



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 12 May 2021

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 Wednesday, 14 April 2021.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.
(R934/21)**

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Warren Requested a leave of absence from 24 May – 31 May 2021 inclusive.

MOTION:

That Council approves the requested leave of Cr Daryl Warren from 24 May to 31 May 2021 inclusive.

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.
(R935/21)**

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

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NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE 2021 AT 7.00PM.

Anthony Judd
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

MOTION:

That the Council note the report of Councillor Assembly Meetings held on 7, 20 and 21 April 2021.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R936/21)

Attachments:

- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 7 April 2021
- 2 Councillor Assembly - Council Plan - 20 April 2021
- 3 Councillor Briefing Record - 21 April 2021

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Transparency is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

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

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

As per the Council Meeting Schedule adopted 23 November 2020, Councillor Briefings are held for Councillors to meet to consider matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision or for the exercise of delegation.

A record of the Councillor Briefings held on 7, 20 and 21 April 2021 is attached for public information.

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

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 DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

CARRIED.
(R937/21)

Attachments: Nil

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Country Fire Authority	John Powell Teddy Waddy Fire Brigade	April 2021	Receiving a Country Fire Authority National Medal for his over sixty years of service to the Country Fire Authority, with his mainstay to be the Teddy Waddy Rural Fire Brigade
Victorian Rifle Association	Alister Larmour (Charlton) Birchip Rifle Club Member	16 – 18 April 2021	Winning the Victorian Rifle Association 2021 Victorian Queen's prize in the F Open Class on the Wellsford Rifle Range in Bendigo
Buloke Shire Council	Lorna Goldsworthy Sea Lake	9 May 2021	Celebrating the significant milestone of 100 years birthday.

7.3 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/06

PURPOSE

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.
(R938/21)**

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Correspondence sent to	Date sent	Date of Response	Summary of Response
Safety Upgrade – Boort Charlton Rail Crossing Safety Requirements	Jacinta Allan MP, Ben Carol MP Copy to: Louise Staley MP Paul Northey RRV	30/4/21		
Requirement for site for new Charlton Fire Brigade Station	Danny Pearson MP, Copy to: Louise Staley MP, Jaala Pulford MP.	30/4/21		

7.4 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Statutory Administration Support

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: DB/14/01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 April 2021 to 30 April 2021.

MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 April 2021 to 30 April 2021.

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR ALAN GETLEY

CARRIED.
(R939/21)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Permit No.	BAMS Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20210048	3278042992900	29 Sproats Lane, Donald	Shed Repair	01/04/2021
20210049	8287630964789	Mildura Way	Veterinary Shed	01/04/2021
20210050	7329877802256	141 Woods Street, Donald	Garage/Storage Shed	01/04/2021
20210053	8509359556542	Boort-Charlton Road, Charlton	Fire Services	01/04/2021
20210054	5020980112978	Boort-Charlton Road, Charlton	Chicken Broiler Sheds (x5)	01/04/2021
20210055	7035072505591	65 Horace Street, Sea Lake	Internal Alterations	01/04/2021
20210056	7691997704898	7-21 Mount Street, Wycheproof	Storage Shed	01/04/2021
20210057	8767851070284	Woods Street, Donald (Tennis Club)	Light Towers	15/04/2021
20210058	6314916445307	33 Railway Avenue, Sea Lake	Re-stump of dwelling	15/04/2021
20210059	6541193241725	Mildura Way, Charlton (Tennis Club)	Light Towers	15/04/2021

Permit No.	BAMS Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20210060	4009952560069	468 Broadway, Wycheproof (Tennis Club)	Light Towers	15/04/2021
20210069	2331866375107	Gretgrix Road, Wycheproof	Machinery Shed	22/04/2021

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE SURVEYOR

Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20210061	15 Johnson Street, Birchip	Shed	25/03/2021

7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: LP/09/01

PURPOSE

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

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 ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R940/21)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA904/21	Johnson Goodwin Memorial Homes	22 Camp Street, Donald	29/01/2021	Construction of six units, garage and storage shed	Permit Issued
PPA907/21	Gawk (Regional Billboard Co.)	5 Woods Street, Donald	08/02/2021	Construct and display a major promotion sign	Objections
PPA910/21	Price Merrett Consulting	76-78 Mount Street, Wycheproof	22/02/2021	Two lot subdivision of land	Permit Issued
PPA911/21	P Catherine	16-18 Mildura way, Charlton	25/02/2021	Change category of liquor licence, vary hours and increase red line area	Permit Issued
PPA912/21	D Oldfield	7 Lundy Street, Charlton	04/03/2021	Use and development of land for a commercial shed for a retail business	Permit Issued

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA913/21	J Arrowsmith	5 Gunyah Flat Road, Charlton	10/03/2021	Construction of a dwelling (studio cabin)	Permit Issued
PPA915/21	Northern Land Solutions	94 Elliots Road, Bimbourie	11/03/2021	Two lot subdivision of land (boundary realignment)	Permit Issued
PPA918/21	A Majeed	4 Arundell Square, Charlton	19/03/2021	Use and development of land for a store (shipping container)	Objections
PPA919/21	CardnoTGM	Aitken Avenue, Donald (Lot 1 & 2 TP173081)	26/03/2021	Two lot subdivision of land and use and development of land for two dwellings	Notice of Application Referral
PPA920/21	J Pringle	65 Horace Street, Sea Lake	01/04/2021	Use of land to serve and consume liquor and construct and display a business identification sign	Request for Further Information
PPA921/21	Action Steel Industries	489 Brim East Road, Wilkur	07/04/2021	Construction of a farm shed	Permit Issued
PPA922/21	CardnoTGM	35 Aitken Avenue, Donald	08/04/2021	Two lot subdivision of land (rural dwelling excision)	Notice of Application Referral
PPA923/21	P Noonan	347 Barbers Road, Karyrie	21/04/2021	Use and development of land for animal production (duck farm), construction of new shed and increased capacity to 70,000 birds	Notice of Application Referral
PPA924/21	Gawk (Regional Billboard Co.)	Birchip-Wycheproof Road, Birchip (Lot 1 PS11713)	22/04/2021	Construct and display a major promotion sign	Notice of Application Referral

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE SALE OF SURPLUS COUNCIL PROPERTY

Author's Title: Manager Facilities and Projects

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: CP/02/08

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the proposal to sell three properties at 131 Horace Street Sea Lake, 110 Sutcliff Street Sea Lake, and 8 Alexander Avenue Berriwillock.

SUMMARY

At the August 2019 Council meeting, Council noted that a 28 date consultation period was undertaken for the proposed sale of the aforementioned properties and no submissions were received, and resolved to proceed with the sale of the three properties. Due to change in department staff and the COVID-19 pandemic, the sale of the properties did not proceed. Given the time lapsed and potential for change in community sentiment, Council Officers undertook additional consultation in March 2021.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of further consultation period was undertaken to the proposed sale of surplus Council property;
2. Authorises the CEO to undertake the required sale process for 131 Horace Street Sea Lake;
3. Authorises the CEO apply for funding to subdivide the blocks and undertake the required sale process for individual subdivided blocks on 110 Sutcliffe Street, Sea Lake (old Primary School site);
4. Requests Officers investigate opportunities of retaining one or more of the subdivided blocks at 110 Sutcliffe Street for community or social housing initiatives and provide a subsequent report to Council; and
5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate to set a reserve price for 131 Horace Street Sea Lake and individual blocks on 110 Sutcliff Street Sea Lake

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

CARRIED.

(R941/21)

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

At the August 2019 Council meeting, Council noted that a 28 day consultation period was undertaken for the proposed sale of the aforementioned properties and no submissions were received, and

resolved to proceed with the sale of 131 Horace Street, Sea Lake and 110 Sutcliff Street, Sea Lake. Due to change in department staff and the COVID-19 pandemic, the sale of the properties did not proceed.

Given the time lapse, in order to remain fully transparent, Council Officers undertook further consultation on the proposed sale. There were no formal submissions for the two properties at Sea Lake during the consultation period. Councillors and officers have however, been approached frequently about the future of 110 Sutcliff Street, Sea Lake (Old Primary School site) and it has a large amount of community interest.

Council did receive input in writing prior to the formal feedback process requesting consideration for the site to become a sustainability village and high density housing for older residents.

Other verbal approaches have lobbied for larger blocks for families to build on.

Council should note that Officers have been working with engineers to undertake the feasibility of subdivision, servicing and connecting services to 110 Sutcliff Street Sea Lake. There is currently a live funding application with Regional Development Victoria to undertake these works. If this application is successful, Officers would recommend the subdivision the property and have services connected to sell individual lots.

Council is also lobbying Homes Victoria and other Community Housing groups to apply for funding for social housing across the Shire from the \$5.3billion state government investment into social and community housing. Part of this lobbying has been identifying Council and other government land that could be suitable for such developments. A portion of the land at 110 Sutcliff Street, Sea Lake could be a consideration in our offerings to attract funding for social and community housing.

This report recommends that Council proceeds with the sale of 131 Horace Street Sea Lake and the subdivision of 110 Sutcliff Street Sea Lake.

Councillors should note that consultation was also undertaken on 8 Alexander Avenue Berriwillock and there were submissions made for this parcel of land. Officers will aim to gather further information from the submitters before bringing a report to Council in the June meeting for their consideration.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

In August 2019 Council resolved to undertake the sale of 131 Horace Street Sea Lake, 110 Sutcliff Street Sea Lake and 8 Alexander Avenue Berriwillock.

OPTIONS

Council could elect not to proceed with the sale for these blocks of land.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council Officer undertook community engagement in line with requirements under the Local Government Act in May 2019 and again in March 2021.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council currently pays for some utilities, maintenance and insurance associated with these properties. This would be eliminated through the removal of these surplus assets.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2017-2021, Theme One, Deliver our service in a financially viable way.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

As this reports includes submissions by the public interested in purchasing or acquiring Council land, it is recommended that this report is considered in the confidential section of the meeting.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.2 BULOKE PLAYSPACE TRAIL STRATEGY

Author's Title: Manager Facilities and Projects

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: PR/04/17

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council consider and adopt the Playspace Trail Strategy.

SUMMARY

In 2020 the Buloke Playspaces Project was undertaken to develop 5 concept design for playgrounds in Berriwillock, Birchip, Charlton, Donald and Wycheproof. Consultation was undertaken with the community and via online survey in the development of the designs at each of the 5 playground spaces. During the course of the project, Council Officers identified the opportunity to develop a Buloke Playspace Trail, and a more proactive and consistent to approach to the design, construction and maintenance of play spaces around the Buloke Shire. Subsequently, Council Officers have formalised this opportunity in to the Buloke Playspace Trail Strategy. This report intends to present the Buloke Playspace Trail Strategy document for Council for consideration and endorsement as a Council Strategy.

MOTION:

That Council adopt the Playspace Trail Strategy and seek funding opportunities for the implementation.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

CARRIED.

(R942/21)

Attachments: 1 Buloke Playspace Trail Strategy 2021

DISCUSSION

In 2020 the Buloke Playspaces Project was undertaken to develop 5 concept design for playgrounds in Berriwillock, Birchip, Charlton, Donald and Wycheproof. Consultation was undertaken with the community and via online survey in the development of the designs at each of the 5 playground spaces. During the course of the project, Officers identified the opportunity to develop a Buloke Playspace Trail, and a more proactive and consistent to approach to the design, construction and maintenance of play spaces around the Buloke Shire.

The Strategy includes a consistency in approach for design features, yet ensuring each playground has a unique offering to draw community members and tourists through the Shire. In addition, improving the accessibility is a key theme across each playspace, with a full all-access playspace proposed for Donald.

The Strategy presented aims to make Buloke playspaces a tourism product and destination as well as enhance the liveability infrastructure within the communities. The Playspace Trail will be somewhere

for the local community and user groups to enjoy, explore, stay active, socialise and connect with other townships in the region. While the Trail will also provide Buloke with a tourism product to promote to the visitor market, encouraging visitation, increased visitor stay and dispersal throughout the Buloke region.

The Strategy provides a clear and defined plan for Council to enhance the public open park spaces and play spaces within the Buloke Shire for a wide range of stakeholders, whilst also ensuring an economical and sustainable approach for the installation of infrastructure through well considered design principles. This will ensure that on-ground parks and urban staff have the capacity to proactively plan maintenance to the infrastructure within their annual work plans, and within their annual maintenance budgets.

Council has recently submitted a funding application for the implementation of the Strategy to Regional Development Victoria.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council has authorised a funding application under the State Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund for the Buloke Shire Playspace Trail and the draft budget commits \$200,000 as a co-contribution to the project should the application be successful.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Officers have considered sustainability when establishing key design principles in the preparation of this Strategy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was undertaken in the development of the high level concept designs in the 2020 Buloke Playspaces Project. Further consultation will be required in the development of more detailed construction designs before new park infrastructure is built.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council Officers have considered the long term sustainability of both the built and natural environment in the preparation of this Strategy.

COLLABORATION

Council Officers have collaborated internally cross-departmentally and with external consultants in the preparation of the Buloke Playspace Trail Strategy.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

This project will see the replacement of a range of playground infrastructure that is nearing the end of its life. External funding will be needed for the implementation of this Strategy, given the cost estimates are far beyond the existing allocations in the forward capital works budgets.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

This plan responds to key state and regional plans including:

- Wimmera Southern Mallee Destination Management Plan.
- Mallee Regional Economic Growth Strategy

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This strategy addresses many of Council's existing plans and strategies including:

- Council Plan 2017-2021 - Develop a major projects advocacy document to present to potential funding partners including a strategic masterplan for the main park in each township
- Buloke 2030 – Develop and enhance parks and public spaces so they are welcoming, safe and accessible.
- Buloke Inclusiveness Plan – a key feature will be to increase the accessibility for all people.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council will consider this report in the section of the meeting which is open to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.3 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION 907/21 TO CONSTRUCT AND DISPLAY A MAJOR PROMOTION SIGN

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: LP/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is for Council to consider planning permit application 907/21 and determine to issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse a Planning Permit to construct and display a major promotion sign on Lot 2 on PS070354, known as 5 Woods Street, Donald.

SUMMARY

A planning application was received by Council on 21 January 2021 seeking approval to construct and display a double-sided, non-illuminated major promotion sign at 5 Woods Street, Donald.

MOTION:

That Council determine to issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse a Planning Permit to construct and display a major promotion sign on Lot 2 on PS070354, known as 5 Woods Street, Donald on the following grounds:

- (a) The proposed sign is excessive in scale and is inappropriate in the centre of the Donald Township;
- (b) The proposed sign is incompatible with the amenity and visual appearance of the area; and
- (c) The proposed sign does not complement or enhance the character of the area.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

CARRIED.
(R943/21)

Attachments: 1 5 Woods Street Donald - Major Promotion Sign - drawings

DISCUSSION

The application is for the property 5 Woods Street, Donald (Lot 2 PS070354). The property is 2113m² and contains a former car dealership currently being used for a thrift store. The land is zoned Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) and a Design and Development (DDO1) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) apply. The land is adjacent a Road Zone, Category 1 (RDZ1).

The land is situated on the corner of Woods Street and Hammill Street. The land adjoins Donald Riverside Motel, zoned C1Z to the northwest and residential dwellings, zoned Township Zone (TZ) to the northeast. The Richardson River lies north and northeast of the subject site.

The land is located in the centre of the township. There are a mix of uses including commercial, residential and public uses in the immediate proximity. The area is characterised by single story residential buildings, located immediately northeast, southeast and southwest, and similarly scaled commercial buildings immediately south. Further southeast, the main shopping strip of Donald contains single and double story buildings. Existing signage in the area include modest business identification signs on the subject site, the neighbouring Riverside Motel and the Donald Motor Lodge diagonally opposite the subject site, and street and directional signage near the intersection.

Proposal

The proposal is to construct and display a double-sided, non-illuminated major promotion sign on the southwest (Wood Street) boundary, parallel to and 500mm from the northwest boundary, being the boundary between the subject site and the Riverside Motel. The advertising panel is proposed to be 8.3 metres wide and 2.2 metres high, giving a display area of 18.26m². In addition to the advertising panel is an 850 millimetre skirting board below the sign. The structure will be mounted on two steel columns, elevating the bottom edge of the sign to 1.7 metres above the natural ground level and the overall height of the structure is to be 4.85 metres. The sign will display static imagery and will be changed from time to time at the discretion of Gawk (the applicant).

Planning Scheme Provisions

A planning permit is required under Clause 52.05-11 – Category 1- Commercial areas. The sign does not meet the criteria of Section 1 – Permit not required, and therefore becomes Section 2 – Permit required.

The purpose of Clause 52.05 Signs is:

- To regulate the development of land for signs and associated structures.
- To ensure signs are compatible with the amenity and visual appearance of an area, including the existing or desired future character.
- To ensure signs do not contribute to excessive visual clutter or visual disorder.
- To ensure that signs do not cause loss of amenity or adversely affect the natural or built environment or the safety, appearance or efficiency of a road.

The purpose of Clause 52.05-11 Category 1 – Commercial areas is

- To provide for identification and promotion signs that add vitality and colour to commercial areas.

Planning Policy Framework

Clause 11 – Settlement

This clause outlines that planning is to recognise the need for, and as far as practicable contribute towards achieving a number of key principles, including achieving a high standard of urban design and amenity.

Clause 15.01-1S Urban design

This clause has the objective to assist in creating urban environments that are safe, healthy, functional and enjoyable and that contribute to a sense of place and cultural identity by:

- requiring development to respond to its context in terms of character, cultural identity, natural features, surrounding landscape and climate;
- ensuring that development, including signs, minimises detrimental impacts on amenity, on the natural and built environment and on the safety and efficiency of roads; and
- promoting good urban design along transport corridors.

Clause 15.01-5S Neighbourhood character

The objective of this clause is to recognise, support and protect neighbourhood character, cultural identity, and sense of place by:

- Ensuring development responds to cultural identity and contributes to existing neighbourhood character.
- Ensuring development responds to its context and reinforces a sense of place and the valued features and characteristics of the local environment and place by emphasising the built form that reflects community identity.

Clause 15.01-6 Design for rural areas

The objective of this clause is to ensure development respects valued areas of rural character by:

- Ensuring that the siting, scale and appearance of development protects and enhances rural character.
- Protecting the visual amenity of character areas along township approaches by ensuring new development is sympathetically located.

Clause 18.01-2S Transport system

This clause includes strategy to regulate new development of land near an existing transport route to avoid detriment to and where possible enhance, the service, safety and amenity desirable for that transport route in the short and long term.

Clause 18.02-1S Sustainable personal transport

This clause has the objective of promoting the use of sustainable personal transport by encouraging the use of walking and cycling by creating environments that are safe and attractive.

Clause 18.02-3S Road system

This clause includes strategy to regulate the design of transport routes and nearby areas to achieve visual standards appropriate to the importance of the route with particular reference to landscaping and the control of outdoor advertising.

Local Planning Policy Framework

Municipal Strategic Statement

Clause 21.01-1 Snapshot of Buloke Shire

This clause recognises one of the features of the Buloke Shire's (and the regions') towns is the way in which sympathetic rural, urban commercial and industrial land uses are interspersed. While the main towns do have distinct commercial and industrial areas, historic patterns of development have created urban areas with mixed land uses.

Clause 21.01-2 Key influences

One of the key influences in relation to the municipality is the viability, character and heritage of existing rural townships.

Clause 21.01-3 Key issues

One of the key issues recognised in this clause is the importance of enhancing the viability of townships by encouraging appropriate development and maintaining and / or improving urban character, amenity and services.

Clause 21.02-2 Townships

Objective 1 is to provide high quality, attractive, functional and efficient townships by:

- Considering local heritage values, built character and streetscape of towns when designing and siting development.
- Requiring that the design of new buildings and works in addition to existing buildings must be in keeping with the streetscape character and built form of the area.
- Recognising that the design of buildings, their mass and scale is important in preserving the historical attributes and visual character of towns.
- Consider the presentation of town entrances and streetscapes and their capacity to attract tourism, encourage development and demonstrate civic pride in determining applications for land use and development.

Particular Provisions

Clause 52.05 Signs

The purpose of this clause includes:

- To provide for signs that are compatible with the amenity and visual appearance of an area, including the existing or desired future character.
- To ensure signs do not contribute to excessive visual clutter or visual disorder.
- To ensure that signs do not cause loss of amenity or adversely affect the natural or built environment or the safety, appearance or efficiency of a road.

Clause 52.05-8 includes extensive decision guideline specific to the assessment of application for signs. These include:

- The character of the area
- Impacts on views and vistas
- The relationship to the streetscape, setting or landscape
- The relationship to the site and buildings
- The impact of any structure associated with the sign
- The impact of any illumination
- The impact on road safety

In addition to these decision guidelines, further decision guide lines relating to major promotion signs apply. These include the effect of the major promotion sign on:

- Significant streetscapes, buildings and skylines
- The visual appearance of a significant view corridor, view line, gateway location or landmark site identified in a framework plan or local policy
- Residential areas and heritage places

When determining the effect of a proposed major promotion sign, the following locational principles must be taken into account:

- Major promotion signs are encouraged in commercial and industrial locations in a manner that complements or enhances the character of the area.
- Major promotion signs are discouraged along forest and tourist roads, scenic routes or landscaped sections of freeways.
- Major promotion signs are discouraged within open space reserves or corridors and around waterways.
- Major promotion signs are discouraged where they will form a dominant visual element from

residential areas, within a heritage place or where they will obstruct significant view lines.

- In areas with a strong built form character, major promotion signs are encouraged only where they are not a dominant element in the streetscape and except for transparent feature signs (such as neon signs), are discouraged from being erected on the roof of a building.

Clause 65 Decision guidelines

Because a permit can be granted does not imply that a permit should or will be granted. The responsible authority must decide whether the proposal will produce acceptable outcomes in terms of the decision guidelines of this clause.

Assessment of application

There are a number of state planning policies that emphasise the need for quality urban design, the need for minimising detrimental impacts on amenity, particularly along transport corridors. State planning policy also aims to protect and support neighbourhood character and recognises in the design for rural areas policy the need to ensure that the siting, scale and appearance of development protects and enhances rural character. The design for rural areas policy specifically highlights protecting the visual amenity of character areas along township approaches by ensuring new development is sympathetically located. It is important to note that although the location is not necessarily a township approach, it is an approach to the main business and shopping strip of Donald. The road system state policy highlights the importance of considering the design of transport routes and nearby areas to achieve visual standards appropriate to the importance of the route with particular reference to landscaping and the control of outdoor advertising.

One of the focal points of local planning policy is the distinct character of the Shire's rural townships. The townships policy emphasises the requirement that new building and works must be in keeping with the streetscape character and built form of the area. The policy also highlights that the design of buildings, their mass and scale is important in preserving the visual character of towns.

It is acknowledged that the Commercial 2 Zone is one of the least restrictive for signs; however, signs must still be established in a manner that respects the township character and scale of the surrounds. The proposed site is central to the Township of Donald. The character of this area consists of low density, single storey commercial and residential buildings with generous setbacks from the road and vegetation forming the backdrop. The proposed major promotion sign does not compliment or enhance the character of the area. The size and scale of the proposed sign will dominate the location, is excessive in scale to the surroundings and has no regards to the existing character.

Clause 52.05 Signs assessment

Decision guidelines relevant to this proposal:

The character of the area including:

- The sensitivity of the area in terms of the natural environment, heritage values, waterways and open space, rural landscape or residential character.
- The compatibility of the proposed sign with the existing or desired future character of the area in which it is proposed to be located.
- The cumulative impact of signs on the character of an area or route, including the need to avoid visual disorder or clutter of signs.
- The consistency with any identifiable outdoor advertising theme in the area.

The proposed sign is not compatible with the existing character of the area, it is not aligned with the character of signs in the surrounding area, and is not consistent with the current outdoor advertising in the area.

Impacts on views and vistas including:

- The potential to dominate the skyline.

The scale of the existing building and vegetation in the background lessens the potential of the sign to dominate the skyline in the immediate area; however it will impact the view of the motel and surrounding vegetation.

The relationship to the streetscape, setting or landscape including:

- The proportion, scale and form of the proposed sign relative to the streetscape, setting or landscape.
- The position of the sign, including the extent to which it protrudes above existing buildings or landscape and natural elements.
- The ability to screen unsightly built or other elements.

The proposed sign is not in proportion or scale to the signs setting. Although the sign will not protrude above existing buildings, it will be a dominant feature of the streetscape.

The impact on road safety. A sign is a safety hazard if the sign:

- Obstructs a driver's line of sight at an intersection, curve or point of egress from an adjacent property.

A large quantity of traffic passes through this intersection; however, it is considered that the sign does not pose an obstruction to a driver's line of sight.

Clause 52.05-6 Major Promotion Sign

In addition to the basic purpose and decision guidelines of *Clause 52.05 Advertising Signs* which are applicable to all signage, at *Clause 52.05-6 Major Promotion Sign* the policy includes additional objectives and decision guidelines which are specific to the high impact nature of Major Promotion Signs. The proposed sign is a major promotion sign because of its size.

The effects of the proposed major promotion sign on:

- Significant streetscapes, buildings and skylines
- The visual appearance of a significant view corridor, view line, gateway location or landmark site identified in a framework plan or local policy

The intended location is a significant street scape, including commercial and residential elements, located in the centre of Donald. The proposed sign has the potential to visually dominate the area.

When determining the effect of a proposed major promotion sign, specified locational principles must be taken into account, including:

- Major promotion signs are encouraged in commercial and industrial locations in a manner that complements or enhances the character of the area.

Although this is a commercial zoned area, the sign does not complement or enhance the area.

- Major promotion signs are discouraged where they will form a dominant visual element from residential areas, within a heritage place or where they will obstruct significant view lines.

There are residential buildings located immediately opposite the subject site. The sign will be a dominant visual element from this viewpoint.

- In areas with a strong built form character, major promotion signs are encouraged only where they are not a dominant element in the streetscape and except for transparent feature signs (such as neon signs), are discouraged from being erected on the roof of a building.

The proposed major promotion sign will be a dominant element in the streetscape.

RELEVANT LAW

The actions are in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable

OPTIONS

An assessment of the proposal has been undertaken and it is considered that the application does not accord with relevant policy, nor achieve compliance with the purpose and decision guidelines of Clause 52.05 Advertising Signs and more specifically Clause 52.05-6 Major Promotion Signs.

A Council determination is sought for the application as the Council's Planning Officer recommends that a Notice of Refusal to grant a planning permit be issued.

Council must determine a position on the application for a planning permit and take one of the following options:

1. Approve a planning permit and issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit for the proposal (with conditions prepared by the planning office)
2. Issue a Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit for the proposal – appeal rights apply to the applicant

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no known sustainability considerations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Notice of Application was undertaken in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by placing a notice in all Buloke newspaper publications on 23, 24 and 25 February 2021, by placing a sign on site and by sending letters to seventeen (17) adjoining owners and occupiers.

Seven (7) submissions were received in relation to the application. The objections were forwarded to the applicant, who provided a response. After considering the available information, it was decided a mediation would not be conducted.

The concerns raised by the objectors are as follows:

- The sign will be visually dominant and cause a distraction for drivers, affecting road safety
- The sign will encroach on the modest signage of the Riverside Motel and impact the visibility of the motel
- The sign will cause overshadowing of the Riverside Motel
- Concerns over sign content, locals will not have control over advertisements and local businesses may not be able to afford to advertise
- The scale and location of the sign is considered inappropriate and not in keeping with the character or landscape of the area
- The sign will cause visual clutter

The applicant responded to the objections as follows:

- Road Safety: The sign will be visible and prominent; however this does not automatically result in unwavering attention. VicRoads did not object to the proposed sign, subject to road safety conditions.
- Visibility to Motel: The separation to the neighbouring motel signage is sufficient to not dramatically impact on the visibility. In addition the applicant has offered:
 - 1 metre setback to Woods Street
 - Skirting board advertising for the Riverside Motel, free of charge
- Content: The applicant would consider it suitable to include a condition in the permit favouring local businesses in the municipality and adjoining Council areas.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable

COLLABORATION

The application was referred to Head, Department of Transport (Vicroads). They did not object to the application, but supplied eight conditions to be included on the permit if the Council regarded the proposal favourably.

The application was referred internally to the Municipal Building Surveyor. The Building Surveyor provided comment that the proposed sign would require a building permit.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The applicant may appeal the Notice to Refuse to VCAT. There may be cost associated with an appeal. There may be legal costs if Council seeks legal advice or representation in regard to this matter.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Council Plan

3.7 – Enhance community cohesion and attractiveness with well-maintained and functional streetscapes.

04 – Responding to and enhancing our built and natural environment.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

In order to promote transparency, Council will consider this decision in an open meeting.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.4 COMMUNITY GRANTS & 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

PURPOSE

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

SUMMARY

Presenting one application for a small equipment Grant and two applications for Sustainability Grants.

MOTION:

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

- \$1,000 Small Capital Equipment Grant for Charlton Club;
- \$424 Sustainability Grant for the Red Gate Community Garden; and
- \$8,526 Sustainability Grant for the Donald Children's Centre.

MOVED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R944/21)

Attachments: 1 2020-2021 Community Grants

DISCUSSION

The following applications for funding were applied for under Council's Community Grants and Sponsorship Program.

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

Project: Reinvigoration of Charlton Club Carpark	
Organisation:	Charlton Club
Amount Applied:	\$1000
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$1000
Total project cost:	\$2700
Project Description:	The reinvigoration of the rear carpark into an outdoor entertaining space. The funding would allow the club to buy tables and chairs, umbrellas and plant pots with suitable greenery. This would allow the club to hold different functions and events.

Project Benefit:	The Charlton Club was unable to get government funding while it was closed for the COVID 19 lockdown. The reinvigoration of the outdoor area will encourage members and the community back to the club while highlighting the view of the river. They hope to encourage travellers staying in the Caravan Park to use the facility and connect with the community.
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Project:	Purchase of Shredder/Mulcher
Organisation:	Red Gate Community Garden
Amount Applied:	\$424
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$424
Total project cost:	\$849
Project Description:	The Red Gate Community Garden plan to purchase a mulcher/shredder to repurpose garden waste material into usable mulch for the garden.
Project Benefit:	The use of the Mulcher will decrease the amount of waste that is sent to landfill therefore limit the carbon footprint. They will be able to reduce the workload of volunteers by reducing the amount and labour used to take the garden waste to the local tip. The applicant are matching the funding request dollar for dollar and buying the equipment from a local business.

Project:	Donald Children's Centre Solar Panel Project
Organisation:	Donald Children's Centre
Amount Applied:	\$8526
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$8526
Total project cost:	\$12,790.12
Project Description:	The addition of solar panels on the Donald Children's Precinct to help reduce the carbon footprint of the centre.
Project Benefit:	The Donald Children's Centre will lessen their environmental impact with the addition of the solar panels, also lowering their financial output for electricity. Those funds that can be saved due to lower utility bills will be used to help the education of children at the centre. The YMCA Ballarat will oversee the project to completion and a local contractor will be hired to undertake the works.

RELEVANT LAW

Not Applicable

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not Applicable

OPTIONS

Council can determine not to grant any, or all, of these funding options.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Both applications from the Red Gate Community Garden and the Donald Children's Centre targeting a reductions in their carbon footprint and impact on the environment. Both applications highlight how their project will reduce their environmental effects.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council continue to encourage and support groups, such as the three that have applied, to consider making an application under the program.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not Applicable

COLLABORATION

Council officers have liaised with community members whilst some of these applications were being developed.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

With the approval of the above applications the allocation for Community Grant Funding will be \$10,618 of a total of \$20,000 annual budget and the Sustainability Grant Funding will be \$34,684 out of a total \$50,000 annual budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not Applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

These projects all fit broadly within the Council Plan strategies, particularly in supporting community enterprise and enhancing the sustainability of our community facilities

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report is being presented to open Council meeting for full transparency of decision making.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT GENERAL ELECTION REPORT 2020

Author's Title: Director Corporate Services

Department: Corporate Services

File No: GO|07|06

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 information on the 2020 Buloke Shire Council general election.

SUMMARY

The 2020 Buloke Shire Council general election (election) was undertaken by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act).

Following completion of the election, the Council received the 2020 Local government elections Buloke Shire Council Election Report (Report) from the VEC which confirmed that no significant issues arose as part of the election.

In noting this Report Council satisfies its requirements under the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020* (Regulations).

MOTION:

That Council note the 2020 Local Government Elections Buloke Shire Council Election Report on the 2020 Buloke Shire Council general election

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

CARRIED.
(R945/21)

Attachments: 1 Local Government General Election Report 2020

DISCUSSION

Key changes to the 2020 election program required by the Act were implemented by the VEC, including but not limited to introduction of mandatory candidate training prior to nominating for election. A summary of the key changes is outlined in the Report.

Although uncertainties arose due to the COVID-19 pandemic, confirmation was received in May 2020 that the elections would proceed. The VEC notes adjustments to ensure health and safety of voters, election staff, councils, candidates and other stakeholders were made in response to the pandemic, including the development of a COVIDSafe Election Plan.

Nominations for the election period commenced 9 am 17 September and closed 12 noon 22 September. At close of nominations, 8 candidates nominated for election. The number of nominations for Mallee and Mount Jeffcott Wards were the same as the number of vacancies, and as such were uncontested.

The results of the election were declared on 2 November 2020 at the Buloke Shire Council Officers, Wycheproof. Participation rate in the election was 85.35%, which is higher than the state average of 84.12% and the 82.54% rate at the 2016 election.

Subsequent to the election, a Report was received by the VEC which advised Council of the process and the results. The process leading to the counting of votes, and post-election activities, are set out in the attached Report.

RELEVANT LAW

The election was held in accordance with the Act and the Regulations. The VEC is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 2002*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The VEC delivered a state-wide advertising campaign to maximise public awareness and participation amongst all eligible voters. Information was provided through statutory notices in local newspapers, the VEC website, social media and the VEC VoterAlert service. Full details of the voter engagement program are included in the Report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The cost of the election was as per the budget allocation made by Council as part of the 2020-21 budget. The figure is yet to be finalised as the Victorian Electoral Commission will now pursue those who failed to vote for a valid reason for not doing so. It will then issue infringement notices for those whose reason is not considered adequate.

Any income received will be forwarded to Council.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Regulations require the Report be submitted to the Council at the earliest practicable meeting of the Council held after receipt of the Report by the Chief Executive Officer.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

I, Hannah Yu, have no conflicts of interest to declare in relation to this report.

8.2.6 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Author's Title: Director Corporate Services

Department: Corporate Services

File No: FM/02/09

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 annual assessment of the Audit and Risk Committee's performance against the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and biannual audit and risk report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

SUMMARY

The biannual audit and risk report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee was provided to the Chief Executive Officer in March 2021. It describes the activities of the Committee and includes its findings and recommendations. A copy of the annual self-assessment of the Audit and Risk Committee's performance against the Audit and Risk Committee Charter is also included.

MOTION:

That Council notes the report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

CARRIED.
(R946/21)

- Attachments:**
- 1 Audit and Risk Committee Chair's Report March 2021
 - 2 Audit and Risk Committee 2020 Annual Assessment

DISCUSSION

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provides that the Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) must prepare a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Committee and includes its findings and recommendations. The Committee is also required to undertake an annual assessment of the performance of the Committee against the Audit and Risk Committee Charter. These obligations are also included in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

The Act further provides that these assessments and audits must be provided to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 54(4)(b) of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to provide a copy of the annual assessment of the Committee's performance against the Charter for tabling at the next Council meeting, following its annual assessment.

Section 54(5)(b) of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to provide a copy of the biannual audit and risk report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting, following the audit and preparation of the report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Committee was established by Council at its ordinary meeting held on 12 August 2020. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter was adopted on 12 August 2020.

OPTIONS

Not applicable

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable

COLLABORATION

Not applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Committee is required to monitor financial and performance reporting.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter's purpose and objectives are to ensure good governance and provide guidance on how Council will work with the Committee for the benefit of the organisation and the community.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In providing this advice to the Council as the Director Corporate Services I, Hannah Yu, have no interests to disclose in this report.

8.2.7 BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL 2017-21 - YEAR 4 ANNUAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Author's Title: Chief Executive Officer

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CM/13/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

This report is presented to give Council a progress update on the actions taken against the Year 4 Annual Plan.

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, Year 3 and Year 4 Annual Plan for the implementation of the strategic objectives.

Quarterly progress reports will be presented to Council throughout 2020/21.

MOTION:

That Council note the progress made to deliver the strategic objectives noted in the adopted Year 4 Annual Plan for the Buloke Council Plan 2017-2021.

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R947/21)

Attachments: Nil

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.

This is the second report against the 2020/21 adopted Annual Plan, with quarterly reports to follow for the remainder of the financial year.

Further to the reported actions in February 2021, progress has been made on the following:

- Delivery of the COVID Community Connector and Bounce Back Buloke program with a range of community grants being delivered.
- Commencement on both the Charlton and Donald Riverfront projects, with
- Commencement on key road projects such as the Culgoa Lalbert Road and Berriwillock Birchip Road.
- Mandatory councillor induction program completed
- Adoption and implementation of the Community Engagement Policy, particularly utilised for the development of the Community Vision and Council Plan
- Surplus land identified and linked to housing opportunities, with funding applications in for development at the old Sea Lake Primary School site
- Secured funding for the completion of the road intersection upgrade at Baileys Road (Lake Tyrrell)
- Works commenced on the Sea Lake Tourism Hub (old Shire Office)
- Consultation underway for the Climate Change Strategy, for completion in June.
- Funding secured for upgrades on the Nullawil Birchip Road (\$350,000)
- Training Needs Analysis, Strategic Risk Management and OHS Review completed.
- Ongoing progress with the Birchip Streetscape project.
- Completion of upgrade at Birchip Netball Court and the Birchip Community Leisure Centre change facilities.
- Ongoing implementation of COVID Recovery initiatives.

Projects identified to be delayed and extend into the next financial year due to increased projects and funding received since adopting the plan include Wycheproof Library Upgrade and development of the Gender Equality Plan.

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report responds directly to item '8.2.5 Shire Council 2017-21 – Year 4 Annual Plan'.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was significant consultation undertaken in the development of the Council Plan 2017- 2021, which is the basis of this document. Further actions have been developed through consultation with the community over the past two years.

Many of the actions have a high level of community engagement.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Many actions rely on the collaboration with other Councils and also key peak bodies, local stakeholder groups and community.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The items listed in the Annual Plan have been factored into the Council budget, which is reported on monthly.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report responds directly to the implementation of the Council Plan 2017-21 and the adopted Annual Plan 20/21. Some actions will result in the development of new plans and policies (e.g. Gender Equality Action Plan, Community Engagement Policy)

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The adoption and regular reporting of an Annual Plan provides good strong transparency to the community regarding the key focus areas of Council over the 20/21 year and how Council is tracking against those actions.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.3.1 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN

Author's Title: Director Corporate Services

Department: Corporate Services

File No: FM|15|01

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Financial Plan for 2021/22 to 2030/31.

SUMMARY

The requirement of a Financial Plan is established under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). The Financial Plan is a key document which enables improved monitoring of Council's financial viability, and enables better reporting and analysis of decisions and assumptions over a 10 year period. A draft Financial Plan has been developed for the purpose of community engagement.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Having prepared the Long Term Financial Plan in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* gives public notice for a period of 28 days and makes the Long Term Financial Plan available on Council's website;
2. Allows persons to make submissions on any proposal contained within the Long Term Financial Plan; and
3. Allows presentations in support of written submissions to be heard at the Council Meeting to be held on 9 June 2021.

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR ALAN GETLEY

**CARRIED.
(R948/21)**

Attachments: 1 Buloke Shire Council Financial Plan - Draft (to be loaded to the website separately)

DISCUSSION

The purpose of a Financial Plan is to express in financial terms the activities the Council proposes to undertake over the medium to longer term to achieve the Community Vision. It is similar to, but less detailed than, the Annual Budget and helps guide Council's future actions depending on the longer-term revenue and expenditure proposals.

The Financial Plan is particularly important for Council due to the high level of long-lived assets and significant asset management responsibilities relative to its income base. Council needs to generate revenue in an equitable manner over time and ensure that it has the capacity to finance peaks in asset management and other outlays.

The preparation of a Financial Plan generates improved information to guide Council's decisions about the mix and timings of outlays on operating activities and additional assets and the funding implications of these. Without a soundly based Financial Plan, the Council with its significant asset management responsibilities is unlikely to have sufficient data to determine sustainable service levels with affordable asset strategies, appropriate revenue targets and treasury management. The key objective which underpinning the Financial Plan is long term financial stability whilst maintaining our commitment to asset renewal, specifically our large road network

RELEVANT LAW

The draft Financial Plan has been prepared in accordance with section 91 of the Act.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted a Long Term Financial Plan in 2019, which included a detailed 10 year capital expenditure program. Key principles underpinning the Long Term Financial Plan, including:

- Prudent management of financial risks related to debt, assets and liabilities,
- Reasonable stability in level of rate burden,
- Financial effects of Council decisions on further generations, and
- Full, accurate and timely disclosure of financial information,

continue to underpin Council's financial direction.

OPTIONS

The Financial Plan is based on assumptions and estimates. Council manages this risk by reassessing progress and developments each year and adjusting its Financial Plan and other key strategic documents where necessary.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Financial Plan incorporates key actions and initiatives under the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and other key strategic documents which give effect to Council's obligation to ensure the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipality is planned for and promoted.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Financial Plan will be updated as part of the Council's 2021/22 Budget process. It is proposed that the Financial Plan be placed on public exhibition with the draft Annual Budget, Community Vision and Council Plan for community engagement and feedback. Submissions on the Financial Plan and other key strategic documents will be considered at the June 2021 Council Meeting.

The Financial Plan has been referred to the Council's Audit and Risk Committee for review and comment.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The annual review of the Financial Plan will enable Council to respond to external factors which may impact, transform or require re-invention of existing services and activities. The Financial Plan provides a basis from which Council has the ability to blend data from different sources, make decisions about effective use of resources, and evaluate its strategic planning framework.

COLLABORATION

The Act provides collaboration with other councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought. The Financial Plan will enable effective measurement and evaluation of collaboration, particularly in the area of shared services initiatives, in a consistent manner over the life of the Plan.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Financial Plan outlines the resources required to give effect to the Council Plan and other strategic plans. The Act requires that the Financial Plan must be for a period of at least 10 years and must contain information about decisions and assumptions which underpin forecasts. The financial management principles under the Act require Council to ensure financial sustainability in the medium to long term, while still providing sufficient resources to achieve Council's strategic objectives.

The Financial Plan is for the years 1 July 2021/22 to 30 June 30/31 and contains financial statements, including a budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Statement of Human Resources (Statements).

Statements have been prepared for the year ended 30 June 3031 in accordance with the Act. They are consistent with the financial statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Financial Plan can be adjusted each year to respond to relevant regional, state and national plans and policies. It is a key tool in protecting against future cost shift by state and federal government.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Financial Plan has been formulated from the Community Vision and is based on key initiatives and business as usual activities established under the Council Plan. Future strategic, planning and policy initiatives will be incorporated into the Financial Plan each year.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Financial Plan sets out the quantitative information derived from Council's strategic planning framework. It provides information to the community to assist its understanding of the Council's financial performance and viability.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officer involved in the preparation of the draft Financial Plan has a conflict of interest.

8.3.2 DRAFT REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

Author's Title: Director Corporate Services

Department: Corporate Services

File No: RV|11|01

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider the proposed Rating and Revenue Plan (Plan) for approval to exhibit and call for public submissions.

SUMMARY

The proposed Plan is used to inform a medium-term approach to generating income required to support the implementation of the Council Plan and Budget for the next four years. A period of community engagement must be undertaken prior to the adoption of the Plan.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Having prepared a draft Revenue and Rating Plan, place the Revenue and Rating Plan on public exhibition;
2. Invites submissions from the community on the proposals contained in the draft Revenue and Rating Plan; and
3. Allows presentations in support of written submissions to be heard at the Council Meeting to be held on 9 June 2021.

MOVED: CR DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

CARRIED.
(R949/21)

Attachments: 1 Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

DISCUSSION

The development of a Plan is a new requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act). The Act states Council must prepare a Plan for a period of 4 years, to commence on 30 June the year following a general election.

The development of the Plan has been based on the current Rating Strategy and Rating Policy, adopted by the Council in 2019. The Plan sets out the details of the policies the Council has in place for each source of revenue, including the system of rates and charges to be adopted by the Council for the purpose of distributing the rates burden across the Buloke municipality on a fair and equitable basis.

Key policies in the proposed Plan include:

- Use of capital improved value system of valuation
- 4 differential rates with the level of rate applicable to each class as follows:
 - Residential rates at 100% of the general rate
 - Commercial rates at 100% of the general rate
 - Industrial rates at 100% of the general rate
 - Farm rates at 70% of the general rate
- Municipal charge levied on all rateable properties maintained at \$170
- Service rate and charge levied for kerbside garbage and recycling at full cost recovery
- Rates payable by quarterly instalment or as a yearly lump sum in February
- Rates and concessions offered in accordance with legislation, including the state government funded pensioner rebate scheme
- Deferment and/or waivers of rates and charges in cases of demonstrable financial hardship for specified property classes
- Benchmarking of non-statutory fees and charges, including subsidised fees and charges

Prior to adoption, the Council must take appropriate steps to engage with the community in development of the draft Plan.

This report proposes exhibition of the draft Plan, with feedback and submissions to be heard at the June Council Meeting.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 93 of the Act provides the Council must prepare a 4-year Plan which describes its rating structure and pricing policy. The adoption of the Plan must occur after a period of community engagement.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted its first Rating Strategy, and Rating Policy in 2019 as part of best practice methodology. This draft Plan explains how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

OPTIONS

The proposed Plan sets out in-principle decisions of the Council in relation to rating options available under the Act to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates burden across property owners. It also sets out principles used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Plan seeks to provide stability and predictability in the financial impact on the municipal community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process provides for public exhibition of the draft Plan with submissions to be heard at the June Council Meeting.

Council's community engagement will seek comment and opinion on payment arrangements, and adjustment of the parameters for the purpose of deciding when a review of differential rate levels is required in any budget year.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines the assumptions, policy, and decisions of Council in relation to generating the required income to effectively support implementation of the Council Plan and budget for a 4-year period.

The plan will include transparent consideration of the policy objectives and social, economic, and environmental benefit delivered through subsidies, waivers, and discounts. It will identify financial and revenue related risks and ensure these are mitigated and effectively managed.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

In 2019 the Victorian State Government conducted a Local Government Rating System Review. The Local Government Rating System Review Panel presented their final report and list of recommendations to the Victorian Government in March 2020. The Victorian Government subsequently published a response to the recommendations of the Panel's report. However, at the time of publication the recommended changes have not yet been implemented, and timelines to make these changes have not been announced.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Financial policies and strategic plans, including the draft Plan, Financial Plan and Annual Budget, form part of the integrated strategic planning framework. These and other strategies and policies will be considered by the Council in the period leading to 30 June 2021.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council's Revenue and Rating Plan enables the community to understand how, and on what basis, rates and charges are levied.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

I, Hannah Yu, have no conflicts of interest to declare in relation to this report.

8.3.3 DRAFT 2021/22 ANNUAL BUDGET

Author's Title: Director Corporate Services

Department: Corporate Services

File No: FM|05|02

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

This report proposes the adoption of the Draft 2020/2021 Annual Budget (Draft Budget) and commencement of public submissions in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act).

SUMMARY

Section 94 of the Act requires the Council to prepare an Annual Budget. The Draft Budget outlines the revenue raising activities and financial resourcing of Council's key initiatives for the 2021/22 financial year. Prior to budget adoption a period of community engagement must be undertaken.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Having prepared the Draft 2021/22 Annual Budget and schedule of fees in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, gives notice of its endorsement;
2. Invites submissions in relation any proposal contained with the Draft 2021/22 Draft Annual Budget until 12 noon 9 June; and
3. Allows presentations in support of submissions to be heard at the Council Meeting to be held on 9 June 2021.

MOVED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R950/21)

Attachments: 1 Draft Buloke Shire Council 2021-2022 Budget - to be loaded to the website separately

DISCUSSION

The Act requires Council to prepare and adopt an Annual Budget. The Annual Budget is required to contain certain information about the rates and charges the Council intends to levy, as well as a range of other information required by Regulations which support the Act.

The Draft Budget reflects Council's focus to delivering on key initiatives and maintaining current services across its programs, services, facilities and infrastructure. The Draft Budget has been developed alongside the draft Financial Plan and builds on Council's commitment to long term financial sustainability and continued support for the community with a range of initiatives.

Council proposes to resource key priorities under its draft Council Plan as follows:

- \$14,435M – Our Built and Natural Environment: review of 10 year capital works program, review waste and recycling management and procurement for new kerbside collection contract, and support to Lake Committees for contribution of water payments for lake top-ups;
- \$0.746M – Our Community Wellbeing: Implementation of the Community Vision and Council Plan, redevelopment of town plans, support for Bounce Buloke Back project, review and implementation of Volunteer Action Plan and COVID Recovery Plan;
- \$0.773M – Our Economy: working with key stakeholders to review and promote housing opportunities, implementation of key projects from Silo Art Activation fund, and development of a new Economic Development and Tourism Strategy; and
- \$0.548M – Our Council and Community Leadership: commence implementation of Business Transformation Strategy, continued implementation of the Act, develop Gender Equity Action Plan and continued active review of Financial Plan to improve long term financial management of the organisation.

Expenditure on infrastructure projects will total \$19.529M across roads (\$7.437M), drainage (\$40K), footpaths and cycleways (\$163K), parks and streetscapes (\$3.361M) buildings and building improvements (\$4.879M), plant and equipment (\$1.256M). This includes carried forward projects from the current financial year separately identified in the budget.

The Draft Budget highlights a general rating increase of 1.5% in line with the Fair Go Rates System and a further shift in the farming differential to 70% down from 80%.

The Act requires the Council to undertake community engagement action prior to the final adoption of the 2021/22 Annual Budget. It is proposed the community engagement commences following Council's endorsement of the Draft Budget, and concludes 12 noon 9 June 2021, with invitation extended to any persons to present their submissions at the Council Meeting to be held on 9 June 2021.

RELEVANT LAW

The Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with section 94 of the Act.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Council will be commencing community engagement for plans and strategies under the integrated strategic framework during the engagement period for the Draft Budget.

OPTIONS

Council Officers modelled the financial implications of reducing general rates below the gazetted rate cap (1.5%). Modelling identifies the cumulative impact of reducing general rates to 0% is lost revenue of \$2,157,000 over a 10 year period. A reduction of general rate revenue would impact Council's ability to sustain current service level standards and its ability to generate income through matched government grants.

Council Officers modelled differential rate structure against Council's Revenue Policy and Revenue Strategy which commits Council to match (as far as reasonably practicable) a tolerance of +/- 1% variance across each property class. Modelling undertaken has resulted in a recommended differential rate for farms to be set at 70%.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct sustainability implications associated with this report, however the Draft Budget does include planned resource allocations toward sustainability, social and environmental services and projects.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft Budget engagement process will comprise media information across print, social and radio media. A copy of the Draft Budget will be made available to community forums, and be placed on the Council's website. The process of community engagement is consistent with the Council's community engagement policy.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

There are no direct innovation and continuous improvement activities associated with this report, however the Draft Budget provides for specific actions in relation to review of waste and resource management and the development of a new Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.

COLLABORATION

The Draft Budget initiatives include further investigation of shared services opportunities with other councils and governance bodies.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Draft Budget is for the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, and contains financial statements including a budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash flows, Statement of Capital Works and Statement of Human Resources.

These statements have been prepared for the year ended 30 June 2022 in accord with the Act and Regulations. They are consistent with the annual financial statements prepared in accord with the Australian Accounting Standards.

The Draft Budget also includes information about the rates and charges to be levied, the capital works program to be undertaken, the human resources required, and other information Council requires in order to make an informed decision about the adoption of the Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Key initiatives include supporting deliver of VicHealth Local Government Partnering priorities, development of a Gender Equity Action Plan, and continued implementation of the Act.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Draft Budget provides resourcing to enable continued implementation of Council's current plans and strategies.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council's engagement approach provides for receipt and consideration of submissions to the Draft Budget at a Council Meeting which is open to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

I, Hannah Yu, have no conflicts of interest to declare in relation to this report.

8.3.4 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

Author's Title: Director Corporate Services

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 March 2021.

SUMMARY

The anticipated year-end surplus has been forecast down further confirmation of capital and operating grants have been made.

The forecasted year-end surplus is \$8.143m which is less \$2.028m less than the approved budget adopted at the start of the financial year.

MOTION:

That Council receives and notes the Financial Performance Report for the month ending 31 March 2021.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R951/21)

Attachments:

- 1 Income Statement
- 2 Balance Sheet
- 3 Cashflow Forecast
- 4 Cashflow Forecast Chart

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 surplus as at 31 March is \$8.572m. Excluding capital grant income of \$11.278m, the operating result is a deficit of \$2.706m. These results reflect the impact of a forecast update in the Independent Support programs in March following project work in this area.

As highlighted in the Full Year Budget and Forecast columns, an unfavourable variance of \$130k is anticipated in operating profit mostly due to reforecasting Independent Support. Other variance in Total Operating Income and Total Operating Expenses are attributable to the Dec 18 Flood event project which offset each other with minimal net effect. A reduction in Capital Grant income of approximately

\$2.1m due to projects to be carried forward the next financial year remains the most significant variance to budget.

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 \$293,803m.

The **Cashflow Statement** has been held over due to a system issue relating to the recognition of leases under the new accounting standard which is in the process of being resolved.

At 31st March 2021, Council's Cash and Cash Equivalents were \$27.455m of which approximately \$4m is grant funding received in advance (restricted cash).

The **Cashflow Forecast** is a projection of cashflow for the remainder of the year based on the cash balance as at 31 March 2021, the monthly budgets, specified timing parameters (such when BAS/super are due and quarterly rate receipts) and capital expenditure.

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

The bank balance is expected to remain positive throughout the 2020-21 financial year and adequate to cover predicted current liabilities.

The **Capital Works Program** has been held over whilst the timing of multi-year capital projects is being finalised.

RELEVANT LAW

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

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

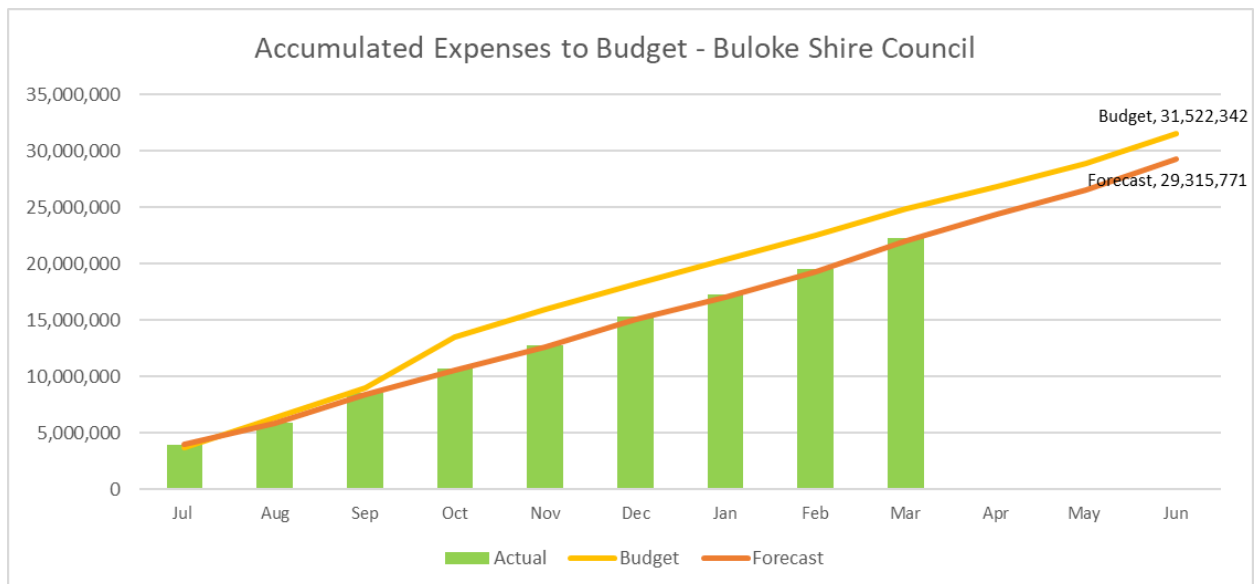
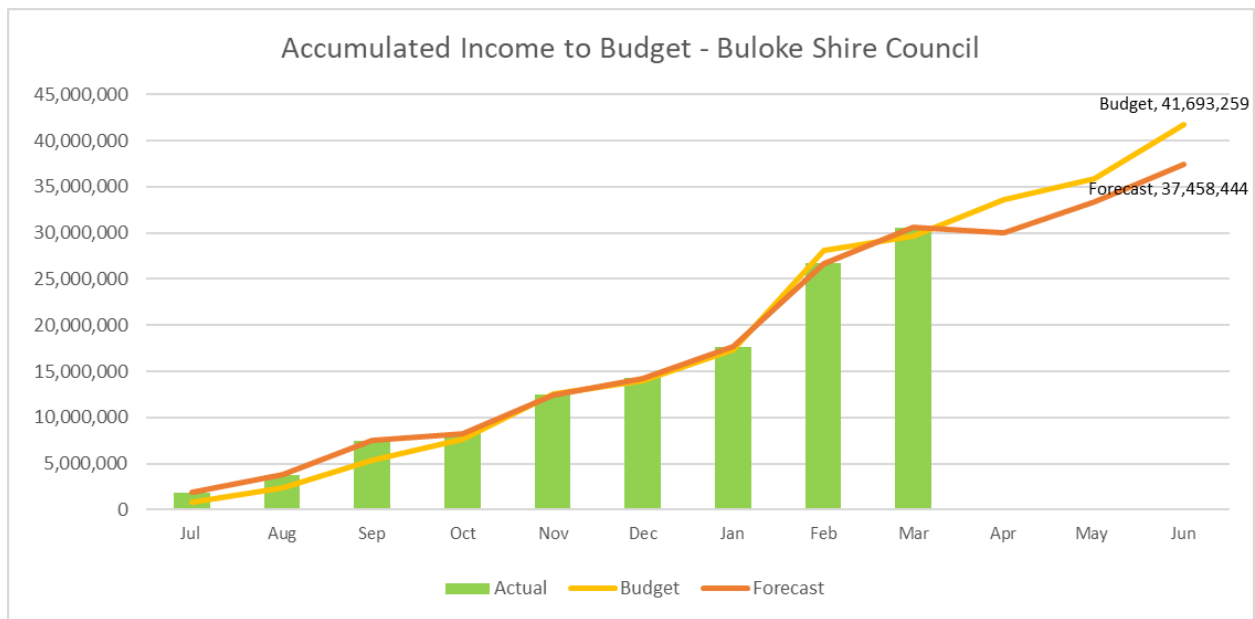
Not applicable.

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 March 2021.



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 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2021-25 AND LONG TERM COMMUNITY VISION

Author's Title: Chief Executive Officer

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CM/13/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Diversify and enhance our local economy.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and Long Term Community Vision document for consideration and to go on public exhibition for feedback.

SUMMARY

Council must adopt and prepare a Council Plan for the period of at least the next four financial years after a general election. Council must also prepare a Community Vision with an outlook of at least the next 10 years. This document presents both of these together under the four Strategic Objective areas of Our Built and Natural Environment, Our Community Wellbeing, Our Economy and Our Council and Community Leadership. This draft document also incorporates the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan for the second time.

MOTION:

That Council adopt the Draft Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 to go on exhibition to the public for 28 days.

MOVED: CR DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.
(R952/21)**

Attachments: 1 Draft Buloke Shire Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 - to be added prior to meeting

DISCUSSION

The Draft Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 comes to Council for endorsement to go on public exhibition for 28 days. The Draft document presents a range of strategies to guide Council for the next four years, under the ten year vision of the community.

This draft has been prepared following a range of community consultation processes, analysis of strategies and plans which interact with this document and consultation with stakeholders.

The Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan is integrated into this Council Plan for the second time, following the endorsement of this Draft, it will also be submitted to the State Government for verification that all the key points have been covered for this integration. We have some strong data

through the Primary Health Network, the Primary Care Partnership, the Buloke, Loddon, Gannawarra Health Needs Analysis and the State of Buloke's Children and Young People's Report which have been reflected in this draft document. Critical partnerships with service providers and key stakeholders sit behind these reports which have given a great foundation for Council to continue to work towards prevention, early intervention and population health outcomes.

Alongside this planning, the Buloke Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy is being developed also which will present some key actions to focus on as we move towards our future vision.

Outcomes of our last Council Plan, including the Customer Service Charter, Inclusiveness Plan, updated financial systems, Volunteer Strategy, Rural Land Use review, Economic Development and Tourism Strategy will also play into this plan with the actions from those carrying through to what we are hearing from community in their aspirations.

Our newly adopted Community Engagement Policy has shaped the way we have put this document together.

In 2018, Council undertook an extensive planning exercise which resulted in ten individual community plans, feeding into the integrated community plan under the heading of "Building Buloke 2030". Under the new Local Government Act 2020, we have reviewed this vision to "Beyond 2030" to form Buloke's long term community vision. Much remains the same as that original 2018 aspiration as we take in the lessons of 2020 and build towards a better Buloke, led by our community.

The draft document sets out the ten-year aspiration under each theme and then leads into the four-year strategies and actions which will guide Council is assisting these long-term aspirations.

These will then form Annual Plans. The progress of these will be reported on each quarter. A full review of this document will be undertaken annually.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council decisions around other key strategic documents will interact with this Draft Council Plan.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not endorse this Draft document.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Draft Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 presents several strategies around sustainability initiatives and responds to the requirement that Local government is identified in the *Climate Change Act 2017* as a decision-maker that must consider climate change when preparing a municipal public health and wellbeing plan, which is incorporated into this document.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A range of community consultation activities were undertaken to form this draft document which resulted in high quality feedback from community members.

Letters were issued to Community Forums in December 2020 explaining the upcoming community planning process and a suite of tools were provided to the groups to aid in the revision and renewal of their own community plans to feed into the process of this planning cycle.

Listening Posts and Street Walks were held in all ten communities, where possible, in conjunction with the Buloke Library Service. Both Councillors and Officers attended these.

Flyers were sent to all residents explaining the planning process and ways to get involved. Three key questions were included in the flyer as well as ways to get involved in the feedback process. These flyers were also distributed as an insert in all three local newspapers that cover the Buloke Shire area.

An online survey was made available, and hard copies also on offer for those unable to connect online.

A total of 68 people filled in the online survey, with each respondent spending at least 30 minutes answering the 16 open-ended questions. The depth of this engagement delivered more than 1,000 individual pieces of feedback which have been analysed in the production of this document.

Councillor and officer attendance at Community Forum meetings and key gatherings during the consultation period included explanation of the planning process, ways to get involved as well as feedback taken on the spot.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This Draft document being presented outlines several innovative strategies building on the community feedback as well as indicators to promote continuous improvement. This document will have an annual review and an annual plan which will be reported on quarterly.

COLLABORATION

In developing this draft document, Council has collaborated with a range of stakeholders and regional and state bodies to build into the strategies presented.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Draft Budget underpins how the strategies in this document will be resourced, grouped under the same four strategic objectives.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This draft document sets out the next four year Council Plan. The previous Council Plan (2017-2021) has been taken into account to link through to this new document. The Integrated Buloke 2030 Plan has heavily influenced this Draft document also.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report recommends this draft document goes on public exhibition for 28 days to enable the public to make submission and provide feedback on the proposed strategies and direction.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Report from Mayor Daryl Warren Jeffcott Ward

- 15/4/21 LMWRRG Inspection facilities in Mildura
- 15/4/21 ABC Radio interview
- 15/4/21 LMWRRG Board meeting Mildura
- 15/4/21 Longerenong College Graduation Horsham
- 18/4/21 Sea Lake Tourism meeting Visit Victoria
- 19/4/21 Flow FM Radio interview
- 19/4/21 Community event send off, Leigh and Joan Hardingham in Donald
- 20/4/21 Council Plan Workshop Wycheproof
- 20/4/21 CEO/Mayor meeting
- 21/4/21 Opening of the Wycheproof Police Station
- 21/4/21 Council Briefing Watchem
- 22/4/21 Buloke Tourism brochure meeting in Wycheproof
- 23/4/21 Rural North West MAV meeting via Zoom
- 23/4/21 MAV Social media training via Zoom
- 24/4/21 Save the Calder Launch at Brimbank Council in Keilor
- 25/4/21 ANZAC Day in Donald
- 26/4/21 Media Training MAV at Warracknabeal
- 26/4/21 Buloke Tourism Board Wycheproof
- 27/4/21 CEO/Mayor meeting Wycheproof
- 28/4/21 Council Budget discussion meeting via zoom
- 30/4/21 VLGA Gender Equity Workshop via Zoom
- 3/5/21 Advance Sea Lake meeting
- 4/5/21 CEO/Mayor catch up
- 4/5/21 Covid Vaccine media story for Mayor
- 5/5/21 Charlton Harness Racing facility inspection
- 5/5/21 Council Briefing Charlton
- 6/5/21 Zoom meeting with Linga EV charging stations
- 8/5/21 707 Operations trip to Sea Lake from Wycheproof
- 10/5/21 Birchip Housing Group meeting in Birchip
- 11/5/21 CEO/Mayor catch up
- 12/5/21 Audit and Risk meeting Wycheproof
- 12/5/21 Council meeting 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 | C92 2020-2021 SEA LAKE-LASCELLES ROAD REHABILITATION - UPGRADING ROADS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE | (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)

Contract |
| 8.6.2 | C97 2020-2021 NULLAWIL-BIRCHIP ROAD REHABILITATION | (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)

Contract |
| 8.6.3 | C96 2020-2021 - BRIGHTENING BROADWAY STAGE 1A | (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)

Contract |

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.
(R953/21)

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 ALAN GETLEY

CARRIED.
(R957/21)

9. OTHER BUSINESS**9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION****9.1.1 SUPPORT FOR IDAHOBIT - RAISE THE RAINBOW PRIDE FLAG**

Author's Title: Councillor

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CS/16/46

PURPOSE

There is an opportunity to support the LGBTQIA+ community by actively participating and promoting the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) on May 17 each year.

SUMMARY

Council has supported this initiative in the past and the Rural Rainbows Roadmap identifies this celebration as an inclusive way to celebrate this part of our community.

To show its support I table this Notice of Motion that Council show its support for IDAHOBIT and the LGBTQIA+ community by raising the rainbow pride flag at our Wycheproof Customer Service Centre on each 17 May during this term of Council as per Council's Flag Flying Policy.

MOTION:

That Council show its support for IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia, and Transphobia) and the LGBTQIA+ community by flying the Rainbow Pride Flag at Council's Wycheproof Customer Service Centre on each IDAHOBIT (17 May) throughout the term of this Council.

MOVED: CR DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

CARRIED.
(R958/21)

Attachments: Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

10. MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.