



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 14 April 2021

Commencing at 7.00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room

367 Broadway, Wycheproof

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 14 April 2021 commencing at 7.00pm in the Wycheproof Supper Room, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON:

Cr Daryl Warren Mount Jeffcott Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Graeme Milne Mount Jeffcott Ward

Cr Bronwyn Simpson Mount Jeffcott Ward

Cr Alan Getley Mallee Ward

Cr David Vis Mallee Ward

Cr Carolyn Stewart Lower Avoca Ward

OFFICERS:

Wayne O'Toole Acting Chief Executive Officer

Hannah Yu Director Corporate Services

Rose Harris Director Community Development

Travis Fitzgibbon Manager Customer Engagement

AGENDA

1. COUNCIL WELCOME

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Daryl Warren welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Cr David Pollard Lower Avoca Ward

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION:

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 March 2021.

MOVED: CR DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR ALAN GETLEY

**CARRIED.
(R920/21)**

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr David Vis requested a leave of absence from 1 – 8 May 2021 inclusive.

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Getley declared a Material Conflict of Interest for Item 9.1.2 Charlton Fire Brigade Facility due to his personal commercial interest with Getley & Sons Real Estate, which have been doing Consulting and Real Estate Services to the Country Fire Authority. Cr Getley declared they have provided these services for this land and have been paid for such services.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

NIL

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

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NIL

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NIL

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NIL

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NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY 2021 AT 7.00PM.

Wayne O'Toole
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**7.1 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS****Author's Title:** Executive Assistant**Department:** Office of the CEO**File No:** CR/13/01**PURPOSE**

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

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON**SECONDED:** CR GRAEME MILNE**CARRIED.
(R921/21)****Attachments:** Nil**RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS**

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Buloke Shire Council	Ray and Lee Parker Teddywaddy	6 May 2021	For reaching the significant milestone of their 60 th Wedding Anniversary.

7.2 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

MOTION:

That the Council note the report of Assembly of Councillor Meetings held on 3 and 17 March 2021.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.
(R922/21)

- Attachments:**
- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 3 March 2021
 - 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 17 March 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 3 and 17 March 2021 is attached for public information.

7.3 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/06

PURPOSE

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

NO MOTION REQUIRED –NIL CORRESPONDENCE NOTED

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Correspondence sent to	Date sent	Date of Response	Summary of Response
Nil.				

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 March 2021 to 31 March 2021.

MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2021.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

CARRIED.

(R923/21)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Permit No.	BAMS Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20210011	3512832201802	16 Morrison Street, Birchip	Internal Alterations	25/02/2021
20210012	2468687493717	14 Howard Street, Sea Lake	Garage/Storage Shed	04/03/2021
20210013	6430275990261	31 Bunker Road, Donald	Lunch Room	04/03/2021
20210015	1144590158257	694 Rupanyup Road, Reedy Dam	Duck Shed, Litter Shed & Ancillary Building	11/03/2021
20210016	1714293833149	134-136 Woods Street, Donald (St Mary's Primary School)	Rebound Wall	11/03/2021
20210017	9772646342929	188 Best Street, Sea Lake	Carport	11/03/2021
20210041	5701170718251	34 Calder Highway, Nullawil	Balcony	25/03/2021
20210051	8154959786667	16 Morrison Street, Birchip	Football Goal Posts	31/03/2021

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE SURVEYOR

Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20210031	518 Ingrams Road, Springfield	Hay Shed	01/03/2021
20210032	47 Sheep Hills Road, Lawler	Hay Shed	01/03/2021
20210033	41 Taylors Road, Kinnabulla	Farm Shed	02/03/2021
20210034	307 Cooks and Kerrs Road, Narraport	Farm Shed	03/03/2021
20210035	Five Mile Road, Yeungroon East	Yard Cover	09/03/2021
20210040	62 East Boundary Road, Narraport	Dwelling Extension	11/03/2021
20210042	16 Morrison Street, Birchip	Light Towers (x4)	12/03/2021
20210043	36 Tower Road, Donald	Machinery Storage and Servicing Shed	13/03/2021
20210044	273 Smiths Road, Kalpienung	Machinery Shed	15/03/2021
20210045	1370 Nullawil-Quambatook Road, Towaninny	Canopy on Existing Hay Shed	15/03/2021
20210046	1094 Sea lake-Springfield Road, Sea Lake	Swimming Pool & Safety Barrier	16/03/2021
20210047	32 Randall Road, Kinnabulla	Farm Shed	25/03/2021

7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: LP/09/01

PURPOSE

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

CARRIED.

(R924/21)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA918/21	AA Majeeb	4 Arundell Square, Charlton	19/03/2021	Use and development of land for a store (shipping container)	Referral Notice of application
PPA917/21	MK & AP McClelland	326 Sea Lake-Swan Hill Road, Sea Lake	12/03/2021	Locate transportable unit for workers accommodation/work office	Request for Further Information
PPA916/21	Action Steel Industries Pty Ltd	Birchip-Wycheproof Road, Birchip (Lot 1 LP 89476)	10/03/2021	Construction of a farm shed	Permit Issued
PPA915/21	Northern Land Solutions	94 Elliots Road, Bimbourie	11/03/2021	Two lot boundary realignment	Awaiting report
PPA914/21	Entegra Signature Structures	31 Charles Street, Wycheproof	09/03/2021	Construction of a farm shed	Permit Issued

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA913/21	JP Arrowsmith	5 Gonyah Flat Road, Charlton	10/03/2021	Construction of a dwelling (studio cabin)	Request for Further Information
PPA912/21	SE & DF Oldfield	7 Lundy Street, Charlton	04/03/2021	Construction of a commercial shed for a retail business	Referral Notice of application
PPA911/21	PB & CT Catherine	16-18 Mildura Way, Charlton	25/03/2021	Change category of liquor licence, vary hours, increase red line area	Awaiting report
PPA910/21	Price Merrett Consulting	76-78 Mount Street, Wycheproof	22/02/2021	Two lot subdivision	Referral
PPA909/21	Kaneira Hotel	24 Main Street, Culgoa	22/02/2021	Construction of shade structure over footpath	Permit Issued
PPA908/21	Paul Roseblade	10 Calder Highway, Berriwillock	11/02/2021	Construct and display a business identification sign	Permit Issued
PPA907/21	James Course (Gawk)	5 Woods Street, Donald	08/02/2021	Construct and display a major promotion sign	Objections
PPA905/21	Beveridge Williams & Co	1 Railway Place, Wycheproof	03/02/2021	Construction of a dwelling	Permit Issued
PPA904/21	Johnson Goodwin Homes	22 Camp Street, Donald	29/01/2021	Construction of six units, garage and storage shed	Awaiting report
PPA902/21	GWM Water	Calder Highway, Dumosa	20/01/2021	Removal of native vegetation	Permit Issued

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

8.1.1 COUNCILLOR GIFT POLICY

Author's Title: Director Corporate Services

Department: Corporate Services

File No: GO|06|11

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

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

PURPOSE

To present the Councillor Gift Policy for adoption.

SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires a Council to adopt a Councillor Gift Policy (Policy) within six months of when the section comes into operation, which is on 24 October 2020. A Policy has been prepared taking into account legislative requirements under the Act.

MOTION:

That Council adopt the Councillor Gift Policy.

MOVED: CR DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

CARRIED.

(R925/21)

Attachments: 1 Councillor Gift Policy

DISCUSSION

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires a Council to adopt a Councillor Gift Policy within six months of when the section comes into operation, which is on 24 October 2020.

The Policy must make provision for the maintenance of a gift register and any matters in the regulations, including a minimum value of gifts that must be disclosed. Councils must also ensure their Policy complies with the public transparency principles.

Council previously included provision in relation to Gifts and declaration of Gifts within the Councillor Code of Conduct.

RELEVANT LAW

The adoption of the Councillor Gift Policy is mandated by the Act and is an essential part of the practice of good governance.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration with other councils occurred in the development of the Policy through the Engage Victoria website.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council's Public Transparency Policy provides that registers of gifts, benefits and hospitality offered to Councillors will be made available to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 WYCHEPROOF GOLF CLUB LEASE

Author's Title: Manager Facilities and Projects

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: CP/22/18

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a new lease with Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated for the operation and management of part of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve being allotment 52A, Section A, Parish of Bunguluke, and Allotment 9, Section A, Township of Wycheproof, and that Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to provide public notice of Council's proposed lease with Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated for the aforementioned site.

SUMMARY

The Wycheproof Recreation Reserve is Crown Land, for which Council is the delegated Crown Land Manager. Council currently leases allotments 52A, Section A, Parish of Bunguluke, and Allotment 9, Section A, Township of Wycheproof to Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated for the purpose of operating and managing the Wycheproof Golf Club and Wycheproof Golf Course and associated activities therein. The lease is for a 21 year term which expires on 30 April, 2021. Officers met with representatives from Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated, Wycheproof Racing Club and Wycheproof Lawn Tennis Club in March 2021 to discuss the lease term expiring. The group have expressed an interest in Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated continuing to lease the site for a further 21 year term.

Council Officers consulted with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and reviewed relevant legislation in relation to lease options. This report intends to recommend that Council authorise Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a lease with Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated for the operation and management for the aforementioned site, and that Council authorise the Chief Executive Office to provide public notice of Councils proposed lease.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a lease with the Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated for the operation and management for part of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve being allotments 52A, Section A, Parish of Bunguluke, and Allotment 9, Section A, Township of Wycheproof.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to provide public notice of Councils proposed lease with Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated for the operation and management of part of the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve being allotments 52A, Section A, Parish of Bunguluke, and Allotment 9, Section A, Township of Wycheproof.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.

(R926/21)

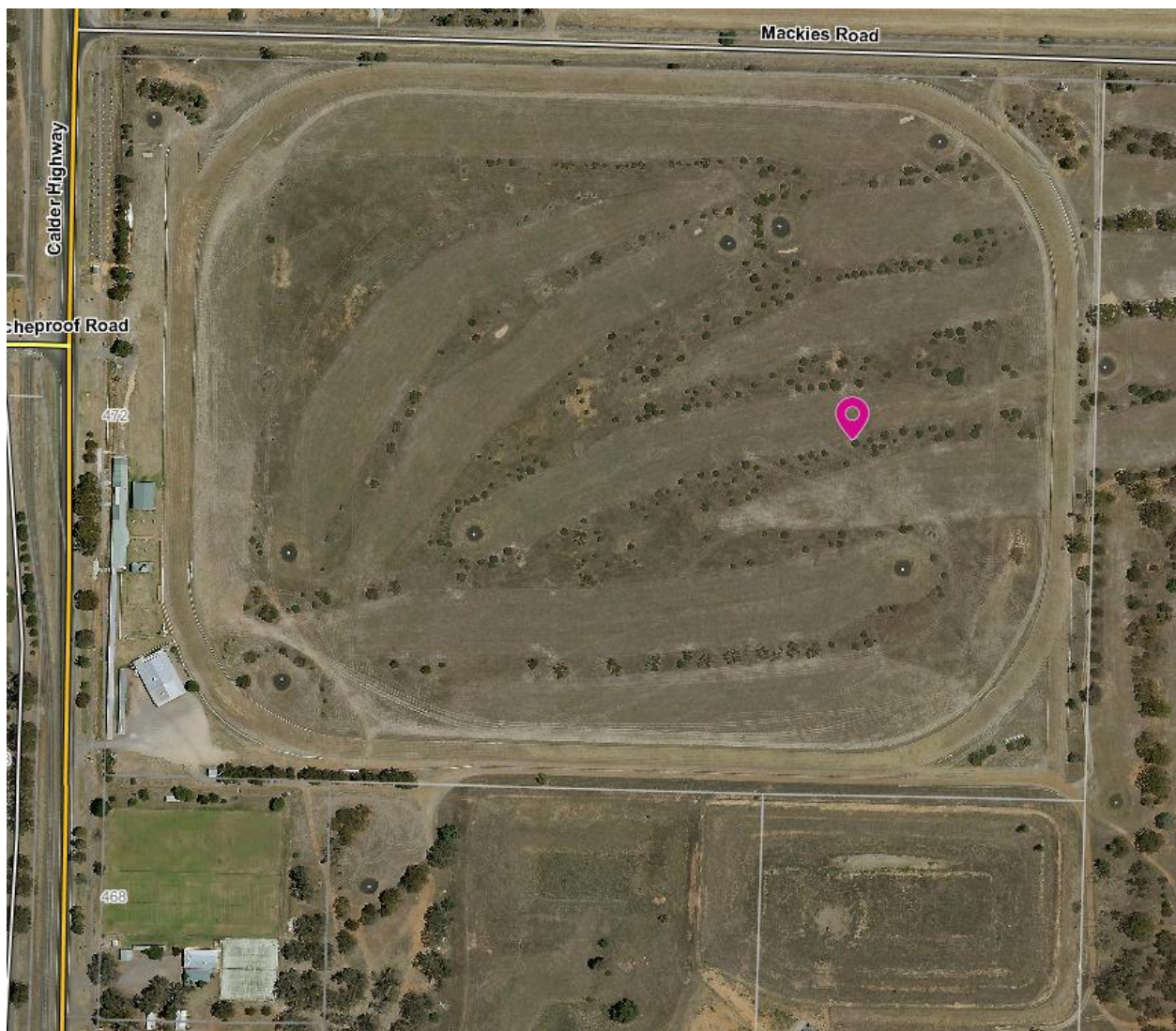
Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

The current lease for this site expires on 30 April, 2021 and Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated have expressed their interest in entering in to a new lease with Council for a period of 21 years. The three groups which primarily use this site have done so for almost one hundred years for the purposes of golf, tennis and horse racing.

The Wycheproof Caravan Park, Football Ground, Hockey Pitch, and Netball Courts do not form part of this report and are subject to agreements with Council independent of the current and proposed new lease with Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated.

Current lease footprint includes Crown allotments 52A, Section A, Parish of Bunguluke, and Allotment 9, Section A, Township of Wycheproof, as included in red outline below.



The site is Crown Land, for which Council is the delegated Committee of Management. Under s17D of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978, Council, as Committee of Management, with the approval of the Minister for Energy, Environment, and Climate Change, may lease any part of the land for a term not more than 21 years.

Council Officers discussed the proposed new lease with an Officer from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in late March 2021. The Officer of the Department advised that the historic and positive lease arrangement with Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated should give Council confidence in entering in to a new lease with the community group.

Under s190 of the Local Government Act 1989, for which provisions remain until 1 July, 2021, Council must publish a public notice of the proposed lease if the lease is to be 10 years or more, and any person has a right to make a submission under s223 on the proposed lease.

This report recommends that Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter in to negotiations for a new lease at the site with Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated, and that Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to provide public notice of Council's proposed lease in line with its obligations under s190 of the Local Government Act 1989.

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 1989

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council has in the past and in line with its obligations under s190 and s223 of the Local Government Act 1989 published proposed leases via public notice.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council Officers have undertaken community engagement with members of Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated and Wycheproof Racing Club Incorporated in relation to entering in to a new lease at the site. Officers met with representatives in March 2021, where representatives from Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated expressed their desire to enter in to a new lease with Council.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Council Officers collaborated with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in formulating this recommendation to Council. An Officer of the Department advised that the historic and positive lease arrangement with Wycheproof Golf Club Incorporated should give Council confidence in entering in to a new lease with the community group.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Not applicable.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Crown Land Leasing Guidelines

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2017-2021, Theme Four, Responding to and enhancing our built and natural environment.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Due to the matter being in relation to public land and public notice being required before Council enters in to a lease of this nature, this report has been prepared for Council to consider in the section of the meeting which is open to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Officer in preparing this report has a conflict of interest to declare.

8.2.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

Author's Title: Community Development Officer

Department: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Build a healthy and active community

PURPOSE

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

SUMMARY

One application presented for the Sustainability Grants Stream.

MOTION:

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

\$6956 Sustainability grant to Nandaly Community Hotel.

MOVED: CR DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR ALAN GETLEY

CARRIED.

(R927/21)

Attachments: 1 2020-21 Community Grants

DISCUSSION

The Nandaly Community Hotel has applied for funding for a solar system on the Community Co-operative Hotel. The following analysis has been completed by the evaluation panel, who are recommending the award of the grant.

Project:	Supply and installation of solar panels
Organisation:	Nandaly Community Hotel
Amount Applied:	\$6,956
Funding Amount Recommended:	\$6,956
Total project cost:	\$13,192
Project Description:	The supply and installation of a 13.32KW solar system comprising 36 370w solar panels.
Project Benefit:	The Nandaly Community Hotel is an important community connector in Nandaly. The installation of this system will set an important lead for the community. The system will also contribute to the viability of this facility. As outlined in the project analysis provided to the Nandaly applicants.

RELEVANT LAW

Not Applicable

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not Applicable

OPTIONS

Council can determine not to award the funding for this project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**Economic**

The community hotel contributes to a more diverse economy by providing a service to local patrons, transport operators and tourists coming through the area.

Ecology

This installation will contribute to the reduction of the hotel's carbon footprint.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not Applicable

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The investment into community assets highlight the increased focus on financial and environmental sustainability that the community are having. The use of the Hotel as a Community Hub has been an innovative and positive approach by the Nandaly community.

COLLABORATION

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The award of this project would be within the annual pool of \$50,000.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not Applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Plan 2017-21

Buloke Shire Council Inclusiveness Plan

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report is presented to open Council meeting in the interests of transparency to the public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.3 TRANSFER STATION UPGRADE - FUNDING APPLICATION

Author's Title: Director Works and Technical Services

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: EM/01/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

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

PURPOSE

This Report is presented to Council to note an application made under the Department Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Transfer Station Upgrade Program.

SUMMARY

That Council notes an application under the DELWP Transfer Station Upgrade for new Infrastructure to be constructed at The Donald and Birchip landfill, The Charlton, Wycheproof and Sea Lake Transfer Stations, and the Birchip, Donald and Sea Lake depots for the purpose of diverting glass from landfill as part of Circular Economy Victoria.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Notes the submission of an application under the DEWLP Transfer Station Upgrade for Infrastructure to be constructed at all Council landfills and transfer stations and at Birchip, Donald and Sea Lake Depots for the purpose of diverting glass from landfill as part of the State Government circular economy for \$341,231.00; and
2. That a Report be brought to a future Council Meeting outlining options on how Council will undertake an efficient and cost effective glass collection process across the municipality.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

CARRIED.
(R928/21)

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

The Victorian Government recognises that there isn't a one-size fits all solution for our diverse and dispersed State in relation to the challenges around waste and resource recovery particularly when it comes to the removal of glass from comingled recycling. With dispersed populations and greater distances to travel, rural and regional Councils face unique challenges in implementing four waste services by 2028 to achieve the overall target to divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030, with an interim target of 72 per cent by 2025.

Acknowledging these challenges, the \$20 million Transfer Station Upgrades Program will support regional and rural councils in providing separated glass and organics drop-off services to their residents through upgrades to transfer stations and upgraded/new drop-off points.

Council is proposing to put a 12 metre lidded hook lift skip bin at each of our waste facility sites which are located in Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof. We would also be putting in hard stands for the skips to sit on. By placing them in these locations all residents would have access to a site without having to travel more than 30 minutes. By placing these at council run sites there would be operators present to ensure contamination is kept to a very minimum.

It is also proposed to build 3 concrete bunker style facilities at Council depots. The bunkers would measure 12 x 10 metres, and have retaining walls on three sides. The purpose of these bunkers would be that once the hook lift skips are full, local contractors will pick up bins and tip off at the bunker sites.

It is proposed that glass crushing will be undertaken on site when bunkers have reached capacity. Crushed glass will be transported to markets or used locally.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This follows the Council decision to adopt the 2020 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

OPTIONS

Council can decide not to apply for these funds.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Designs will be undertaken with environmental sustainability principles in place.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement has been undertaken (and is continuing to be undertaken) on this project. If funding is successful, final siting and designs would be completed in consultation with community committees.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The construction of this infrastructure will provide continued improvements to Council waste and resource recovery as identified in the current strategy.

COLLABORATION

Other Wimmera Councils are looking at alternative methods for waste and resource recovery including the joint procurement and shared service of a mobile glass crushing plant.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

There is no requirement for a financial contribution by Council for this funding application. Ongoing maintenance will be funded out of subsequent operating budgets.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The State Government has initiated a number of plans and strategies in response to the China Sword Policy prohibiting comingled recycling being sent offshore. A Circular Economy Plan was completed and issued in 2020.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This project is in accordance with the Council Plan 2017 – 2021.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report is to be considered in open Council.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.4 WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE HOUSING STUDY

Author's Title: Chief Executive Officer

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GS/03/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Diversify and enhance our local economy.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Wimmera Southern Mallee Housing Study and consider future actions.

SUMMARY

Council participated in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Housing Study commissioned by the Wimmera Development Association and a series of findings and actions were established to enhance the housing offerings across the regions

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Wimmera Southern Mallee Housing Study;
2. Partner with the Housing Sub-Committee of the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee to develop project proposals and incorporate into next review of Council's Advocacy Strategy; and
3. Continue to work with Wimmera Development Association and other regional councils on the implementation of the Study.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R929/21)

Attachments: 1 Housing Study

DISCUSSION

Over 2020, Council partnered with West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, Horsham and Yarriambiack Councils as part of the Wimmera Development Association commissioned, Wimmera Southern Mallee Housing Review.

The review, completed by Street Ryan aimed to quantify and address the anecdotal challenges that exist across the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region.

Whilst housing has been an ongoing concern for the region, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has seen the housing shortage exacerbated and having a planned and structured approach to addressing the challenge is important.

The study was formed by a range of interviews with key stakeholders and analysis of historical and projected data.

The findings of the report include:

- A lack of housing is inhibiting liveability and economic strength of towns in the region
- There are shortages of residentially zoned and serviced land for sale.
- Existing housing stock is often the wrong mix for ageing populations, not conducive to attracting new residents, and in many cases, vacant dwellings are not even available to the market.
- Incentives are needed for residential development, businesses and new residents to overcome perceived potentially poor returns on investment.
- Zoning and planning provisions for future residential development land must be more ambitious: Offering greater range and choice.
- There is inadequate low-cost housing and social housing, including emergency/crisis accommodation but more frequently housing for seasonal and itinerant workers
- Rental housing is in short supply throughout the Wimmera Southern Mallee region and in several locations the shortage is critical, impacting on the ability to house staff for businesses, public sector agencies and community organisations. The proportion of private sector rental housing in the region is low by any measure.
- One or more Development Facilitation Taskforces could be established to create a sense of urgency in planning processes and to convey a 'can do' and 'open for business' attitude in the region.
- The region has many new economic development projects in the pipeline (for example, in agribusiness, food processing, mining, renewable energies, tourism and health services) and a more aggressive set of growth targets should be adopted by Councils and other regional agencies to ensure housing is not an inhibitor to realising these projects.

A series of future directions and actions were also considered including:

- Consider setting more ambitious housing demand targets and review the assumed population decline rates set by demographers.
- Ensure that housing is considered as part of the regions liveability equation
- Consider intervention in the housing market, where the private sector is unable or unwilling to act (such as Swan Hill Rural City Council work in Robinvale)
- Attract skills in residential design and construction to address a shortage in land development, design, engineering and building.
- Establish an adequate and effective rental stock – considered necessary for the region's economic development pipeline of projects to be delivered.
- Consistent and ambitious regional land use planning

Following the development of this Study, the region has progressed discussions around attracting further funding for a regional project to undertake a residential land supply assessment and consider the strategic planning needs across each community. This work is being considered with the Wimmera Development Association and the DELWP Regional Planning Hubs initiative.

In addition, the need to establish proposals and advocate to the State Government through Regional Development Victoria or to the Social Housing Fund have also become stronger opportunities over recent months.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

There are no related Council decisions.

OPTIONS

This report will trigger a range of additional proposals, investment options and ideas. Many of these options will be considered.

Council could opt to not progress with the actions in the report, however as the report notes, housing remains a key inhibitor to the liveability and growth of many communities in the region.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In developing this report, the authors worked with community leaders and interviewed business and real estate leaders. Further engagement will be required through the implementation of the actions.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This report calls on Council to think innovatively and consider different approaches to the Housing issues facing the municipality.

COLLABORATION

In developing this report, Council has collaborated with a range of Councils in the Wimmera Southern Mall region and to attract developers and investment, a broader collaborative approach will be required into the future.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

There are no financial viability issues to consider in this report.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report forms a key regional plan for Council to advocate for the implementation of Housing initiatives across the municipality.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This work aligns with the work established from the Council Plan and Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report is presented to open Council and available to community.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.3.1 DRAFT AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 10 FEBRUARY 2021

Author's Title: Governance Officer

Department: Corporate Services

File No: FM/02/09

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

To provide Council with the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2021.

SUMMARY

The draft Audit and Risk Committee Minutes are attached for the information of Council.

MOTION:

That Council notes the draft Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 10 February 2021.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.

(R930/21)

Attachments: 1 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 10 February 2021

DISCUSSION

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

At the meeting held, the Committee considered the following matters:

- Outstanding Action Items
- Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan
- Asset Management Update
- Draft Scope – Internal Audit Debtor Management Plan
- Draft Scope – Internal Audit Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery
- Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2021-2023
- Internal Audit Progress Update
- Related Party Transaction Policy
- Legislative Compliance
- Risk Management
- Councillor Reimbursements
- Draft Financial Performance Report as at 31 December 2020

RELEVANT LAW

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* to establish and maintain an Audit and Risk Committee.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Committee was established by Council at its Meeting held on 12 August 2020. Audit and Risk Committee meeting minutes are provided to Council after each meeting.

OPTIONS

Not applicable

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement is not required

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Committee provides guidance and recommendations that result in improvements to methods and systems of Council.

COLLABORATION

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

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The costs associated with the Audit and Risk Committee are considered in the Annual Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter was adopted by Council on 12 August 2020.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Committee is considered an essential element of good governance, monitoring Council's financial and performance reporting, monitoring and providing advice on risk management and overseeing internal and external audit functions. The minutes are provided to Council to consider the activities undertaken by the Committee.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.3.2 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Author's Title: Manager Finance

Department: Corporate Services

File No: FM/19/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

To present to the Council the financial statements for the period ending 28 February 2021.

SUMMARY

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

The forecasted year-end surplus is currently \$8.235m which is less \$1.936m less than the approved budget adopted at the start of the financial year. This variance is due to the confirmation of Capital Grant funding timing between financials years.

MOTION:

That Council receives and notes the Financial Performance Report for the month ending 28 February 2021.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

CARRIED.

(R931/21)

Attachments:

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

DISCUSSION

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

The reported surplus as at 28 February has increased to \$7.148m due to receipt of rural annual rate instalments. Excluding capital grant income of \$8.473m, the operating result is a deficit of \$1.363m. This result is less than anticipated at this stage of the year but this is due to adjustments in the timing of annual expenditure between months in the financial year.

As highlighted in the Full Year Forecast, the year-end result remains consistent with December 2020 reforecasting when Capital grant funding was confirmed to be \$2m less than the Approved Budget taking into account the timing of construction milestones.

The **Balance Sheet** summarises the value of Assets (what Council owns) and our Liabilities (what Council owes), and the difference between assets and liabilities (Net Assets or Equity) reflects Council's net worth. Council's net worth as at this accounting period is \$292,379m.

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

At 28 February 2021, Council's Cash and Cash Equivalents were \$26,054m of which approximately \$3m is grant funding received in advance (restricted cash).

The **Cashflow Forecast** is a projection of cashflow for the remainder of the year based on the cash balance as at 28 February 2021, the monthly budgets, specified timing parameters (such when BAS/super are due and quarterly rate receipts) and capital expenditure.

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

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

The **Capital Works Program** has been held over whilst project forecasts are refreshed.

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

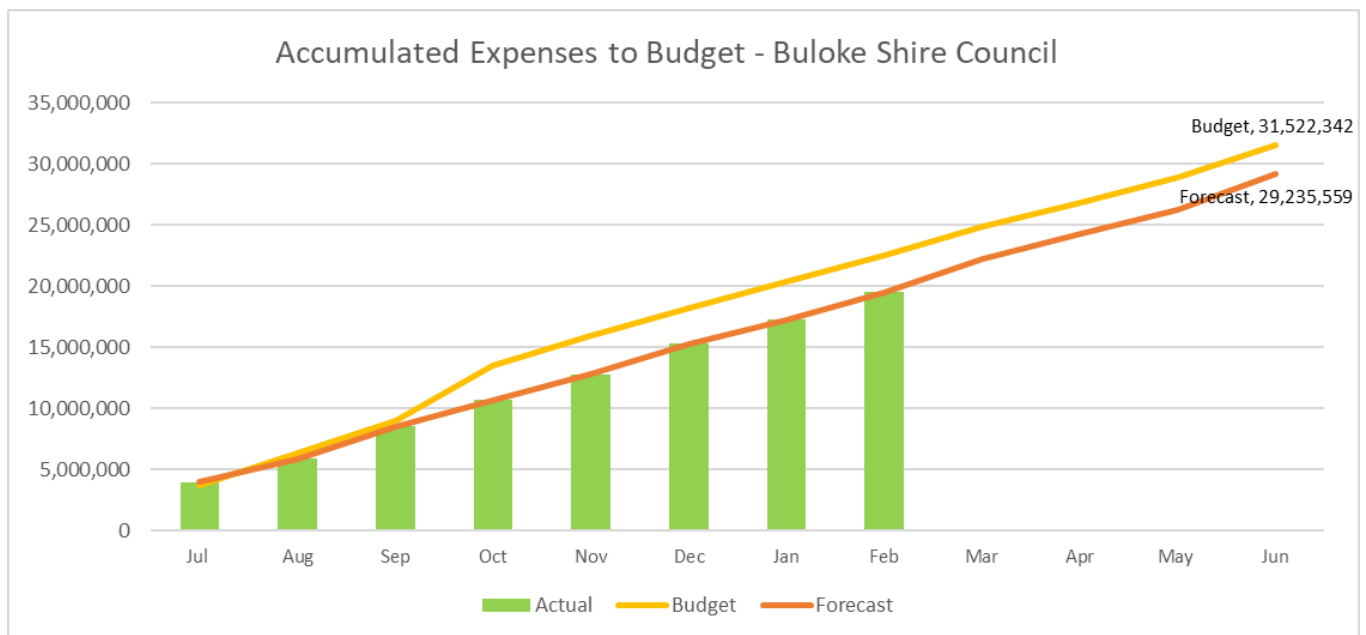
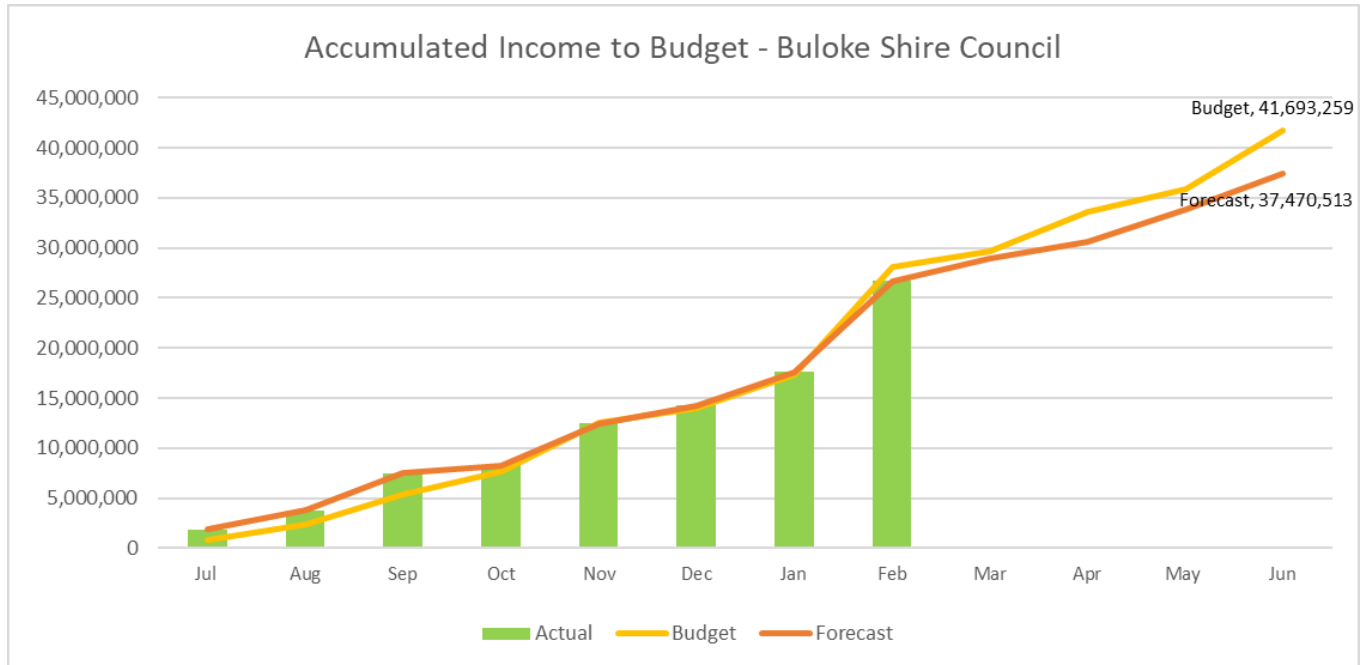
Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The tables below provide an overview of Council's financial performance against Approved budget income and expenses as at 28 February 2021.

Both total income and expenditure have been revised down to reflect the outcome of the final revision of cost estimates and respective funding related to the Dec 18 Flood event. As these roughly offset there is minimal impact on the forecasted net year-end surplus result.

Income was forecasted down \$2m from the Approved budget following the confirmation of Capital grant income timing between financial years.



REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

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

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Nil

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**Mayor Daryl Warren Mount Jeffcott Ward**

11 March 2021	ABC Radio Interview Solar Town meeting Donald Meeting with MD of Esoteric Festival
14 March	Attend Charlton Trots Blue Day Event
15 March	CEO/Mayor meeting
17 March	Flow FM Radio interview Council Briefing Wycheproof
19 March	Loddon Mallee Waste RRG Board Meeting
22 March	Donald Chamber of Commerce Business Night blue Room
23 March	CEO/Mayor meeting
24 March	Donald Community Precinct Meeting Donald 2000 Meeting
29 March	Wimmera Mayors Meeting via Zoom Health Board Merger in Horsham
30 March	Local Government Minister Meeting via Zoom
31 March	Meeting with Stuart Grimley MP
31 March	CEO/Mayor meeting
6 April	Meeting with Tania Maxwell MP
6 April	Climate Adaption Workshop Wycheproof
7 April	Council Briefing Donald
8 April	Loddon Campaspe Mayors & CEO's Meeting Charlton Workspace Board Meeting Bendigo
13 April	CEO/Mayor meeting
14 April	Council Meeting Wycheproof

Cr Simpson Mount Jeffcott Ward

17 March 2021	Councillor Briefing Wycheproof
7 April	Councillor Briefing Donald Climate change community forum Birchip Forum meeting Friends of Mount Wycheproof Meeting

8.6 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1.1 SAFETY UPGRADES TO GRADE RAIL-CROSSING - BOORT-CHARLTON ROAD

Author's Title: Councillor

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/09/01

PURPOSE

The purpose for this Notice of Motion is for Council to consider to advocate to the State Government on behalf of concerned community members, for safety upgrading to occur at the Rail Crossing situated on the Boort-Charlton Road, east of the Charlton township.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Write to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, Hon. Jacinta Allan, and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Hon. Ben Carroll, to request safety upgrades to the at grade rail crossing on the Boort-Charlton Road; and
2. Send copies of the letter to local MP, Ms Louise Staley, and the Chief Regional Roads Officer, Regional Roads Victoria, Mr Paul Northey.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

CARRIED.
(R932/21)

Attachments: Nil

BACKGROUND

Council has been approached by concerned community members about the condition and safety concerns of the at grade level railway crossing on the Boort-Charlton Road, just East of the Charlton township.

The Boort-Charlton Road is an arterial road (Regional Roads Victoria managed and maintained) and links Charlton to the agricultural districts of Barrakee, Buckrabanyule, Wychetella, Lake Marmal, Glenloth, Ninyeunook and Terrapee. Beyond the Buloke Shire boundary, the road links Charlton to Boort, Kerang, Borung and regional centre of Echuca.

The road is also a school bus route and carries a large amount of heavy freight vehicles. According to Regional Roads Victoria, the road currently has approximately 190 vehicles per day, which clearly increases in peak harvest seasons.

The angled intersection with the railway, means that it is particularly difficult to see trains from the cab of a truck. The nearby angled intersection of the Gonyah Flat Road. Despite the low sight lines, the intersection with the railway only has give-way signage and rumble strips.

Over many years, community members have been asking for safety improvements to this intersection, including for it to be fitted out with boom gates and flashing lights, which is often the safety treatment on the other arterial roads across Victoria. These upgrades would provide a safer level crossing for road users and trains.

It is proposed that Council write to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, Hon. Jacinta Allan, and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Hon. Ben Carroll, to request safety upgrades to the rail crossing on the Boort-Charlton Road.

9.1.2 CHARLTON FIRE BRIGADE FACILITY SITE

Author's Title: Councillor

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/09/01

Cr Getley declared a Material Conflict of Interest for Item 9.1.2 Charlton Fire Brigade Facility due to his personal commercial interest with Getley & Sons Real Estate, which have been doing Consulting and Real Estate Services to the Country Fire Authority. Cr Getley declared they have provided these services for this land and have been paid for such services.

Cr Getley vacated the Council Chamber at 7.28pm.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice of Motion is for Council to consider the option of another site that is deemed to be more suitable, effective and safe, for the housing of Charlton Country Fire Authority (CFA) Fire Brigade facility.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. Danny Pearson, with a copy to the local State Members of Parliament, to advocate for the immediate selection and purchase of a preferred site to redevelop the Charlton Fire Brigade Headquarters, and for the funding for the construction of this facility.

MOVED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

CARRIED.
(R933/21)

Cr Getley returned to the Council Chamber at 7:30pm.

Attachments: Nil

BACKGROUND

Current Site

The current site of the Charlton Fire Brigade facility is High Street in Charlton.

This site is in the low-lying part of the township, and was subject to flooding in September 2010, and also January 2011, whereby the depth from this flood event, reached the height of approximately one metre.

The Charlton CFA were forced to relocate the emergency control facility and equipment during these flood events.

Both the Premier and Minister in office at this time inspected the CFA facility in the 2016 flood event and noted the facility was below the necessary standard for managing emergency incident/s.

The current facility does not accommodate for the storage of up-to-date appliances to allow for improved reliability, and for crew safety to be in compliance with modern emergency response.

CFA members experience ongoing issues with the confined space, outdated appliances and being able to maintain serviceability with the current facility, which creates serious concerns and exposure for the control of Occupational Health and Safety incidents for emergency operations.

Proposed Site

The site proposed for the relocation of the Charlton CFA facility is located in the industrial zone in the township of Charlton. This site has provision of space to expand the facility and necessary equipment when compliance of the state of Fire Brigade facilities may change in the future.

The industrial zone of Charlton provides a suitable buffer zone from the residential area, which would minimise disturbance for overnight emergency call-outs. It is located immediately beside the town water pumping station, providing access to excellent hydrant water flow and mains pressure.

The industrial zone is situated in a site that can be easily accessed by other districts, which is effective and efficient factor for neighbouring township brigade's response and attendance in emergency operations.

The site is the preferred site of the Charlton CFA members and it will provide dry access in the case of a flood emergency, with minimal fill required to prevent inundation in a major flood event.

It is anticipated the relocation and rebuild of the Charlton CFA facility would be constructed and developed in a simpler and more efficient process than the site relocation and rebuild of the Charlton Hospital after the January 2011 flood event.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.2.1 ACCESS ROAD WARMAR – CFA DISCUSSION – CR MILNE

Cr Milne enquired about the access road Warmur, to see if there has there been any discussion with the Country Fire Authority, and stated if not will it be taken into budget consideration.

The Mayor, Cr Warren, said the Question will be Taken on Notice.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.4.1 PASSING OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS DUKE OF EDINBURGH

A funeral service will be held at 3pm local time (12am EST) on Saturday, 17 April 2021, at St George's Chapel, Windsor, United Kingdom to honour the life of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Phillip.

As a mark of mourning and respect and in accordance with protocol, Council will fly our flags half-mast all day on Saturday, 17 April 2021 at our Customer Service Centre, Wycheproof Office.

Council will communicate with the public per our own policy that three flags will be flown at half-mast on Saturday.

10. MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.33pm.