 2021/22 capital budget, noting the works anticipated to commence around August 2021.

In considering this project, it is noted:

- These plans are complete and the project is ready to tender;
- This is consistent with Council's asset management needs, and the need to continue to invest heavily into our most valuable asset class, being sealed road pavements;
- By allocating one individual project, it supports Council's project management resourcing; and
- This road is a key freight route, which also connects two communities of interest.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

Council would undertake tenders within the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

There are no related Council decisions.

#### **OPTIONS**

Council workshopped two options with Councillors. The alternative option would be to:

- Apply for \$1,000,000 for improvements to Birchip drainage; and
- Apply for \$300,000 shoulder resheeting on Berriwillock-Springfield Road and gravel resheeting of McNicol's Road (Dumosa).

In recommending the preferred option, officers have taken into account that the final designs for Birchip drainage are yet to be presented fully and scrutinized.

The need for the Birchip drainage improvements and Berriwillock-Springfield Road and McNicol's Road resheeting, remains a priority for Council to consider out of own source funds, during budget deliberations.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no sustainability implications in this report.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Ratepayers, as community priorities for Council consideration, have referred both the preferred and secondary options.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Where possible, Council is working to complete longer sections of roadworks to improve economies of scale and meet community expectations. The recommendation of a 4km improvement is consistent with Council's approach to road upgrades.

**COLLABORATION**

There are no collaboration implications in this report.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The recommendation highlights the need to allocate funding from the 2021/22 budget for this project. By undertaking works for a large section of road, this allows for more efficient and lower-priced rates from the tenderers, when considering the economy of scale of this project to smaller-sized road-widening projects.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

This recommendation is consistent with relevant state economic development plans, particularly focussing on improving key freight routes.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

The Council Plan, Advocacy Strategy and Buloke 2030 all highlight the need to improve our sealed roads. This recommendation is consistent with those plans.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

This report is for Council to consider for a decision at an open Council meeting.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## 8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

### 8.3.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2020

**Author's Title:** Manager Finance

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** FM/19/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

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

#### PURPOSE

To present to the Council the financial statements for the period ending 31 October 2020.

#### SUMMARY

There has been limited variation to the anticipated year-end surplus of \$10.171m to date apart from adjustments between budget months within the financial year.

Timing of capital projects is still under review for cashflow forecast reporting.

#### MOTION:

That Council receives and notes the Financial Performance Report for the month ending 31 October 2020.

**MOVED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

**SECONDED:** CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.**  
**(R877/20)**

**Attachments:**

- 1 Income Statement
- 2 Balance Sheet
- 3 Cashflow Statement

#### DISCUSSION

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 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 deficit as at 31 October 2020 is \$2.425 m. Excluding capital grant income of \$3.770 m, the operating result is a deficit of \$6.196m. These results are better than anticipated at this stage of the year due to adjustments in the timing of annual expenditure between months in the financial year; mostly delays with the December 2018 flood restoration work.

As highlighted in the Full Year Budget and Forecast columns, rates and grant income will offset the current deficit result in future months and the annual budget surplus of approximately \$10.171m is predicted.

The **Balance Sheet** summarises the value of Assets (what Council owns) and our Liabilities (what Council owes), and the difference between assets and liabilities (Net Assets or Equity) reflects Council's net worth. Council's net worth as at this accounting period is \$283m.

The **Cashflow Statement** reflects actual results for the year to date (July – October) in line with statutory financial reporting.

At 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020, Council's Cash and Cash Equivalents were \$17.406m.

The following reports have been held over whilst the timing of capital projects is being finalised:

- **Cashflow Forecast**
- **Cashflow Chart**
- **Capital Works Program**

Given the large capital budget for 2020-21 and the irregular nature of income and expenditure on capital, the impact of project timing is critical for accurate cashflow forecasting. However, the current cashflow position and projection for the next three months remains strong based on capital project information to date.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

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

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Council adopted its Annual Budget 2020/21 on 1 July 2020. Variations identified at the July Council Meeting have been incorporated into the Council's current budget. Council's current budget will be used for financial report comparison for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

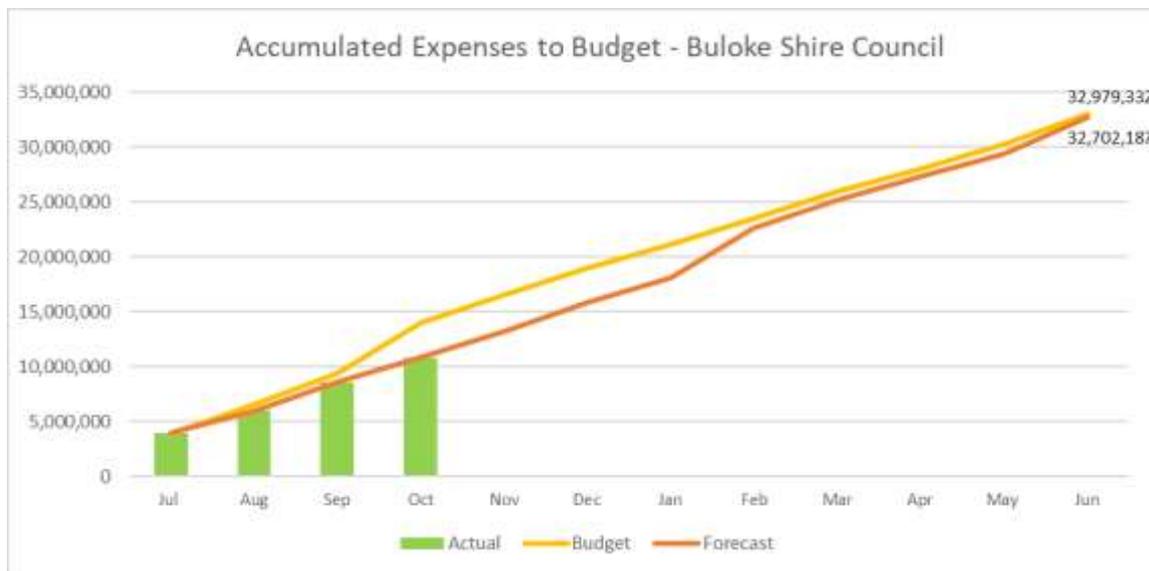
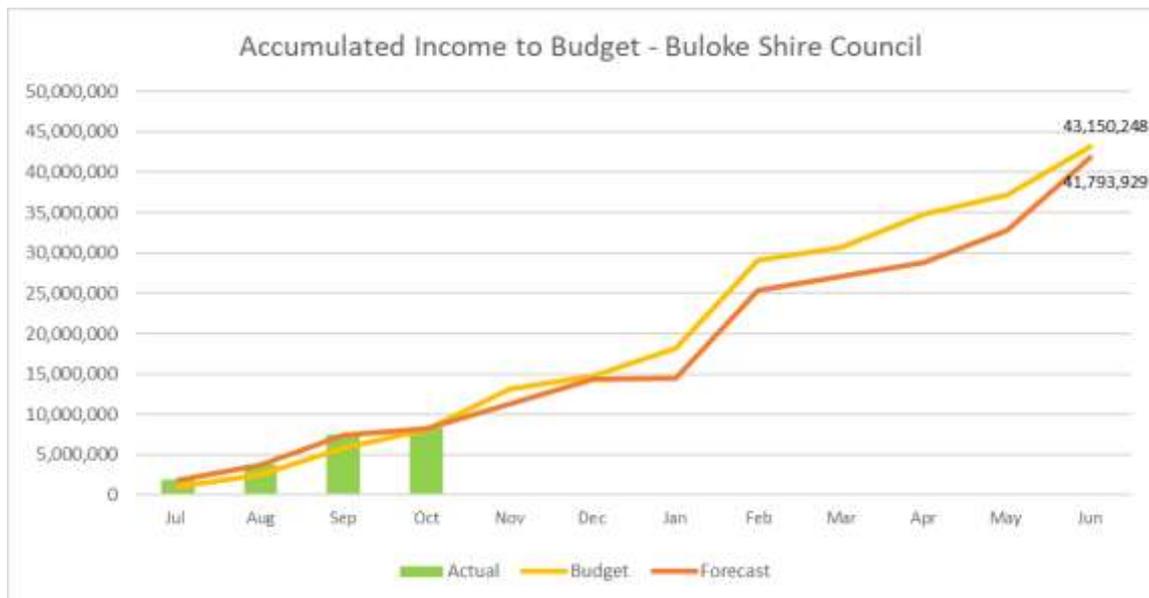
Not applicable.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Not applicable.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The tables below provide an overview of Council's financial performance against Approved budget income and expenses as at 31 October 2020. The Forecast reflects year to date results and budget timing adjustments within the financial year. The Forecast currently indicates a year end result similar to the annual budget surplus of \$10,171m.



**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Council adopted its Annual Budget 2020/21 in July 2020. The Buloke Shire Council Plan 2017-21 outlines Council’s commitment to providing clear and concise reporting on a monthly basis to Council meetings.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

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

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## 8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

### 8.4.1 ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** PE/21/02

**Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021**

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

#### PURPOSE

The Chief Executive Officer will be on annual leave from 29 December 2020 to 8 January 2021 inclusive.

As a matter of organisational process, positions are filled by acting staff when any supervisor or manager is on leave for a week or more.

#### SUMMARY

That Council appoint the Director of Corporate Services Hannah Yu, as Acting Chief Executive Officer from 29 December 2020 to 8 January 2021 inclusive.

#### MOTION:

That Council appoint the Director of Corporate Services Hannah Yu, as Acting Chief Executive Officer from 29 December 2020 to 8 January 2021 inclusive.

**MOVED:** CR ALAN GETLEY

**SECONDED:** CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.**  
**(R878/20)**

**Attachments:** Nil

#### DISCUSSION

The appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer ensures the uninterrupted operation of Council during periods of leave by the Chief Executive Officer.

The appointment of acting personnel assists in the development of succession planning and professional development within the organisation.

#### RELEVANT LAW

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires Council to appoint a Chief Executive Officer, but does not provide any requirements for appointing an Acting Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is on leave. It is this Council's practice to appoint an Acting Chief Executive Officer by way of Council resolution

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Nil

**OPTIONS**

Nil

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil Implications

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Nil

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Nil

**COLLABORATION**

The matter has been discussed with the Director Corporate Services

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Minor costs involved in regard to higher duties payment for the period are factored into the annual budget.

**REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable to this report.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable to this report.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable to this report.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## 8.4.2 BULOKE SHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

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

**Department:** Office of the CEO

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

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

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

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive and consider the Buloke Shire Council Annual Report 2019/20.

### **SUMMARY**

The *Local Government Act 1989 (the Act)* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (the Regulations) require each Council in Victoria to prepare an Annual Report for each financial year.

The Annual Report is Council's highest level reporting document to the State Government and the community. While Council has a statutory obligation to produce an Annual Report, it is also an opportunity to demonstrate Council's service delivery and performance to the community regarding Council activities over the past financial year.

### **MOTION:**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Buloke Shire Council Annual Report 2019/20 presented as an attachment to this report; and
2. Advertises that copies of the Annual Report are available on Council's website and from Council's Wycheproof Customer Service Centre.

**MOVED:** CR DAVID VIS

**SECONDED:** CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.**  
**(R879/20)**

**Attachments:** 1 Buloke Shire Council Annual Report 2019 - 2020

### **DISCUSSION**

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Councils prepare an Annual Report each financial year. A further requirement is for Council to meet to consider the Annual Report no later than one month 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 2019/20 year.

The Minister for Local Government extended the normal submission date to 30 November 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Annual Report 2019/20 was formally submitted to the Minister for Local Government on 27 November 2020.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Annual Report 2019/20 reports against the objectives identified in the Council Plan 2017-21 Year 3 Annual Plan and the Annual Budget 2019/20.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Council produces far fewer hard copies of the report and actively promotes access to digital copies of the Annual Report.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council advertised that the Annual Report would be presented at this meeting on social media and in the Buloke Times, North Central News and the Sea Lake Times Ensign.

The Financial Statements and Performance Statements for 2019/20 were presented to Council's Ordinary Meeting on 22 October 2020.

#### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The Planning and Accountability Framework found in the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (the regulations) outlines how the Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan, Annual Budget and Annual Report relate to each other for sound planning and reporting.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Manager Customer Engagement, who leads the compilation of the Annual Report, collaborated internally to ensure all reported items are factual and accurate.

The document was also reviewed by auditors from Accounting and Audit Solutions Bendigo.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The costs of producing the Annual Report is accommodated within the existing operational budget.

#### **REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Equal Opportunity Act 2010*

*Freedom of Information Act 1982*

*Disability Act 2006*

*Domestic Animals Act 1994*

*Food Act 1984*

*Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

*Road Management Act 2004*

#### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Council Plan 2017-21

Council Plan 2017-21 Year 3 Annual Plan

Annual Budget 2019/20

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Annual Report is a key document within the Planning and Accountability Framework found in the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (the regulations).

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## 8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

### Mayor's Report - Cr Daryl Warren

#### *Mount Jeffcott Ward*

23 November 2020	Statutory Meeting Election of Mayor
24 November	Radio Interview ABC Western Victoria Attendance at Statutory Meeting Hobsons Bay City Council – (Cr Jonathan Marsden elected as Mayor for the next 12 months)
26 November	Radio Interview FlowFM Jason Reagan
27 November	VLGA Councillor Induction Workshop
30 November	AGM Buloke Tourism Board at Nullawil
1 December	Phone hook up with CEO Anthony Judd
2 December	Audit Advisory Committee meeting
3 December	Council Briefing via Zoom
6 December	Donald Pony Club Official Opening of Clubrooms
7 December	Radio Interview GoldFM Bendigo
9 December	Meeting Procedures Induction Mayor and Deputy Mayor via Zoom December Ordinary Council meeting in person at Wycheproof

## 8.6 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

### MOTION:

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

- |       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| 8.6.1 | CONTRACT C85 2020/21 BIRCHIP<br>NETBALL COURT REDEVELOPMENT   | (g(ii)) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage |
| 8.6.2 | CONTRACT C87 2020/2021 PAVEMENT<br>REHABILITATION WORKS - CULGOA<br>LALBERT ROAD FROM CH 2.620KM TO<br>CH 4.440KM | (g(ii)) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage |

**MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE**

**SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS**

**CARRIED.  
(R880/20)**

### MOTION:

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

**MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD**

**SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE**

**CARRIED.  
(R883/20)**

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

Nil

**9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS****9.2.1 STATUS OF WORKING FOR VICTORIA PROGRAM – CR MILNE**

Cr Milne was enquiring about an update on the Working For Victoria Program (W4V).

The Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Judd, responded and advised that some of the earlier staff to come on board are due to finish with Council soon, whereas some still have up to five months left.

The CEO also advised that Information around the works and programs completed by the W4V staff will form part of a report to presented over coming months.

**9.2.2 REPORT ON STATUS OF WORKS FOR THE ROADS UTILISED FOR HARVEST TRAFFIC – CR MILNE**

Cr Milne referred to prior to harvest some farmers enquired about maintenance to dirt roads used for harvest routes, and was seeking an update on the whether there was ever a discussion undertaken by staff with these farmers, and were the works that were required undertaken.

The Directors Works and Technical Services, Wayne O’Toole, responded that the Manager Works did have a conversation with a number of farmers, and some, but perhaps not all, of those works have been done. Mr O’Toole indicated it is intended to have these conversations moving forward on what additional works could be undertaken in preparation for next harvest.

Cr Milne feels it would be a quite a good opportunity for Council to look at these harvest routes, that could be easily maintained by a grader that would help to keep heavy traffic off single lane bitumen roads, for the detriment of those, and to learn from that and work towards this as part of Council’s roads program, believing it would be beneficial to our budget and mental health.

**9.3 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil

**10. MEETING CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 8.10pm