



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 14 October 2020

Commencing at 7.10pm

Held Remote via Zoom

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

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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 9 September 2020.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.
(R841/20)**

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

NIL

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1	REPORT OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS MEETINGS	6
7.2	LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS	7
7.3	CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL	8
7.4	BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE	9
7.5	PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE	11

8. GENERAL BUSINESS**8.1 POLICY REPORTS 14**

NIL

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS 15

8.2.1	BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL 2017-21 - YEAR 4 ANNUAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT	15
-------	---	----

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS 18

8.3.1	FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020.	18
-------	--	----

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS 22

8.4.1	STATEMENT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – THANK YOU TO COUNCILLORS AND FAMILIES	22
-------	--	----

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS 22**8.6 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC 22**

NIL

9. OTHER BUSINESS**9.1 URGENT BUSINESS 23**

NIL

9.2 ANY OTHER BUSINESS	23
NIL	
9.3 MOTION OF THANKS	23
10. MEETING CLOSE	

NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2020/2021 THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION AT THE STATUTORY MEETING BEING.

Anthony Judd
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS MEETINGS

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 2 September 2020 and 16 September 2020.

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R842/20)

Attachments:

- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 2 September 2020
- 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 16 September 2020

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

The Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) provides that a record must be kept of any Meeting of Councillors and Staff deemed to be an Assembly of Councillors Meeting as defined in the Act.

An Assembly of Councillors Meeting is defined in the Act as a meeting of Councillors if the meeting considers matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision or the exercise of delegation and the meeting is:

A planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half of the Councillors and a member of Council Staff; or

An Advisory Committee of the Council where one or more Councillors are present.

The Act also provides that the record of any Assembly of Councillors is to be reported to the next practicable Council Meeting and recorded in the Minutes.

A record of the Assembly of Councillors Meetings held on 2 September 2020 and 16 September 2020 are attached.

7.2 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CR/13/01

PURPOSE

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

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

Nil Items – No resolution required.
--

Attachments: Nil

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition

7.3 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/06

PURPOSE

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR ELLEN WHITE

SECONDED: CR DAVID VIS

**CARRIED.
(R843/20)**

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Correspondence sent to	Date sent	Date of Response	Summary of Response
10 June 2020 Ordinary Meeting To advocate for action to improve the shoulders on the Wycheproof – Birchip Road	Graincorp Regional Roads Victoria	24 June 2020		Graincorp, Regional Roads Victoria and Council staff scheduled to meet with lead petitioner on site.
10 June 2020 Ordinary Meeting To advocate that the Mode Shift Incentive Scheme be continued and funded at \$16M until 30 June 2022;	The Hon Melissa Horne Minister for Public Transport; and Ports and Freight	22 June 2020 Letter re-sent 1/10/20		

7.4 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Statutory Administration Support

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 September 2020 to 30 September 2020.

MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 September 2020 to 30 September 2020.

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R844/20)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Permit No.	BAMS Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20200144	6063579200365	908 Narrewillock-Quambatook Road, Glenloth East	Hay Shed	27/08/2020
20200151	1410874018156	2709 Nullawil-Birchip Rd, Nullawil	Lunch Room	03/09/2020
20200152	3042823009650	5 Prospect Street, Wycheproof	Re-stump of dwelling	03/09/2020
20200153	7991909445369	406 Broadway, Wycheproof	Demolition of dwelling	03/09/2020
20200154	8327616854809	9 Corack Street, Donald	Garage / Storage Shed	03/09/2020
20200155	5289129303281	7 Blair Street, Donald	Accessibility Ramp	03/09/2020
20200160	6468522245881	44 Wright Street, Charlton	Hay Shed	10/09/2020
20200161	8263483551428	432 Broadway, Wycheproof	Erection of Sign	10/09/2020
20200162	2932209640593	41 Campbell Street, Birchip	Garage / Storage Shed	10/09/2020
20200163	9534134157181	286 Golf Links Road, Charlton	Storage Shed	10/09/2020
20200164	6684954970420	94 Birchip-Sea Lake Road, Birchip	Storage Tank Retail Point	10/09/2020
20200165	1842449714639	7 Donald Road, Charlton	Carport	17/09/2020

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE SURVEYOR

Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20200145	Mildura Way, Charlton	Verandah	15/08/2020
20200146	225 Broadway, Wycheproof	Storage Shed	21/08/2020
20200147	Calder Highway, Wycheproof	Dwelling & Carport	25/08/2020
20200148	33-49 Davies Street, Charlton	Storage Shed	28/08/2020
20200149	232 Lee Road, Narraport	Farm Shed	28/08/2020
20200150	343 Gil Gil Road, Gil Gil	Swimming Pool & Pool Safety Barrier	30/08/2020
20200156	203 Ninda-Turriff Road, Turriff East	Farm Shed Extension	31/08/2020
20200157	560 Willangie-Woomelang Road, Willangie	Fodder Storage Shed	01/09/2020
20200158	3114 Berriwillock-Birchip Road, Sutton	Extension to Existing Dwelling	01/09/2020
20200159	430 C McQuinns Road, Wycheproof	Farm Storage Shed	03/09/2020
20200166	301 Bowds Road, Sea Lake	Hay Shed	09/09/2020
20200167	358 Coles Road, Wycheproof	Farm Shed	11/09/2020
20200168	540 Rowlings Road, Nareewillock	Farm Shed	15/09/2020
20200169	U7, U8, U9 / 24 High Street, Wycheproof	Demolition of Dwelling	27/08/2020
20200170	Teddywaddy School Road, Teddywaddy	Hay Shed	22/09/2020
20200171	296 Blue Allans Road, Sea Lake	Farm Storage Shed	22/09/2020

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 DARYL WARREN**SECONDED:** CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R845/20)

Attachments: Nil**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA868/20	GW & BJ Kelly	406 Stannard Road, Watchupga (Lot 1 PS 219186)	06/07/2020	Construction of pig shed and amenities building	Awaiting report
PPA875/20	Charlton Harness Racing Club	Mildura Way, Charlton (CA 17 Sec A Parish Charlton East)	11/08/2020	Removal of three buildings and construction of a vet services shed	Awaiting report
PPA879/20	Wombalina Holdings Pty Ltd	7 Gil Gil Road, Gil Gil	18/08/2020	Use and development of land for animal production(poultry farm), construction of 2 sheds and increase capacity to 60,000 birds	Awaiting report

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA882/20	Kirsty Zhang	Calder Highway, Berriwillock (Lot 2 PS 306136)	21/08/2020	Installation of a telecommunication facility	Awaiting report
PPA883/20	Charlton Harness Racing Club	Mildura Way, Charlton (CA 17 Sec A Parish Charlton East)	24/08/2020	Construction of horse stalls	Awaiting report
PPA884/20	Charlton Harness Racing Club	Back St Arnaud Road, Charlton (CA 3 Sec 14 Parish Charlton East)	24/08/2020	Construction of a shed	referral
PPA886/20	Mogas Holdings Pty Ltd	148-150 High Street, Charlton (Lots 1 & 2 plan 116901)	01/09/2020	Use and development of land for a service station (self bunded fuel cell)	Further info requested
PPA887/20	WS Wharton	27 Taverner Street, Berriwillock	04/09/2020	Use of land for a convenience restaurant (café)	Notice of application
PPA888/20	DR & SK Bradshaw	11 O'Connor Street, Wycheproof	09/09/2020	Construction of a carport and fence in HO	Further info requested
PPA889/20	Gordon Bailey	15 Best Street, Sea Lake	03/09/2020	Installation of a cabin containing 4 self-contained rooms	Further info requested
PPA870/20	Gordon Bailey	Boundary Road, Pier Milan	07/07/2020	Use of land of outdoor recreation ('Camels Capers Enduro' off road racing event)	Permit issued
PPA872/20	Teys Australia Southern Property Pty Ltd	224 Yeungroon-Woosang Rd, Yeungroon East	27/07/2020	Construction of a 200m x 36m shed associated with feedlot	Permit issued
PPA873/20	Charlton Golf Club	286 Golf Links Road, Charlton	27/07/2020	Construction of golf cart shed	Permit issued
PPA876/20	Brent Williams	23 Jubilee Street, Wycheproof	10/08/2020	Construction of a dwelling	Permit issued
PPA878/20	BJ Thompson	44 Wright Street, Charlton	17/08/2020	Construction of a hay shed	Permit issued
PPA880/20	Entegra Signature Structures	430 C McQuinns Road, Wycheproof	19/08/2020	Construction of a hay shed	Permit issued
PPA881/20	WM Scott	52 High Street, Charlton	20/08/2020	Construction of a carport	Permit issued

Application No	Applicant	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PPA885/20	Entegra Signature Structures	Teddywaddy School Road, Teddywaddy	28/08/2020	Construction of a hay shed	Permit issued

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

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

Author's Title: Chief Executive Officer

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CM/13/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

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

SUMMARY

Council, at its Special Meeting 21 June 2017, adopted the Buloke Council Plan 2017-2021 and has subsequently developed and adopted a Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 Annual Plan for the implementation of the strategic objectives. Quarterly progress reports will be presented to Council throughout 2020/21.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R846/20)

Attachments: 1 Annual Plan - September report

DISCUSSION

The purpose of these Annual Plans is for Council to develop a series of actions, projects, programs and initiatives to achieve on the Council Plan 2017-2021.

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

The report highlights some of the early actions, with some of the highlights being:

- Completion of the revaluation of Council's land and building assets;
- Commencement of the Information Technology Strategy in partnership with Yarriambiack Shire Council;
- Contracts awarded for riverfront projects at Charlton and Donald;
- Submission of funding applications, and support of community applications, for arts activation projects at Charlton and Birchip;
- Commencement of the Community Engagement Policy, including OurSay survey complete;
- Finalisation of the State of the Buloke Children's Report in partnership with the NCLLEN;
- Preferred lessee resolved for the Sea Lake Visitor Hub;
- Funding successful for the Birchip-Berriwillock Road and applications submitted for the Nullawil Birchip Road upgrade;
- Birchip streetscape works to commence in October;
- Waste Strategy adopted and transition plan completed; and
- Community Support and Business Support Team progressing the COVID Recovery Plan.

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

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

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

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

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

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

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.3.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020.

Author's Title: Manager Finance

Department: Corporate Services

File No: FM/19/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Strategic Objective: Deliver our service in a financially viable way

PURPOSE

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

SUMMARY

There have been limited variations to the anticipated annual surplus has occurred at this early stage of the financial year. Timing of capital projects is still under review for cash flow forecast reporting.

MOTION:

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

Moved: CR DAVID POLLARD

Seconded: CR ELLEN WHITE

**CARRIED.
(R847/20)**

Attachments:

- 1 Income Statement
- 2 Balance Sheet
- 3 Cash flow Statement

DISCUSSION

To account for the additional grant opportunities and the impact of Covid-19 on the annual budget, the adopted annual budget was updated as listed below to generate an up to date approved budget:

2020-21 Budget Reconciliation	\$ '000
Adopted budget	5,746
Working for Victoria program (<i>surplus funding received FY20 \$888K</i>)	(464)
Additional Capital grants:	6,315
<i>Streetscapes Funding</i>	
<i>Small Town Street Furniture</i>	
<i>Street Light LED Conversion</i>	
<i>Wyche Wetlands/Mt Wyche</i>	
<i>Sea Lake Tourism Centre</i>	
<i>Tower Road and Industry Drive in Donald Sealing</i>	
<i>Sea Lake Lascelles/Culgoa-Lalbert Road</i>	
<i>Charlton underground drainage</i>	
<i>Lighting up Buloke</i>	
Planned staff restructure -delayed due to Covid-19	228
Final determination of Financial Assistance Grant	39
Realignment of Flood (Dec 18) works based on FY20 progress	(158)
Depreciation finalisation following property & building revaluation:	(1,535)
Approved Reporting Budget	10,171

The Approved budget will be used for Actual v Budget reporting in 2020-21.

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

The reported deficit as at 31 August 2020 is \$2.142m. Excluding capital grant income of \$1.080m, the operating result is a deficit of \$3.222m.

As highlighted in the Full Year Budget and Forecast columns, rates and grant income will offset the current deficit result in future months and the expected budget surplus of \$10,171 remains on track. Budget formats have been updated this financial year to better reflect rates income recognition more closely to instalment dates and/or actual receipt to assist in cash flow reporting and planning.

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

The **Cashflow Statement** reflects actual results for the year to date (July – August) in line with statutory financial reporting. At 31st August 2020, Council's Cash and Cash Equivalents were \$16.847m.

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

- **Cash flow Forecast**
- **Cash flow Chart**
- **Capital Works Program**

Given the large capital budget for 2020-21 and the irregular nature of income and expenditure on capital, the impact of project timing is critical for accurate cash flow forecasting.

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

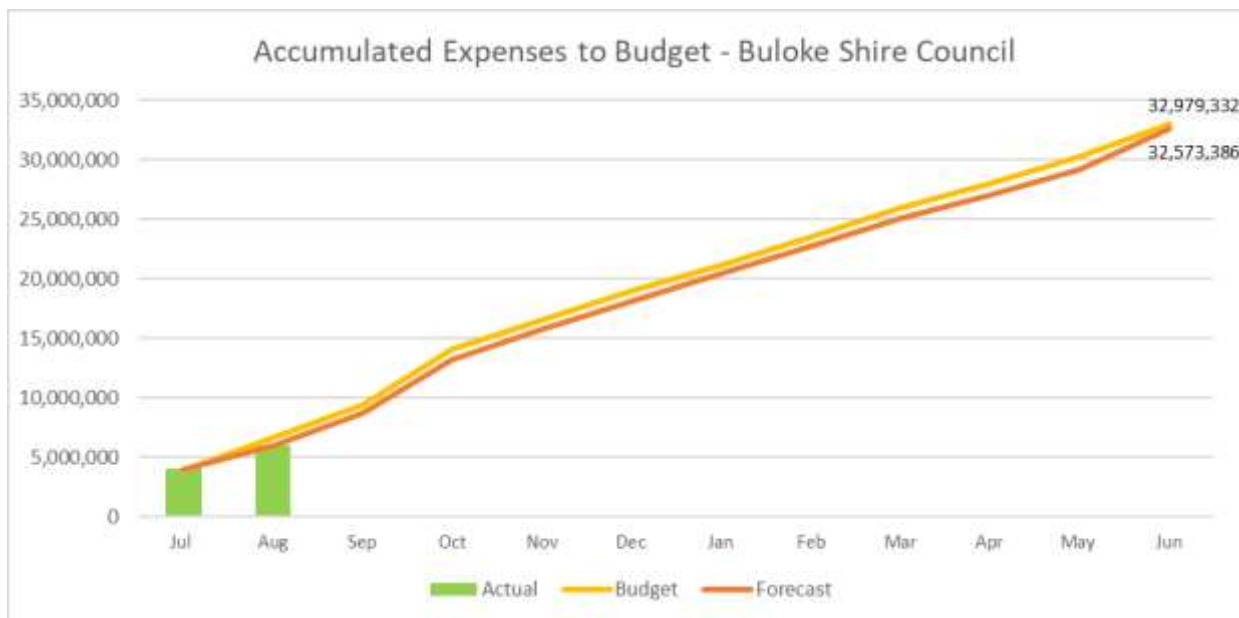
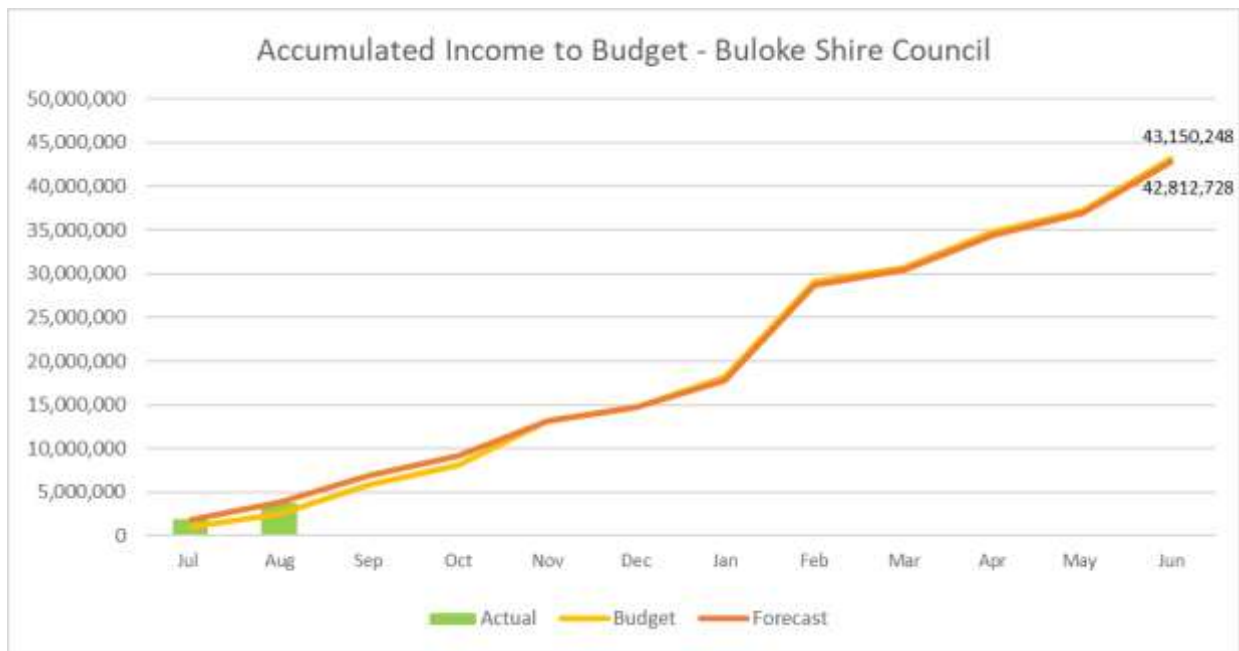
Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The tables below provide an overview of Council's financial performance against Approved budget as at 31 August 2020. The Forecast reflects year to date results and budget timing adjustments to compensate variations.



REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

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

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

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

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 STATEMENT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – THANK YOU TO COUNCILLORS AND FAMILIES

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Anthony Judd, made the following statement to thank Councillors and their families.

Rarely do the staff get the chance to publically acknowledge the work of Councillors, and being the last Ordinary Meeting of your 4 year term, it is apt that we do that, as the role of the Councillor is significant, four years is a big commitment, and our staff have been working back about the four years that was, and there will be a presentation at the appropriate time around some of the achievements. There certainly has been a lot of work done.

On behalf of all staff the CEO thanked the seven Councillors for their work, and also to former Councillor John Shaw, who served part of this term as well. We thank you for your work, and we thank you and your families, for your commitment to Council.

All the best for the future, whether it be on Council or off Council.

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cr Pollard acknowledged the staff for their fantastic work huge effort and what has been achieved over the last four years.

8.6 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil

9. OTHER BUSINESS**9.1 URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

9.2 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

9.3 MOTION OF THANKS

The Mayor, Cr Carolyn Stewart, read the following Statement to acknowledge retiring Councillor Ellen White's 12 years of service.

I would like to acknowledge Cr Ellen White for her contribution to Council and the community across three Council terms. First elected in 2008 and the subsequent two elections, Ellen has served the Mallee Ward in exemplarily fashion. Her passion for rural communities was at the heart of all she did and all she achieved as Councillor.

She was always prepared to get out and meet with constituents and listen, and was a regular at town forum meetings across her ward.

Ellen drove many causes and projects that have helped, and will continue to help shape Buloke as an accessible, progressive and inclusive community.

Ellen has been able to use her strengths across a number of organisations and as a representative of the Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare network, Central Murray Regional Transport Forum, Buloke Library Advisory Committee, Economic Development and Tourism committee, and the Municipal Emergency management planning committee among others.

Last year Ellen received the conferral of 10 Year Councillor Service Award from the Municipal Association of Victoria.

As she is not contesting the upcoming Council Elections, this motion is being put to consider congratulate Cr White on her 12 years of service to the community, and a presentation of gift of thanks to her, reflective of her beloved Mallee Ward, will be forthcoming when restrictions allow so.

Cr Carolyn Stewart
MAYOR.

MOTION:

That Council thanks the retiring Councillor, Cr Ellen White, for her 12 years of service to Buloke Shire Council.

MOVED: CR DAVID VIS

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.
(R848/2)0**

CR White responded with the following Statement.

Thank you for those kind words, Mayor Stewart.

The last 12 years have been exciting, exhilarating, interesting, challenging and the steepest learning curve I've ever been on.

It's not until I became a Councillor that I understood the breadth and depth of the work that Council does. It is so much more than raising rates to fix roads and collect rubbish. The expectations of our communities need to be met within the 140+ other functions of Councils.

I often wondered how we would comply with our requirements as a Council, as well as manage the many community projects we successfully applied for funding for, but thanks to the community consultations, the engagement and the robust discussions around the Council Chamber, we have achieved so much in the last 12 years, even with the millennium drought, the biggest flood in 200 years affecting much of the Shire, and subsequent extreme weather events piling on to continually challenge us. Some of those achievements are worth a mention:

- *The Berriwillock Community Centre*
- *Improvements at each recreational lake*
- *Lake Tyrrell*
- *New kinders and child care centres*
- *Better library services*
- *New and improved sports centres*

From a social justice perspective, our inclusiveness plan has formalised our approach to gender equity, family violence, flying the rainbow flag, and making sure we include everyone in our decision making. As I leave Council, the process to develop our very first climate change strategy is underway, which will acknowledge what we have already done, and provide a plan for mitigation and future climate change challenges.

I am retiring from Council because my personal philosophy is that three terms on any Board or committee is enough, and time to allow other people to take over the reins. I have now completed 3 terms, or 12 years, and it is now time for new ideas to be brought to the table. I wish the new Council, when it is formed, all the best for the future.

So thank you to the current and past Councillors for making decisions with the best interests of Buloke communities at heart. Our disconnection because of COVID-19 has meant that we have had to connect remotely in the last 6 months, but as always, Buloke has risen to the challenge and overcome it.

Thank you to the 4 previous CEOs and our current, wonderful Anthony Judd and his staff for their professionalism and diligence in advising Council, ensuring compliance, being innovative, developing home grown talent where possible, to not only build an intelligent, forward thinking and hard-working staff body, but for their dedication to Building a Better Buloke. I love that tag line.

Thank you to the Buloke communities and people for their feedback, conversations, discussions, ideas and support for the area. I'd specifically like to thank the people of the Mallee ward for their support, encouragement, and their trust in the last 12 years, to advocate on their behalf to all levels of government. It's been wonderful learning what makes you tick, and if I could, I'd bottle your stoicness, resilience and work ethic and sprinkle it in other places across the world.

Thank you to all of the people who have risen to the challenge to provide food for me at hundreds of meetings. I appreciate the care taken to meet my gluten free and vegetarian requirements, and congratulate you on your culinary skills.

Thank you to my friends who have supported me in the last 12 years, by listening, laughing and keeping me honest. A special shout out to Sandra, Julie, Lindsey, Lynda and Heather.

Lastly, thank you to my husband John. It's not always been easy, especially when you needed someone to help you to shift paddocks, or waiting for me to bring home a part. We are through it intact, and your support has been invaluable. Family support is one of the most important elements of being a Councillor.

Thank you everyone.

Cr Ellen White.

10. MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.36pm.