



COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 12 June 2024

Commencing at 7:00pm

**Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof**

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 commencing at 7:00pm in the Wycheproof Supper Room, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof**PRESENT****CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Alan Getley Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Bernadette Hogan	Mallee Ward
Cr David Pollard	Lower Avoca Ward
Cr Graeme Milne	Mount Jeffcott Ward
Cr Bronwyn Simpson	Mount Jeffcott Ward
Cr Daryl Warren	Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Wayne O'Toole	Chief Executive Officer
Daniel McLoughlan	Director Infrastructure and Delivery
Anthony Smith	Acting Director Community Development
Jenna Allan	Director Corporate and Organisational Performance
Peter Harriott	Municipal Monitor

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

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Cr Carolyn Stewart Lower Avoca Ward

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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 20 May 2024.

Moved: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

Seconded: CR GRAEME MILNE

**CARRIED.
(R064/24)**

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

nil

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Warren Item 8.2.1

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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	NIL	

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NIL

9. OTHER BUSINESS

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NIL

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NIL

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9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC 30

NIL

10. MEETING CLOSE

7.44PM

NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN BIRCHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER, 22 CUMMING AVE BIRCHIP, ON WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2024 AT 5:00PM.

Wayne O'Toole
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

6.1 BIOLINK

Biolink

Elder Wyrker Milloo Gary Murray, Elder Robert Nicholls

Background:

We note the signage on the Calder Highway relating to the Buloke Biolink, “linking Lake Tyrell with Lake Buloke” and sponsored by the North Central Catchment Management Authority, Bushcare, the Mallee Catchment Management Authority and the Buloke Shire Council. We understand the Buloke Biolink (“the Biolink Project”) was an initiative set up to promote the linking of remnant vegetation and revegetation of wildlife corridors between Donald (Lake Buloke) and Sea Lake (Lake Tyrrell or Direl), a distance of over some 150 kms.

The First Nations Working Group in Buloke, Charlton Tourism Inc and CETA (Coalition of Ecotourism Associations) have expressed their ongoing interest and concern to connect with, protect and heal Country. We have spoken with the North Central Catchment Authority and with the Mallee Catchment Management Authority whose organisations are both hoping to provide information as to this project and its current status.

Given that the Shire of Buloke is named as one of the key promoters of the Biolink Project, we request you to kindly now advise the following:-

Question:

1. Is the Buloke Biolink still a project operating - and is it operating within the Shire?
2. If so, with which organisations and with which government bodies, eg. catchment management authorities, or other entities, etc.
3. What are the current aims and status of the Buloke Biolink (“the Biolink Project”)?
4. Is there a particular Councillor or member of staff at the Shire who is responsible for/involved with the Biolink Project.
5. Is the Shire amenable to the Biolink Project proceeding together with members of the ecotourism and First Nations communities?

Response – Mayor: No, The Biolink project was being undertaken and reported on throughout the 2006/07 financial year. The project was funded through the Federal Government’s Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan and it was a partnership between Mallee CMA, North Central CMA, Birchip Cropping Group and Buloke Shire Council. Council officers are no longer undertaking any works as part of the former Biolink project and have not since the project concluded in 2007.

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 1 and 15 May 2024.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CARRIED.

(R065/24)

Attachments:

- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 1 May 2024
- 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 15 May 2024

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Transparency is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

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

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

As per the Council Meeting Schedules adopted 9 November 2022 and 8 November 2023, Councillor Briefings are held for Councillors to meet to consider matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision or for the exercise of delegation.

A record of the Councillor Briefings held on 1 and 15 May 2024 is attached for public information.

7.2 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/06

PURPOSE

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

CARRIED.

(R066/24)

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Sent to	Sent	Response	Purpose of Letter
Urgent Business from 8 May Council Meeting	<i>Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP MP</i> State Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources, and State Electricity Commission <i>Copy sent to:</i> <i>Jade Benham MP</i> <i>Member for Mildura</i>	22 May 2024		Invitation extended to Minister, to visit Buloke Shire for the purpose of discussing with the Council and the community the background to her decisions in respect of the VNI West Transmission Lines proposal.

7.3 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CR/13/01

PURPOSE

This report acknowledges and congratulates community persons and/or groups for their success in being recognised for a significant achievement or for being a recipient of an honourable award.

The report also informs Council of any letters of congratulations or any recognition of achievement that Council has received or been awarded in the past month.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.
(R067/24)**

Attachments: Nil

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Kings Birthday Honours	Cr Mary-Anne Brown Chair Rural Council Victoria		Awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her service to Local Government and as chair to Rural Councils Victoria

7.4 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Statutory Administration Support

Department: Community Development

File No: DB14/01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 May to 31 May 2024.

MOTION:

That Council note the information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 May to 31 May 2024.

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R068/24)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Council Reference	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
	Nil		

LIST OF PRIVATE BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE SURVEYOR

Council Reference	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
PBLD24016	Calder Hwy Boigbeat VIC 3531	Farm Shed	3/5/2024
PBLD24033	Clohesys Road Springfield (Sea Lake) VIC 3544	Construction of Machinery Shed	14/5/2024
PBLD24028	Borong Highway Gil Gil VIC 3480	Dwelling	14/5/2024

7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Community Development

File No: LP/09/01

PURPOSE

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.

(R069/24)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PA23026	Horace Street, Sea Lake	06/09/2023	Construct and display internally illuminated business identification sign (LED priceboard)	Awaiting amended plans
PA24007	Jenkins Street, Charlton	29/02/2024	Two lot subdivision of land (boundary realignment)	Permit Issued
PA24008	Railway Avenue, Sea Lake	26/02/2024	Use and development of land to construct four dwellings on a lot for workers accommodation	Permit Issued
PA24010	Racecourse Road, Donald	04/04/2024	Construction of a Machinery Storage Shed	Review
PA24011	McLoughlans Road, Warmur	12/04/2024	Use and development of land for a dwelling in the Farming Zone within the setback to a proposed wind energy facility	Objections
PA24012	Aitken Avenue, Donald	19/04/2024	Building and works to construct and display a sign	Request for further information

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PA24013	Calder Highway, Wycheproof	02/05/2024	Two lot subdivision of land (boundary re-alignment)	Notice of application/ Referral
PA24014	Mackies Road, Wycheproof	30/04/2024	Two lot subdivision of land	Notice of application/ Referral
PA24015	Bishop Street, Nandaly	01/05/2024	Use and development of land for a store (shed)	Notice of application/ Referral
PA24016	Church Road, Jeffcott	20/05/2024	Use and development of land for a dwelling and associated outbuilding	New
VS24005	Nullawil-Birchip Road, Nullawil	22/04/2024	Building and works to construct a new weighbridge and access	Permit Issued
VS24006	11 Industry Drive, Donald	23/05/2024	Building and works for the construction of two buildings (two 10m wide x 13.5m L x 5.47m H sheds) and associated works	Request for further information
VS24008	Broadway, Wycheproof	24/05/2024	Demolition of disused toilet block and concrete tank within a Heritage Overlay	Review

The information published in the list provided, is in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

7.6 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action (SOA) of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action, and the SOA for the 8 May 2024 Council Meeting Resolutions.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.
(R070/24)**

Attachments: 1 Action taken on Council Meeting Resolutions - tabled 12 June 2024 -

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

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

In accordance with the Council's Governance Rules adopted August 2022, Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured and is a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

Attached to this report for public information is a list of the SOA of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action and introducing the SOA for the 8 May 2024 Council Meeting Resolutions.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

8.1.1 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS POLICY

Author's Title: Acting Manager Finance

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** FM|18|13

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Related Party Transactions Policy for adoption.

SUMMARY

The Related Party Transactions Policy is to provide guidance and define the parameters for Related Party transactions and the level of disclosure and reporting required for Council to achieve compliance with the Australian Accounting Standard AASB 124 – *Related Party Disclosures*.

MOTION:

That Council adopts the Related Party Transactions Policy.

MOVED: CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CARRIED.

(R071/24)

Attachments: 1 Related Party Transactions Policy

DISCUSSION

The Related Party Transaction Policy is to provide guidance and define the parameters for Related Party transactions and the level of disclosure and reporting required for Council to achieve compliance with the Australian Accounting Standard AASB 124 – *Related Party Disclosures*.

Council, in complying with disclosure requirements in AASB 124, will:

- Identify Key Management Personnel
- Identify related party relationships and related party transactions, other than ordinary citizens transactions as defined
- Establish and maintain systems to identify and capture related party transactions, including the required information about those transactions
- Identify the circumstances in which disclosures of transactions identified are required

- Assess the transactions to be material or significant, and
- Determine the category of disclosure to be made about transactions in the Financial Statements of the Annual Report of Operations for the purpose of complying with AASB 124.

The Related Party Transactions Policy was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 7 February 2024.

RELEVANT LAW

The adoption of the Related Party Transaction Policy will support Council's compliance with AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required for this policy development.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council must disclose related party relationships, transactions (revenue and expenditure) and outstanding balances (receivable and payable), including loans and contractual commitments, in its annual financial report. This information will be audited as part of the external audit undertaken by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Officer involved in the preparation of the Policy, or this Report has any conflicts of interest to disclose.

8.1.2 INVESTMENT POLICY

Author's Title: Acting Manager Finance

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** FM|18|13

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Investment Policy for adoption.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance for managing, investing, and redeeming funds for the Council.

The Policy aims to balance the responsibility of maximising earnings, whilst managing the security and risk of Council funds.

Investments are to comply with the allowed investment types according to the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)*.

MOTION:

That Council adopts the Investment Policy.

Moved: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

Seconded: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.

(R072/24)

Attachments: 1 Investment Policy

DISCUSSION

This Policy applies to all Investments made by Council, of Council funds or funds held in trust for third parties.

Due to the public nature of the Council's activities, prudent management of its monetary assets is essential to mitigate against unnecessary risk. Council has established a conservative and risk averse guideline for its investments.

Council will invest funds that are not required for short term financial commitments, in a manner that will provide the highest investment return with maximum security. Funds should, to the extent that the future can be forecast, be available for recurrent or capital expenditure where required and invested productively if not required.

Protection of principal is essential in the investment program. Investments of Council will be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio.

Investments will be made with good judgement and care, not for speculation, and considering the probable safety of the capital as well as the probable income to be derived. The capital investment must not drop below the face value.

The Investment Policy was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held Tuesday, 12 September 2023.

RELEVANT LAW

Investment of Council funds are to be in accordance with Council's power of investment under the Local Government Act 2020 – Section 103 Investments.

Council's funds must only be invested in those investments authorised under Section 103 of the Act.

Section 103 Investments states:

A Council may invest any money:

- (a) in Government securities of the Commonwealth; and*
- (b) in securities guaranteed by the Government of Victoria; and*
- (c) with an ADI; and*
- (d) with any financial institution guaranteed by the Government of Victoria; and*
- (e) on deposit with an eligible money market dealer within the meaning of the Corporations Act; and*
- (f) in any other manner approved by the Minister, either generally or specifically, to be an authorised manner of investment for the purposes of this section.*

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required for this policy development.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council will invest funds that are not required for short term financial commitments, in a manner that will provide the highest investment return with maximum security. Funds should, to the extent that the future can be forecast, be available for recurrent or capital expenditure where required and invested productively if not required.

Investments of Council will be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Officer involved in the preparation of the Policy, or this Report has any conflicts of interest to disclose.

8.1.3 FAIR ACCESS POLICY

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** CM/14/16

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Fair Access Policy for adoption.

SUMMARY

The Buloke Shire Council Fair Access Policy has been developed in response to the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which was initiated in 2022 and seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure.

The scope of the Policy is to support Council to take positive action towards achieving gender equity in the access and usage of community sports infrastructure. This complies with the Gender Equality Act 2020 and aligns with Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans as well as Council's own Gender Equality Action Plan and the Buloke Shire Council Inclusiveness Plan.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. That Council adopts the Fair Access Policy and Fair Access Action Plan.

Moved: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

Seconded: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R073/24)

- Attachments:**
- 1 Fair Access Policy
 - 2 Fair Access Action Plan
 - 3 Fair Access Policy Engagement Findings Report

DISCUSSION

This Policy establishes the expectation that gender equality is considered and prioritised in all of Council's current and future planning, policy, service delivery and practice as they relate to community sports infrastructure.

For the Buloke Shire Council, this policy applies to the community sports infrastructure that is owned or managed by Council and of which is a beneficiary of Council's recreation allocation funding program. Any infrastructure that is not owned or managed by Council falls outside of the scope of this policy.

Council acknowledges that the requirement to have a gender equitable access and use policy and action plan (or equivalent) in place, and the ability to demonstrate progress against that policy and action plan (or equivalent), will form part of the eligibility criteria for Victorian Government funding programs relating to community sports infrastructure from 1 July 2024.

Council has also identified specific actions to progress gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure in its Fair Access Action Plan.

RELEVANT LAW

Gender Equality Act 2020

Local Government Act 2020

Equal Opportunity Act 2010

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This is a new policy to the Buloke Shire Council, in response to the Victorian Government's reform agenda following the 2015 inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation.

OPTIONS

Council can choose not to adopt the Policy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A three-week community consultation process was undertaken following the draft Policy being endorsed by Council for public review at the April 2024 Council Meeting. A summary report of the methods of engagement and the resulting feedback has been provided within the attached findings report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The introduction of the Fair Access Policy will ensure that Council are eligible for future funding opportunities which will strengthen future sport and recreation infrastructure, and the participation and social connection that is associated.

COLLABORATION

Throughout the education and review phases of the Victorian Government's Fair Access Roadmap, Council officers have worked with stakeholders including Sport and Recreation Victoria, the office of Women and Girls in Sport, regional sports assemblies, neighbouring Councils and consultants to ensure that this policy and action plan are well informed and aligned to the reform agenda and fair access principles.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

This policy and action plan may over time result in initiatives or funding opportunities that will need to be considered in future Council budgets.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Victorian Government's Fair Access Roadmap

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Gender Equality Action Plan

Inclusiveness Plan

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Community consultation allows the community and stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback of which has helped to shape the final policy and action plan.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest to disclose.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRESS REPORT

Author's Title: Manager Community Recovery

Department: Infrastructure and Delivery

File No: GS/09/59

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

Cr Daryl Warren left the meeting at 7.22pm.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to be given an update on progress of Community Recovery Grants Programs and note the successful grant applicants.

SUMMARY

The Community Recovery Grants were made available, courtesy of funding from the Australian and Victorian Governments through the Community Recovery Hubs Program.

The Community Recovery Hubs Program is designed to support communities in recovering from significant adverse events, specifically the October 2022 Flood event, by providing essential resources and services. Its aim is to facilitate resilience and sustainability through tailored support, helping communities rebuild and recover post event.

The grants program was established to support community-led recovery, empowering local groups to pinpoint action areas beyond those identified in previous engagements such as Council Plan sessions, community forums, feedback from groups, and direct requests to the Council's community recovery team.

MOTION:

That Council note the allocation of funds to the successful applicants of the Community Recovery Grants.

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.
(R074/24)

Attachments:

- 1 Community Recovery Wellbeing Grants Program
- 2 Community Recovery Hubs Program Guidelines
- 3 Community Recovery Arts Workshop Grants Program

DISCUSSION

Two grant streams were approved by the funders:

- Community Recovery Wellbeing Grants Program 2024 (4 x \$5000 grants); and
- Community Recovery Arts Workshop Grants Program 2024 (4 x \$5000 grants).

Timing was critical, particularly during a period of significant volunteer fatigue, to minimise the burden of stringent guidelines upon community and detailed input for acquittal reports. The delivery timeline was sensitive to these needs, with initial expectations for funding acquittals to be completed after June 30, 2024; however, these deadlines were subsequently extended to accommodate evolving circumstances.

Both grant programs, along with their respective guidelines and selection processes, have undergone a thorough assessment and received approval from the funding authorities, with the decision to use the Smarty Grants platform for administering the grants process - considered an example of good governance.

At the February 2024 Council briefing it was discussed that with this approval process already in place, it would be unnecessary to impose an additional selection process at Council level and requested that the selected applications be directly reported to Council for noting, streamlining the process and reducing bureaucratic redundancy.

Only four applications were received for the Community Recovery Wellbeing Grants Program 2024 stream, with one deemed ineligible due to the applicant not being situated in Buloke. The remaining three applications were successfully submitted for consideration for by Emergency Recovery Victoria in accordance with the Australian and Victorian Government and Community Recovery Program.

Successful applicants:

- * Donald Celebrating Our Multicultural Community (Donald Learning Group Inc) Fully funded \$5,000.00
- * Donald Deb Ball 2024 (Donald 2000 Inc): Fully funded \$5,000.00
- * Connecting & Learning through food, fun & fellowship (Birchip Neighbourhood House Inc): Fully funded: \$5,000.00

No applications were received for the Community Recovery Arts Workshop Grants Program 2024 stream. However, before the close of submissions, and following the successful implementation of the Creative Recovery Artists Training in Trauma-Informed and Traditional Owner self-determined approaches, community groups identified arts programs which could be facilitated by these artists. Consequently, the remaining \$25,000 in grants funding has been reallocated to these projects, which have been assessed as eligible by Emergency Recovery Victoria.

These project concepts will now be planned and managed by the Buloke Shire Council Community Recovery team in partnership with these community groups and stakeholder agencies. Funding for these projects will need to be expended before 31 October 2024, in accordance with the Community Recovery Arts Workshop Grants Program 2024 Guidelines.

It is pertinent to note that the low number of grant applications reflects the persistent fatigue within the Buloke community. Feedback indicates that Community Recovery should be considered community-centred rather than community-led, due to the ongoing fatigue and other community commitments. This suggests a higher need for support from Council.

Feedback from the Victorian community after the October 2022 floods highlights significant volunteer fatigue, making it challenging for communities to lead their own recovery efforts without external support. Reports and inquiries, such as those submitted by this Council, also emphasise the importance of a community-centred approach in recovery efforts.

These documents stress that the prolonged recovery process and dispersed populations have strained local capacities, necessitating increased support from governmental bodies to effectively manage recovery efforts (Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria, Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee Interim Report, 28 April 2024)

Council has petitioned for additional funding to ensure the ongoing support of Community Recovery activities. Positive feedback has been received, indicating that Council will receive an additional \$128,000 to extend Community Recovery Officer positions.

Distribution of funding to the three successful applicants to the Community Recovery Wellbeing Grants Program 2024, will occur in June 2024, following agreement completion.

- Project completion is expected by 31 October 2024
- Reporting with receipts, photos, and acquittals is due by 13 December 2024.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government – The Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)
Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014
Freedom of Information Act 1982
Equal Opportunity Act 2010

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted the Recovery Plan

OPTIONS

Not applicable

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Ensure that the activities use sustainable materials and practices to minimise environmental impact. This includes using recycled or eco-friendly materials for art projects and reducing waste.
- Evaluate the energy requirements of the projects and promote the use of renewable energy sources where possible.
- Implement effective waste management practices to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials used in the projects.
- Respect and integrate Traditional Owner self-determined approaches.
- Address potential mental health impacts of trauma recovery activities and ensure they contribute positively to community wellbeing.
- Ensure that the projects are financially sustainable in the long term, with clear plans for funding and resource allocation.
- Adhere to the guidelines and conditions set by the Community Recovery Arts Workshop Grants Program to ensure continued funding and support.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Published from 11 March 2024 to 26 April 2024: Buloke website; Facebook (14 posts); Local newspapers (single insertion, 7-weeks); Customer Service Information (single insertion, 7-weeks); posters distributed to Berriwilllock, Birchip, Charlton, Culgoa, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof; Probus and Lives Alone speaker events at Charlton, Culgoa, Donald, Wycheproof, Sea Lake.
- Maintain transparency in project selection, funding allocation, and progress reporting to build trust within the community.
- Ensure outcomes are promoted in the community recognising the funders: Australian and Victorian Governments Community Recovery Hubs Program.
- Ensure activities are widely promoted in the community to maximise participation.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of the activities and make necessary adjustments for continuous improvement and report outcomes to the community.
- Explore the use of new technologies, such as digital platforms for virtual workshops and exhibitions, to expand the reach and impact of the projects.
- Incorporate innovative artistic methods and interdisciplinary approaches that can offer new perspectives and solutions to community recovery, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

COLLABORATION

- Birchip Neighbourhood House
- Buloke Youth Groups
- Barengi Gadgin Land Council
- Creative Recovery Network
- Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation
- Donald 2000
- Donald Learning Group
- Emergency Recovery Victoria
- Sea Lake Neighbourhood House

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

- Funds for activities are secured but delivery is contingent on extension funding for officer roles and receipt of this funding to provide additional community support.
- Anticipate and plan for potential cost overruns by including contingency funds in the budget. Regular financial reviews and adjustments will help manage unexpected expenses.
- Ensure strict alignment with grant guidelines, which is particularly important for the successful acquittal of funds. Refer to the Community Recovery Arts Workshop Grants Program 2024 and Community Recovery Wellbeing Grants Program 2024 Guidelines for detailed requirements.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Australian and Victorian Governments Community Recovery Hubs Program Guidelines
- National Disaster Recovery Needs Assessment Guidelines
- The IAP2 (International Association for Public Participation) Australia standards provide a framework for effective public participation and engagement practices.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

- Community Recovery Plan
- Council Plan 2022-2025
- Customer Service Charter
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Councillor Code of Conduct
- Social Media Policy
- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Inclusiveness Plan
- Interim Communications Plan 2022-2024
- Community Support Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report is brought to an open Council Meeting in the interests of transparency.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

Cr Daryl Warren returned to the meeting at 7.25pm.

8.2.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Author's Title: Acting Director Community Development

Department: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

PURPOSE

To present to Council the applications recommended for funding under the Community Grants Program.

SUMMARY

Each year, Council allocates funds in the Annual Budget to support community initiatives that align with Council's priorities and vision as outlined in the Council Plan.

In the 2023-24 Annual Budget, Council allocated \$20,000 to the **Community Grants Program** and \$50,000 to the **Community Sustainability Grants Program**. The purpose of these grant programs are:

- **Community Grants** support the strengthening of the capacity and capability of local organisations, assist with the organisation and management of events, or help with the purchase of small capital items.
- **Sustainability Grants** assist projects that contribute to reducing the community's carbon footprint, improve the environment or effectively conserve resource usage.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Allocates Community Sustainability Grants to the value of \$20,000 for the following projects:

Weed Management on Mount Wycheproof (WycheAlive Inc – Auspice for Friends of Mount Wycheproof) \$10,000

Procure a Steam Weeder for Mount Wycheproof and surrounds (WycheAlive Inc) \$10,000

Moved: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

Seconded: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R075/24)

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

Two Community Grant applications have been received since the Ordinary Meeting of Council in May 2024.

As per the current Community Grant Guidelines, each application was assessed by an Assessment Panel. The Panel of three assessors consisted of one Council officer and two external consultants.

Based on their assessment against the selection criteria, the Panel recommends the following grants for Council's consideration and approval.

Project: Weed Management on Mount Wycheproof	
Organisation:	WycheAlive Inc - Auspice for Friends of Mount Wycheproof
Grant Type	Community Sustainability Grant
Amount Applied:	\$10,000
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$10,000
Full project cost:	\$15,000
Project Description:	To appoint a contractor (council approved) to spray and remove weeds from Mount Wycheproof.
Project Benefit:	This is a proactive community-led approach that demonstrates an ongoing commitment to addressing weed control on Mount Wycheproof. The outcome of the project will continue to benefit the local community and visitors as well as generate a sense of pride of place.
Assessment Panel Scoring	Average Score = 18.6 out of 25. All members of the Assessment Panel recommended the ' <i>Weed Management on Mount Wycheproof</i> ' project be funded for the full amount requested (\$10,000).

Project: Procure a Steam Weeder for Mount Wycheproof & surrounds	
Organisation:	WycheAlive Inc - Auspice for Friends of Mount Wycheproof
Grant Type	Community Sustainability Grant
Amount Applied:	\$10,000
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$10,000
Full project cost:	\$35,000
Project Description:	To purchase a Steam Weeder for shared community use to control invasive weeds on Mount Wycheproof and surrounds and reduce the use of herbicides.
Project Benefit:	The purchase of a Steam Weeder is an innovative and collaborative approach to improve on the work routinely undertaken by the community via a contractor to control invasive weeds on Mount Wycheproof. The main benefit of this project is the use of steam rather than herbicides and the demonstrated collective commitment by key community groups and stakeholders to work together to address a local environmental issue on Mount Wycheproof and surrounding areas.
Assessment Panel Scoring	Average Score = 22.0 out of 25. All members of the Assessment Panel recommended the ' <i>Procure a Steam</i>

	<i>Weeder for Mount Wycheproof & surrounds'</i> project be funded for the full amount requested (\$10,000).
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RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable to this report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

OPTIONS

Council has the option to not to allocate the funds as recommended by the Assessment Panel however, such amendments to the proposed funding recommendations may undermine the integrity and fairness of the assessment process.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Applicants were contacted by either a Council officer and/or an external consultant if their application required additional information or clarification.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The allocation of funds for the two applications recommended for funding will come from the Community Sustainability Grants budget (\$50,000) in Council's Annual Budget 2023-24.

There is currently \$40,000 remaining in the adopted Community Sustainability Grants budget for the 2023-24 financial year.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable to this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 and Long-Term Community Vision.

Community Grant Guidelines.

Community Engagement Policy.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable to this report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

I, Anthony Smith, have no conflicts of interest to disclose in relation to this report.

All members of the Assessment Panel have no conflict of interest to disclose in relation to their recommendations or this report.

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Nil

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cr Getley – Mallee Ward

Weekly meetings with CEO Wayne O'Toole

Monthly Briefings

Ordinary Council meeting

Tourism broadcast Birchip w m radio

Councillor Monitor meeting

Disaster ready meeting funding meeting

Transmission lines shire meeting

Dinner & Meeting TCV & Energy & Infrastructure Commissioner

ABC interview Horsham Sea Lake Airstrip

Swan Hill Guardian interview Sea Lake Airstrip / Monitor

Flow FM Interview Budget

MAV State Conference

Budget Briefing adopt draft

Charlton Forum meeting

MAV Mayors & CEO Dinner & Forum

Chair Sea Lake Airstrip Community Meeting

WSMD Board Meeting

Advance Sea Lake x 2

Zoom meeting research interview Local Government

Farewell afternoon tea for Travis

Australia's biggest morning tea

Nullawil Progress Association Meeting

CEO Half Yearly Review

Cr Hogan

Wyche Alive Meeting - Wycheproof

Council Briefing – Sea Lake

Biggest Morning Tea – Nandaly

Advance Sea Lake Meeting – Sea Lake

Berriwillock Progress Meeting – Berriwillock

Community Meeting re Sea Lake Airstrip – Sea Lake

Council Briefing – Culgoa

Meeting with Municipal Monitor – Wycheproof

CEO Performance Review – Wycheproof

Council Meeting – Wycheproof

Cr Warren

Farewell Travis Fitzgibbon Wycheproof

Council Briefing Sea Lake

Donald Community Precinct meeting

Donald 2000 Meeting

Attend Donald Lions Club Meeting

Wimmera Mallee Grampians Consultant meeting Donald

Buloke Tourism board Meeting Sea Lake

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Business Awards Judging

Tourism Victoria Infrastructure Grant Meeting for Buloke Events Centre

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Business Awards Judging
Cr Warren cont'd
Meeting in Ballarat with potential business to relocate to Donald.
Council Briefing Culgoa
Co ordinate working bee for the arrival of the Vinelander in Donald
Co ordinate Welcome to the Vinelander as it returns to Donald.
Council meeting via Zoom

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.2.1 Cr Milne – from Councillor Reports - McColls Bridge on Birchip -Wycheproof Road
Who looks after the Bridge on the Birchip -Wycheproof Road? Do we have a historic bridge register?

This bridge is on our asset register, we do not have an historic bridge register.

9.2.2 Cr Warren - Statutory Meeting Delegates

Cr Warren : at Statutory Meetings where councillors are delegated to committees, are committees advised in writing of appointed delegate and are the Buloke shire staff advised of councillor delegates?
Response CEO: yes, we will write to each of the delegated committees after the statutory meeting to advise of the appointments and relevant staff are advised through the Management team.

Cr Warren in terms of the conflict of interest rules, are the exemptions listed on the current exemption forms still current as they stand tonight?
CEO – taken on notice

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil

10. MEETING CLOSE

7.44PM