



# **COUNCIL MEETING**

## **AGENDA**

**Wednesday 13 October 2021**

**Commencing at 7pm**

**To be held Remote via Livestream**

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

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### 1. COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

#### WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Daryl Warren will welcome all in attendance.

#### STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Daryl Warren will acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who maybe here today.

### 2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 22 September 2021.

### 4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

In accordance with Section 130 (2) of the Local Government Act 2020 Councillors who have a conflict of interest in respect of a matter being considered at this Meeting, must

- a) Disclose the conflict of interest in the manner required by the Council's Governance Rules 2020; and
- a) Exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter, including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee, and any action in relation to the matter.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

### 6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

NIL

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	NIL	
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	NIL	
<b>10.</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSE</b>	

#### **NEXT MEETING**

THE NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, , 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6:30PM.

**Wayne O'Toole**  
**INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Nil

**7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS****7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES**

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council note the report of Councillor Assembly Meetings held on 1 September, 14 and 15 September 2021.

**Attachments:**

- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 1 September 2021
- 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 14 September 2021
- 3 Councillor Briefing Record - 15 September 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 1 September, 14 and 15 September 2021 is attached for public information.

**BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**Record**  
**Councillor Briefing**

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<b>Date and Time:</b>	1 September 2021	<b>Time:</b> 5:00pm – 8:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom	

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**ITEMS**

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<b>NO.</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
	<b>Councillor only time 5.00pm - 5.30pm</b>	
1.	<b>Welcome</b>	
2.	<b>Apologies</b>	
3.	<b>Attendees</b>	Cr Simpson, Cr Milne, Cr Getley, Cr Warren, Cr Vis, Cr Stewart, Cr Pollard, Anthony Judd, Hannah Yu, Wayne O'Toole, Travis Fitzgibbon, Rose Harris
4.	<b>Visitors</b>	Cr. Mary-Ann Brown (7.1); Jerri Nelson (7.2); Jane Hosking (7.2) Rodney Hotker (7.4); Wayne Wall (7.4)
5.	<b>Declarations of Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest</b>	Nil
6.	<b>Confirmation of Councillor Briefing Notes</b>	18 August 2021
7.	<b>Presentations</b>	
7.1	Rural Councils Victoria – Cr. Mary-Ann Brown, RCV	
7.2	Strong Youth, Strong Communities – Jane Hosking and Jerri Nelson, North Central Local Learning Network	
7.3	Update of VicHealth Partnership – Rose Harris, Director Community Development	
7.4	Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) – Rodney Hotker, Manager Development Services	
8.	<b>Items for Discussion</b>	

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**8.1** COVID-19 Update – Anthony Judd, Chief Executive Officer

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**9. Councillor Matters**

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**10. CEO Updates**

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**11. Next Briefing:**

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<b>Date and Time:</b>	15 September 2021	<b>Time: 3.00pm – 6.00pm</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Nullawil	

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**12. Briefing Close**

Approx. 7.50pm

**BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**Record**  
**Councillor Briefing**

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<b>Date and Time:</b>	14 September 2021	<b>Time:</b> 6:00pm – 7:30pm
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom	

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**ITEMS**

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<b>NO.</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
1.	Welcome	
2.	Apologies	Nil.
3.	Attendees	Mayor Cr Warren, Deputy Mayor Cr Vis, Cr Milne, Cr Getley, Cr Simpson, Cr Stewart, Cr Pollard Staff - CEO Anthony Judd
4.	Visitors	Seamus Scanlon and Vanessa Huxley (Davidson Executive) Nick Kelly (McArthur) Christine Mileham (Sal Corp Pty Ltd)
5.	Declaration of Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest	Nil
6.	Presentations to Councillors	<b>Buloke Shire Council</b> <b>RFQ209 – Recruitment Services for CEO Position.</b>
6.1	Davidson Executive	
6.2	McArthur	
6.3	Sal Corp Pty Ltd	
7.	Briefing Closed at 7:30pm	

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**8. Next Briefing:**

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<b>Date and Time:</b>	6 October 2021	<b>Time:</b> 5.00pm – 8.00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Culgoa Hall or Zoom (pending restrictions)	

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**BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**Record**  
**Councillor Briefing**

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<b>Date and Time:</b>	15 September 2021	<b>Time:</b> 3:00pm – 6:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom	

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**ITEMS**

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<b>NO.</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
	<b>Councillor only time 3.00pm - 3.30pm</b>	
1.	<b>Welcome</b>	
2.	<b>Apologies</b>	
3.	<b>Attendees</b>	Cr Simpson, Cr Milne, Cr Getley, Cr Warren, Cr Vis (left 5.32), Cr Stewart, Anthony Judd, Hannah Yu, Wayne O'Toole, Travis Fitzgibbon, Rose Harris
4.	<b>Visitors</b>	Wayne Street (7.1); Kaylene Cossar (7.1); James Goldsmith (7.1); Dan McLoughlan (7.3); Amber Ricks (7.1, 7.3 & 7.4)
5.	<b>Declarations of Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest</b>	Nil
6.	<b>Confirmation of Councillor Briefing Notes</b>	1 September 2021
7.	<b>Presentations</b>	
7.1	Buloke Shire Housing – Wayne Street (Street Ryan); Kaylene Cossar (Chair EDATAC); James Goldsmith (Economic Development and Tourism Lead)	
7.2	Aged Care Presentation – Rose Harris (Director Community Development)	
7.3	Capital Projects Monthly Update / Road Management Plan – Amber Risk (Manager Community Facilities and Projects), Dan McLoughan (Manager Asset)	

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- 7.4** Thai Restaurant Proposal at Donald Memorial Hall – Amber Ricks (Manager Community Facilities and Projects)
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**8. Items for Discussion**

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- 8.1** Australia Day Awards – Travis Fitzgibbon (Manager Customer Engagement)
- 
- 8.2** Governance Arrangements – Hannah Yu (Director Corporate Services)
- 

**9. Councillor Matters**

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- 9.1** Spicer Gravel Pit
- 
- 9.2** Donald Caravan Park
- 
- 9.3** Charlton Park – minor building damage
- 
- 9.4** Derelict Housing – Wycheproof
- 
- 9.5** Old hotel Sea Lake
- 
- 9.6** Pigeon infestation
- 

**10. CEO Updates**

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- 10.1** NBN – Connecting Victoria
- 
- 10.2** Budget Workshops Timetable
- 
- 10.3** Update: Draft Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan
- 
- 10.4** Update: Emu Management Plan
- 

**11. Next Briefing:**

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<b>Date and Time:</b>	6 October 2021	<b>Time:</b> 5.00pm – 8.00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Culgoa Hall	

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**12. Briefing Close**

6.55pm

## 7.2 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

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

### PURPOSE

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

### RECOMMENDATION

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

**Attachments:** Nil

### TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Correspondence sent to/to be sent to	Date sent	Date of Response	Summary of Response/Purpose of Letter
Damaged Telstra Pits within Shire	Telstra	Not yet sent		Letter to be drafted and sent regarding the lack of action on the damaged pits within the Shire, including Nullawil, Culgoa and Watchem

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

**Author's Title:** Executive Assistant

**Department:** Office of the CEO

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

#### PURPOSE

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

**Attachments:** Nil

#### RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Buloke Shire Council	Julie Pringle Sea Lake Visitor Information Centre		To congratulate Julie and her staff on the opening by the Minister of the Sea Lake Visitor Information Hub.
Buloke Shire Council	All Medical Clinics across the Shire		For the tremendous provision of service and roll out of the vaccination against COVID – 19 in Buloke Shire. At the time of writing this report, Buloke Shire have 95% of its population having had the 1 <sup>st</sup> dose and 70% are double vaccinated.

## 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 September 2021 to 30 September 2021.

### RECOMMENDATION

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

**Attachments:** Nil

### LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Permit No.	BAMS Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20210108	5490037099850	22 Jubilee Street, Wycheproof	Garage/Storage Shed	26/08/2021
20210109	1274171285226	26 Corack Street, Donald	Garage/Storage Shed	26/08/2021
20210110	1763935194905	21 Jubilee Street, Wycheproof	Garage/Storage Shed	02/09/2021
20210111	5744888289841	28 Cave Street, Donald	Extension & Alterations to Existing Dwelling	02/09/2021
20210112	5914319457239	21 King Street, Birchip	Dwelling	09/09/2021
20210113	7948605644712	1 Railway Place, Wycheproof	Dwelling & Deck	16/09/2021
20210114	1356558807623	6 Sherwood Street, Birchip	Dependent Persons Unit	16/09/2021
20210115	1357706734717	45 Hammill Street, Donald	Suspended Ceiling	23/09/2021

### LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE SURVEYOR

Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
NIL			

## 7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

**Author's Title:** Planning Officer

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

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

### PURPOSE

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

### RECOMMENDATION

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

**Attachments:** Nil

### LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA928/21		2 Campbell Street, Birchip Lot 6, 7, 8, 9 PS058023	13/05/2021	Use and development of land for a service station (diesel fuel cell), construct and display a business identification sign and alter access to a Road Zone, Category 1	Request for further information by Referral Authority
PPA933/21		11 Learmonth Street, Charlton Lot 4 LP132788	21/07/2021	Use and development of land four dwellings on a lot	Awaiting report
PPA934/21		13 Learmonth Street, Charlton Lot 3 LP132788	21/07/2021	Use and development of land four dwellings on a lot	Awaiting report
PPA935/21		1094 Sea Lake - Springfield Road, Sea Lake CA 9 Parish of Berriwillock	20/07/2021	Use and development of land for a camping and caravan park (pop-up hotel)	Permit Issued
PPA936/21		Calder Highway, Woosang Lot 2 & Lot 5	26/07/2021	Use and development of land for a single dwelling	Referral

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA938/21		70 H Vogels Road, Watchem West CA 56 & 56A Parish of Carron	5/08/2021	Two lot subdivision of land (rural dwelling excision/boundary realignment)	Awaiting report
PPA939/21		90 Mullane Road, Watchem Lot 1 PS 691954	26/07/2021	Use and development of land for animal production (free range chicken farm), construction of four sheds and increase capacity to 267,000 birds	Awaiting report
PPA940/21		Taylor's Road, Ballapur CA20A & 20B Parish of Ballapur	26/07/2021	Use and development of land for a single dwelling, create or alter access to Road Zone, Category 1	Awaiting report
PPA941/21		350 Broadway, Wycheproof Lot 1 TP391928	18/08/2021	Building and works to locate a shipping container for storage	Request for further information
PPA942/21		Donald-Swan Hill Road, Corack East CA 1 Sec. A Parish of Corack East	26/08/2021	Amenities building at Corack Hall	Permit Issued
PPA943/21		41 Cumming Avenue, Birchip Lot 1 TP217378	03/09/2021	Demolition of outbuilding and extension to existing shop	Awaiting report
PPA944/21		38-40 Racecourse Road, Donald Lot 27 & 28 PS333465	03/09/2021	Construction of open sided shed for storage and maintenance of machinery	Permit Issued
PPA945/21		5 Woods Street, Donald Lots 1, 2 & 3 P895619	03/09/2021	Use and development of land for a service station, construct and display a business identification sign	Request for further information
PPA946/21		95 Railway Avenue, Sea Lake Lot 2 PS 408935	03/09/2021	Use and development of land for a service station, construct and display a business identification sign	Request for further information
947/2021		80 Horace Street, Sea Lake	10/09/2021	Construct and display a major promotion	Request for further

		Lot 1 TP885043		sign	information
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<b>Application No</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date Rec</b>	<b>Summary of Proposal</b>	<b>Status</b>
PPA948/21		1-3 Wright Street, Charlton CA 24 Sec A & CA 25 Sec A Parish of Charlton	15/09/2021	Construct a dwelling in Land Subject to Inundation Overlay	Awaiting report
PPA949/21		Corner of Cossars Road & Coonooer Road, Yeungroon Lot 1 TP917921	17/09/2021	Building and works to construct a shade structure over tourist information panels at Yeungroon Public Hall	Permit Issued
PPA950/21		Mildura Way Charlton CA17 Sec A Parish of Charlton	17/09/2021	Building and works to construct undercover stabling	New
PPA951/21		11 Enterprise Drive, Donald Lot 77 PS 526871J	16/09/2021	Construction of a machinery storage shed	New
PPA952/21		Five Mile Road, Yeungroon East	20/09/2021	Building and works to extend a shearing shed within setback of road reserve	New

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS****8.1 POLICY REPORTS****8.1.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION POLICY**

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

**Department:** Corporate Services

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

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Council and Community Leadership

**PURPOSE**

To present the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Employment and Remuneration Policy (Policy) for adoption.

**SUMMARY**

The Policy is a new requirement under the Act and must be adopted by as part of Stage 4 implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

**Attachments:** 1 Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy

**DISCUSSION**

The Act requires the Council adopt a policy which sets out the framework for CEO recruitment and appointment, contract, performance monitoring, and review. The first Policy must be adopted by 31 December 2021.

The attached Policy outlines Council's commitment to ensuring its decisions and actions are based on good governance and reflect its responsibilities under the Act and obligations to the Buloke community to manage CEO employment conditions with transparency.

**RELEVANT LAW**

Section 45 of the Act requires that the Council must develop, adopt and keep in force a CEO Employment and Remuneration policy.

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable to this report.

**OPTIONS**

The Council may determine to appoint a CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Committee. However, the requirement to obtain independent, professional advice is met within the Policy through reliance on independent, suitably qualified consultants to undertake recruitment and appointment

actions, and facilitate the CEO's performance review. The Policy requires that a Consultant engaged to undertake recruitment activity cannot be appointed to facilitate the performance review process.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable to this report.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable to this report.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable to this report.

**COLLABORATION**

Not applicable to this report.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The Policy states CEO remuneration will be based on, among other matters, Council's fiscal and economic conditions and market rates for comparable positions. Remuneration of staff is projected through the Council's Financial Plan.

CEO Recruitment costs are captured as an authorized variance to the Council's operating budget.

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

The Act requires that the Policy contemplate any statement of policy issued by the Victorian Government which is in force with respect to its wages policy (or equivalent) and any Determination that is currently in effect under *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* in relation to remuneration bands for executives employed in public service bodies.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable to this report.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Policy sets out a formal, structured and transparent approach to management of CEO employment conditions.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

I, Hannah Yu, have no conflicts of interest to disclose in providing this advice to the Council.



<b>POLICY LOCATION</b>	Executive Office	<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration
<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	[INSERT NUMBER]	<b>DATE ADOPTED</b>	[INSERT ADOPTION DATE MM/YY]
<b>REVISION NUMBER</b>	1	<b>REVISION DATE</b>	[INSERT REVISION DATE MM/YY]

### Purpose

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Employment and Remuneration policy sets out Council's approach to managing the recruitment, remuneration and performance of the CEO.

### Scope

This policy applies to activities of the Council, the CEO and candidates for the role of the CEO.

### Definitions

In this policy –

**"Total Remuneration Package"** includes salary, superannuation, the cost of a motor vehicle to an employer and the cost of other employment benefits and associated fringe benefits tax, but excludes general business expenses such as laptop computers, mobile phones or study leave.

### Policy Statement

The Council is committed to ensuring decisions and actions taken in relation to CEO recruitment, performance and remuneration are robust, transparent and reflect its responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### Guidelines

#### Recruitment

The CEO, after conferring with the Mayor and Councillors, will appoint an independent and suitably qualified consultant (Consultant) to manage the CEO recruitment and appointment process. The appointment of a Consultant will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy.

The Consultant will support the Council during the recruitment and appointment process by:

- Developing a recruitment strategy to attract suitable candidates
- Assisting the Council to shortlist and interview candidates
- Conducting reference and probity checks on the preferred candidate
- Working with the Director Corporate Services to prepare a report to Council recommending the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer



- Preparing the communications for the Council to announce the appointment of the CEO,
- Assisting the Council to develop an initial 12-month performance plan, and
- Working with the Councillors, Senior Leadership Team and Manager Human Resources to induct the CEO.

The Consultant will work with the Manager Human Resources to prepare and issue the Chief Executive Officer contract of employment. The contract will at a minimum outline:

- Responsibilities of the position
- Conflict of interest management requirements
- Total remuneration package
- Legislative obligations, including those continuing after appointment
- Process for managing unsatisfactory performance or early termination
- Dispute resolution processes

#### **Performance Plan and Review**

The performance review will be completed annually to coincide with the anniversary of the CEO's commencement date.

An independent and suitably consultant (Consultant) will be appointed by the CEO, after conferring with the Mayor and Councillors, to assist with the CEO's performance planning and review process. The appointment of a Consultant will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy. The Consultant shall not be the same Consultant used to manage the CEO's recruitment and appointment process.

The performance plan will be developed by the Council with input from the CEO and assistance from the Consultant. The performance plan will document agreed performance criteria for next 12-month period and will include a professional development plan.

The Consultant will assist the Council in assessing the CEO performance against the current annual objectives contained within the CEO performance plan. The CEO will also provide feedback on the performance of the Council as part of a 360-degree feedback process, which will be facilitated by the Consultant.

An informal, internal performance review will be conducted within 6 months of the formal performance review each year thereafter. The informal review will provide the CEO with feedback and the opportunity to adjust any of the objectives set in the formal performance review if required.

#### **Remuneration**

Following the performance review of the CEO the Council will work with the Consultant to review the remuneration of the CEO. In determining the CEO's total remuneration package, the Council will have regard to:

- The inherent requirements of the position
- The achievement of agreed performance criteria for the preceding 12 months
- Council's fiscal and economic conditions
- Acquisition and satisfactory utilisation of new or enhanced skills by the CEO if beneficial to or required by the Council
- Market rates for comparable positions



Any decision to increase the remuneration of the CEO must be in accordance with the Policy Principles outlined above.

**Independent Professional Advice**

Council may obtain independent professional advice in relation to any matters dealt with in the CEO Employment and Remuneration policy, including but not limited to, CEO performance review and CEO recruitment.

**References**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019*

Buloke Shire Council Procurement Policy

DRAFT

## 8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

### 8.2.1 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION 937/21 - TWO LOT SUBDIVISION (RURAL DWELLING EXCISION) - 86 LANES ROAD, JEFFCOTT

**Author's Title:** Planning Officer

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

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

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Built and Natural Environment

#### PURPOSE

For Council to consider the information in this report and, as the Responsible Authority, resolve to grant or refuse the planning permit application.

#### SUMMARY

A planning permit application has been received by Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> July for a two-lot subdivision to create a lot for a rural dwelling excision at 86 Lanes Road, Jeffcott. The existing allotment is 129.5 hectares. The subdivision will create Lot 1 being 4.045 hectares containing the existing dwelling, outbuildings, and a lightly timbered area included as a buffer zone to farming operations. The remainder will become Lot 2 and will be 125.4 hectares in size. This application has come to Council as the responsible authority as the proposed rural dwelling excision lot of 4.045 hectares is larger than the maximum size of 2 hectares in the Buloke Planning Scheme policy guidelines for rural dwelling excision lots.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council having caused notice of Planning Application No. 937/21 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and or the planning scheme and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* decides to Grant a Permit under the provisions of 35.07-3 of the Buloke Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as 86 Lanes Road, Jeffcott (CA 63 Parish of Wooroonook) for the two lot subdivision of land (rural dwelling excision) in accordance with the endorsed plans, with the application dated 28 July 2021, subject to conditions.

**Attachments:** 1 Plan - Two Lot Subdivision - 86 Lanes Road, Jeffcott

#### DISCUSSION

A planning permit application has been received by Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> July for a two-lot subdivision to create a lot for a rural dwelling excision at 86 Lanes Road, Jeffcott. The existing allotment is 129.5 hectares. The subdivision will create Lot 1 being 4.045 hectares containing the existing dwelling, outbuildings, and a lightly timbered area included as a buffer zone to farming operations. The remainder will become Lot 2 and will be 125.4 hectares in size.

The property 86 Lanes Road, Jeffcott is zoned Farming Zone, no planning overlays apply to the property. The property consists of dryland farming and grazing land, and the existing dwelling and outbuildings. The property is located within an area of farming and grazing land, consisting of typical agricultural

allotments found in this locality. The nearest dwelling is located 1500 metres to the north east and is currently in the same ownership, the property is located approximately 19 kilometres to the north east of Donald and approximately 16 kilometres to the south west of Charlton.

The subject site is accessed from Lanes Road, which is all weather when approaching from the south.

The property 86 Lanes Road, Jeffcott is zoned Farming Zone. The purpose of the Farming Zone is:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To provide for the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.
- To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.

*Under Clause 35.07-3 a planning permit is required to subdivide land in the Farming Zone (FZ). The minimum subdivision area is 100 hectares. A permit may be granted for a smaller lot if the subdivision is to create a lot for an existing dwelling.*

No planning overlays apply to the property

#### **Planning Policy Framework**

##### **Clause 12.01-2S Native Vegetation Management**

Objective – is to ensure no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal of native vegetation.

*Vegetation will be retained around the existing dwelling. The retention of native vegetation may be enhanced by the occupation of the dwelling*

##### **Clause 13.02-1S Bushfire planning**

Objective – is to strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.

*It is not considered that the subdivision will contribute to bushfire risk. No new land uses are being proposed that introduce increased risk of bushfire. There is an existing water tank in proximity of the dwelling that can be utilised for fire fighting purposes.*

##### **Clause 13.07-1L-01 Amenity Protection - General**

Objective – to encourage use and development without compromising residential amenity or agricultural land use

*The proposed subdivision incorporates a buffer zone to the extent that the dwelling will not be significantly affected by agricultural operations and the agricultural land use will be unaffected by the dwelling. The dwelling will not affect the productive capacity of the farming land.*

#### **Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land**

Objective – to protect the state’s agricultural base by preserving productive farmland.

*No productive farmland will be removed from the state’s agricultural base. All land currently being used for agricultural production will be incorporated into the proposed lot 2 and will continue to be farmed. The agricultural land use will be unaffected by the dwelling. The dwelling will not affect the productive capacity of the farming land.*

#### **Clause 14.01-1L Protection of agricultural land**

This policy contains strategies to:

- retain agricultural land in productive units,
- maintain land use patterns of large, viable lots for broad acre cropping and
- discourage the fragmentation of agricultural land.
- Discourage use and development in the Farming Zone that:
  - Alienates agricultural resources.
  - Is sensitive to off-site effects from agriculture such as sprays and odour.
  - Lessens the capacity of essential infrastructure.
  - Prejudices agricultural resources and agricultural production.
- Provide buffers on the subject site for proposals that are potentially sensitive to normal activities in agricultural areas.

*The proposed dwelling excision retains the farming land in a large productive viable lot. The land is not fragmented as the proposed subdivision reflect the existing land uses. The proposed subdivision incorporates a buffer zone to the extent that the dwelling will not be significantly affected by agricultural operations and the agricultural land use will be unaffected by the dwelling.*

#### **Clause 14.01-1L-03 Small lot subdivision**

This policy applies to applications for subdivision in the Farming Zone of less than 100 hectares where lots are created under the excisions provisions of the Farming Zone. Strategies include:

- Discourage the excision of dwellings that have the potential to restrict agricultural production on adjacent land.
- Maintain an adequate distance within the excised lot around the dwelling to reasonably limit any likely impacts of adjacent agricultural activity.
- Discourage the excision of more than one house lot from a rural property.

*The proposed dwelling excision is consistent with the small lot subdivision policy.*

Under policy guidelines Council are to consider as relevant:

- Rural dwelling excisions to have a maximum size of 2 hectares.
- If dwelling is in a habitable condition and able to comply with the Building Code of Australia.
- The planting of vegetation within the excised lot to reduce any potential impacts.

*The proposed rural dwelling excision allotment is larger than the maximum size of 2 hectares as lot 1 is proposed to be 4.045 hectares. Council planning officers consider the size of the allotment to be appropriate as the allotment contains outbuildings and provides a suitable buffer zone to separate the dwelling from any potential effects of farming operations. The allotment does not remove any farming land from agricultural production, and allows an area for a future owner/occupier to plant trees. Council planning officers have conducted an onsite inspection and consider that the existing dwelling is able to comply with the Building Code of Australia.*

The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the zone, providing for the retention of employment and population, protecting the productive agricultural land, and ensuring that the dwelling does not adversely affect the use of the land for agriculture.

The excision of the dwelling will allow for the maintenance and upkeep of the dwelling to be taken up by a future owner/occupier and minimise the chances of the dwelling falling into disrepair.

There will be no significant negative effect on the amenity of the immediate locality. The subdivision will not cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.

No native vegetation is proposed to be removed.

It is not considered that there will be no change to the risk of flood, erosion or fire hazard.

The land is suitable for the subdivision as it reflects the existing land uses, being the dwelling and the agricultural land. The allotment created for the dwelling has access to services and all weather access.

The proposal will not lead to a proliferation of dwellings in the area as it is against policy to subdivide land in the farming zone into lots of less than 100 hectares.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

The application is being assessed in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act)*

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

No previous planning applications have been received for this allotment.

#### **OPTIONS**

Council may resolve to refuse the application for a planning permit if Council considers the granting of a permit may prejudice agricultural resources and agricultural production on the adjacent land.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no significant sustainability implications. No native vegetation is affected as part of the subdivision. There is an existing septic system and there is adequate land area available to treat and retain sewerage on site in accordance with State Environment Protection Policy. Rainwater tanks are installed on site for potable water.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Public notice of the application was given in accordance with Section 52 of the Act. A notice was placed in the locally circulating newspaper. No objections were received in relation to the application.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable.

**COLLABORATION**

The Application was referred to the appropriate bodies under Section 52 of the Act.

<b>Referrals/Notice</b>	<b>Advice/Response/Conditions</b>
Section 55 Referrals	n/a
Section 52 notices	Powercor – no objection subject to supplied conditions GWMWater – no objection

<b>Internal Council Referrals</b>	<b>Advice/Response/Conditions</b>
Infrastructure planning	The access section of Lanes Road would be reinstated as an access road on the hierarchy (840m). The section currently exists as all weather – gravel is thin in some sections

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

There are no significant financial viability impacts. A new property would be created for rating purposes.

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

Please see policy discussion at Discussion section of this report.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

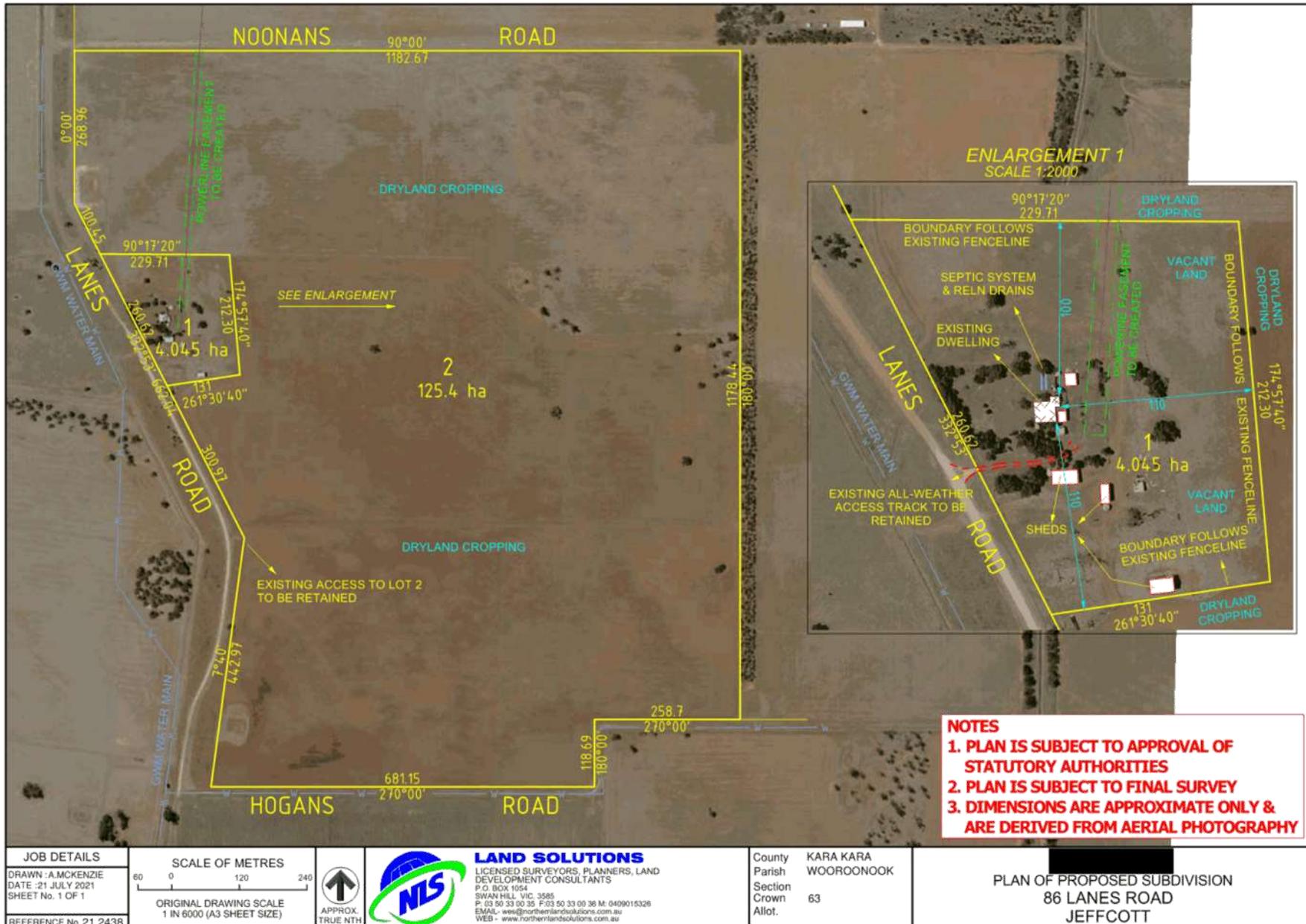
Not applicable to this report.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

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

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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



## 8.2.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER AND CHAIR

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

**Department:** Corporate Services

**File No:** SM/02/10

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Council and Community Leadership

### PURPOSE

To recommend the reappointment of Ms. Margaret Abbey PSM and an independent Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) Member, and as Chair of the Committee.

### SUMMARY

Ms. Abbey PSM will conclude her first term as Independent Member on Council's Committee in November 2021. This report recommends her reappointment for a second term of 3 years on the Committee commencing 15 November 2021. It further recommends the Council reappoint Ms Abbey as Chair of the Committee in line with the Committee Charter.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Reappoint Ms. Margaret Abbey PSM as an independent Audit and Risk Committee Member for a term of 3 years expiring 15 November 2024; and
2. Reappoint Ms. Margaret Abbey PSM as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for a term of 2 years expiring 15 November 2023.

**Attachments:** Nil

### DISCUSSION

The Committee consists of four members comprising of three independent members and the Mayor as the representative of Council. The Committee Charter provides for the appointment of the independent members for terms of 3 years, with the option to request reappointment after the first term should they wish to continue. Ms. Abbey PSM wrote to express her interest in continuing her role as Independent Member for a further term post 15 November 2021.

Ms. Abbey PSM has served on the Committee for the past 3 years and has presided as Chair of the Committee for the past 2 years. Ms. Abbey PSM was a former Chief Executive Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council, and has extensive experience in local government, board and governance roles.

Ms Abbey PSM was appointed as Chair of the Committee by Council for the period commencing 1 October 2020 and ending 14 November 2021, the term of this appointment was made to align with her term as an independent member.

In extending Ms. Abbey's appointment as an independent member it is also recommended that she be reappointed as Chair of the Committee for a term of 2 years in accordance with the Charter.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to establish a Committee which must consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors and cannot include a member of Council staff

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The Committee was established by Council and the Charter adopted on 12 August 2020. Ms. Abbey PSM was appointed by Council to the Committee on 14 November 2018 for a term of 3 years.

Ms Abbey was appointed as Chair of the Committee by Council on 9 September 2020 for a term commencing 1 October 2020 to 14 November 2021.

#### **OPTIONS**

Council may decide not to reappoint Ms Abbey PSM which would result in Council requiring to seek expressions of interest in order to recruit an independent member. The Council may determine not to appoint Ms Abbey PSM as Chair of the Committee.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Not applicable.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Fees are paid to independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee on a per meeting basis in accordance with section 53(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Payment of fees for independent members are provided for in the 2021/22 Annual Budget.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

The Charter is available on Council's website, minutes from Committee Meetings are made available to the public through adoption of the minutes by Council, other than those matters considered confidential.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

I, Hannah Yu, have no conflicts of interest to declare in providing this recommendation to the Council.

### 8.2.3 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

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

**Department:** Community Development

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

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Community Wellbeing

#### PURPOSE

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

#### SUMMARY

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Allocates the following funding under the Community Grants and Sponsorship program:

- \$500 Sponsorship grant to Wycheproof Community Resource Centre**

**Attachments:** 1 Community Grants 2021-2022

#### DISCUSSION

The following application for funding is being put forth to Council for final decision.

This application has been assessed as per the Community Grant Guidelines as accepted by Council. The Senior Leadership Team recommends the following grant for council's consideration and final decision on the allocation.

Project:	Wycheproof Community Calendar 2022
Organisation:	Wycheproof Community Resource Centre
Amount Applied:	\$500
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$500
Full project cost:	\$2,217.20
Project Description:	The Wycheproof Community Calendar is a publication that is produced annually by the Wycheproof Community Resource Centre as a way of promoting the local community as a place to visit, live, work and play.
Project Benefit:	The Calendar will allow community members to be more connected to the events that are happening in the town, and any proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go to the Wycheproof Community Resource Centre to support the not-for-profit work that they do.

**RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable

**OPTIONS**

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

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Manager of Community Services team engaged with applicant.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable

**COLLABORATION**

Not applicable

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

This application for the 2021/22 Financial Year from the \$20,000 allocation for Community Grants allocation. (see attached Community Grants 2021-2022 Council Report)

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

Not applicable

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 and Long-Term Community Vision.  
Community Grant Guidelines.  
Community Engagement Policy.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

**Community Grants, Sponsorship & Sustainability Fund****2021-2022**

Organisation	Type	Date received	Amount in Application	Recommended \$
Charlton Probus Club	Small Equipment Grant	22/06/2021	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Charlton Golf Club	Sponsorship	29/06/2021	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
North Central LLEN	Sponsorship	11/06/2021	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Watchem Development Association	Project Support Grant	6/07/2021	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Donald Friends & Neighbours	Small Equipment Grant	14/07/2021	\$ 933.00	\$ 933.00
Wycheproof Mens Shed	Small Equipment Grant	13.8.21	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Wycheproof Caravan Park	Small Equipment Grant	11.8.21	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Charlton Rotary Club	Sponsorship	20.8.21	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Wycheproof Community Resource Centre	Sponsorship	20.8.22	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
				\$ 7,533.00

**2021-2022****Sustainability Fund**

Watchem Development Association		23/07/2021	\$ 8,090.00	\$ 8,090.00
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## 8.2.4 BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION STRATEGY AND PLAN

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

**Department:** Community Development

**File No:** EM/13/20

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Built and Natural Environment

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and endorse this Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Plan to be made available for public community consultation.

### SUMMARY

Buloke Shire Council has developed a 10-year Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Plan (the Strategy), which is a clear, concise and actionable plan for implementation into the Council and community. Ndevr Environmental was engaged to gather information and build the evidence base to inform the Strategy.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the draft Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Strategy and Plan and make available for community consultation.

**Attachments:**

- 1 Buloke Shire Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Plan - September 2021
- 2 Buloke Shire Climate Action Plan 2021

### DISCUSSION

Climate change can have direct and indirect impacts on our environment, economy and people. These impacts can be in the form of both risks and opportunities arising from physical impacts, or transitional impacts (from the process of adjusting to a changing climate and a low carbon economy).

The works undertaken by Ndevr Environmental follow through previous works undertaken by Buloke Shire Council.

General projection for climate scenarios in Buloke that we can expect are:

- Average temperature increases across all seasons
- Increase in the number of extreme temperatures
- Reduced annual rainfall
- Increase in heavy rainfall intensity
- Increased evaporation
- Reduced humidity and frosts

The wide-reaching impacts associated with Climate Change present an adaptation challenge for the Buloke Shire. Plenty of opportunity is also present in this adaptation challenge. Innovating new ways to

achieve outcomes with a softer touch on the planet, adapting to a climate with more extremes, enhancing renewable options and understanding the combined community approach needed for the long-term risk reduction.

The community survey and internal discussion with Ndevr, identified risks and opportunities under the themes of people, natural resources, built environment, economy and council operations.

Climate mitigation and adaptation actions have been identified to reduce Buloke Shire Council's corporate and community climate risks and enhance climate-related opportunities. Climate change mitigation refers to measures to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while adaptation refers to measures to adjust to current and expected impacts of climate change. Mitigating climate change will help to avoid future climate change scenarios and adaptation will help manage the effects of climate change impacts that are unavoidable.

Actions have been categorised into 13 goals for climate action:

- Integrate climate into Council operations;
- Robust emissions measurement;
- Ongoing emergency management;
- Waste and landfill emissions reductions;
- Council building improvements;
- Community building improvements;
- Energy security and technology switching;
- Low emission transport;
- Transport infrastructure improvements;
- Improve septic tank management;
- Enhance biodiversity, conservation and revegetation;
- Adaptive agriculture; and
- Shared community vision

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

Federal Government - The Paris Agreement

State Government - Victoria's *Climate Change Act 2017*

Victoria's *Climate Change Strategy 2021-2025* has set interim targets to reduce the state's emissions from 2005 levels by 28-33% for 2025 and 45-50% for 2030

Local Government - The *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

The delivery of a Buloke Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Strategy and the implementation of actionable plans is a key strategy in the Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 and is deliverable under the Year 1 Annual Plan.

#### **OPTIONS**

Council could elect to not put this document out for consultation at this point if Council decides it needs to be further refined.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Strategy contains a high-level Action Plan that outlines achievable actions categorised into 13 goals for climate action.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Consultations with Councillors, the community and key partners to identify key themes and priorities.

In April Ndevr organise a Stakeholder Consultation –Community Forum via zoom. Some Councillors were present including a community representative and council staff.

An online survey was also organised and advertised through our Facebook pages and website. We received 39 responses from the community.

### **INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Council has many roles in the delivery of the Action Plan including:

- Leader. Planning and providing direction
- Provider. Delivering services and projects
- Partner. Forming partnerships with other stakeholders in the interest of the community
- Facilitator. Bringing groups and interested parties together
- Supporter. To support and advocate for the community
- Regulator. Regulating some activities through legislation

### **COLLABORATION**

The Gap Analysis involved a review of existing BSC data in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including relevant plans and strategies, and conducted a comparison with best practice and latest climate science.

Ndevr Environmental also facilitated a Climate Risk workshop to the BSC project team to present initial findings from the gap analysis and to build capacity within BSC and ensure collaboration in the identification of climate risks and actions specific to the Shire.

Key Partner engagement were also undertaken with representatives from:

- Birchip Cropping Group
- Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
- Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Sustainability Victoria
- South-East Mallee Landcare
- Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)

### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The outlined actions contained in the Strategy and Plan will utilise internal staff as resourcing. Other actions that require investment and that don't rely on staff or collaborative partnerships will be guided by Council's Financial Plan and Annual Budgeting.

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

#### **Federal Government**

The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which seeks to avoid a global temperature increase of more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and ideally keep them below 1.5°C. Under the Paris Agreement, countries must set climate change targets. Australia currently has a target to achieve between 26-28% emissions reduction on 2005 levels by 2030. This target is ranked in line with a <3°C temperature increase of 1.

#### **State Government**

*Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017* and *The Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)* identifies several overarching governance principles which create obligations for councils in the context of climate change.

### **COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Municipal Flood Emergency Plan

Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025

Municipal Heat Health Plan

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

This report is brought to open Council to ensure transparency of decisions and budgetary processes.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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



**Report for  
Buloke's Climate Change  
Mitigation & Adaptation  
Strategy & Plan**

**October 21**

## Buloke's Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Strategy & Plan

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### VERSION CONTROL RECORD

Version	Date	Author/Editor	Reviewed by	Description of Change
vA.0	4.06.2021	Juliana Bedggood	Hannah Meade, Jacinta Young	Draft report
vA.1	12.08.2021	Juliana Bedggood	Jacinta Young	Final report incorporating BSC feedback from draft
vA.2	17.08.2021	Juliana Bedggood	NA	Edit to Figure 18 for relevance
vA.3	4.10.2021	Juliana Bedggood	NA	Updated Action Table that Buloke completed

# Buloke's Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Strategy & Plan

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FINAL

# Buloke’s Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Strategy & Plan

## Executive Summary

Buloke Shire Council (BSC) aims to develop a 10-year Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Plan (the Strategy), a clear, concise and actionable plan for implementation into the Council and community. Ndevr Environmental was engaged to gather information and build the evidence base to inform the Strategy.

An overview of the process to develop the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Plan is illustrated in Figure 1, highlighting the objective of this project. This report constitutes the final deliverable of this project and provides detailed findings from the works conducted by Ndevr Environmental, including a review of relevant documents and past projects, consultations with Councillors, the community and key partners, and desktop research on best practice. These findings were synthesised into recommendations for inclusions and priorities for the Strategy.



Figure 1: Overview of process to develop the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Plan, and the objective of this project.

Climate change can have **direct** and **indirect** impacts on our environment, economy and people. These impacts can be in the form of both **risks** and **opportunities** arising from **physical** impacts, or **transitional** impacts (from the process of adjusting to a changing climate and a low carbon economy). Risks and opportunities were identified for Buloke Shire under the themes of people, natural resources, built environment, economy and council operations.

Climate mitigation and adaptation actions have been identified to reduce BSC’s corporate and community climate risks and enhance climate-related opportunities. Climate change **mitigation** refers to measures to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while **adaptation** refers to measures to adjust to current and expected impacts of climate change. Mitigating climate change will help to avoid future climate change scenarios and adaptation will help manage the effects of climate change impacts that are unavoidable.

A high-level mitigation and adaptation plan has been recommended for BSC’s consideration in Table 1. Actions have been categorised into **13 goals** for climate action: integrate climate into Council operations; robust emissions measurement; ongoing emergency management; waste and landfill emissions reductions; Council building improvements; community building improvements; energy security and technology switching; low emission transport; transport infrastructure improvements; improve septic tank management; enhance biodiversity, conservation and revegetation; adaptive agriculture; and shared community vision. Further detail on actions is provided in sections 7 and 8.

Table 1: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan Completed by Buloke

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Integrate climate into Council operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include climate scenario and risk profile in Councillor briefing packs and staff induction</li> <li>• Ensure climate mitigation and adaptation is represented in all relevant documents, policies and procedures – This can be guided through the Climate Emergency declaration process</li> <li>• Develop climate mitigation and adaptation guidance through the local planning scheme – more specific guidance has been provided in the report</li> <li>• Provide professional development training to planning staff on how to influence customers to design climate ready developments</li> <li>• Use the How Well Are We Adapting tool to monitor impacts of climate change on Council services and develop responses</li> </ul>	9, 17, 18, 25	Leader, Regulator	Chief Executive Officer  Community Development  Works and Technical Services  Corporate Services  Community Development	Update relevant documentation in line with review/renewal periods	BSC internal staff resourcing Shared resourcing with WAGA for the How Well Are We Adapting tool New funding required for professional development (approx. \$500pp)	Number of staff to complete training
<b>Robust emissions measurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure baseline corporate and community emissions in line with robust standards</li> <li>• Set a net zero emissions target and interim targets</li> <li>• Annual measurement and reporting</li> </ul>	16, 19, 30, 39	Leader	Community Development	<b>Immediate:</b> emissions profile <b>Quick win:</b> set a net zero target by 2030 Interim targets can be done upon completion of profiling <b>Ongoing:</b> reporting	New funding required to establish measurement and reporting (approx. \$25k for external support of corporate & community profiling and target setting)	Annual reporting

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Ongoing emergency management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with the MEMP – review and update regularly</li> <li>Include planning for alternative transport routes in MEMP and protection of shelters</li> <li>Ongoing community education campaigns and training on MEMP</li> <li>Assist community groups and businesses with business continuity planning during times of emergency or extreme events</li> </ul>	4, 7, 8, 18, 24, 27	Leader, Provider	Community Development  Partner with all responsible entities identified in MEMP  Potential partnership with ADAPT Loddon Mallee for continuity planning	Update relevant documentation in line with review/renewal periods (MEMP currently being updated)  Ongoing: community support	BSC internal staff resourcing	Number of organisations received continuity training
<b>Waste and landfill emissions reductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop composting program to divert green and food organic waste from landfill</li> <li>Develop Container Deposit Scheme and Soft Plastic Recycling for the region</li> <li>Investigate feasibility of recycle and/or compost processing plant in Buloke. Explore partnership options such as BCG for FOGO circular economy</li> <li>Investigate feasibility of Emissions Reduction Fund landfill gas capture project and implement if successful</li> </ul>	16, 19, 39	Leader, Provider, Partner	Works and Technical Services  Partnerships: BCG	Begin planning of a composting program, Container Deposit Scheme and soft plastic recycling program in <b>FY22</b>  Roll out in <b>FY23</b> and continue annually  Recycle/compost plant feasibility in <b>FY22</b>  ERF feasibility in <b>FY25</b>	New funding (approx. \$30k for each feasibility study, potentially large costs for program roll out)  Consider partnering with neighbouring councils for programs (as with the mobile glass crushing unit)	Tonnes of waste deposited to landfill versus organic and recycling sites  Number of households or businesses participating in programs  Meeting Recycling Victoria Policy targets

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Council building improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct facility assessments, targeting high emitting or at-risk Council-owned facilities first</li> <li>Identify specific reduction/adaptation measures for each facility and implement</li> <li>Keep track of assessments and improvements in line with asset management</li> <li>Sustainable Building Policy for new buildings and refurbishments</li> </ul>	4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 20, 21, 22, 32, 34	Leader	Works and Technical Services	<p><b>Ongoing, starting FY22</b> (can be done simultaneously with emissions profiling)</p> <p>Internal Sustainable Building Policy endorsed by FY23</p>	<p>BSC internal staff resourcing</p> <p>New funding (approx. \$20k for external support with assessments and opportunity identification)</p> <p>Draw upon Sustainable Building Policy developed in other councils</p>	<p>Number of buildings assessed, and improvements implemented</p> <p>Reduction in BSC emissions</p>
<b>Community building improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage community to participate in schemes and programs that help them to understand their energy bills and seek advice/funding on how to reduce energy consumption and make their buildings more resilient</li> <li>Advocate for equitable access to insurance and policies which include climate considerations</li> </ul>	4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 20, 21, 22, 32, 34	Supporter, Facilitator	Community Development	<p><b>Quick win:</b> provide links to existing schemes on website, send newsletter (BSC could provide guidance to community groups during this process)</p> <p>Provide submission to DELWP on ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan in <b>2021</b> regarding insurance</p>	<p>BSC internal staff resourcing</p>	<p>Number of households and residents participating in programs</p> <p>Community emissions reductions</p>

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Energy security and technology switching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for suitable transmission and distribution infrastructure to support renewable energy projects</li> <li>Complete Microgrid Feasibility Study and implement upon successful study</li> <li>Participate in CVGA project for getting communities off gas</li> </ul>	7, 10, 29	Supporter, Partner, Provider	Community Development CVGA to lead Microgrids and transitioning from projects	Provide submission to DELWP on ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan in <b>2021</b> regarding transmission  Microgrid Study: <b>2021-2024</b>  CVGA project participation dependent on CVGA new strategy	BSC internal staff resourcing and CVGA contributions  Microgrid rollout approx. \$1M	Roll-out of microgrid  Approval of new transmission lines  Sign CVGA project contract
<b>Low emission transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in CVGA project which aims to help member councils to electrify fleet by 2030 – If this does not go ahead, Buloke should conduct its own feasibility study and transition planning</li> <li>Update relevant council documents to prioritise zero emission vehicles</li> <li>Raise community awareness of EVs (e.g., through visibility of BSC's own transition) and encourage community to take up State packages (e.g., grant for EV purchase)</li> <li>Continue to assess community EV use and advocate for State to (co-)fund chargers</li> <li>Collaborate with the Mallee Hydrogen Technology Cluster to identify opportunities as they arise</li> </ul>	29, 32, 34, 38	Partner, Provider	CVGA to lead council project  Vic Government transport programs - BSC to advocate	<b>Quick win:</b> Promote opportunities provided by the State  Update relevant documentation in line with review/ renewal periods (prioritise low emission vehicles in fleet policy)  CVGA project participation dependent on CVGA new strategy	BSC internal staff resourcing for document reviews, advocating and CVGA contributions  Feasibility and transition plan ~\$30k  New funding (~\$40k-\$80k for zero emission light vehicle)  Grant/co-fund opportunities	Sign CVGA project contract  Increase in number of EVs registered in Buloke

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Transport infrastructure improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update asset management in line with mitigating climate risks</li> <li>Advocate for public transport infrastructure</li> <li>Advocate for rail freight</li> </ul>	8, 27, 32	Supporter, Partner	Partnership: VicRoads, neighbouring councils  Chief Executive Officer and Works and Technical Services	Update relevant documentation in line with review/renewal periods  <b>FY24-25 and ongoing:</b> advocating	BSC internal staff resourcing for document review and advocating	New rail incorporated in State planning  Release of new asset management framework
<b>Improve septic tank management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community education on correct septic tank management to reduce risk of health and financial risks to community</li> <li>Increase frequency of inspections</li> <li>Advocate for improved domestic wastewater management in townships currently without formal sewerage systems</li> </ul>	1	Leader	Community Development Partnership with Landcare	<b>Immediate:</b> devise septic tank management education program  Update relevant management documentation in line with review/renewal periods	BSC internal staff resourcing for community engagement and advocating	Number of inspections conducted  Percentage of compliant systems  Number of complaints
<b>Enhance biodiversity, conservation and revegetation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological mapping and planning</li> <li>Continue use of tools and tree asset management from CVGA project</li> <li>Help promote existing initiatives</li> </ul>	1, 11, 12, 13, 14	Leader, Provider, Partner	Community Development Partnership with Landcare and Traditional Custodians	<b>Ongoing:</b> CVGA tools and promoting initiatives  Partnership for ecological mapping, planning and monitoring by <b>FY23</b> and ongoing	BSC internal staff resourcing for tree asset management  Use resourcing from partnerships	Number of trees planted in Buloke region (by Council and other groups)

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Adaptive agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise educational events (e.g., Kiss the Ground movie event)</li> <li>Showcase existing wins</li> <li>Collaborate with State and farming/agriculture groups to provide co-funding opportunities to small farmers that are not eligible for other schemes</li> </ul>	4, 15, 23	Provider, Facilitator	Community Development  Partnership with DJPR, BCG, Landcare	<p><b>Ongoing:</b> annual events and promote events organized by others</p> <p><b>Quick win:</b> Showcase existing wins through Council communications and events</p> <p>Provide submission to DELWP on ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan in <b>2021</b> regarding small business access to schemes</p>	BSC internal staff resourcing for community campaigns]	<p>Number of participants at events</p> <p>Number of small farmers with approved funding</p>
<b>Shared community vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a communication strategy to encourage positive discussion and acceptance of climate change</li> <li>Encourage community networking through participation in existing programs</li> <li>Facilitate community participation in grassroots educational campaigns (e.g., climate chats for schools)</li> </ul>	Help to gain support for all risks/ops	Provider, Supporter, Facilitator	Community Development  Partnership with DELWP, ADAPT Loddon Mallee	<p><b>Immediate:</b> communication strategy</p> <p><b>Quick win:</b> Promote opportunities for networking (see report)</p> <p><b>FY23 and ongoing:</b> grassroots education programs</p>	BSC internal staff resourcing for community engagement	Number of participants in programs/ attending events

## 1 Introduction

Buloke Shire Council (BSC) aims to develop a 10-year Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy (the Strategy) which will include a clear, concise and actionable plan for implementation into the Council and community. Ndevr Environmental was engaged to gather information and build the evidence base to inform the Strategy.

This project included an initial gap analysis of relevant documents and past projects, followed by consultations with Councillors, the community and key partners to identify key themes and priorities. These findings were synthesised into recommendations for inclusions and priorities for the Strategy.

This report is structured as follows:

- **Gap Analysis.** Presents the key findings of the gap analysis.
- **Buloke Shire Context.** Provides an overview of the Buloke region and outlines the 2030 climate scenario for the Buloke region and presents Council and community emissions profiles.
- **Climate Risks and Opportunities.** Provides an overview of the climate risk frameworks and outlines the climate-related risks and opportunities for the Buloke region and Council as identified in previous works and through this project. Each risk and opportunity are given a priority score and identifies Council's role.
- **Consultation Findings.** Key findings from the community survey and stakeholder consultations, identifying key focus areas.
- **Mitigation and Adaptation Options.** Drawing on previous works, consultations and best practice, options for mitigation and adaptation are discussed for key themes: People, Natural Resources, Built Environment, Economy and Council Operations.

## 2 Strategic Context

### 2.1 Federal Government

The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which seeks to avoid a global temperature increase of more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and ideally keep them below 1.5°C. Under the Paris Agreement, countries must set climate change targets. Australia currently has a target to achieve between 26-28% emissions reduction on 2005 levels by 2030. This target is ranked in line with a <3°C temperature increase<sup>1</sup>.

The Australian Government has expressed confidence that it will meet the Paris targets. However, Ndevr Environmental has been tracking Australia's performance against its commitments under the Paris Agreement. Ndevr Environmental's quarterly emissions projections show that overall, Australia is not on track to meet the Paris targets that were set, with the exception of emissions trends during COVID-19. COVID-19 cannot and should not be viewed as a climate change mitigation strategy and trends during COVID-19 are expected to be temporary only.

Nonetheless, Federal recovery plans, as well as State budgets announced in 2020, include various allocations and plans for cleantech and renewable initiatives. Further, the Australian Government is rolling out its Technology Investment Roadmap which is a strategy to accelerate development and commercialisation of low emissions technologies. Annual low emissions statements are key milestones of the roadmap process. These statements prioritise low emissions technologies with potential to deliver the strongest economic and emissions reduction outcomes for Australia. The first Low Emissions Technology Statement prioritises clean hydrogen, energy storage, low carbon materials (steel and aluminium), carbon capture and storage, and soil

<sup>1</sup> Climate Action Tracker. (2020). <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/australia/>

carbon. Federal and State government investments will help to drive a low carbon economy which BSC could harness for its own agenda.

Given the increasing momentum towards taking positive climate action, and the likelihood of stronger policy, Buloke Shire Council is wise to be taking steps towards mitigation and adaptation.

## 2.2 State Government

Victoria's *Climate Change Act 2017* (the Act) provides Victoria with a legislative foundation to manage climate change risks, maximise the opportunities that arise from decisive action, and drive Victoria's transition to a net zero emissions, climate resilient community and economy. The Act sets out a clear policy framework and a pathway to 2050 that is consistent with the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The Act requires a Climate Change Strategy every five years to set out how Victoria will meet its emissions reduction targets, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and transition to a net zero emissions future. Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2021-2025 has set interim targets to reduce the state's emissions from 2005 levels by 28-33% for 2025 and 45-50% for 2030. The Strategy has also prepared emissions reduction pledges for each of the 7 sectors: energy, transport, agriculture, waste, industrial, land use and whole-of-government.

In addition, the Act introduces system-based planning for adaptation, focusing on key systems that are either vulnerable to the inevitable impacts of climate change, or are essential to ensure Victoria is prepared. Under the Act, Adaptation Action Plans are required to be developed every 5 years, following the release of the Climate Change Strategy, for 7 systems: built environment, natural environment, education and training, human and health services, primary production, transport, and water. The first five-yearly Adaptation Action Plans will take effect from 2022.

BSC should both be guided by the above regulations and strategies as well as identify opportunities to harness or to collaborate with the State.

## 2.3 Local Government

Victoria's *Climate Change Act 2017* stipulates the following regarding climate change and decision-makers.

Subsection 17(2) states:

In considering climate change, the relevant decision-maker must have regard to:

- a. the potential impacts of climate change relevant to the decision or action; and
- b. the potential contribution to the State's greenhouse gas emissions of the decision or action; and
- c. any guidelines issued by the Minister under section 18.

Subsection 17(3) states:

- a. In having regard to the potential impacts of climate change, relevant considerations are:
- b. potential biophysical impacts; and
- c. potential long and short term economic, environmental, health and other social impacts; and
- d. potential beneficial and detrimental impacts; and
- e. potential direct and indirect impacts; and
- f. potential cumulative impacts.

The *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)* identifies several overarching governance principles which create obligations for councils in the context of climate change, including:

- Under 9(2)(c) Councils are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.
- Under 9(2)(b) Councils are required to give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- Under 9(2)(h) regional, state, and national plans and policies are to be taken into account during Council's strategic planning.
- Under 9(2)(i) Council must ensure its decisions, actions, and information are transparent.

Councils have a long history of environmental action. Below is a sample of Victorian councils' renewable energy and carbon actions and commitments:

- Bayside City Council: Carbon Neutral since 2020
- Brimbank City Council: 50% reduction in corporate greenhouse emissions by 2023
- City of Ballarat: 100% Renewable by 2025; Zero Emissions by 2025
- City of Darebin: Carbon Neutral since 2020 for both operations and the community (finalising its certification as of March 2021)
- City of Greater Geelong: 100% renewable electricity supply for all city owned and operated buildings and streetlights by 2025; City-managed operations to be Carbon Neutral by 2025; City-owned light fleet vehicles to be powered by zero-emission sources by 2030
- City of Melbourne: 100% renewable energy from 2019; Carbon Neutral since 2012 for council operations
- City of Port Phillip: Zero net emissions by 2020
- City of Yarra: Carbon Neutral since 2012; 100% Renewable electricity since 2019
- Frankston City Council: Zero net emissions by 2025
- Glen Eira City Council: Net zero emissions from operations by 2025
- Hepburn Council: Carbon Neutral by 2021
- Hobsons Bay: Zero net GHG emissions from Council's activities by 2020
- Manningham: 100% Carbon Neutral by 2020
- Maribyrnong City Council: Net zero corporate emissions since 2015
- Moonee Valley: Zero net emissions by 2020
- Moreland City Council: 100% renewable energy since 2019; Carbon Neutral for council's operations since 2012
- Mornington Peninsula Council: Carbon Neutral by 2021
- Mount Alexander Shire: Carbon Neutral by 2025
- Strathbogie Shire: Zero net emissions by 2025

### 3 Gap Analysis

The Gap Analysis involved a review of existing BSC data in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including relevant plans and strategies, and conducted a comparison with best practice and latest climate science. Documents reviewed included:

- AECOM IRVACAP (2014)
- NCCMA Climate Change Plan (2015)
- Mallee NRM Plan (2016)
- DELWP Regional Adaptation Snapshot – Loddon Mallee (2017)
- Buloke’s Greenhouse Reduction Plan and Inventory (2018)
- Buloke’s current and planned projects
- Heat Health Plan
- Buloke Council Plan 2017-21
- Buloke Procurement Policy 2020
- Loddon Mallee Renewable Energy Roadmap
- BSC CCP M5 2005
- BSC Assets 2020
- Solar on council buildings 2019

Ndevr Environmental also facilitated a Climate Risk workshop to the BSC project team to present initial findings from the gap analysis and to build capacity within BSC and ensure collaboration in the identification of climate risks and actions specific to the Shire.

Key gaps identified include:

- **Climate Scenario.** There had been a few previous works completed exploring the future climate scenario of the Buloke region and associated risks but none since 2017. While there has been no deviation from general projections (e.g., increased average temperatures, reduced rainfall, increased rainfall intensity leading to flooding, etc), Ndevr Environmental presented an updated climate scenario outlook in the Gap Analysis report and is presented in section 4.1.
- **Emissions Profile.** Corporate and community emissions were assessed in financial 2003/04 and again in 2016/17. Update on corporate and community emissions profiles in line with best practice standards and continue to measure and monitor annually.
- **Climate Risks.** Physical risks for the Buloke region were well identified in previous works. However, consideration of additional climate-related risks (i.e., transitional) and opportunities were lacking. Section 5 aggregates and synthesises the climate risks identified in previous works and those identified in this project.
- **Actions.** Actions planned or previously implemented relate to some of the climate-related risks and opportunities. However, there are further opportunities to mitigate or capitalise on both the existing and newly identified risks and opportunities. Actions need to be further refined to ensure they are S.M.A.R.T (i.e., specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based).

## 4 Buloke Shire Context

### 4.1 Buloke 2030 Climate Scenario

A 2030 climate scenario for Buloke is provided in Table 1 based on the Victorian Climate Change Projections (2019) regional snapshots for Loddon, Wimmera and Mallee. The Loddon region is based on historical Bureau of Meteorology station data from Bendigo, while the Wimmera and Mallee scenarios are based on Horsham and Mildura, respectively. The climate scenarios are based on medium (RCP4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenarios.

General findings for climate scenario projections for Buloke Shire in 2030 are consistent across the Victorian snapshots and previous works such as the AECOM IRVACAP (2014), NCCMA Climate Change Plan (2015), Mallee NRM Plan (2016) and the DELWP Regional Adaptation Snapshot – Loddon Mallee (2017).

Overall, Buloke Shire can expect:

- Average temperature increases across all seasons
- Increase in the number of extreme temperatures
- Reduced annual rainfall
- Increase in heavy rainfall intensity
- Increased evaporation
- Reduced humidity and frosts

Based on the above variables, extreme events such as floods and fires are also likely to increase. Key rivers in the Buloke region run through the major towns of Donald and Charlton and floodplains and make these towns particularly susceptible to flooding. Since 2010, Donald has experience 3 flooding events with a major flooding event which occurred in 2011. The 2011 event impacted local and state roads, power, residential and commercial housing, community facilities (e.g., swimming pool, sports club), and agricultural land. Charlton has experienced recent major flooding including September 2010, November 2010 and January 2011. In January 2011 nearly all of the town was flooded including houses, businesses, emergency service stations (i.e., ambulance, police and fire), hospital and health centre, aged care facility and schools. In addition, a major flood event occurred in Birchip in 2018, causing \$10.8 million in damage. Since most of the land use in Buloke is for agriculture, bush fires are unlikely. However, farms can experience fires to grass and crops; in some previous instances, farm machine equipment has exploded and caused fires.



Figure 2: Extent of Charlton 2011 Flood Event (source: [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au))



Figure 3: Extent of Donald 2011 Flood Event (source: [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au))

Table 2: 2030 Climate Scenarios Across the Mallee, Wimmera and Loddon Regions

Climate variable	Mallee Historical (1986-2005)	Mallee Projected Change (2020-2039)		Wimmera Historical (1986-2005)	Wimmera Projected Change (2020-2039)		Loddon Historical (1986-2005)	Loddon Projected Change (2020-2039)	
		RCP4.5	RCP8.5		RCP4.5	RCP8.5		RCP4.5	RCP8.5
Maximum Temperature (°C)	23.9	25 (increase by an average of 1.1)	25.2 (increase by an average of 1.3)	21.4	22.5 (increase by an average of 1.1)	22.7 (increase by an average of 1.3)	20.7	21.7 (increase by an average of 1)	22.1 (increase by an average of 1.4)
Minimum Temperature (°C)	10.3	11 (increase by an average of 0.7)	11.1 (increase by an average of 0.8)	8	8.7 (increase by an average of 0.7)	8.8 (increase by an average of 0.8)	7.6	8.3 (increase by an average of 0.7)	8.4 (increase by an average of 0.8)
Rainfall (mm)	278.5	261.79 (Decrease by an average of 6%)	253.43 (Decrease by an average of 9%)	403.4	371.13 (Decrease by an average of 8%)	363.06 (decrease by an average of 10%)	499.1	479.14 (Decrease by an average of 4%)	449.19 (Decrease by an average of 10%)
Relative Humidity (%)	NA	-1.9	-2.4	NA	-2.0	-2.4	NA	-1.5	-2.7
Pan Evaporation (%)	NA	14.4	17.7	NA	13.3	14.9	NA	11.3	15.3
Solar Radiation (%)	NA	1.6	1.3	NA	1.7	1.6	NA	1.7	2.0
Surface Wind Speed (%)	NA	-1.3	-1.5	NA	-1.0	-1.7	NA	-1.1	-1.4
Extreme Daily Maximum Temperature (°C)	NA	1°C average increase	0.8°C average increase	NA	1.0 average increase	1.4 average increase	NA	1.0 average increase	0.7 average increase
Extreme Daily Rainfall (%)	NA	1%	-2%	NA	-2.0	-4.0	NA	-6.0	-7.0

## 4.2 Corporate and Community Emissions Profile

Under the Cities for Climate Protection program, BSC's corporate and community emissions for financial year 2003/04 were assessed. BSC's corporate and community emissions were assessed again for financial year 2016/17 under Sustainability Victoria's Local Government Energy Saver (LGES) Program. The results have been captured in Table 3 and Table 4, showing a comparison between the two assessment periods.

The greatest source of corporate emissions is from closed and open landfills. While waste data was not captured for FY17, it is likely to be captured in the landfill emissions category if all Council waste goes to Council landfills. There may be some overlap between the waste data captured for the community emissions and the landfill data captured for corporate emissions.

Stationary fuels consist of diesel and ULP used for plant equipment, as well as LPG. This represents the second greatest source of corporate emissions, followed by emissions from Council buildings and leased assets which is mainly electricity use.

For the community emissions profile, stationary energy is the largest emissions source and mainly consists of electricity use across the community. The profile excludes emissions associated with land/biological activities from agriculture but includes fuel and electricity use.

Table 3: Buloke corporate emissions profile

Emission Category	tCO <sub>2</sub> -e 2003/04	Percentage of total emissions	tCO <sub>2</sub> -e 2016/17	Percentage of total emissions
Council Buildings	819	30%	671.47	17%
Stationary Fuel	Not captured	NA	959.72	25%
Vehicle Fleet	1,204	44%	430.34	11%
Landfills	Not captured	NA	1,535	40%
Streetlighting	669	25%	192.86	5%
Water	Not captured	NA	17.77	<1%
Waste	39	1%	Not captured	NA
Leased Assets	Not captured	NA	50.17	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,731</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,854</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4: Buloke community emissions profile

Emission Category	2003/04 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e	Percentage of total emissions	2016/17 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e	Percentage of total emissions
Stationary energy	93,005	75%	108,837	62%
Transportation	25,988	21%	57,192	33%
Waste	5,658	4%	4,372	3%
Wastewater	Not captured	Not captured	4,053	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,651</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>174,454</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 5 Climate Risk and Opportunities

As a public sector organisation, BSC is bound by the *Public Administration Act 2004 (Vic)* which highlights that public authority directors have duties of care and diligence to consider climate risk in their activities. Such duties are at least as stringent as those of private corporation directors. Public authority directors are increasingly likely to be closely scrutinised and held to account for climate risk management. More information can be found in [CDP publication](#): Public Authority Director’s Duty & Climate Change (2019).

The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) has been embraced as the best practice for assessment and disclosure of climate change-related risks and opportunities. The TCFD framework is illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 4: TCFD climate-related risk and opportunities framework

While the TCFD standards were initially developed with financial disclosures from the private sector in mind, there are indications that the public sector is now moving to embrace the concepts and approaches contained in the TCFD Recommendations. TCFD is therefore a helpful and relevant framework in considering how Buloke Shire can meet its obligations with respect to assessing and managing climate change-related risks and opportunities.

The TCFD framework classify climate related risks/opportunities into two main categories:

- **Physical:** Risks and opportunities arising from direct or indirect physical impacts associated with rising aggregate global temperatures. These physical risks can be event driven (acute) or longer-term shifts (chronic) in climate patterns. Physical risks may have financial implications for organisations, such as direct damage to assets and indirect impacts from supply chain disruption. For example, direct impacts to the built environment from increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather or more gradual changes like rising sea levels.
- **Transitional:** Risks and opportunities arising from the process of adjusting to a changing climate including the transition to a low carbon economy. Activities include policy, legal, technology, or market changes that may (or may not) occur in the processes of adjusting to a decarbonised economy. An example of a transitional risk is a carbon price, which therefore increases operating costs of an asset or lowers demand for high-carbon products, and therefore results in a situation where some assets are “stranded”.

Both transition and physical risks will affect an organisation’s ability to achieve its objectives.

According to Buloke’s Council Plan (2017-2021), BSC’s key objectives are:

- Deliver services in a financially sustainable way
- Build a healthy and active community
- Diversify and enhance the local economy
- Respond to and enhance built and natural environments
- Support Councillors, staff, volunteers and the community to make informed and transparent decisions

Discussions with the BSC project team in the climate risk workshop confirmed the physical risks identified in previous works and identified transitional risks and climate-related opportunities. All identified risks and opportunities have been summarised in Table 2 beginning overleaf. Due to the nature of climate-related risks, horizons for consideration will have to extend to 10, 20 and 30-year timeframes to fully capture the potential impacts. The current Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Plan will apply to the next 10 years (to 2030). While the 2030 scenario may not be as extreme as longer timeframes, it is important to plan for the future. It is likely that the identified climate-related risks and opportunities will manifest to some extent over the next decade.

Each risk and opportunity has been given a rating (low, medium, high or extreme) based on its likelihood and consequence (see Figure 2). These ratings have been amalgamated from previous works and confirmed with BSC. Note, that in the case of climate-related opportunities, the consequence will be positive. The risk ratings will inform recommendations for, and prioritisation of, mitigation and adaptation actions.

	Consequences				
Likelihood	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Almost Certain	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Extreme
Moderate	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

Figure 5: Likelihood vs consequence matrix adopted in AECOM (2014)

Table 5: Summary of climate-related risks and opportunities for Buloke Shire

Category	#	Risk/Opportunity	Risk Type	Rating
People	1	Health risks from increase in dust (respiratory illness) and extreme climate events (heatwaves, flooding - septic tanks in small towns, power outages)	Physical Risk	Extreme
	2	Job security & safety issues due to reduced agriculture and business productivity or physical stressors of extreme climatic events	Physical Risk	Medium
	3	Isolation risks from extreme climate events (heatwaves, flooding, power outages) - telecommunications, transport, health services, emergency services (incl evacuation)	Physical Risk	High
	4	Increased jobs for maintenance and capital works from built environment physical risks	Physical Opportunity	Medium
Built Environment	5	Damage to, or premature deterioration of, assets from increased temperatures and extreme climate events	Physical Risk	High
	6	Reduced soil moisture may impact stability of built assets	Physical Risk	Medium
	7	Extreme climate events cause disruptions to essential services (e.g., power blackouts, telecommunications)	Physical Risk	Extreme
	8	Extreme climate events reduce accessibility to transport routes, hospitals, schools, etc	Physical Risk	High
	9	Increased market valuation through resilience planning	Transitional Opportunity	Medium
	10	Energy security through micro grids and renewable energy	Transitional Opportunity	Extreme
Natural Resources	11	Reduced soil health as a result of increased average temperatures, evaporation and reduced rainfall	Physical Risk	Medium
	12	Biodiversity losses (i.e., reduced vegetation growth, influx of pest flora/fauna, reduced access to water, reduced regeneration capacity)	Physical Risk	Medium

Category	#	Risk/Opportunity	Risk Type	Rating
	13	Reduced water supply and quality due to reduced rainfall and increased evaporation, and sediment run-off (quality)	Physical Risk	High
	14	Increased visitation for nature-based tourism	Transitional Opportunity	Medium
	15	Changes in climate resulting in agricultural production for some existing crop/production systems or through the introduction of new systems (e.g., tree plantation)	Transitional Opportunity	High
Council Operations	16	Increased liability of councils (and businesses) if decisions do not take account of widely accepted climate risk	Transitional Risk	Medium
	17	Planned fire burning (i.e., fire management regimes) may alter with increase in fires	Physical Risk	Medium
	18	Extreme events may divert staff to respond to emergency work causing a backlog of routine service delivery and productivity	Physical Risk	High
	19	Enhanced emissions reporting obligations	Transitional Risk	Medium
Economy	20	Increased maintenance and capital costs of built assets	Physical Risk	High
	21	Increased operating costs for cooling due to increased temperatures and heat waves	Physical Risk	High
	22	Increased insurance costs or re-pricing of assets for flood prone areas	Transitional Risk	High
	23	Reduced productive value (particularly agriculture which is most susceptible to and greatly impacted by drought and flooding)	Physical Risk	High
	24	Work disruptions caused by extreme climate events	Physical Risk	High
	25	Increase in water treatment and extended irrigation periods	Physical Risk	High
	26	Limited access to State/Federal funding with increasing events	Physical Risk	High
	27	Reduced supply and distributive capacity for businesses in case of transport disruptions	Physical Risk	Medium
	28	Changing consumer preferences for low carbon products	Transitional Risk	Medium

Category	#	Risk/Opportunity	Risk Type	Rating
	29	Mandates/regulations resulting in stranded assets	Transitional Risk	High
	30	Increased pricing of GHG emissions or costs to comply with relevant regulations	Transitional Risk	High
	31	Costs associated with transitioning to a low carbon economy (e.g., investment in new technology)	Transitional Risk	High
	32	Increase costs of energy, fuel and raw materials	Transitional Risk	High
	33	Circular economy – input cost savings, job creation	Transitional Opportunity	High
	34	Move to more efficient buildings or transport can reduce operating costs and reduce exposure to future fossil fuel price increases – Operational savings can be used for funding further improvement (i.e., revolving energy fund)	Transitional Opportunity	High
	35	Low carbon practices or products as a competitive advantage	Transitional Opportunity	Medium
	36	Carbon farming (sequestration) to generate carbon credit units	Transitional Opportunity	High
	37	Food security could result in increased demand for local produce	Transitional Opportunity	Medium
	38	Electric Vehicle Tourism	Transitional Opportunity	Medium
	39	Reduced exposure to emissions will reduce sensitivity to carbon pricing	Transitional Opportunity	High

## 6 Consultation Findings

### 6.1 Community Survey

There were 46 responses, 6 were unusable (no responses to any questions) and an additional one was a duplicate. Hence, there were 39 responses in total. Of the 39 respondents, 82% reside within Buloke Shire and 85% work within the municipality. Reflecting the average age of the population, most respondents were over the age of 50. A breakdown of age and occupation is illustrated in the graphs below.

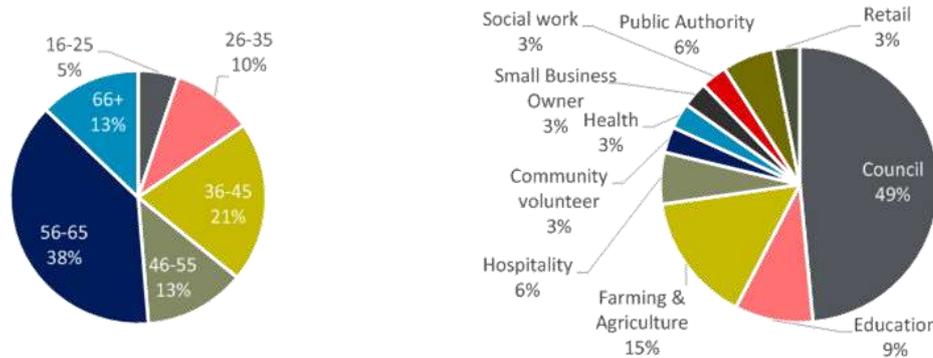


Figure 6: Breakdown of age (left) and sector of occupation (right)

The general knowledge of the causes and impacts of climate change appears to be well understood (see Figure 7), and climate change is perceived to be very important or important by 82% of respondents (see Figure 6).



Figure 8: Respondents' understanding of climate change

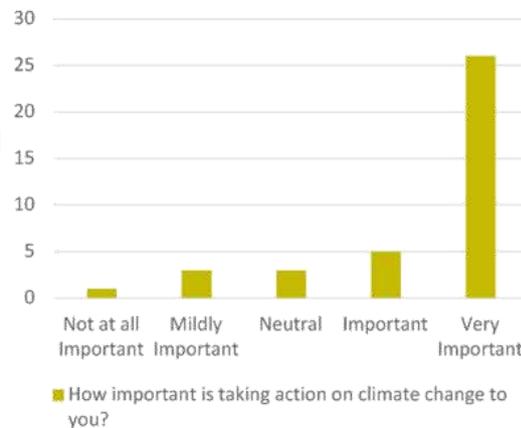


Figure 7: Respondents' perceived importance of climate change

Of the 2030 climate scenario predictions, respondents were most concerned about **increase in extreme temperature days and fire risk** and **reduced annual rainfall**. The top concerns about climate change impacts included: disruption to **essential services** (e.g., power blackouts, telecommunications); closely followed by loss of **native plants and animals**, and reduced **crop yields** or **livestock health**; followed by increase in **pests**, and **water quality and security**.

When asked about how they felt about how climate change may impact their lives, respondents were mostly concerned about the impact on their **quality of life** (e.g., health, freedom, access to resources, etc), **cost of living** and **economic viability of businesses** (particularly farming and family farms).

The above results can be used to help BSC frame messaging to the community on climate change.

The Buloke community is already making progress towards climate change mitigation and adaptation (Figure 8). To reduce their emissions, respondents have made efforts primarily towards waste reduction, improving energy efficiency, installing solar panels and making improvements to their property. To enhance their resilience to climate change, respondents have made efforts primarily towards installing rainwater tanks, planting vegetation on their property, making building improvements, and fire prevention and management actions.

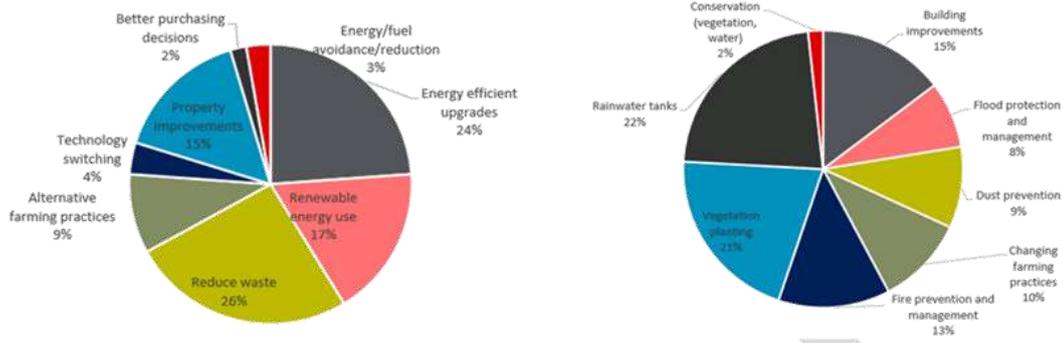


Figure 9: Current mitigation (left) and adaptation (right) actions implemented by the Buloke survey respondents

Despite efforts to reduce waste, use rainwater tanks, install solar, plant vegetation, and make improvements to their property, survey respondents still identified these as key areas they would like to receive more support in implementing (Figure 10). Improved systems for recycling and green waste were the most commonly requested actions for support, closely followed by renewable energy systems at the community level. This is evident when looking at what respondents identified as the largest barriers to mitigating and adapting to climate change: lack of systems and infrastructure (Figure 99). Funding was also identified as a key barrier.

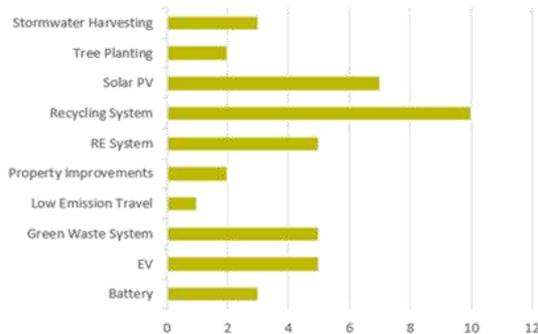


Figure 11: Actions respondents would like support in implementing

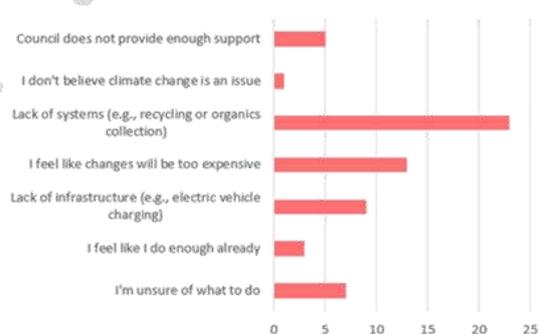


Figure 10: Barriers to implementing actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change

Ideas to improve existing systems and infrastructure included:

- **Recycling.** Soft plastic collection point. Glass collection point. Improve the transfer stations to allow the collection of more materials such as textiles, shoes, carpets etc., and have a partnership with the recyclers of such materials to collect and use them.
- **Green waste.** Turning green waste into compost and wood chips. Support use of green waste services (e.g., composting and worm farms). Composting scheme to educate and encourage composting at home.
- **Renewable energy.** Solar farms and wind turbines stations for each town, with power storage.

When asked about how BSC could best support the community to take climate action, Council leadership, promoting community collaboration and lobbying were agreed to being the most helpful (Figure 11). These are closely followed by information programs and funding schemes.

Some specific supportive actions that survey respondents have suggested under the categories are as follows:

- **Lead by example.** Replace their vehicle fleets with electric or hybrid vehicles (cars, utes, machinery etc.). Council should be capturing all food waste from their offices and composting waste.
- **Information/education.** Provide environmentally friendly tips. Support the delivery of long-term behaviour change type programs in businesses and schools in the Shire (e.g., Resource Smart Schools). Information sessions and workshops at grassroots level.
- **Funding/grant schemes.** Rate reduction for carrying out climate change activities - whether that be household rates or farm rates.
- **Lobby.** Lobby for improved rail freight to reduce the number of trucks in the area and for the return of passenger rail.

The survey responses indicate that the majority of the Buloke community are aware of, and care about, climate change.

### 6.2 Key Partner Engagement

Organisations consulted include:

- Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)
- The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)
- South-East Mallee Landcare
- Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare
- Birchip Cropping Group
- North Central Catchment Management Authority

Other Victorian Government departments provided information through email correspondence.

Discussions included key climate-related concerns for the Buloke region which Council should focus on and existing or planned programs and opportunities for BSC to collaborate or support. These discussions identified key priorities and the role of BSC. All stakeholders expressed interest in collaborating with BSC; either through financial contributions, knowledge sharing, advertising (i.e., Council to encourage community and businesses to participate in partner programs or to forward on information), or planning (e.g., strategic planning for Council or for partner).

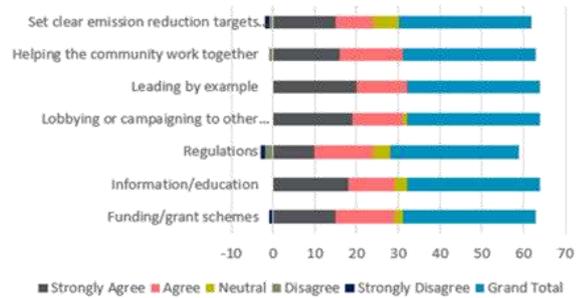


Figure 12: Desired support from Council.

Table 6: Key outcomes from consultations

Theme	Overview
Main concerns about climate change for the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme heat days or heatwaves</li> <li>• Biosecurity</li> <li>• Drought and erosion</li> <li>• Water security</li> <li>• Seasonal changes in rainfall</li> </ul>
Key priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regeneration of habitat and biodiversity</li> <li>• Ecotourism</li> <li>• Soil health</li> <li>• Integrated Water Management and alternative approaches</li> <li>• Community quality of life</li> <li>• Cost of living</li> </ul>
Focus areas for BSC action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a shared vision in the community</li> <li>• Engage youth</li> <li>• Emergency management</li> <li>• Engage Traditional Custodians</li> <li>• Draw on expertise and resources of others</li> <li>• Encourage long-term scenario planning and participation in R&amp;D</li> <li>• Ensuring climate is considered in all Council decision-making</li> </ul>
BSC role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Messaging – communicate and celebrate existing wins of Council, community groups and businesses</li> <li>• Education programs – support or facilitate the delivery of education programs or events</li> <li>• Gain access to Federal and State funding (e.g., whole or matched funding programs offered from State and Federal governments such as the SV energy efficiency and solar for community facilities)</li> <li>• Emergency management and planning. Where do people go in times of property damage?</li> <li>• Advocate to State and Federal governments, utility providers (e.g., transmission lines)</li> <li>• Partner – with regional cities (e.g., Mildura, Swan Hill, Bendigo), authorities (e.g., catchment management authorities) and local financial institutions (e.g., Bendigo Bank)</li> <li>• Regulations – using the planning scheme to encourage private participation (e.g., connectivity between remnant vegetation across properties)</li> <li>• Encourage participation in existing programs (e.g., DELWP, Landcare, etc.)</li> </ul>

## 7 Mitigation Options

### 7.1 General

#### 7.1.1 Previous or Planned Actions

As discussed in section 4.2, BSC has measured its emissions profile and that of the community previously. BSC has also taken the Victorian Government’s TAKE2 pledge.

#### 7.1.2 External Influences

Victoria’s *Climate Change Act 2017* has adopted a pledging model for whole-of-government, sectors and councils to coincide with the interim targets to ensure the whole of Victoria meets its 2050 target. As a platform for local governments and the Victorian Government to work together towards a net-zero future, councils can submit voluntary pledges under the Act. This may become a requirement in the future for funding eligibility.

#### 7.1.3 Actions for Consideration

**Climate Emergency.** Given that Buloke is already experiencing the effects of climate change and the vulnerability of its population and economy to climate, declaring a climate emergency may provide a good framework for Council to incorporate climate in its decision-making and processes.

The climate emergency *situation* refers to catastrophic changes to the world’s climate caused by human activity and resulting in a loss of a safe climate, which threatens all life on earth. The climate emergency *response* refers to a specific approach to tackling climate change, which seeks to mobilise and take action at a scale and speed that will restore a safe climate, with the least possible loss and damage during the transition back to a safe climate. A climate emergency *declaration* is a starting point in the response to the climate emergency situation. Currently, 1,855 government jurisdictions in 33 countries have declared a climate emergency. To date, 100 local governments in Australia have made the declaration with Victorian councils representing 33 of those.

Note that a key part of a climate emergency response is to embed climate in all strategies, plans and policies. This will greatly assist in emissions reduction and resilience efforts. For example, Darebin has developed its [Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy](#). Darebin has recognised that it can enter procurement contracts that will contribute to creating a fair, inclusive community that is both environmentally and socially sustainable. In addition, the CVGA aims to facilitate knowledge sharing among its members to incorporate climate in all decision-making and council documentation (e.g., Council Plans).

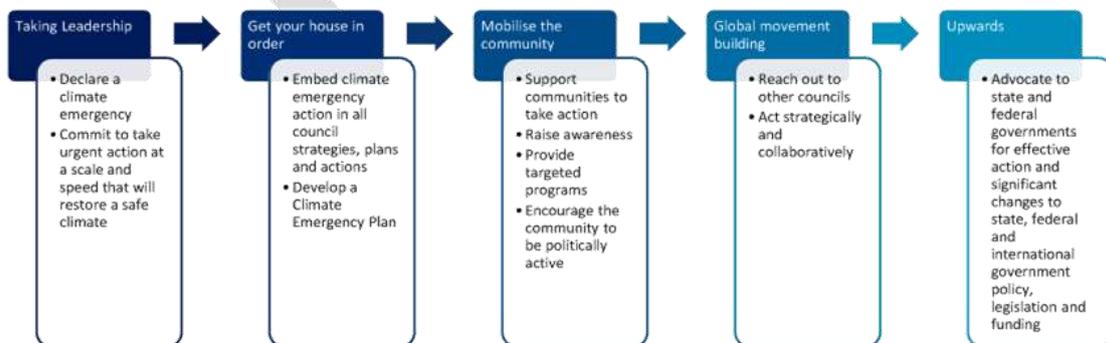


Figure 13: Climate emergency process

**Emissions Reduction Targets.** Part of the climate emergency response includes a rapid transition to zero emissions across all sectors, as well as the drawdown of all the excess greenhouse gases in the air. Also, Victoria has a legislated target of net zero emissions by 2050. Under the *Climate Change Act 2017 (Vic)*, local governments can voluntarily pledge emissions reductions targets. BSC has previously taken the TAKE2 pledge, so setting an emissions reduction target will be a good next step and help to drive ambition. Setting emissions reduction targets will likely aid in Council's mitigation efforts and will align with State and peer targets.

Achieving net zero emissions follows the process illustrated in Figure 14. Net zero emissions is achieved through balancing a measured amount of carbon emissions released, with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset, or purchasing [carbon credits](#) to make up the difference. International and national carbon credits are expected to increase in price in future years (estimated at \$20 and \$35, respectively), presenting a financial risk to Council in the achievement of a net zero target without a strong focus on emissions reduction. Implementing emissions reduction opportunities will reduce BSC's emissions profile, reduce the cost of offsetting and will most likely result in operational cost savings after the payback period.

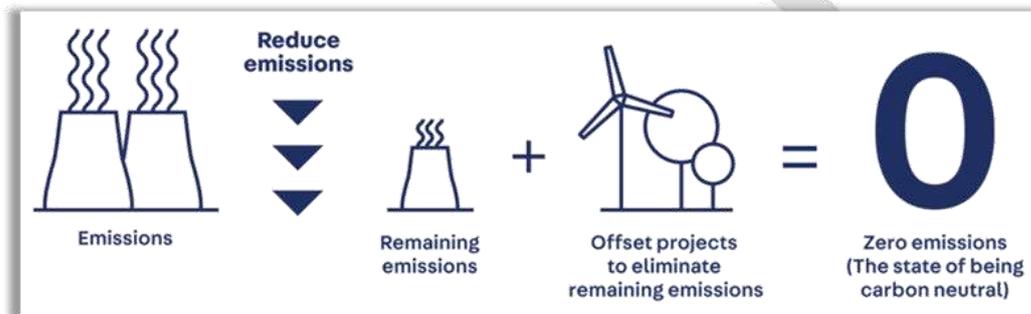


Figure 14: Process to achieving zero emissions (source: [Climate Active Guide](#)).

**Emissions Evaluation and Monitoring.** Ndevr Environmental has identified an opportunity for BSC to align its emissions profile and that of the community with the Australian Climate Active and GHG Protocol standards. Alignment with such standards ensures all relevant emissions sources within Council's operational control are considered and robust methods for estimating emissions are used. In addition, BSC can monitor and report on its corporate and community emissions annually in line with reputable standards which will mitigate transitional risks associated with increased reporting obligations, as well as enable Council to track progress towards its emissions reduction targets and action, and to withstand future public scrutiny.

**Emissions Reduction Measures.** It is good practice to first investigate the 'what' and 'how' of emission sources on site to identify suitable measures for reduction. According to the FY17 emissions assessment, BSC's largest emission source was its landfills, followed by stationary fuel (e.g., generators), then energy consumed by buildings, then its fleet. Reduction measures should focus on the emission sources that will have the biggest impact, that BSC is able to influence, that have the lower cost of abatement (considering whole of life costs) and align strategically with Council's other objectives. More detailed assessments will be able to assist with prioritisation. For example, BSC could conduct an energy audit program to systematically assess its buildings to identify feasible measures to optimise energy or upgrade equipment. Similarly, BSC could conduct fleet assessments and waste audits. The assessments will help to identify actions to avoid or reduce emissions, which is the most cost-effective way to reduce emissions. These cost savings can be used to finance other actions. Some opportunities regarding key emission sources are provided in the following sections.

## 7.2 Energy

### 7.2.1 Previous or Planned Actions

For its own emissions, BSC has:

- Completed energy & water audits on community sporting complexes (Sea Lake, Birchip, Nullawil)
- Completed energy efficiency improvements such as heating/cooling, thermal and lighting upgrades
- Installed solar PV at 12 facilities and a total of 134 kW, including:
  - Recreational Reserve Community Pavilions – Wycheproof, Birchip, Nullawil, Sea Lake
  - Council offices – Wycheproof, Sea Lake, Charlton
  - Charlton Per-School and Kindergarten
  - Tip – Donald, Sea Lake, Charlton, Wycheproof
- Upgraded streetlights – 650 lights upgraded to LED 2013-2016 and 240 lights upgraded to LED FY21
- Became a signatory of the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), committing 100% of its electricity (including streetlighting and building assets) to be renewably sourced through the PPA beginning FY22.

For the community, BSC:

- Participated in the **Loddon Mallee Renewable Energy Roadmap** project which found that Buloke Shire has good potential for renewable energy (e.g., wind farms), but a key challenge is the distance to suitable transmission and distribution infrastructure. More investment in the network would be necessary to enable investment in generation in these areas. BSC could advocate for necessary upgrades to the infrastructure.
- Is currently participating in a **Microgrid Feasibility Study** through the CVGA. Microgrids are small-scale, localised renewable energy systems that can operate independently of the electricity grid, making it an ideal option for remote locations which have to rely on LPG or stationary fuel. The project is funded by a \$1.4 million Federal Government grant to determine feasibility of microgrids and if they could run off local renewable energy. CVGA will be organising bulk buying opportunities for solar and battery storage for community members if feasible. Not only could microgrids eliminate LPG and stationary fuel emissions, but they could also provide energy security.
- Led a **Solar Savers** program whereby three houses took up a loan from BSC to install solar panels.

### 7.2.2 External Influences

The energy sector pledge released in the Victorian Climate Change Strategy is for 50% of electricity to come from renewable energy by 2030. As part of this pledge, the Victorian Government has committed to:

- Developing a Gas Substitution Roadmap in consultation with stakeholders including unions, businesses and the community over the course of 2021, which will detail the transition pathways to achieve net-zero emissions and will identify opportunities for households and businesses that use natural gas to become more energy efficient and to switch to lower-emissions energy sources.
- \$335 million to replace old wood, electric or gas-fired heaters with new energy-efficient systems that are safer and cheaper to run.
- \$112 million towards sealing windows and doors and upgrading heating and hot water in 35,000 social housing properties.
- \$128 million for one-off \$250 Power Saving Bonus payments to help eligible concession card holders to pay their energy bills.
- \$14 million to expand the Victorian Energy Upgrades program ensuring more Victorian households access discounted energy efficient products and services.
- \$5.9 million to establish a new 7-star energy efficiency standard for new homes to improve energy

performance and reduce running costs.

- \$3.6 million to develop minimum energy efficiency standards for rented homes that reduce energy costs and improve comfort.
- \$22.6 million to maintain a safe, secure, reliable and affordable energy system, protect consumers under the existing Energy Fairness Plan and deliver programs that lower energy bills, including the Victorian Energy Compare website.
- Investing \$26.7 million in funding to support microgrids, neighbourhood batteries and community-owned renewable energy projects.

7.2.3 Actions for Consideration

Reducing emissions from BSC’s energy use from its buildings and community facilities should follow the hierarchy depicted in Figure 13. First, it is important to remove all unnecessary energy usage – the cheapest unit of energy is the one you do not need to buy – then, ensure all usage is as efficient as possible, and finally investigate renewables for remaining energy demand. The VECO will reduce Council’s electricity emissions to zero. However, emissions will still be generated through the use of gas and fuel (e.g., generators, plant). Further, actions to avoid or reduce electricity use (and other energy use) will result in cost savings.



Figure 15: Energy Efficiency Hierarchy

**Energy efficiency and optimisation.** BSC should focus on the largest energy usage areas first to maximise benefit. HVAC systems usually account for 40% of energy use, hot water usually accounts for 25%, appliance usually accounts for 30%, and lighting usually accounts for between 8% and 15% (<https://www.energy.gov.au/households/quick-wins>). Specific emissions reduction opportunities related to energy consuming equipment and assets can be found through the Sustainability Victoria website (<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Business>) and the NSW Energy Saver website (<https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/business>).

**Fuel switching.** Assets using gas or fuel can be converted to other forms of energy (e.g., electric or hydrogen). The electrification of assets will benefit from zero emissions associated with BSC’s PPA, while hydrogen energy will produce low to no emissions. At the time of this report, the CVGA is developing its new strategy with focus areas including getting communities off gas. The case study below illustrates how entire facilities can be converted from natural gas to electric. Additionally, plant equipment using stationary fuels can be converted to lower emission alternatives. Council should consider transitioning its entire light and heavy vehicle fleet to low emission alternatives. The hydrogen hub in Mildura may also assist with the transition (see section 7.4).

BSC can encourage and **support the community to participate in schemes and programs** that help them to understand their energy bills and seek advice/funding on how to reduce energy consumption. Such programs include:

- The [Victorian Energy Upgrades](#) program. Encourage participation by promoting the significant discounts or rebates they can access on upgrade opportunities such as LED lighting, solar hot water systems and reverse cycle air-conditioners. Other programs are likely to be announced in line with the budget commitments.
- Sustainability Victoria offer [ResourceSmart Schools](#) as a free program that supports Victorian schools to embed sustainability across the school facilities, community and curriculum, while saving resources and money for the school. Schools join the program, then have access to an online portal, where they learn and practice ways to integrate sustainability.
- The Federal Government provides the [Business Energy Advice Program](#). The \$11.7 million program delivers trusted advice to help small businesses and their representatives get better energy deals and increase their energy efficiency.

**Sustainable Building Policy.** BSC can incorporate environmentally sustainable design (ESD) standards in statutory planning and internal guidelines for new builds and refurbishments. The Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) has developed [guidelines](#) for the planning scheme which many Victorian councils have adopted. This will ensure new private developments are designed to support low carbon living. Many councils (e.g., [Darebin City Council](#)) have developed internal sustainable building policies for their own buildings. BSC can draw upon these policies developed in other councils.

#### Case Study – Darebin Council Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre Electrification

The renewal of Darebin City Council's Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC) is part of the Darebin Council Plan 2017-2021. After more than half a century of service to the community with growing maintenance costs (projected to cost council around \$3 million annually), the centre is being designed and re-built as an all-electric aquatic centre, **aiming for a 6 Star Green Star rating** under the new Green Star Buildings rating tool. Back in 2016, Darebin City Council established a **new ESD policy** which **mandates that developments of more than \$10M have to have a Green Star certification**.

Business case analysis showed that although the capital costs for all-electric construction and operations are higher now, over time the reduction in energy bills and carbon emissions will make it worthwhile. The new centre is expected to be completed in 2023 and has become a cornerstone of Darebin City Councils' sustainability strategy and net-zero commitment.



### 7.3 Waste

#### 7.3.1 Previous or Planned Actions

BSC has already begun to divert waste from landfill. Buloke’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-25 highlights that the Donald landfill is expected to reach capacity by 2031 and the Birchip landfill has a remaining life of 25 years. This can be prolonged through landfill diversion efforts. The Strategy has already identified communication and education programs, home composting, and recycling initiatives. Existing initiatives include:

- Green waste drop-off at transfer stations
- High construction and demolition waste fees
- Recycling C&D waste
- Loddon Mallee Waste App
- Participating in Loddon Mallee Resource Recovery group
- Education programs
- “Glass Out” scheme

#### 7.3.2 External Influences

Waste emissions and reduction efforts are affected by federal legislation to formally ban the export of unprocessed waste overseas, and all waste is required to be processed on shore. Many councils as a result have upped their recycling offerings, adding extra bins at the curbside so that households can better separate products and increase the chance that they’ll be recycled. The remaining challenge is to develop the market for the use of the recycled products to ensure that it does not still end up in landfill.

The waste sector pledge released in the Victorian Climate Change Strategy is for a 50% reduction in organic waste going to landfill, and a commitment to support emerging waste and recycling industries and economic opportunities. The Government is investing \$515 million to deliver this pledge.

The Victorian Government’s Recycling Victoria Policy places mandatory waste and recycling requirements on all councils in Victoria. This 10-year policy aims to reduce waste and to transform the recycling sector toward a circular economy by 2030. Relevant targets imposed on councils, and actions expected to be taken are listed in Table 66. In addition, all households will have access to services for glass recycling by 2027 and to food organics and garden organics by 2030.



Figure 16: Circular Economy Graph taken from the Recycling Victoria Council.

Table 7: Recycling Victoria Policy Targets 2025 and 2030 and expected actions

Targets	By 2025	By 2030	Actions expected by the Councils
Divert waste from landfill	Divert 72 % waste	Divert 80 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote education and behaviour change programs.</li> <li>• Address plastic pollution promoting the replacement with alternative durable products.</li> <li>• Changing the way of collecting waste.</li> <li>• Promote recycling markets acceleration, changes in the recycling infrastructure and setting landfill levies.</li> <li>• Improve councils' regulation and planning</li> </ul>
Cut total waste generation by 15 per cent per capita	No target	15% reduction	
Halve the volume of organic material going to landfill	With an interim target of 20 % reduction	50% reduction	
Ensure households have access to a separate food and organics recovery services or local composting	No target	100% of the households	

### 7.3.3 Actions for Consideration

In addition to existing programs, BSC can consider the following to further reduce emissions from Council and community waste:

- Compost program.** Efforts to encourage composting can be taken from the 'Compost Revolution' program. The program has been utilised by a number of councils to date including Maroondah, Waverly, Randwick, Woollahra, City of Port Phillip. The program is designed to educate and equip residents to cut their waste through home composting and worm farming. It comes with online tutorials and digital materials to teach residents about composting and worm farms and includes a bin-to-door delivery service via Australia Post, to ensure residents receive the equipment. The premise is that council subsidises the residents purchase, and in turn the residents waste is reduced.
- Container Deposit Schemes** in Victoria. The Container Deposit Scheme in Victoria will be introduced by 2022-2023 to encourage and increase beverage container recycling and reduce waste in Victoria. Empty aluminium cans and plastic bottles, and glass bottles will be returned to a refund collection point, which will be exchanged for money. Council can choose between curbside collection or drop-off points. Based on Buloke's current system, a transfer station could be made as the drop-off point.
- Soft Plastic Recycling.** Soft plastics can be recycled through the RED Cycle program, which aims to close the loop for a circular economy (e.g., creating roadside furniture). RED Cycle has specific bins available for residents to drop off their soft plastic at Coles and Woolworths in Australia, including regional Victoria. BSC can work with RED Cycle to create drop-off points.
- Creating a market for recycled/re-used waste.** BSC should explore the opportunity to encourage industry to set up a recycling facility in the region and benefit from the existing transfer stations. This will mean that recycled materials are being produced and supplied within the region. One of the biggest challenges facing the success of the recycling market is ensuring the demand for the end product. Council is in a position to create demand and stimulate market development through its procurement policies. This may help to diversify the economy in the region.
- Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF).** The ERF is a voluntary scheme created by the Australian Government to provide incentives for organisations and individuals to adopt new practices and technologies to reduce their emissions. Participants can earn Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) for emissions reductions. One ACCU is earned for each tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e) stored or avoided by a project. ACCUs can be sold to generate income, either to the government through a carbon abatement contract, or in the secondary market. BSC could conduct a feasibility study and business case on the development of a landfill gas capture project under the ERF.
- Behaviour change programs.** Sustainability Victoria has a Recycling Victoria Household Education and Behaviour Change Fund where councils can be awarded up to \$30,000 to deliver campaigns when introducing new recycling services. Applications close June 18, 2021. Stay tuned for additional rounds.



Figure 17: Container Deposit Scheme

## 7.4 Transport

### 7.4.1 Previous or Planned Actions

BSC has begun installing 2x 50kW DC chargers at Council offices and will be procuring hybrid vehicles. In addition, the Council Plan identified advocating for accessible public and community transportation for Buloke residents as a key action.

### 7.4.2 External Influences

The transport sector pledge released in the Victorian Climate Change Strategy is for zero emission vehicles to represent 50% of new car sales by 2030, with \$100 million pledged to achieving this target through policies and programs. Some of these programs include a \$46 million package for a subsidy program to help Victorians buy ZEVs and a \$19 million package to establish a coordinated fast-charging network.

### 7.4.3 Actions for Consideration

At the time of this report, the CVGA is developing its new strategy with focus areas including a 2030 target for light and heavy vehicles to be electric. The CVGA intends to assist member councils to develop supportive policies. Participating in this project may assist BSC in achieving the below efforts to reduce transport emissions from its own fleet:

- Conduct a **fleet assessment** and review of policies and procedures. This will help to identify specific details regarding the below actions.
- **Reduce the need to drive.** Promote the use of video and teleconferencing over in-person meetings. Operation of business practices during the COVID-19 pandemic will have demonstrated the ability to conduct business virtually. Promote the use of bicycles (or electric bicycles) for shorter trips.
- **Downsize the fleet where feasible.** Every car in the fleet has an associated cost of ownership (i.e., registration, maintenance, insurance). Any opportunity to consolidate the number of vehicles will therefore reduce the overall costs of operating the fleet. Downsizing can occur through removing underutilised vehicles or reducing vehicle size to ensure they are fit-for-purpose.
- **Ensure environmentally conscious driving.** Eco-driver training educates drivers on efficient driving practices. Training programs are available for light and heavy vehicles as well as machinery. Organisations which have completed such training have achieved significant emissions and cost reductions as a result. For example, participating councils in the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and South East Councils Climate Change Alliance eco-driver program achieved a 10% reduction in fuel consumption and expenditure.
- **Improve the efficiency of trips:** Consider options to lighten the load carried by the commercial vehicles (e.g., tool sheds at strategic locations) and trip optimisation.
- **Use the lowest emission fit-for-purpose vehicle available.** Many electric vehicle alternatives are now available on the market with long ranges, cargo and towing capacity, and payloads rivalling those of conventional vehicles. BSC has already begun to transition some fleet vehicles to electric and install chargers. BSC can also consider transitioning heavy vehicles (e.g., Greater Shepparton City Council is trialling an electric truck). For more information and guidance, see the Electric Vehicle Council's [Local Government Resource Pack](#). In addition, BSC can consider hydrogen fuel. The National Energy Resources Australia (NERA) announced funding to develop an Australian network of hydrogen clusters. Among those announced to lead a cluster was the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre. The Mallee Hydrogen Technology Cluster will cover the North-West of Victoria, across the Mildura Rural City Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Buloke Shire Council and Gannawarra Shire Council areas. The aim is to produce green hydrogen which can be used to fulfil the Mallee's demand for transport, electrical and gas, assisting the

positive transition to a decarbonised economy. There may be potential for BSC to trial hydrogen as an alternative fuel source for its fleet (particularly heavy vehicles) as well as a stationary energy source in the future.

## 7.5 Land Use & Agriculture

### 7.5.1 Previous or Planned Actions

Consultations with key partners and survey results revealed that farmers are already taking action to reduce their emissions and sequester carbon. For example, the Birchip Cropping Group reported that its network uses GPS and variable weight technology to reduce fuel loads, and is collaborating with Dja Dja Wurrung on a carbon sequestration project using kangaroo grass.

### 7.5.2 External Influences

The Federal Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has a trial program, [Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot](#), under the Agriculture Stewardship Package. The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot is trialing arrangements to reward farmers for improving on-farm biodiversity together with carbon projects under the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot is part of the wider \$34 million commitment of the Australian Government to biodiversity stewardship on farms. The 2021–22 Budget delivers \$32.1 million over four years in additional funding. The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot is being developed with the Australian National University (ANU). The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot will be run in six Natural Resource Management regions, with North Central Victoria identified as one of the regions. Farmers only require 5ha to participate. While applications close on 11 June 2021, the program may be successful and added to the ERF scheme which farmers could benefit from in the future.

The Victorian Climate Change Strategy has a pledge for both land use and agriculture. The land use pledge is to cease native timber harvesting in state forests from 2030 and plant up to 30 million trees. An investment package of \$15.4 million has been dedicated to provide information, tools and services to support emissions reduction, adaptation and climate risk management across the Victorian agriculture sector. The Victorian Government is also investing \$77 million over 16 years to help land managers restore and protect natural landscapes and vegetation through the Nature Restoration for Carbon Storage – BushBank program.

The agriculture pledge includes an investment package of almost \$20 million in emissions reduction activities. This investment will deliver flagship trials of leading research and technological innovations that help farmers to reduce emissions while maintaining productivity and profitability. There is also an objective to collaborate on a national scale to enhance research and innovation, improve greenhouse gas reporting, and improve access to financial support for climate action for Victorian farmers. Further, the Victorian Government has expanded the [Agriculture Energy Investment Plan](#), providing an additional \$30 million to continue supporting farmers to improve on-farm energy generation and efficiency.

In addition, the \$15.3 million Victorian Carbon Farming Program provides another avenue for private landholders to reduce emissions and build resilience to a changing climate. This Program will support private landholders to:

- Plant agroforestry and shelterbelt trees
- Access existing carbon markets, and
- Realise on-farm benefits and new income streams.

### 7.5.3 Actions for Consideration

As highlighted in section 4.2, BSC's previous community emissions assessment excluded emissions associated with land use and agriculture. When measuring and monitoring the community emissions profile, BSC should

include land use and agriculture. This can be further facilitated if farmers are encouraged to measure and monitor their emissions.

Consultations with key partners revealed a need for a consistent and robust standard for measuring agricultural and farming emissions. BSC can collaborate with agriculture and farming organisations to advocate for such a standard, and then market its use to the broader agricultural community. The GHG Protocol has produced an [Agricultural Guidance](#) document for carbon accounting in the sector. It identifies the environmental and business benefits and trade-offs for various farming practices (Figure 16). In addition, Agriculture Victoria has links to current [tools](#) for on-farm carbon accounting.

There are many programs already underway or in the pipeline. BSC can showcase existing wins and encourage participation in programs using messaging regarding the benefits to farmers which will likely increase uptake.

Practice	Potential GHG benefits	Potential environmental co-benefits	Potential agronomic / business benefits	Potential trade-offs or problems
<b>Cover crops</b> Non-commodity crops planted in between rows of commodity crops or during fallow periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased soil C sequestration</li> <li>Reduced indirect N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from soils due to a reduction in N leaching</li> <li>Reduced scope 3 emissions from fertilizer manufacture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved soil nutrient content</li> <li>Reduced wind and water erosion</li> <li>Reduced nutrient and sediment run off and leaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced fertilizer needs</li> <li>Reduced weed growth</li> <li>Reduced irrigation needs</li> <li>Supplemental livestock feed (extends grazing season, cattle weight gain)</li> <li>Increased profit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires extra time and knowledge to manage, and some new techniques for growing commodity crops</li> <li>Requires more fuel use for crop planting</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation tillage</b> A range of cultivation techniques (including minimum till, strip till, no-till) designed to minimize soil disturbance for seed placement, by allowing crop residue to remain on soil after planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased soil C sequestration</li> <li>Reduced indirect N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from reduction in run-off</li> <li>Reduced scope 3 emissions from fertilizer manufacture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved soil water retention and drainage</li> <li>Reduced water and wind erosion</li> <li>Reduced nutrient and sediment runoff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced fertilizer needs</li> <li>Reduced fuel and labor costs from fewer field passes</li> <li>Improved yields</li> <li>Retains top soil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential increase in herbicide use</li> <li>Increased pest threats in repetitive single commodity production</li> </ul>
<b>Rotational or mob livestock grazing on pasture</b> Grazing practices that maximize plant health and diversity, while increasing the animal carrying capacity of the land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased soil C sequestration</li> <li>Reduced CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from enteric fermentation (due to improved feed)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased plant cover and productivity</li> <li>Improved soil water retention and drainage</li> <li>Reduced water and wind erosion</li> <li>Reduced nutrient and sediment runoff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased herd size</li> <li>Can increase length of grazing season</li> <li>Reduced need for purchases of feed</li> <li>Pastures more able to exclude weeds / exotic species</li> <li>Potentially reduced herbicide costs</li> <li>Helps avoid burning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires careful management in some areas with sensitive species</li> <li>Labor intensive</li> </ul>
<b>Anaerobic digester</b> Enclosed system in which organic material such as manure is broken down by microorganisms under anaerobic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from manure management</li> <li>Reduced scope 3 emissions from fertilizer manufacture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced risk of accidental toxic leakages (pathogens killed)</li> <li>Reduced ammonia and VOC emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed solids can be used as bedding</li> <li>Reduced need for fertilizers (as nutrient availability in the digestate is increased)</li> <li>Electricity / heat generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digester technologies can be expensive</li> </ul>
<b>Windbreaks</b> Plantations usually made up of one or more rows of trees or shrubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased C sequestration in biomass and soils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced soil erosion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater animal survival and health in livestock systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May take some land out of production</li> </ul>

Figure 18: Some agricultural practices that can reduce GHG emissions and improve farm performance (GHG Protocol Agricultural Guidance)

## 8 Climate Change Adaptation

### 8.1 Council Operations

#### 8.1.1 Previous or Planned Actions

BSC has developed, and continues to maintain, a comprehensive Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The MEMP identifies tasks such as emergency shelter and accommodation for displaced households, essential supplies, and medical and mental health support and assigns responsibility to various agencies. The MEMP also incorporates working with other councils (e.g., resource sharing) as governed by the MAV Mutual Aide Agreement.



Figure 19: BSC staff flood levee training

Temporary flood levies are part of BSC's response to flooding events. Staff participated in a flood levee training exercise in 2020 (Figure 17).

#### 8.1.2 External Influences

The Victoria Planning Provisions, a subordinate instrument of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)*, incorporates various state-wide planning policies on climate change and its impacts, which planners must take into account and give effect to through their decisions. Some examples of clauses specifically referencing climate change adaptation include:

- Clause 13.01 Climate change impacts – includes policy on natural hazards, coastal inundation and erosion considerations (see extract).
- Clause 11.03 Planning for places – requires greenfield planning to respond to climate change.
- Clause 14.01 Agriculture – seeks to support agricultural adaptation to climate change.
- Clause 15.02 Energy and resource efficiency – supports a cooler environment and minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Clause 19.03 Integrated water management (see further information listing relevant clauses in the VPP).

#### 8.1.3 Actions for Consideration

BSC's response to climate change (mitigation and adaptation) requires a holistic approach and participation from all departments. Climate change impacts many facets of business activities and services. As such, climate mitigation and adaptation need to be driven internally and embedded within Council systems, processes and staff thinking. This can be done by:

- Incorporating BSC's climate scenario and risk profile in **Councillor briefing packs and staff induction**.
- Ensure **climate mitigation and adaptation is represented** in all relevant documents (e.g., Council and Community Plans), policies (e.g., procurement policy) and procedures (i.e., decision-making).
- **Planning Scheme**. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation in the planning scheme (use existing resources such as those from CASBE). Any updates and how they might impact development processes/outcomes should be communicated to the community. Engagement should help to minimise conflict.
- **Tools**. The Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) developed [How Well Are We Adapting](#), a web-based climate change adaptation monitoring, evaluation and reporting tool for Victorian local governments. Through an internal reporting section, the tool allows local governments to track climate change impacts on council services and assets and evaluate responses over the long term. Monitoring impacts and learning about council's responses over time, develops knowledge and skills for implementing adaptation actions. The use of this tool enables participating councils to raise institutional

awareness and capacity around the issue of climate change adaptation, identify where services might be impacted in the future and ensure residents most at risk to the impacts will be protected.

- **Resourcing.** Continue to collaborate with neighbouring councils for shared resources for emergency management as well as other initiatives (e.g., through the CVGA). Consider if there is a need for seeking additional resources in times of peak HACC demand. In addition, BSC relies heavily on volunteers. With an ageing population (and volunteers) and large distances between townships, BSC may want to support volunteer uptake with recruitment drives.

## 8.2 Community

This category includes people and businesses.

### 8.2.1 Previous or Planned Actions

Through its membership with the CVGA, Buloke has participated in, and benefited from, several projects which address community health and liveability related to the climate (as well as other co-benefits). These include:

- **Resilient Community Assets.** This project involved street tree planting, heatwave plan template and online training for councils, as well as 'HEAT Help' packs for HACC and aged care clients.
- **Cool It.** This project consists of two phases, where the first developed heat vulnerability mapping and a tool for councils to use and the second phase involved tree planting based on findings from phase 1 and a climate resilient tree asset planting list. BSC planted over 80 trees in Sea Lake, Donald, Charlton and Wycheproof. Tree planting also has benefits for natural resources and carbon sequestration.

BSC also maintains a:

- Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Vulnerable Person Register

### 8.2.2 External Influences

The Victorian Government will generate an Adaptation Plan for the Health and Human Services system that will finalised by 31 October 2021 into effect in 2022. The pilot plan for 2019-21 can be found [here](#). In addition, the regional adaptation plan, ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan is currently in draft and will be released later in the year. Both will identify key priorities and actions for the Buloke community and should be considered in the development of BSC's Strategy and Plan.

The Victorian [Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-23](#) includes climate change as a focus area. Guidelines for local government for addressing climate change in [municipal health plans](#) was developed by the Department of Health in 2020.

### 8.2.3 Actions for Consideration

BSC has existing resources which address climate risks to people within the Buloke community. Some areas for improvement are outlined below:

- The Heat Health Plan currently focuses on air-conditioner use which can exacerbate the risk of power outages, raise energy bills, and increase emissions. BSC can update the plan and drive awareness on the importance of other thermal control measures as first steps before the use of air-conditioning.
- Include respiratory health in the Buloke Health and Wellbeing Plan. Work with agribusinesses to set up monitoring and alerts for increases in air pollution.

- **Building upgrades.** BSC could advocate and/or partner a co-funding arrangement to upgrade homes and businesses to make them more resilient (and thermally efficient). BSC may be able to utilise the [Victorian Energy Upgrades](#) program for this. Another opportunity for partnership may be through local finance institutions (e.g., Bendigo Bank). BSC can also ensure it takes measures to upgrade its own buildings and community facilities, or new builds consider climate risks in the design.

#### Case Study – Queensland Government

The Queensland Government (with a contribution from the Australian Government) has developed a Household Resilience Program which provides funding to help eligible homeowners in coastal parts of Queensland improve the resilience of their homes against cyclones. Owner-occupiers who live in a house built before 1984, located within 50km of the coastline from Bundaberg to the Queensland/Northern Territory border, can apply to receive a Queensland Government grant of 75% of the cost of improvements (up to a maximum of grant value of \$11,250 including GST).

- **Cool community zones.** Include heatwaves in the MEMP and/or ensure identified refuge centres can be made available to the community as cool spaces during heatwaves. Encourage residents to seek refuge in these shared cool zones particularly if they are unable to keep cool in their own home or if they are at risk of isolation.
- **Continuity planning.** Encourage community groups and businesses to develop plans that ensure continuity of their operations.
- **Encourage networking.** Encourage the community and businesses to network and share learnings. For example, DELWP has established networks for the community and businesses in the Loddon Mallee through its [Regional Climate Leadership](#) program. DELWP has also established the [Youth Climate Network](#) for the region. With an ageing population, Buloke's resilience will rely on encouraging youth to stay in the region and participate. Mount Alexander Shire Council supports young people to develop and implement climate change projects and recognise young sustainability leaders through the Mount Alexander Youth Awards.
- **Grassroots educational campaigns.** Climate change should be openly communicated in a positive context and not through a 'scare' context. The community should be given hope and the information and tools to succeed. Messaging can be tailored based on the concerns identified in section 6.1 and following the [guidance](#) developed by Monash University on behalf of DELWP for communicating climate change.

### 8.3 Natural Resources

This category includes flora, fauna, soil and water.

#### 8.3.1 Previous and Planned Actions

There are many existing and planned agricultural adaptation initiatives occurring in the Buloke region led by BSC and external parties. The Cool It and ResourceSmart Schools programs have been previously identified. Other existing and planned initiatives include:

- Weed mapping and pest management
- Wimmera Mallee water pipeline
- School chats and programs such as those run by conservation management networks (e.g., Kar Kara CMN)
- The NCCMA Regional Floodplain Strategy (2018-2028) was developed in conjunction with local governments. NCCMA do modelling which can be shared with BSC for its emergency management planning, strategic and statutory planning. It can also be distributed to Council's rate base.
- Landcare works on biodiversity surveys, revegetation and biodiversity corridors

### 8.3.2 External Influences

The Victorian Government will generate Adaptation Plans for the water and natural environment systems later in 2021. A [Pilot Water Sector Adaptation Action Plan](#) was developed for water in 2018.

The Victorian Government announced \$523.2 million to protecting vulnerable wilderness and improving visitor facilities so more people can get out and enjoy Victoria's natural wonders.

### 8.3.3 Actions for Consideration

There are a few opportunities which BSC can lead or partner in:

- **Biodiversity and conservation management.** Improve ecological mapping through collaborations with catchment management authorities, Landcare and Traditional Custodians to share information, resources, tasks (e.g., biodiversity surveys), and to assist with prioritisation of items of environmental and cultural significance. Develop or support initiatives which preserve and promote biodiversity (e.g., Landcare's biodiversity corridors).
- **Integrated Water Management.** A collaborative approach to planning that brings together organisations that influence all elements of the water cycle (e.g., water corporations, local governments and catchment management authorities), including waterways and bays, wastewater management, alternative and potable water supply, stormwater management and water treatment. It considers environment, social and economic benefits. Following the DELWP's [Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria](#), BSC can work with relevant organisations to improve water security, water health and stormwater drainage.

#### DELWP Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria – Benefits of Stormwater Harvesting

- reduce reliance on the potable water supply network, helping avoid or defer infrastructure upgrades, and provide resilience for local governments wanting to keep sports grounds, parks and trees watered during droughts and prolonged dry periods
  - provide urban cooling through greening, canopy cover increases and increased soil moisture, leading to preventative health benefits
  - reduce flooding, helping to maintain amenity, defer upgrades in the drainage network and reduce insurance liabilities
  - deliver waterway health benefits from an ecology, channel morphology and water-quality perspective
  - improve community education and water literacy
- **Planning.** BSC can include water management in strategic planning and incorporate relevant requirements into the planning scheme at a high level in an ESD policy and in zoning plans and overlays. To ensure the successful delivery of sustainable irrigation in new developments, any requirements should bring the community and developers along on the journey. In addition, consultations with planning applicants throughout the process (e.g., at pre-application, design, etc.) has also proven useful to councils in achieving sustainable outcomes in private developments.

#### Case Study – Mt Alexander Shire Council

- **Integrated Water Management.** Council has recently commissioned an IWM plan for Castlemaine to assist with the protection of waterways, to gain advice regarding climate resilient water supply and assess options for water sensitive urban design in future developments within Castlemaine.
- **Planning Scheme.** The Mount Alexander Planning Scheme outlines strategies to increase the shire's resilience to the adverse effects of climate change by discouraging certain land use and development activities that would place society at greater risk and encouraging developments that capture and re-use water. The scheme also seeks to minimise risks such as flooding, soil degradation and bushfire risk through a range of targeted strategies, guidelines and strategic work specific to our region.

## 8.4 Agriculture

This category includes all farming and agricultural businesses.

### 8.4.1 Previous or Planned Actions

There are many existing and planned agricultural adaptation initiatives occurring in the Buloke region led by external parties. Identifying these will assist BSC in identifying gaps or areas in which it may provide support. Existing and planned initiatives include:

- **Regenerative Agriculture.** Regenerative agriculture assists with soil carbon sequestration which helps with mitigation. The Regenerative Agriculture Group has quickly gained traction with many broadacre landholders becoming members. The group focuses on holistic grazing practices, avoiding pesticide use and use of cover crops. The Birchip Cropping Group expressed a concern that regenerative agriculture could reduce yield. BSC could play a role in showcasing successful case studies and provide details on the success factors.
- **Adaptive Agriculture.** The Birchip Cropping Group has many initiatives underway including process changes such as sowing times, genetic variation for new and emerging crop types, managing nutrient strategies, tools for managing pest and disease.
- **Drought Tolerance.** The Federal Government, through the Future Drought Fund has provided funding to eight drought resilience hubs across Australia including \$8 million to the [Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub](#). The Victorian Hub will be led by the University of Melbourne in partnership with five farming groups – Birchip Cropping Group, Food & Fibre Gippsland, Southern Farming Systems, Riverine Plains and the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre – together with Deakin University, Federation University, La Trobe University and Agriculture Victoria. The aim of the Hub will be to help farmers, agricultural businesses and communities become more resilient to the impacts of future droughts.
- **Mapping.** Approximately half of Birchip Cropping Group's members have weather stations and soil probes, creating a network of resource sharing. The agriculture sector is well adept at using climate information for seasonal outlooks for short-term planning.
- **Soil Health.** Potential collaboration between Birchip Cropping Group and Sustainability Victoria for use of FOGO waste on crops to improve soil health.
- **Collaboration.** NCCMA engages with agribusinesses already for planning, natural resource management project delivery.

Landcare advised that the majority of farmers it works with are proactive about climate change. This is evidenced by the above initiatives.

#### 8.4.2 External Influences

Victoria's Climate Change Strategy has pledged that farmers will have on-farm climate action plans by 2030 and committed almost \$20 million to support the agriculture sector response to a changing climate. In addition, the Victorian Government will also support the agriculture and other primary production systems to adapt to the impacts of climate change through the Primary Production Adaptation Plan that will be finalised later in the year and come into effect in 2022.

Agriculture Victoria has an investment of \$15.4 million to provide information, tools and services to support emissions reduction, adaptation and climate risk management across the Victorian agriculture sector. This includes building tools needed to support climate resilient decision making and provide foundational data and information to support up to date and localised decisions. Further, the [Victorian Land Use Information System](#) will also be upgraded with an investment of \$4 million. Data from the system will inform a new Agriculture Climate Spatial Tool that supports farmers to adapt their businesses based on future climate scenarios, and thus support long-term planning.

#### 8.4.3 Actions for Consideration

A key role BSC can play is to support existing programs and generate messaging to help normalise innovative practices such as regenerative agriculture. This could be done through:

- **Promoting.** Liaise with farmers and agricultural organisations to generate case studies and promote through various mediums (e.g., online and social media marketing, community forums, etc.). In addition to promoting innovative solutions, BSC can also acknowledge and promote existing strengths of the industry (i.e., seasonal modelling for short-term planning).
- **Coordinating/supporting events.** Partner with groups such as Landcare for events (e.g., community movie night of Kiss the Ground).

Other actions include:

- Consultation with DJPR identified that **long-term planning** is an emerging focus for the agriculture sector. BSC can work with DJPR and Agriculture Victoria to encourage agribusinesses to consider long-term climate impacts to make informed decisions and plan for transitions to their business.

#### Case Study – Southern Grampians Shire Council

The Agribusiness Land Capability Mapping project was funded by the Victorian Government under the Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership and in collaboration with Deakin University. Overlaying climate, soil, topography and water data with eight commodities across cropping, pastures and vegetable resources, models for climate scenarios for 2030, 2050 and 2070 were developed. The resulting output is an online, interactive mapping tool which allows the user to interrogate maps across the Shire to demonstrate viability of agricultural industries under future climate change.

The online maps can be accessed here: [www.growinggreaterhamilton.com.au](http://www.growinggreaterhamilton.com.au).

- **Planning Scheme.** Ensure strategic planning and local planning policies protect future land use from unsustainable practices. Consultations with key partners identified big corporations buying agricultural properties as a concern because large and/or international corporations may implement initiatives which will not align with the climate mitigation and adaptation objectives for the region. Introduce regulations and enforcement for native vegetation to protect and conserve remnant vegetation on farms. Conversely, some initiatives may support the objectives (e.g., building aviaries for bird manure to improve soil health) and require more streamlined approvals processes.
- Continue to advocate against tilling and use of chemical sprays.

## 8.5 Built Environment

This category includes all infrastructure (i.e., buildings, roads, utilities, drainage).

### 8.5.1 Previous or Planned Actions

Energy emissions reduction actions identified in section 7.2 are relevant to built environment adaptation (i.e., improving energy security). Other relevant actions include:

- Flood levee systems in Donald and Charlton to protect infrastructure in times of emergency
- BSC has implemented soil injections beneath Council buildings (e.g., in Donald)

### 8.5.2 External Influences

The Victorian Government will generate Adaptation Plans for the transport and built environment systems. The Plans will be released for comment later this year and become operational in 2022.

To support the renewable energy investment required for our energy transition, Victoria is upgrading its electricity grid to give it the capacity to transmit more renewable energy and to ensure it can withstand future climate change impacts – including more high-demand days during summer. Currently, Ausnet has proposed an upgrade to the Western Victoria Transmission Network. BSC can advocate to the State Government for upgrades to its region.

### 8.5.3 Actions for Consideration

- Include climate considerations in **procurement and asset management**. Assess the vulnerability of existing assets and viability under the identified climate risks. Update asset management register accordingly. Develop climate resilience standards for the development and maintenance of more flexible assets and infrastructure, including resilience to dust. Stay abreast of emerging materials and technology to ensure relevancy of best practice standards.
- **Planning Scheme**. Ensure climate modelling is incorporated into strategic planning and local planning ordinances to govern decision-making and approvals for the need for infrastructure in highly vulnerable areas and/or designs that consider associated risks.
- **Emergency Management**. Ensure emergency shelters are physically protected and have reliable power options. Deliver education and awareness campaigns to ensure the community can take similar measures for their households and businesses. Include clean up advice in the campaigns. Continue to train staff and entrench governance structure.
- **Reduce damage to transport** infrastructure from weather events so that service continuity is assured, and disruptions minimised. Work with VicRoads to manage and reduce climate change impacts to key transport infrastructure. Strengthen assets and infrastructure through maintenance and capital works to improve service continuity in extreme events.
- **Improve septic tank management**. Community education on correct septic tank management to reduce risk of health and financial risks to community. Increase frequency of inspections. Advocate or improved domestic wastewater management in townships currently without formal sewerage systems.
- **Advocate for transmission and distribution infrastructure** that will support renewable energy and support microgrids which may alleviate power outages (as well as benefits identified in section 7.2).
- **Advocate for equitable access to insurance** and policies which include climate considerations.

## 9 Recommendations and Next Steps

### 9.1 Development of Strategy and Plan

This report and recommendations will inform BSC's development of its 10-year Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Plan. The following section provides recommendations for the action plan which BSC can review and revise for its own action plan. The draft plan below amalgamates the options identified in sections 7 and 8, identifying activities (i.e., steps to deliver the action), alignment with risk/opportunity identified in section 5, role of BSC, responsibilities and KPIs across 13 goals for climate action.

Once released, BSC should review the place-based and system-based Adaptation Plans developed by the Victorian Government in line with the *Climate Change Act 2017*, make relevant submissions to contribute to the feedback process and update its own Strategy and Plan as necessary.

As is important with any change, stakeholders need to be brought along on the journey to ensure adoption and uptake. This project included foundation engagement with a BSC working group, executive and Councillors for internal buy-in. The community and key partners were also engaged to ensure their concerns and priorities are captured.

A draft Strategy and Plan will be drafted by BSC and released for public comment.

#### 9.1.1 Action Plan

In line with the Buloke Beyond 2030 community plan, BSC can assign potential role/s to the actions under the following categories:

- **Leader.** Planning and providing direction.
- **Provider.** Delivering services and projects.
- **Partner.** Forming partnerships with other stakeholders in the interest of the community.
- **Facilitator.** Bringing groups and interested parties together.
- **Supporter.** To support and advocate for the community.
- **Regulator.** Regulating some activities through legislation.

When prioritising actions, BSC can conduct a high-level multi-variate analysis of the criteria illustrated in Figure 18 and outlined below. Currently, the actions in Table 7 appear in order of prioritisation completed by Ndevr Environemntal.

- **Impact.** Actions that would make the biggest impact should be considered first. For example, (e.g., waste and landfill is the largest source of emissions, thus focussing efforts there first will yield greater results more quickly.
- **Ability to influence.** BSC has the ability to influence climate change mitigation and adaptation through the above roles, but BSC has the greatest control as a leader, provider or regulator. Actions delivered through other roles may still play an important role in existing programs.
- **Co-benefits.** Actions may alleviate or address climate risks and opportunities spanning across several categories. For example, actions under the natural resources theme are likely to benefit agriculture due its reliance on the natural environment.
- **Strategic alignment.** Actions align strategically with other Council objectives (e.g., Council Plan).

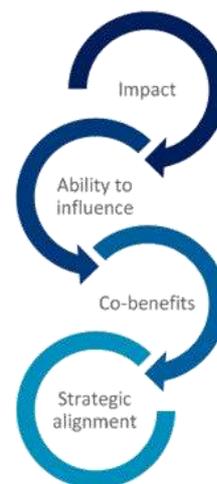


Figure 20: Prioritisation framework

Table 8: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan completed by Buloke

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Integrate climate into Council operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include climate scenario and risk profile in Councillor briefing packs and staff induction</li> <li>• Ensure climate mitigation and adaptation is represented in all relevant documents, policies and procedures – This can be guided through the Climate Emergency declaration process</li> <li>• Develop climate mitigation and adaptation guidance through the local planning scheme – more specific guidance has been provided in the report</li> <li>• Provide professional development training to planning staff on how to influence customers to design climate ready developments</li> <li>• Use the How Well Are We Adapting tool to monitor impacts of climate change on Council services and develop responses</li> </ul>	9, 17, 18, 25	Leader, Regulator	Chief Executive Officer  Community Development  Works and Technical Services  Corporate Services  Community Development	Update relevant documentation in line with review/renewal periods	BSC internal staff resourcing Shared resourcing with WAGA for the How Well Are We Adapting tool New funding required for professional development (approx. \$500pp)	Number of staff to complete training
<b>Robust emissions measurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure baseline corporate and community emissions in line with robust standards</li> <li>• Set a net zero emissions target and interim targets</li> <li>• Annual measurement and reporting</li> </ul>	16, 19, 30, 39	Leader	Community Development	<b>Immediate:</b> emissions profile <b>Quick win:</b> set a net zero target by 2030 Interim targets can be done upon completion of profiling <b>Ongoing:</b> reporting	New funding required to establish measurement and reporting (approx. \$25k for external support of corporate & community profiling and target setting)	Annual reporting

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Ongoing emergency management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with the MEMP – review and update regularly</li> <li>Include planning for alternative transport routes in MEMP and protection of shelters</li> <li>Ongoing community education campaigns and training on MEMP</li> <li>Assist community groups and businesses with business continuity planning during times of emergency or extreme events</li> </ul>	4, 7, 8, 18, 24, 27	Leader, Provider	Community Development  Partner with all responsible entities identified in MEMP  Potential partnership with ADAPT Loddon Mallee for continuity planning	Update relevant documentation in line with review/renewal periods (MEMP currently being updated)  Ongoing: community support	BSC internal staff resourcing	Number of organisations received continuity training
<b>Waste and landfill emissions reductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop composting program to divert green and food organic waste from landfill</li> <li>Develop Container Deposit Scheme and Soft Plastic Recycling for the region</li> <li>Investigate feasibility of recycle and/or compost processing plant in Buloke. Explore partnership options such as BCG for FOGO circular economy</li> <li>Investigate feasibility of Emissions Reduction Fund landfill gas capture project and implement if successful</li> </ul>	16, 19, 39	Leader, Provider, Partner	Works and Technical Services  Partnerships: BCG	Begin planning of a composting program, Container Deposit Scheme and soft plastic recycling program in <b>FY22</b>  Roll out in <b>FY23</b> and continue annually  Recycle/compost plant feasibility in <b>FY22</b>  ERF feasibility in <b>FY25</b>	New funding (approx. \$30k for each feasibility study, potentially large costs for program roll out)  Consider partnering with neighbouring councils for programs (as with the mobile glass crushing unit)	Tonnes of waste deposited to landfill versus organic and recycling sites  Number of households or businesses participating in programs  Meeting Recycling Victoria Policy targets

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Council building improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct facility assessments, targeting high emitting or at-risk Council-owned facilities first</li> <li>Identify specific reduction/adaptation measures for each facility and implement</li> <li>Keep track of assessments and improvements in line with asset management</li> <li>Sustainable Building Policy for new buildings and refurbishments</li> </ul>	4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 20, 21, 22, 32, 34	Leader	Works and Technical Services	<p><b>Ongoing, starting FY22</b> (can be done simultaneously with emissions profiling)</p> <p>Internal Sustainable Building Policy endorsed by FY23</p>	<p>BSC internal staff resourcing</p> <p>New funding (approx. \$20k for external support with assessments and opportunity identification)</p> <p>Draw upon Sustainable Building Policy developed in other councils</p>	<p>Number of buildings assessed, and improvements implemented</p> <p>Reduction in BSC emissions</p>
<b>Community building improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage community to participate in schemes and programs that help them to understand their energy bills and seek advice/funding on how to reduce energy consumption and make their buildings more resilient</li> <li>Advocate for equitable access to insurance and policies which include climate considerations</li> </ul>	4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 20, 21, 22, 32, 34	Supporter, Facilitator	Community Development	<p><b>Quick win:</b> provide links to existing schemes on website, send newsletter (BSC could provide guidance to community groups during this process)</p> <p>Provide submission to DELWP on ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan in <b>2021</b> regarding insurance</p>	<p>BSC internal staff resourcing</p>	<p>Number of households and residents participating in programs</p> <p>Community emissions reductions</p>

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Energy security and technology switching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for suitable transmission and distribution infrastructure to support renewable energy projects</li> <li>Complete Microgrid Feasibility Study and implement upon successful study</li> <li>Participate in CVGA project for getting communities off gas</li> </ul>	7, 10, 29	Supporter, Partner, Provider	Community Development CVGA to lead Microgrids and transitioning from projects	Provide submission to DELWP on ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan in <b>2021</b> regarding transmission  Microgrid Study: <b>2021-2024</b>  CVGA project participation dependent on CVGA new strategy	BSC internal staff resourcing and CVGA contributions  Microgrid rollout approx. \$1M	Roll-out of microgrid  Approval of new transmission lines  Sign CVGA project contract
<b>Low emission transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in CVGA project which aims to help member councils to electrify fleet by 2030 – If this does not go ahead, Buloke should conduct its own feasibility study and transition planning</li> <li>Update relevant council documents to prioritise zero emission vehicles</li> <li>Raise community awareness of EVs (e.g., through visibility of BSC’s own transition) and encourage community to take up State packages (e.g., grant for EV purchase)</li> <li>Continue to assess community EV use and advocate for State to (co-)fund chargers</li> <li>Collaborate with the Mallee Hydrogen Technology Cluster to identify opportunities as they arise</li> </ul>	29, 32, 34, 38	Partner, Provider	CVGA to lead council project  Vic Government transport programs - BSC to advocate	<b>Quick win:</b> Promote opportunities provided by the State  Update relevant documentation in line with review/ renewal periods (prioritise low emission vehicles in fleet policy)  CVGA project participation dependent on CVGA new strategy	BSC internal staff resourcing for document reviews, advocating and CVGA contributions  Feasibility and transition plan ~\$30k  New funding (~\$40k-\$80k for zero emission light vehicle)  Grant/co-fund opportunities	Sign CVGA project contract  Increase in number of EVs registered in Buloke

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Transport infrastructure improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update asset management in line with mitigating climate risks</li> <li>Advocate for public transport infrastructure</li> <li>Advocate for rail freight</li> </ul>	8, 27, 32	Supporter, Partner	Partnership: VicRoads, neighbouring councils  Chief Executive Officer and Works and Technical Services	Update relevant documentation in line with review/ renewal periods  <b>FY24-25 and ongoing:</b> advocating	BSC internal staff resourcing for document review and advocating	New rail incorporated in State planning  Release of new asset management framework
<b>Improve septic tank management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community education on correct septic tank management to reduce risk of health and financial risks to community</li> <li>Increase frequency of inspections</li> <li>Advocate for improved domestic wastewater management in townships currently without formal sewerage systems</li> </ul>	1	Leader	Community Development  Partnership with Landcare	<b>Immediate:</b> devise septic tank management education program  Update relevant management documentation in line with review/ renewal periods	BSC internal staff resourcing for community engagement and advocating	Number of inspections conducted  Percentage of compliant systems  Number of complaints
<b>Enhance biodiversity, conservation and revegetation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological mapping and planning</li> <li>Continue use of tools and tree asset management from CVGA project</li> <li>Help promote existing initiatives</li> </ul>	1, 11, 12, 13, 14	Leader, Provider, Partner	Community Development  Partnership with Landcare and Traditional Custodians	<b>Ongoing:</b> CVGA tools and promoting initiatives  Partnership for ecological mapping, planning and monitoring by <b>FY23</b> and ongoing	BSC internal staff resourcing for tree asset management  Use resourcing from partnerships	Number of trees planted in Buloke region (by Council and other groups)

Goals	Actions	Risks	Role	Responsibility	Timing	Resourcing	KPI
<b>Adaptive agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise educational events (e.g., Kiss the Ground movie event)</li> <li>Showcase existing wins</li> <li>Collaborate with State and farming/agriculture groups to provide co-funding opportunities to small farmers that are not eligible for other schemes</li> </ul>	4, 15, 23	Provider, Facilitator	Community Development  Partnership with DJPR, BCG, Landcare	<p><b>Ongoing:</b> annual events and promote events organized by others</p> <p><b>Quick win:</b> Showcase existing wins through Council communications and events</p> <p>Provide submission to DELWP on ADAPT Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan in <b>2021</b> regarding small business access to schemes</p>	BSC internal staff resourcing for community campaigns]	<p>Number of participants at events</p> <p>Number of small farmers with approved funding</p>
<b>Shared community vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a communication strategy to encourage positive discussion and acceptance of climate change</li> <li>Encourage community networking through participation in existing programs</li> <li>Facilitate community participation in grassroots educational campaigns (e.g., climate chats for schools)</li> </ul>	Help to gain support for all risks/ops	Provider, Supporter, Facilitator	Community Development  Partnership with DELWP, ADAPT Loddon Mallee	<p><b>Immediate:</b> communication strategy</p> <p><b>Quick win:</b> Promote opportunities for networking (see report)</p> <p><b>FY23 and ongoing:</b> grassroots education programs</p>	BSC internal staff resourcing for community engagement	Number of participants in programs/ attending events

### 9.2 Monitoring and Reporting

Regular monitoring, evaluation, review and, where appropriate, amendment of actions is all part of the continual improvement/adaptive management that needs to be applied to the implementation of actions. This continual process is illustrated in Figure 19.

Monitoring should be an integral part of the plan to give assurance that the measures remain effective. The delivery and effectiveness of implemented actions can be reported on in line with BSC’s existing reporting frameworks.

To ensure BSC’s approach remains valid and relevant to local climatic conditions, priorities and emerging opportunities, the Strategy and Plan should be reviewed regularly. The Strategy and Plan can be a fluid document whereby actions are reviewed and prioritised annually and incorporated into the annual budget. The document itself (e.g., risk assessment and plan) can be reviewed in line with BSC’s risk management system and the release of the Victorian Government’s Climate Change Strategy and Regional Adaptation Plans, to ensure strategic alignment upon the release of new climate science.

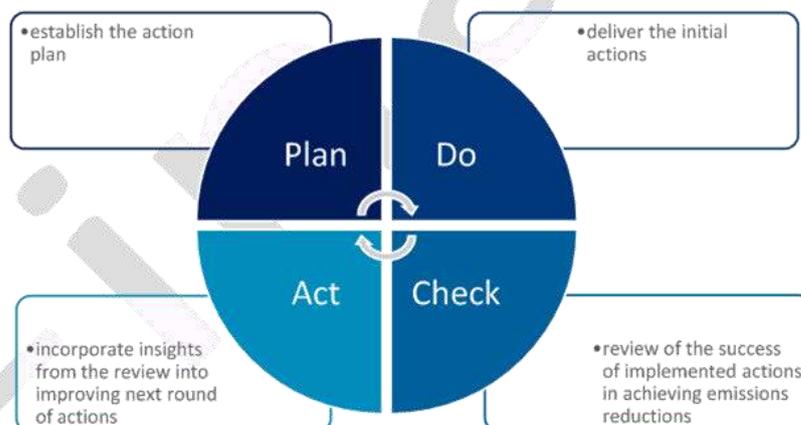


Figure 21: Continuous Action Monitoring Process

### 9.3 Conclusion

This report and the identified actions provide BSC with the foundation necessary to develop its Strategy and develop shorter term operational plans that are more concise and with detailed costings.

To ensure effective implementation of all actions, climate action needs to be embedded within the organisation and represented in all decision-making. Hence, this action has been prioritised first in the action plan table.

Next, it is recommended that BSC measure its corporate and community emissions profile in line with best practice standards to ensure sufficient rigour and robustness that will withstand public scrutiny. Measurement and monitoring will assist in tracking progress and identifying priority actions for emissions reduction.

Ndevr Environmental recommends that BSC set a net zero target for corporate emissions by 2030 (i.e., by the end of the Strategy). Net zero emissions is achieved through balancing a measured amount of carbon emissions released, with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset, or purchasing carbon credits to make up the difference.

It is important that BSC bring staff and the broader community along its climate action journey. Several actions have been identified as ‘quick wins’ (e.g., celebrating and sharing existing success stories, making use of existing resources and enhancing the community’s access to these resources).



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# BULOKE SHIRE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2021



*Acting Locally,  
Thinking Globally,  
Building A Better Buloke*

## ABOUT THIS PLAN

Climate change can have direct and indirect impacts on our environment, economy and people. These impacts can be in the form of both risks and opportunities arising from physical impacts, or transitional impacts (from the process of adjusting to a changing climate and a low carbon economy).

**Risks and opportunities** were identified for Buloke Shire through the *“Report for Buloke’s Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Strategy & Plan”* (insert link here) under the themes of people, natural resources, built environment, economy and council operations. *The Report for Buloke’s Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Strategy & Plan* was prepared for the Buloke Shire by **Ndevr Environmental** in August 2021.

**Climate mitigation and adaptation actions** have been identified to reduce Buloke Shire Council’s corporate and community climate risks and enhance climate-related opportunities. Climate change mitigation refers to measures to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while adaptation refers to measures to adjust to current and expected impacts of climate change. Mitigating climate change will help to avoid future climate change scenarios and adaptation will help manage the effects of climate change impacts that are unavoidable.

Actions have been categorised into 13 goals for climate action:

- Integrate climate into Council operations;
- Robust emissions measurement;
- Ongoing emergency management;
- Waste and landfill emissions reductions;
- Council building improvements;
- Community building improvements;
- Energy security and technology switching;
- Low emission transport;
- Transport infrastructure improvements;
- Improve septic tank management;
- Enhance biodiversity, conservation and revegetation;
- Adaptive agriculture; and
- Shared community vision.

It is important this Plan is interpreted alongside and integrated with Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-205 and Long Term Community Vision, local Community Plans and other intersecting key documents such as the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

## BULOKE 2030 CLIMATE SCENARIO

General findings for climate scenario projections for Buloke Shire in 2030 are consistent across the Victorian snapshots and previous works such as the AECOM IRVACAP (2014), NCCMA Climate Change Plan (2015), Mallee NRM Plan (2016) and the DELWP Regional Adaptation Snapshot – Loddon Mallee (2017).

Overall, Buloke Shire can expect:

- Average temperature increases across all seasons
- Increase in the number of extreme temperatures
- Reduced annual rainfall
- Increase in heavy rainfall intensity
- Increased evaporation
- Reduced humidity and frosts

Based on the above variables, extreme events such as floods and fires are also likely to increase. Key rivers in the Buloke region run through the major towns of Donald and Charlton and floodplains and make these towns particularly susceptible to flooding. Since 2010, Donald has experience 3 flooding events with a major flooding event which occurred in 2011. The 2011 event impacted local and state roads, power, residential and commercial housing, community facilities (e.g., swimming pool, sports club), and agricultural land.

Charlton has experienced recent major flooding including September 2010, November 2010 and January 2011. In January 2011 nearly all of the town was flooded including houses, businesses, emergency service stations (i.e., ambulance, police and fire), hospital and health centre, aged care facility and schools. In addition, a major flood event occurred in Birchip in 2018, causing \$10.8 million in damage. Since most of the land use in Buloke is for agriculture, bush fires are unlikely. However, farms can experience fires to grass and crops.

A more detail look at Buloke’s Climate Scenario, Risks and Opportunities can be found in the *“Report for Buloke’s Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Strategy & Plan”* by NDevr Environmental.

Table 2: 2030 Climate Scenarios Across the Mallee, Wimmera and Loddon Regions

Climate variable	Mallee Historical (1986-2005)	Mallee Projected Change (2020-2039)		Wimmera Historical (1986-2005)	Wimmera Projected Change (2020-2039)		Loddon Historical (1986-2005)	Loddon Projected Change (2020-2039)	
		RCP4.5	RCP8.5		RCP4.5	RCP8.5		RCP4.5	RCP8.5
Maximum Temperature (°C)	23.9	25 (increase by an average of 1.1)	25.2 (increase by an average of 1.3)	21.4	22.5 (increase by an average of 1.1)	22.7 (increase by an average of 1.3)	20.7	21.7 (increase by an average of 1)	22.1 (increase by an average of 1.4)
Minimum Temperature (°C)	10.3	11 (increase by an average of 0.7)	11.1 (increase by an average of 0.8)	8	8.7 (increase by an average of 0.7)	8.8 (increase by an average of 0.8)	7.6	8.3 (increase by an average of 0.7)	8.4 (increase by an average of 0.8)
Rainfall (mm)	278.5	261.79 (decrease by an average of 6%)	253.43 (decrease by an average of 9%)	403.4	371.13 (decrease by an average of 8%)	363.06 (decrease by an average of 10%)	499.1	479.14 (decrease by an average of 4%)	449.19 (decrease by an average of 10%)
Relative Humidity (%)	NA	-1.9	-2.4	NA	-2.0	-2.4	NA	-1.5	-2.7
Pan Evaporation (%)	NA	14.4	17.7	NA	13.3	14.9	NA	11.3	15.3
Solar Radiation (%)	NA	1.6	1.3	NA	1.7	1.6	NA	1.7	2.0
Surface Wind Speed (%)	NA	-1.3	-1.5	NA	-1.0	-1.7	NA	-1.1	-1.4
Extreme Daily Maximum Temperature (°C)	NA	1°C average increase	0.8°C average increase	NA	1.0 average increase	1.4 average increase	NA	1.0 average increase	0.7 average increase
Extreme Daily Rainfall (%)	NA	1%	-2%	NA	-2.0	-4.0	NA	-6.0	-7.0

## WHAT WE HEARD

In developing this Draft Plan, Ndevr Environmental undertook a community survey.

Of the 2030 climate scenario predictions, respondents were most concerned about increase in **extreme temperature days** and **fire risk** and **reduced annual rainfall**.

The top concerns about climate change impacts included: disruption to essential services (e.g., power blackouts, telecommunications); closely followed by loss of native plants and animals, and reduced crop yields or livestock health; followed by increase in pests, and water quality and security.

When asked about how they felt about how climate change may impact their lives, respondents were mostly concerned about the impact on their quality of life (e.g., health, freedom, access to resources, etc), cost of living and economic viability of businesses (particularly farming and family farms).

The Buloke community is already making progress towards climate change mitigation and adaptation to reduce their emissions, respondents have made efforts primarily towards waste reduction, improving energy efficiency, installing solar panels and making improvements to their property.

To enhance their resilience to climate change, respondents have made efforts primarily towards installing rainwater tanks, planting vegetation on their property, making building improvements, and fire prevention and management actions.

Despite efforts to reduce waste, use rainwater tanks, install solar, plant vegetation, and make improvements to their property, survey respondents still identified these as key areas they would like to receive more support in implementing.

Improved systems for **recycling** and green waste were the most commonly requested actions for support, closely followed by **renewable energy systems** at the community level. This is evident when looking at what respondents identified as the largest barriers to mitigating and adapting to climate change: lack of systems and infrastructure. Funding was also identified as a key barrier.

## YOUR TOP IDEAS

Ideas from survey respondents to improve existing systems and infrastructure included:

- **Recycling.** *"Soft plastic collection point. Glass collection point. Improve the transfer stations to allow the collection of more materials such as textiles, shoes, carpets etc., and have a partnership with the recyclers of such materials to collect and use them."*
- **Green waste.** *"Turning green waste into compost and wood chips. Support use of green waste services (e.g., composting and worm farms). Composting scheme to educate and encourage composting at home."*
- **Renewable energy.** *"Solar farms and wind turbines stations for each town, with power storage."*

When asked about how Buloke Shire Council could best support the community to take climate action, Council leadership, promoting community collaboration and lobbying were agreed to be the most helpful. These are closely followed by information programs and funding schemes.

Some specific supportive actions that survey respondents have suggested under the categories are as follows:

- **Lead by example.** *Replace their vehicle fleets with electric or hybrid vehicles (cars, utes, machinery etc.). Council should be capturing all food waste from their offices and composting waste.*
- **Information/education.** *Provide environmentally friendly tips. Support the delivery of long-term behaviour change type programs in businesses and schools in the Shire (e.g., Resource Smart Schools). Information sessions and workshops at grassroots level.*
- **Funding/grant schemes.** *Rate reduction for carrying out climate change activities - whether that be household rates or farm rates.*
- **Lobby.** *Lobby for improved rail freight to reduce the number of trucks in the area and for the return of passenger rail.*

## HOW WE WILL CREATE ACTION FOR CLIMATE

### GOAL

#### **Integrate climate into Council operations**

### ACTIONS

- Include climate scenario and risk profile in Councillor briefing packs and staff induction.
- Ensure climate mitigation and adaptation is represented in all relevant documents, policies and procedures. Continue reporting on sustainability implications in Reports to Council.
- Develop climate mitigation and adaptation guidance through the local planning scheme.
- Provide professional development training to planning staff on how to educate residents on climate ready developments.
- Use the How Well Are We Adapting tool to monitor impacts of climate change on Council services and develop responses.

### ROLE

Leader, Regulator.

### MEASURE

Number of staff completed training.  
Outcome of the How Well Are We Adapting tool.

#### **Robust emissions measurement**

- Measure baseline corporate and community emissions in line with robust standards.
- Consider setting a reduced emissions target and interim targets.
- Annual measurement and reporting.

Leader

Annual Reporting

#### **Ongoing Emergency Management**

- Continue with the Municipal Emergency Management Plan – review and update regularly, develop community champions.
- Include planning for alternative transport routes in MEMP and protection of shelters.
- Ongoing community education campaigns and training on MEMP.
- Assist community groups and businesses with business continuity planning during times of emergency or extreme events.
- Implement the Safer Together project between CFA and DELWP in the Buloke Shire.
- Identify further community resilience building opportunities.

Leader, Provider

Regular updates of MEMP.  
Number of community education and information sessions held.

#### **Waste and landfill emissions reductions**

- Investigate composting program to divert green and food organic waste from landfill.
- Support partnership opportunities to develop a Container Deposit Scheme and Soft Plastic Recycling for the region.
- Investigate feasibility of recycle and/or compost processing plant in Buloke. Explore partnership options such as BCG for FOGO circular economy
- Investigate feasibility of Emissions Reduction Fund landfill gas capture project and implement if successful
- Support grass-roots initiatives to reduce single-use economy, such as local Op Shops and repair sheds.

Leader, Provider, Partner

Tonnes of wastedeposited to landfill versus organic and recycling sites.  
Number of households or businesses participating in programs.  
Meeting Recycling Victoria Policy targets.  
Increase in patronage and support for Op Shops.

## HOW WE WILL CREATE ACTION FOR CLIMATE

GOAL	ACTIONS	ROLE	MEASURE
<b>Council building improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct facility assessments, targeting high emitting or at-risk Council-owned facilities first.</li> <li>• Identify specific reduction/adaptation measures for each facility and implement.</li> <li>• Keep track of assessments and improvements in line with asset management</li> <li>• Consider a Sustainable Building Policy for new buildings and refurbishments</li> </ul>	Leader.	Number of buildings assessed, and improvements implemented. Reduction in BSC emissions.
<b>Community building improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage community to participate in schemes and programs that help them to understand their energy bills and seek advice/funding on how to reduce energy consumption and make their buildings more resilient</li> <li>• Advocate for equitable access to insurance and policies which include climate considerations</li> <li>• Continue to promote the uptake of Council's Sustainability Grant Program.</li> </ul>	Leader, Supporter, Advocate, Funder.	Number of households and residents participating in programs Community emissions reductions Number of Sustainability Grants funded.
<b>Energy security and technology switching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for suitable transmission and distribution infrastructure to support renewable energy projects</li> <li>• Complete Microgrid Feasibility Study and implement upon successful study</li> </ul>	Supporter, Partner, Provider	Roll-out of microgrid Approval of new transmission lines
<b>Low emission transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for partner opportunities to conduct a feasibility study and transition planning to electrify fleet vehicles.</li> <li>• Raise community awareness of EVs and encourage community to take up State packages (e.g., grant for EV purchase)</li> <li>• Continue to assess community EV use and advocate for State to (co-)fund chargers and electricity costs.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Mallee Hydrogen Technology Cluster to identify opportunities as they arise.</li> <li>• Encourage and support car-pooling projects and community solutions towards low emission transport.</li> <li>• Continue investing in footpath maintenance to encourage walking instead of driving within small town reach.</li> </ul>	Provider, Partner	Number of EVs registered in Buloke. Corporate fuel usage data.
<b>Transport infrastructure improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update asset management in line with mitigating climate risks</li> <li>• Advocate for public transport infrastructure</li> <li>• Advocate for rail freight</li> </ul>	Advocate	Rail Freight Alliance attendance. Listing in Advocacy Strategy.

## HOW WE WILL CREATE ACTION FOR CLIMATE

GOAL	ACTIONS	ROLE	MEASURE
<b>Improve septic tank management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-new community education on correct septic tank management to reduce risk of health and financial risks to community</li> <li>• Better resource Environmental Health to increase frequency of inspections</li> <li>• Advocate for improved domestic wastewater management in townships currently without formal sewerage systems</li> </ul>	Leader.	Number of inspections conducted Percentage of compliant systems Number of complaints
<b>Enhance biodiversity, conservation and revegetation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen relationships with local Landcare Groups.</li> <li>• Ecological mapping and planning</li> <li>• Continue use of tools and tree asset management and undertake a prioity treeaudit</li> <li>• Work with key community groups to link with funded opportunities to promote community understanding of biodiversity, conservation and revegetation.</li> <li>• Strengthen relationships with Traditional Owners in biodiversity, conservation and revegetation projects.</li> </ul>	Leader, Provider, Partner	Number of trees planted in Buloke region (by Council and other groups) Outcome of tree audit
<b>Adaptive agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise educational events with key partners, such as building on the success of the BCG Climate Change.</li> <li>• Showcase existing wins</li> <li>• Collaborate with State and farming/agriculture groups to provide cofunding opportunities to small farmers that are not eligible for other schemes</li> </ul>	Provider, Facilitator	Number of participants at events Number of small farmers with approved funding
<b>Shared community vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a communication strategy to encourage positive discussion and acceptance of climate change</li> <li>• Encourage community networking through participation in existing programs</li> <li>• Facilitate community participation in grassroots educational campaigns (e.g., climate chats for schools)</li> <li>• Linkthis plan strongly with Local Community Plans and Council Plan and Long Term Community Vision to collectively work towards "Building a Better Buloke".</li> </ul>	Provider, Supporter, Facilitator	Number of participants in programs/attending events

## 8.2.5 ANNUAL PLAN 2021/22 - PROGRESS REPORT

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

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** CM/13/06

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Council and Community Leadership

### PURPOSE

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

### SUMMARY

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

### RECOMMENDATION

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

**Attachments:** 1 Annual Plan Report

### DISCUSSION

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

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

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

- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy in draft form
- Contractor appointed to complete town drainage strategy for Nullawil
- Progress against the Lighting up Buloke program, with tennis clubs in Charlton, Donald and Wycheproof all having new lights installed.
- Progress against Birchip and Wycheproof streetscapes
- The appointment of a Youth Officer to deliver our VicHealth program
- Application submitted for the cabins accommodation across our caravan parks.
- Economic Development and Tourism Strategy commenced, with workshops held with key stakeholder groups

- Partnered with Wimmera Development Association to apply for funding for a feasibility study for the Donald Tradie Park
- Advocacy Strategy adopted
- Recruitment for the Volunteer Co-ordinator role underway.

Whilst not an item listed in the Annual Plan, the completion and the opening of the Sea Lake Visitor Centre is a highlight for Council.

#### **RELEVANT LAW**

The Annual Plan forms part of the review of the Council Plan, required under the *Local Government Act 2020*

#### **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

This item responds directly the adoption of the Year 4 Annual Plan in July 2021.

#### **OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

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

Not applicable.

#### **COLLABORATION**

Many actions rely upon the collaboration with other councils and key peak bodies, local stakeholder groups and the community.

#### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

The items listed in the Annual Plan have been factored into the Annual Budget, which is reported on regularly.

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

Not applicable.

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

This report responds directly to the implementation of the Council Plan and the adopted Annual Plan 21/22.

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

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

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

**2021/22 Annual Plan**

Our Built and Natural Environment						
Action	Description of activity	Strategic Basis	Measure	Completion date	Status	Comments
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	Adopt Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy	Council Plan 1.1	Strategy Adopted	Sep-21	In progress	Draft Strategy to be presented to Council at its October Meeting to be placed on exhibition for public submission.
Buloke Shire Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	Install dedicated glass collection bins at Transfer Stations across the Shire	Council Plan 1.1	Bins installed	Jun-22	In progress	Funding submission made for glass bins. Awaiting outcome from DELWP
Find innovative solutions to hard rubbish needs across the Shire	Partner with local business suppliers to find user-pay solutions to the desire for hard rubbish collection	Council Plan 1.1	Solution implemented	Nov-21	In progress	Expression of Interest for contractors being prepared for release in October.
Kerbside Collection contract	Enter into long-term contract for new kerbside collection services	Council Plan 1.1	Contract awarded	Feb-22	In progress	Tenders called for, closing 13 October.
Suitable Housing	Undertake subdivision and servicing of old Primary School site in Sea Lake	Council Plan 1.2	Properties on the market	Aug-22	In progress	Request for Quote for surveyor and project manager have been requested.
Suitable Housing	Advocate for funding for the expansion of Birchip Community Housing onto old bowling green site	Council Plan 1.2	Applications submitted	Dec-21	Complete	Funding application submitted to Regional Development Victoria for the development
Drainage Planning	Complete town drainage strategy for Nullawil	Council Plan 1.3	Plan completed	Dec-21	In progress	Consultant engaged and plans commenced.
Upgrading sporting facilities	Complete lighting projects across sporting fields in Donald, Wycheproof, Charlton and Nullawil	Council Plan 1.3	Construction completed	Jun-22	In progress	Tennis club projects underway. Tenders called for Wycheproof, Nullawil and Charlton football, hockey and netball courts - closing 6 October
Streetscape upgrades	Complete streetscape upgrades for all five townships	Council Plan 1.3	Construction completed	Jun-22	In progress	Birchip and Wycheproof underway. Finalising plans for Sea Lake, Charlton and Donald to go to tender.
Playspace Strategy Implementation	Construction of playspaces for Berrwilllock, Birchip, Wycheproof, Charlton and Donald	Council Plan 1.3	Construction completed	Sep-22	In progress	Engaging with communities on final plans
Seek funding for regional supply chain strategies (Road and Rail)	Applications submitted for upgrades to key heavy road	Council Plan 1.4	Applications submitted	Jun-22	Not yet started	No funding opportunities have presented
Community Hub Planning	Seek funding for Charlton Community/Civic Hub	Council Plan 1.4	Applications submitted	Aug-21	In progress	Briefings to Councillors. Project to be delayed for further consideration
Key freight route upgrades	Complete key heavy road upgrade projects, including Sea Lake Lascelles Road, Birchip Nullawil Road and Jeffcott Road	Council Plan 1.4	Construction completed	Jun-22	In progress	Sea Lake Lascelles and Birchip Nullawil Road underway

Our Community Wellbeing						
Action	Description of activity	Strategic Basis	Measure	Completion date	Status	Comments
Youth Planning for health outcomes	Enact first year of VicHealth Local Government Partnership	Council Plan 2.1	Youth Officer employed and four community workshops completed	Feb-22	In progress	Youth Officer engaged under the program has now commenced in the role.
Implement Workforce Development and Training Needs Analysis	Work with regional stakeholders to attract Job and Skill Centre presence in the Shire	Council Plan 2.1	Provision of service available in Buloke (min. 1 day per week)	Mar-22	In progress	Engagement commenced with SuniTafe who hold the funding for this program.
Gender Equality Planning	Undertake Gender Equality Action Plan	Council Plan 2.2	Plan completed	Dec-21	In progress	State Government has extended the completion date to March 2022. Survey completed and audit has commenced.
Ongoing improvement of library service	Library Van upgraded to be more accessible and versatile	Council Plan 2.3	Upgrades to van completed	May-22	Completed	Upgrades to Council's Library Van have commenced. Shelving, steps and hand rails installed.
Planning for upgrades to early years facilities	Strategic plans completed for upgrades at Birchip and Donald Early Years Facilities	Council Plan 2.3	Plans completed	Mar-22	In progress	Early engagement occurring with both Committees
COVID-19 recovery activities to reconnect the community	Support the delivery of all CASI funded projects and report on the benefits of the program	Council Plan 2.3	Projects and events completed. Report completed	Feb-22	In progress	Due to the fluctuating nature of current COVID-19 restrictions, some of the funded events have been postponed or cancelled. Council officers continue to work with successful candidates.
Supporting the implementation of Community Plans	Support the Small Towns Big Difference program to deliver an expanded dedicated community grants program to the community	Council Plan 2.3	Funding program available to community	Dec-21	In progress	Mayor has been added to the advisory group.

Our Economy						
Action	Description of activity	Strategic Basis	Measure	Completion date	Responsible officer	Status

Prioritise the funding application for cabins at caravan parks	Apply for cabin accommodation at caravan parks and lakes across the Shire	Council Plan 3.1	Applications submitted	Aug-21	Completed (application submitted)	Applications in with Federal and State Government
Expand street art across the Shire	Undertake the Buloke Street Art Festival at Birchip and Watchem	Council Plan 3.1	Festival undertaken and additional art installations completed	Apr-22	In progress	Date set for long weekend in March. Initial meeting held.
Tourism activation	Partner with key agencies including Wimmera Mallee Tourism and Buloke Tourism to deliver activation projects	Council Plan 3.1	Activation undertaken	Jun-22	In progress	Planning underway
Night activation of the art trail	Deliver on funding for the night activation of the Silo Art Trail	Council Plan 3.1	Night activation installed	Aug-22	In progress	Planning underway
Birchip Town Centre proposal development	Development of feasibility study for the Birchip Civic and Community Hub project	Council Plan 3.2	Feasibility study adopted by Council	Apr-22	In progress	Consultant engaged, surveys being undertaken and listening posts and interviews underway
Planning for Donald Tradie Park	Submit funding application for planning of Donald Tradie Park proposal	Council Plan 3.2	Application submitted	Sep-21	Completed (application submitted)	Application submitted in partnership with Wimmera Development Association
Redevelop Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	Redevelop Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	Council Plan 3.3	Strategy adopted	Mar-21	In progress	Briefings commenced with EDATAC
Incentives for housing and business development	Develop and present options paper of appropriate incentives for housing and business development	Council Plan 3.3	Council position adopted	Nov-21	In progress	Briefing to Council in September
Removing mobile blackspots	Undertake a review of mobile blackspots across the Shire and prioritise three most required.	Council Plan 3.4	Blackspots identified and form part of Advocacy Strategy	Oct-21	In progress	Mobile blackspot incorporated in Advocacy Strategy. State Government requesting blackspot information from community.
Upgrades to broadband in Sea Lake	Prioritise the advocacy for upgrades to Sea Lake broadband to fibre	Council Plan 3.4	Advocacy activity undertaken and reported on	Jun-22	In progress	Engaged with NBN on build costs and quote to be received in September. Advocacy included in the Connecting Victoria program
Internet of Things rollout across key assets	Implement the Internet of Things project to transition Council towards smart region technology	Council Plan 3.4	Project Implemented	May-22	In progress	Successful vendor selected and reviewing additional site for Lake Tyrrell

Our Council and Community Leadership						
Action	Description of activity	Strategic Basis	Measure	Completion date	Responsible officer	Status
Supporting Buloke volunteers	Alongside Vounter Co-ordinator position (RDV) re-develop and implement the Volunteer Action Plan	Council Plan 4.1	Plan completed	Mar-22	In progress	Council is currently in the recruiting phase with the role of Volunteer Development Officer closing for applicants on 1 October 2021.
Review Council grants, contributions and donations	Undertake a review of Council's grants, contributions and donations and redevelop policy	Council Plan 4.1	Review complete and policy developed	Oct-21	In progress	Workshop to be presented to Councillors at an October Councillor Briefing.
Develop Communication Strategy	Continue to enhance our online and traditional communication presence to reach all community members with Council information by developing a Communication Strategy.	Council Plan 4.2	Communication Strategy completed	Feb-22	In progress	Initial scoping works completed and a draft document is being written. This project will be delivered by Council's Manager Customer Engagement, this role is currently vacant.
Increase our communication and involvement with the community in decision making	Provide high quality customer service and a foster an all of organisation customer service approach through a revised Customer Service Strategy.	Council Plan 4.2	Report against progress of customer service strategy	Jun-22	In progress	Internal consultation has commenced with Council's Management Team. This project will be delivered by Council's Manager Customer Engagement, this role is currently vacant.
Redevelop Council's Road Management Plan	Develop a new Road Management Plan	Council Plan 4.3	Plan adopted	Jan-21	In progress	Project plan complete, councillor workshop planned for October.
Efficient and flexible service delivery	Finalise the Business Transformation Strategy	Council Plan 4.3	Strategy completed	Sep-21	In progress	Penultimate draft presented to Senior Leadership Sept-21.
Adherence to Local Government Act	Complete a review of the Procurement Policy and develop the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy	Council Plan 4.3	Policies adopted	Dec-21	In progress	CEO Employment and Remuneration policy scheduled to October Council Meeting. Procurement policy review commenced.
Manage our Assets in an effective manner	Develop suite of Asset Management Plans	Council Plan 4.3	Plans developed	Jun-22	In progress	Road and Transport Asset Management Plan developed.

Complete Workforce Plan	Develop a 4-year Workforce Plan	Council Plan 4.4	Workforce plan completed	Dec-21	In progress	Commenced
Renew the Advocacy Strategy	Complete a review and redevelop the Advocacy Strategy to align with Council and community vision	Council Plan 4.4	Advocacy Strategy completed	Sep-21	Complete	Advocacy Strategy adopted by Council in September
Build community preparedness and resilience to the effects of extreme weather events	Safer together program in partnership with Gannawarra	Council Plan 4.4	Works completed	Jun-22	In progress	Council are in discussions with Gannawarra Shire Council and the CFA on the delivery of this project. Funding for the program has been extended until June 2022.
Reduce the asset renewal gap	Undertake the next review of Councils land and building stock and identify surplus assets	Council Plan 4.4	Presented to Council briefing	Jan-22	In progress	Officers commenced review of asset list

## 8.2.6 ACTIVITIES OF CHARLTON PARK COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE

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

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** CM/17/04

### PURPOSE

To inform Council of the activities of the Charlton Park Community Asset Committee (Committee).

### SUMMARY

An annual report to Council in relation to the activities and performance of the Committee is provided to Council in accord with Council's legislative requirements.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Annual Report of activities and performance of the Charlton Park Community Asset Committee.

**Attachments:** 1 Charlton Park Community Asset Committee Minutes

### DISCUSSION

Council established the Committee under section 65 of the *Local Government Act (Act)* on 12 August 2020. The Chief Executive under the authority of s5 Instrument of Delegation authorised by resolution of Council made on 10 June 2020, sub delegated powers to the Committee.

The Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to submit an annual report to the Council in relation to the activities and performance of the Community Asset Committee. A copy of the Committee's Annual General Meeting minutes has been attached for the information of the Council.

### RELEVANT LAW

This report enables the Council to meet its requirements under the Act.

### RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Information in relation to the establishment of the Committee under the Act is set out in the report.

### OPTIONS

Not applicable to this report.

### SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

### INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

**COLLABORATION**

Not applicable to this report.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Not applicable to this report.

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

Not applicable to this report.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable to this report.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Information in relation to the Committee performance and activities is considered at a public Meeting of the Council.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No Officer has a conflict of interest in relation to the annual report of operations of the Committee.

**Charlton Park Community Assets Committee**  
**Minutes (draft) of meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021, at Community Complex**

**List of club representatives:**

<b>Buloke Shire</b>	Carolyn Stewart	<b>Sec / Treasurer</b>	Simon Peck
<b>Harness Club</b>	Joe Thompson	<b>Golf</b>	Troy Heenan
<b>Cricket</b>	Adam Soulsby	<b>Bowling</b>	Kevin Willey
<b>Park Golf</b>	Pat Clifford	<b>Netball</b>	Kim Fitzpatrick
<b>Pony Club</b>	Alena Olive	<b>Hockey</b>	Stacy Thompson
<b>Football Club</b>	Shane Fitzpatrick	<b>Show</b>	Wendy Laffin
<b>Stadium</b>	Kelvin Baird	<b>Angling</b>	Kevin Willey
<b>Tennis</b>	Troy Heenan		
<b>Croquet</b>	Glenda Litton		

**Present:** John Harley, Kim Fitzpatrick, Simon Peck, Carolyn Stewart, Kevin Willey, Troy Heenan, , Wendy Laffin, K Baird, Stacy Thompson

**Apologies:** Shane Fitzpatrick, Glenda Litton, Joe Thompson

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

Moved by Troy Heenan / Kelvin Baird that should be accepted – Carried

**Business Arising:**

- Nil.

**Correspondence in:**

Buloke Shire Re Charlton Pony Club membership of Committee

**Correspondence out:**

Nil

**Finance Report:**

- Current balance \$40,991

Moved that the report be accepted.

Simon Peck / Wendy Laffin – Carried.

**Club Reports:**

## A&amp;P Society

- Still planning for Show to go ahead, subject to Covid restrictions.
- Stands to be fixed with funds from grant. Chris Matthews has been engaged.

## Hockey Club

- Preparing for finals

## Netball Club

- Preparing for finals
- Currently in discussions with Shire over funding for resurfacing of the court.

## Football Club

- Will host Feeny Medal on Aug 25.

- Hosting Preliminary Final on Sept 4.
- Some remedial works needed on road around oval and car park. A works request will be lodged with the Shire.

#### Angling Club

- Water tank at the clubhouse (shared with Park golfers) has failed. Cost of replacement is \$1,100. The Club is seeking some financial assistance for the replacement.
- Moved that this Committee provide \$550 towards replacement of the tank.

Moved – Kelvin Baird      Seconded – Kevin Willey      Carried

#### Bowling Club

- Will open the season September 12

#### Golf Club

- Successful tournament conducted over the weekend.

#### 2020

- Disability access problem at the north west end of the building is being fixed.
- The permit problems with the Catchment management Authority are closer to being remedied and a permit being issued.
- Materials for the Vet shed have been delivered and construction should begin soon.

#### Tennis Club

- Construction on new lights has begun
- The problem trees have been removed thanks to the Shire. Arborist has noticed problems with two more trees that may need to be dealt with.
- Currently investigating replacement trees. The Tennis Club has had a number of offers to fund new, established trees. The Club will contact the Shire to see if permission is required.

#### General Business:

- Lions Club swap meet to be held on October 10, not 3 (second Sunday)
- Relocation of tank – contractors are ready to commence construction of the pad. They are seeking permission to remove some of the internal fencing to enable access. This was agreed to and will be communicated to the contractors..
- The Harness Racing Club are seeking permission to approach the Shire for the use of one of the line of water tanks currently situated along the fence to the north of the main gate. This will be used for the new facilities at the Training venue on the Back St Arnaud Rd.

Moved that this Committee supports the Harness Club's proposal.

Moved – John Harley      Seconded – Troy Heenan      Carried

**Meeting closed:** 9.02 pm

#### Next Meeting:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 8.00pm – Community Complex Meeting room.

## 8.2.7 ACTIVITIES OF BIRCHIP HOUSING COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE

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

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** CM/17/04

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Built and Natural Environment

### PURPOSE

To inform Council of the activities of the Birchip Housing Community Asset Committee (Committee).

### SUMMARY

Annual report to Council in relation to the activities and performance of the Committee is provided to Council in accord with Council's legislative requirements.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Annual Report of activities and performance of the Birchip Housing Community Asset Committee

**Attachments:**

- 1 Minutes 28 October 2020 - **Confidential**
- 2 Minutes 5 May 2021 - **Confidential**
- 3 Minutes 14 July 2021 - **Confidential**
- 4 Minutes 25 February 2021 - **Confidential**
- 5 Financial Statements as at 30 June 2021

### DISCUSSION

Council established the Committee under section 65 of the *Local Government Act (Act)* on 12 August 2020. The Chief Executive under the authority of s5 Instrument of Delegation authorised by resolution of Council made on 10 June 2020, sub delegated powers to the Committee.

The Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to submit an annual report to the Council in relation to the activities and performance of the Community Asset Committee. A copy of the Committee's Annual General Meeting minutes and Financial Statements has been attached for the information of the Council.

### RELEVANT LAW

This report enables the Council to meet its requirements under the Act.

### RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Information in relation to the establishment of the Committee under the Act is set out in the report.

### OPTIONS

Not applicable to this report.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable to this report.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable to this report.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable to this report.

**COLLABORATION**

Not applicable to this report.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

Not applicable to this report.

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

Not applicable to this report.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable to this report.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Information in relation to the Committee performance and activities is considered at a public Meeting of the Council.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officer has a conflict of interest in relation to the annual report of operations of the Committee.

# Financial Statements

Birchip Community Housing

ABN 27 094 289 567

For the three years ended 30 June 2021

Prepared by Wimmera Mallee Accounting

## Contents

3	Income and Expenditure Statement
4	Assets and Liabilities Statement
5	Notes to the Financial Statements
8	Movements in Equity
9	True and Fair Position
10	Compilation Report

## Income and Expenditure Statement

### Birchip Community Housing For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>			
Increase in Valuation of Land & Buildings	-	5,000	-
Donations	-	-	2,500
Fundraising	79,845	83,108	75,600
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>79,845</b>	<b>88,108</b>	<b>78,100</b>
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>79,845</b>	<b>88,108</b>	<b>78,100</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Bank Fees	523	88	120
Consulting & Accounting	124	120	210
Electricity	992	936	1,277
Gardening	9,800	10,847	6,134
Interest Expense	454	2,170	4,321
Printing & Stationery	-	-	146
Rates - Council	4,220	4,130	4,140
Rates - Water	11,982	13,689	12,522
Repairs and Maintenance	5,567	6,693	8,923
Replacement of Fixtures	14,953	4,945	9,819
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>48,615</b>	<b>43,619</b>	<b>47,613</b>
<b>Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>31,230</b>	<b>44,489</b>	<b>30,487</b>
<b>Net Current Year Surplus After Adjustments</b>	<b>31,230</b>	<b>44,489</b>	<b>30,487</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

# Assets and Liabilities Statement

## Birchip Community Housing

As at 30 June 2021

	NOTES	30 JUN 2021	30 JUN 2020	30 JUN 2019
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash and Cash Equivalents		46,870	51,131	34,655
Other Current Assets		3,960	-	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>50,830</b>	<b>51,131</b>	<b>34,655</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Land and Buildings		1,327,000	1,327,000	1,322,000
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,327,000</b>	<b>1,327,000</b>	<b>1,322,000</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,377,830</b>	<b>1,378,131</b>	<b>1,356,655</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
Loans	4	-	31,531	54,544
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>31,531</b>	<b>54,544</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>31,531</b>	<b>54,544</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>1,377,830</b>	<b>1,346,601</b>	<b>1,302,111</b>
<b>Member's Funds</b>				
Capital Reserve		1,377,830	1,346,601	1,302,111
<b>Total Member's Funds</b>		<b>1,377,830</b>	<b>1,346,601</b>	<b>1,302,111</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Birchip Community Housing For the year ended 30 June 2021

### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Victoria. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

#### Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

#### Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

#### Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

#### Cash on Hand

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

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These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Notes to the Financial Statements

**Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

**Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

**Financial Assets**

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

**Accounts Payable and Other Payables**

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

	2021	2020	2019
<b>2. Cash on Hand</b>			
CBA Cheque Account	46,870	51,131	34,655
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>46,870</b>	<b>51,131</b>	<b>34,655</b>
	2021	2020	2019
<b>3. Land and Buildings</b>			
Land & Buildings	1,327,000	1,327,000	1,322,000
<b>Total Land and Buildings</b>	<b>1,327,000</b>	<b>1,327,000</b>	<b>1,322,000</b>

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Notes to the Financial Statements

	2021	2020	2019
<b>4. Loans</b>			
<b>Non Current Liability</b>			
Loan - Bendigo Bank	-	31,531	54,544
<b>Total Non Current Liability</b>	-	<b>31,531</b>	<b>54,544</b>
<b>Total Loans</b>	-	<b>31,531</b>	<b>54,544</b>

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These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

## Movements in Equity

### Birchip Community Housing For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020	2019
<b>Equity</b>			
Opening Balance	1,346,601	1,302,111	1,271,625
<b>Increases</b>			
Profit for the Period	31,230	44,489	30,487
<b>Total Increases</b>	<b>31,230</b>	<b>44,489</b>	<b>30,487</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,377,830</b>	<b>1,346,601</b>	<b>1,302,111</b>

## True and Fair Position

### Birchip Community Housing For the year ended 30 June 2021

#### Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance of the Association

We, John Richmond (Secretary), and Jenny Hogan (Treasurer), being members of the committee of Birchip Community Housing, certify that

the statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Birchip Community Housing during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2021.

Signed:

Dated: / /

Signed:

Dated: / /

# Compilation Report

## Birchip Community Housing For the year ended 30 June 2021

Compilation report to Birchip Community Housing.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Birchip Community Housing, which comprise the asset and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2021, income and expenditure statement, the statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

### The Responsibility of the Committee Member's

The committee of Birchip Community Housing are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that financial statements were prepared.

### Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the Committee we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 *Compilation of Financial Information*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

### Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the committee who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

### Sandie Richmond

Wimmera Mallee Accounting  
59 Cumming Ave  
Birchip VIC 3483

Dated: 03/08 /2021

## 8.2.8 APPLICATION TO KEEP EXCESS ANIMALS AT 29 HANNON STREET, SEA LAKE

**Author's Title:** Compliance Team Leader

**Department:** Works and Technical Services

**File No:** LA/08/06

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Built and Natural Environment

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the application and make an informed determination.

### SUMMARY

Council has received a Local Laws application for a permit to allow the keeping of excess number of poultry at 29 Hannon Street, Sea Lake.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council refuses the application for a permit under Council's Community Local Law 2019 Clause 42(1) to keep animals that are excess in number of poultry as per the Table as listed in 42(1) of Council's Community Local Law 2019 at the address of 29 Hannon Street, Sea Lake.

**Attachments:**

- 1 Customer Service Complaint - **Confidential**
- 2 Application to Keep Excess Animals - **Confidential**
- 3 Objection to application - Confidential - **Confidential**

### DISCUSSION

Council's Community Local Law 2019 prohibits the keeping of more than 6 Chickens without a Local Law permit within the confines of a township. The keeping of roosters is also prohibited without a local law permit.

Surrounding landowners and residents were requested in writing to consider the application and submit any objections to Council by the 26 August 2021. Council has received 1 objection from landowner/resident who state that they are concerned regarding the application to keep excess animals in the area (refer attachment).

In response to a complaint lodged with Council regarding excessive numbers of chickens and roosters being kept at the address, Council's Ranger undertook an inspection of the property this revealed that the applicant was keeping approx. 50-60 chickens and several roosters at the address. The animals were being kept without a Local Law permit and conditions that were contrary to Clause 43. *Animal accommodation* of Council's Community Local Law 2019.

In the application to keep excess animals, the applicant has stated that his doctor had suggested that the keeping of the chickens would be therapeutic.

A letter was sent to the applicant on the 22 July 2021 seeking further information from his medical practitioner for information to support his application.

To date no response or advice has been received from the applicant or his medical practitioner.

**RELEVANT LAW**

Community Local Law Clause 42 "Keeping of Animals".

**RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Not applicable.

**OPTIONS**

An alternative motion is available to Council if it so determines.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Following normal Local Laws procedures, Council has undertaken a notification process and advertising of the application that involved Seven (7) neighbouring properties that may, or could be, affected by the activity.

**INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Not applicable.

**COLLABORATION**

Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL VIABILITY**

There are no financial implications in this report.

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

Not applicable.

**COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES**

Not applicable.

**TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

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

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

**8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Nil

**8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS**

Nil

**8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Nil

**8.6 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

Nil

**9. OTHER BUSINESS****9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION****9.1.1 FINANCING OF THE CULGOA DUMP POINT**

**Author's Title:** Councillor

**Department:** Office of the CEO

**File No:** GO/09/01

**Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025**

**Strategic Objective:** Our Community Wellbeing

**PURPOSE**

That the Council proceed to finance the installation of a caravan dump point at Culgoa from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funding.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council proceed to finance the installation of a caravan dump point at Culgoa from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funding.

**Attachments:** Nil

**BACKGROUND**

The 2021-25 Council Plan highlights the commitment of the Council and the community to provide tourism opportunities, encouraging visitors to spend time moving around Buloke. Building on the attraction of campers and caravanners to the Buloke area, a caravan dump point is a priority action under the Culgoa Community Plan aimed at increasing visitor activity in and around Culgoa, and community members have highlighted it as a key priority.

Cr Getley tabled the above proposed motion for consideration by the Council.

**9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Nil

**9.3 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

**9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil

**10. MEETING CLOSE**