



COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 14 December 2022

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room

367 Broadway, Wycheproof

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 14 December 2022 commencing at 7:00pm in the Wycheproof Supper Room, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON:

Cr Alan Getley Mallee Ward

COUNCILLORS:

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

OFFICERS:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Wayne O'Toole | Chief Executive Officer |
| Hannah Yu | Director Infrastructure and Delivery |
| Travis Fitzgibbon | Director Community Development |
| Michelle Stedman | Director Corporate and Organisational Performance |

AGENDA

1. COUNCIL WELCOME

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Alan Getley welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Nil.

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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Statutory Meeting held on Wednesday, 9 November 2022 and Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 9 November 2022.

Moved: CR GRAEME MILNE

Seconded: CR DAVID POLLARD

**CARRIED.
(R021/22)**

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 6.1 | KEVIN THOMS O’DEA – ON BEHALF OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE – MT WYCHEPROOF EMU MANAGEMENT PLAN | 5 |
|-----|---|---|

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 7.1 | REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES | 6 |
| 7.2 | LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS | 7 |
| 7.3 | CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL | 9 |
| 7.4 | BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE | 10 |
| 7.5 | PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE | 11 |
| 7.6 | STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS | 14 |

8. GENERAL BUSINESS**8.1 POLICY REPORTS 15**

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 8.1.1 | LEASING AND LICENSING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES POLICY | 15 |
|-------|--|----|

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS 18

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 8.2.1 | COMMUNITY GRANTS | 18 |
| 8.2.2 | CULGOA DUMP POINT | 23 |
| 8.2.3 | WYCHEPROOF CARAVAN PARK MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT | 26 |
| 8.2.4 | DRAFT AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 20 SEP 2022 | 29 |

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS 31

Nil

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS 32

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|----|
| 8.4.1 | BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL RECOVERY PLAN | 32 |
|-------|------------------------------------|----|

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS 35

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 9. OTHER BUSINESS | |
| 9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION | 36 |
| 9.1.1 AUSTRALIA DAY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM | 36 |
| 9.1.2 ROADS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FUNDING - CALDER AND SUNRAYSIA HIGHWAYS | 38 |
| 9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS | 40 |
| 9.2.1 CR WARREN – PROVISION FOR COUNCILLOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT | 40 |
| 9.2.2 CR MILNE – RURAL COUNCIL’S VICTORIA – PARLIAMENTARY ROADS INQUIRY | 40 |
| 9.3 URGENT BUSINESS | 41 |
| NIL | |
| 9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS | 41 |
| NIL | |
| 9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC | 41 |
| NIL | |
| 10. MEETING CLOSE | |

NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7:00PM.

Wayne O’Toole
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

6.1 KEVIN THOMS O'DEA – ON BEHALF OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE – MT WYCHEPROOF EMU MANAGEMENT PLAN

First Nations Elders and peoples wish to advise the Mayor and Councillors of the Buloke Shire Council regarding First Nations' urgent Applications to protect Direl (Lake Tyrrell) to the Minister for Environment, Hon Tanya Plibersek, that these Applications are being processed by the Minister's office at the moment.

Correspondingly however, there has been no progress whatsoever on the issues of great concern to First Nations' Elders and peoples affecting Mount Wycheproof and the Sacred Emus. Mr Ken O'Dea was advised, via Mr Travis Fitzgibbon and others of the Shire on behalf of First Nations peoples that Council would be organising a meeting of "stakeholders" – and this as far back as August. However, nothing has eventuated in regard to this.

The principal issues to be dealt with as a matter of urgency by the Shire are therefore now: what is the proposal for the Shire:

1. To organise a meeting – as promised – for all stakeholders and
2. To properly deal with all the issues relating to the proper management, advancement and promotion of the Sacred Emus of Mount Wycheproof??

First Nations Elders and people request a written response from the Shire within 14 days of the date hereof.

ANSWER PROVIDED BY THE MAYOR CR GETLEY:

Thank you for your question Mr O'Dea.

You were as we all were as members of the working party in relation to Mount Wycheproof Emu Management Plan, updated yesterday on this matter.

Mr Fitzgibbon had advised you by responsive text message early yesterday afternoon. An update on the matter was to be communicated to the group by email later in the day when he had confirmed details from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

That email was sent to you just after 3pm yesterday 13 December 2022.

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

MOTION:

That the Council note the report of Councillor Assembly Meetings held 2 and 16 November 2022.

Moved: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

Seconded: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CARRIED.

(R022/22)

- Attachments:**
- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 2 November 2022
 - 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 16 November 2022

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 9 November 2022, 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 2 and 16 November 2022 is attached for public information.

7.2 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CR/13/01

PURPOSE

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

The report also informs Council of any letters of congratulations or any 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.

(R023/22)

Attachments: Nil

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

| Provider | Recipient | Date | Purpose for Recognition |
|-----------------------------|--|------|--|
| Buloke Shire Council | Ali Cupper Former Member for the Victorian Legislative Assembly and her staff | | Acknowledging her term and her dedicated service and professionalism representing the constituents of the State Electorate of Mildura as an Independent Candidate. |
| National Assessment Program | Students, Teachers, Admin and Parents over last five years for St Marys Primary School of Donald | | Outstanding achievement of being placed third overall on the average of the last five years results for the Regional NAPLAN results. |
| Buloke Shire Council | Charlton Rotary Club | | Noting the planned closing down of the Club and acknowledging and thanking all current and past members for their unselfish and voluntary community service and work provided to Charlton district and abroad. |

| Provider | Recipient | Date | Purpose for Recognition |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| Buloke Shire Council | Students, Teachers and Parents Wycheproof P-12 College | | For achieving such outstanding VCE results, and being the best-performed non-selective government school in the State. |
| ABC Heywire Competition for 2023 | Blake Lee Birchip | | Being among 37 national winners in the latest Heywire competition sharing the unique beauty of Birchip and the Mallee region with the world. Quote from Blake. <i>"I think Birchip and the Mallee Region are beautiful. There's always beauty to capture through my lens"</i> . |
| Buloke Shire Council | Frank McGrath St Joseph College | | Acknowledging his retirement after 40 years of dedicated and professional service as teacher from 1983 until 1991, and then Principal of the College from 1991 until his retirement yesterday. |

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.

NIL RESOLUTION DUE TO NO CORRESPONDENCE TABLED.

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

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

| Council Initiative | Sent/to be sent to | Sent | Response | Purpose of Letter/Response |
|--------------------|--------------------|------|----------|----------------------------|
| | | | | |

7.4 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: DB/14/01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 November 2022 to 30 November 2022.

MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 November 2022 to 30 November 2022.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R024/22)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

| Council Ref. | Permit No. | Address | Project Description | Date Approved |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 20220103 | 7190718903639 | Mills Road, Whirily | Swimming Pool & Safety Barrier | 10/11/22 |
| 20220104 | 2414939656230 | Nullawil-Birchip Road, Whirily | Swimming Pool & Safety Barrier | 10/11/22 |

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 GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.

(R025/22)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

| Application No | Applicant | Address | Date Rec | Summary of Proposal | Status |
|----------------|-----------|---|------------|---|---------------|
| PPA962/21 | | Corack Road, Donald (Lot 1&2 PS216306M) | 11/11/2021 | Use and development of land for a service station, construct and display a business identification sign and create or alter access to Road Zone, Category 1 | Review |
| PPA981/22 | | Donald Street, Charlton (PC157596) | 18/05/2022 | Construction of a single dwelling | Permit Issued |
| PPA986/22 | | High Street, Charlton (Lot 1 TP 193629) | 01/06/2022 | Construct and display an 18.26m ² double-sided, externally illuminated major promotion sign | Review |

| Application No | Applicant | Address | Date Rec | Summary of Proposal | Status |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|-----------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| PPA993/22 | | High Street, Charlton (Lot 1 & 2 TP216537) | 08/07/2022 | Construction of a shed for domestic use | Review |
| PPA996/22 | | Tonkins Road, Jeffcott (CA 29, 30 & 31 Parish of Jeffcott) | 22/07/2022 | Three lot subdivision of land (boundary realignment) and removal of easement | Permit Issued |
| PPA997/22 | | Industry Drive, Donald (Lot 69 PS444989) | 28/07/22 | Development of land for a service station (unmanned fuel cell) and construction and display of a business identification sign | Permit Issued |
| PPA999/22 | | Donald-Swan Hill Road, Towaninny | 13/08/2022 | Subdivision of land (boundary realignment and dwelling excision) resulting in three lots | Review |
| PPA1000/22 | | Taverner Street, Birchip (Lot 21 LP3071) | 15/08/2022 | Three-lot subdivision of land and construction of two dwellings | Review |
| PPA1002/22 | | Menzies Street, Charlton (CA 3, Sec. 12, Parish of Charlton East) | 09/09/2022 | Construction of a verandah | Permit Issued |
| PPA1003/22 | | Warracknabeal- Birchip Road, Warmur (CA 34 Parish of Wilkur) | 31/08/2022 | Subdivision of land (boundary realignment) | Review |
| PPA1004/22 | | Berriwillock-Birchip Road, Berriwillock (CA 3 Sec. 12 Township of Charlton) | 05/09/2022 | Subdivision of land (boundary realignment) | Review |
| PA22001 | | Wright Street, Charlton (CA19 Sec. 10A, CA20 Sec. 10A, CA21 Sec. 10A) | 11/10/2022 | Construction of a single dwelling | Review |
| PA22002 | | Golf Park Drive, Charlton (Lot 2 PS311687) | 18/10/2022 | Construction of a single dwelling | Notice of application |
| PA22003 | | Richards Road, Litchfield (Lot 1 & 2 PS736055) | 07/11/2022 | Two lot subdivision and dwelling | Request for further information |

| Application No | Applicant | Address | Date Rec | Summary of Proposal | Status |
|-----------------------|------------------|--|-----------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| PA22005 | | Stannard Road, Watchupga (Lot 1 TP219186) | 09/11/2022 | Construction of a farrowing shed associated with existing piggery | New |
| PA22006 | | High Street, Wycheproof (Lot 1 TP516215) | 15/11/2022 | Extension to a dwelling | New |
| VS22002 | | Industry Drive, Donald (Lot 73 PS444989) | 26/10/2022 | Construction of open-sided shed | Request for further information |
| VS22003 | | Summerhayes Road, Berriwillock (Lot 1 TP392842) | 15/11/2022 | Construction of a shed | New |
| VS22004 | | Hopetoun-Sea Lake Road, Banyan (CA 45 Parish of Wortongie) | 15/11/2022 | Construction of a shed | New |

7.6 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action (SOA) of Council Resolutions outstanding for action and the SOA for the 9 November 2022 Council Meetings Resolutions.

MOTION:

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

Moved: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

Seconded: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

**CARRIED.
(R026/22)**

Attachments: 1 Actions Taken on Council Resolutions - On Outstanding items and 9 November 2022

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

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

In accordance with the Council's Governance Rules adopted August 2020, Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

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

Attached to this report for public information is a list of the SOA of Council Resolutions outstanding and introducing the SOA for the 9 November 2022 Council Meeting Resolutions.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

8.1.1 LEASING AND LICENSING OF COUNCIL FACILITIES POLICY

Author's Title: Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: CP|22|23

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Leasing and Licensing of Council Facilities Policy (Policy) for adoption.

SUMMARY

The Policy outlines the Council's position on the Leasing and Licensing of Council facilities and provides guidance in Council decisions on matters which are to be taken into account when determining whether a Lease or License of Council property is to be pursued.

The Policy does not apply to:

- Crown Land including Crown Land for which Council is the appointed Committee of Management,
- Casual hire arrangements,
- Seasonal ground allocations, or
- Residential tenancy agreements.

MOTION:

That Council adopt the Leasing and Licensing of Council Facilities Policy.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R027/22)

Attachments: 1 Leasing and Licensing of Council Facilities Policy

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Leasing and Licensing of Council Facilities Policy is to outline Council's policy position on the leasing of Council Facilities within the municipal district to ensure that occupancy arrangements

are conducted in a lawful, transparent and equitable manner and in alignment with Council's long term strategic plans and objectives.

The Policy provides guidance to Council on the considerations which are to be taken into account when entering into a lease or license arrangement and establishes a framework for Council decision-making.

The Policy will apply to all Council Facilities, whether for community or commercial use or for retail or non-retail purposes.

The Policy does not apply to:

- Crown Land including Crown Land for which Council is the appointed Committee of Management,
- Casual hire arrangements,
- Seasonal ground allocations, or
- Residential tenancy agreements.

The primary consideration in the proposed Leasing or Licensing of Council Facilities is achieving the best outcomes for the local community by taking into account future generations and ensuring the sustainable management and ongoing use of Council's Facilities.

With respect to the leasing or licensing of Council Facilities to Commercial Tenants, it is Council's policy position to:

- maximise the use and financial return of Council Facilities that are not required for any other Council use; and
- use standardised commercial property agreements.

In order to promote good governance, Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles contained within s.9 of the Act.

These principles require Council to act lawfully, to prioritise achieving best outcomes for the community and to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the Council.

The Leasing and Licensing of Council Facilities Policy was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 7 December 2022.

RELEVANT LAW

The Leasing and Licensing of Council Facilities must be undertaken in accordance with s. 115 and s. 116 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Policy, Council reserves the right to undertake a public process to seek expressions of interest from prospective Tenants. Any submissions received through this process will be carefully considered by Council's Delegate and if necessary, will be referred to an assessment panel for further consideration.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The income derived from the leasing or licensing of Council Facilities will be placed into Council's consolidated revenue and allocated in accordance with Council's annual budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS

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 Program.

SUMMARY

Presenting one application for the Sustainability Grants Program and five applications for the Community Grants program for the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

MOTION:

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

\$2,000 Project Support Grant to Wycheproof Parental Advisory Group

\$10,000 Sustainability Grant to Birchip ELC Parental Advisory Group

\$2,000 Project Support Grant to Birchip Business and Learning Centre

\$1,850 Project Support Grant to Charlton Lions Club

\$1,000 Small Capital Equipment Grant to Birchip Playgroup

\$1,000 Project Support Grant to Wycheproof Lions Club

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR CAROLYN STEWART

CARRIED.

(R028/22)

Attachments: 1 December Community Grants Expenditure

DISCUSSION

The following applications for funding are being put forth to Council for final decision.

These applications were assessed by an assessment panel of two Council Staff from across the organisation, as per the Community Grant Guidelines as accepted by Council. The assessment Panel recommends the following grants for Council's consideration and final decision on the allocations.

A Sponsorship grant of **\$250 was awarded to Mallee Sports Assembly for their International Day of People with a Disability Function**, this was approved by CEO, Wayne O'Toole, as per the Grant Guidelines.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project: | Wycheproof Early Learning Centre Storage |
| Organisation: | Wycheproof Parental Advisory Group |
| Grant Type | Project Support Grant |
| Amount Applied: | \$2,000 |
| Funding Amount Recommended: | \$2,000 |
| Full project cost: | \$5,280.00 |
| Project Description: | The installation of shelving for their storage shed, to allow for more outdoor equipment to be stored in this shed, so that it is less cluttered and dangerous for staff and children accessing equipment stored here. |
| Project Benefit: | More equipment will be able to be stored properly in the shed, and thus will be protected from the weather, increasing the lifespan of the equipment. This will make the ELC safer for staff and children. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring | Average score of 17.5 out of 25 All members of the panel recommended the project be funded for the full amount requested (\$2,000). |
| Project: | Ventilation and energy conservation for the Birchip Early Learning Centre |
| Organisation: | Birchip ELC Parental Advisory Group |
| Grant Type | Sustainability Grant |
| Amount Applied: | \$10,000 |
| Funding Amount Recommended: | \$10,000 |
| Full project cost: | \$20,974.00 |
| Project Description: | The project will involve the replacement of the existing fixed windows with double glazed windows that open to improve ventilation throughout the Birchip Early Learning Centre. The additional ventilation through the space will also improve the health and wellbeing of the children, staff and parents who attend the centre. As part of the project, the educators will have lessons with the students regarding sustainability and energy use and highlight the importance of conserving and sustaining our natural environment. |
| Project Benefit: | This project will mean that there will be an increased flow of natural air throughout the facility, conserving energy use and the double glazing will increase the insulation properties of the building, thereby reducing the rate of heat/cold loss. The addition of an education component of the project will mean that children attending the centre will learn about the importance of sustainability and protecting their natural environments. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring | Average score of 23.5 out of 30 All members of the panel recommended the project be funded for the full amount requested (\$10,000). |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project: | Birchip Community Christmas |
| Organisation: | Birchip Business and Learning Centre |
| Grant Type | Project Support Grant |
| Amount Applied: | \$2,000 |
| Funding Amt Rec: | \$2,000 |
| Full project cost: | \$9,000 |
| Project Description: | The annual Christmas Party for the Birchip and Surrounds communities. There will be carnival rides, roving performances, a community concert, and a photographic display of the Year that was 2022 in Birchip. It is estimated that around 500 people will attend this event. |
| Project Benefit: | The event will bring the community together to improve community connections and lift the spirits of the community after a tough few months with flooding and a difficult end to the growing season. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring | Average score of 21 out of 25 All members of the panel recommended the project be funded for the full amount requested (\$2,000). |
| Project: | Charlton Xmas Fest |
| Organisation: | Charlton Lions Club |
| Grant Type | Project Support Grant |
| Amount Applied: | \$1,850 |
| Funding Amount Recommended: | \$1,850 |
| Full project cost: | \$4,000 |
| Project Description: | A family X-Mas Event for the Charlton Community with activities provided by a range of community groups from Charlton. |
| Project Benefit: | The event will bring the community together to improve community connections and lift the spirits of the community after a tough few months with flooding and a difficult end to the growing season. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring | Average score of 16.5 out of 25 The panel recommended the project be funded for the full amount requested (\$1,850). |
| Project: | Brighter Bubs for Buloke |
| Organisation: | Birchip Playgroup |
| Grant Type | Small Capital Equipment Grant |
| Amount Applied: | \$1,000 |
| Funding Amount Recommended: | \$1,000 |
| Full project cost: | \$2,015 |
| Project Description: | The purchase of new outdoor play equipment, including scooters, balance bikes, trike bikes, sand for the sandpit and sandpit equipment, to replace the current dated play equipment. The equipment will be able to cater for all abilities of preschool aged children. |
| Project Benefit: | The children will benefit from the social and physical benefits that this new play equipment will give them, and it will also help to foster an outdoor space that will help the children to hone in on key skills including social, emotive, physical, and cognitive skills, through sharing, interacting with new children and moving throughout the outdoor space. The equipment would be able to be shared with the local kinder and other playgroups, increasing the benefits that the play equipment will have on the community. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring | Average score of 19.5 out of 25. All members of the panel recommended the project be funded for the full amount requested (\$1000). |

| Project: Christmas Eve in the Park | |
|---|--|
| Organisation: | Wycheproof Lions Club |
| Grant Type | Project Support Grant |
| Amount Applied: | \$1,000 |
| Funding Amount Recommended: | \$1,000 |
| Full project cost: | \$2,000 |
| Project Description: | The Annual Wycheproof Community Event that will bring the community together through a BBQ together, and Santa coming in the fire truck to give treats to the children. The evening will be a fun and relaxed evening for the community to connect and there will be a lucky visitor prize with vouchers to local businesses to encourage attendees to shop locally. |
| Project Benefit: | The event will bring the community together to improve community connections and lift the spirits of the community after a tough few months with flooding and a difficult end to the growing season. |
| Assessment Panel Scoring | Average score of 18 out of 25 All members of the panel recommended the project be funded for the full amount requested (\$1000). |

2022/2023 Community Grant Fund grants prior to this allocation: \$12,790.75

2022/2023 Sustainability Grant Fund grants prior to this allocation: \$33,518.18

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

One sustainability grant presented.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Manager of Community Services or Community Development Officer engaged with each applicant listed.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not Applicable

COLLABORATION

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

These applications for the 2022/23 Financial Year from the \$20,000 allocation for Community Grants and the Sustainability Fund \$50,000 allocation.

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.

8.2.2 CULGOA DUMP POINT

Author's Title: Capital Projects Officer

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: SD|05|01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

To provide further information regarding the Culgoa Dump Point project programmed for 2022/23 Annual Budget.

SUMMARY

The Council's Annual Budget 2022/23 provided for a capital project to install a dump point facility in Culgoa. At the Council Meeting held on 8 June 2022 Council resolved that this project be temporarily removed from the capital works project list until further information about the project had been provided. This Report sets out responses to the enquiries in the notice of motion for the information of the Council and recommends the Council approve the project to continue.

MOTION:

That Council approve the Culgoa Dump Point project to continue as a stand-alone pump out system in a location to be determined by the Culgoa community in relation to the preferred location.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

CRS POLLARD, STEWART AND WARREN – AGAINST.

CRS HOGAN, SIMPSON, MILNE AND GETLEY – IN FAVOUR

CARRIED.

(R029/22)

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

The Culgoa and District Local Community Plan identifies the investigation of the installation of a caravan dump point as a key community priority. The Culgoa Dump Point project (Project) was listed as a capital works project for the 2022/23 Annual Budget.

Council resolved, at its June Council Meeting, to defer the Project until further information in relation to the Project could be considered. As part of this internal review, Council Officers sought further advice in relation to environmental health implications of the Project. It is also noted that the October 2022 flooding event may impact the proposed location of the Project.

The further advice referenced above highlighted that dump points should not be connected to septic systems due to the adverse effect some chemicals used in portable toilets can have on the ecology of

the septic system. As a result, it is recommended that a stand-alone holding tank is installed which would need to be pumped out when full. A similar project completed in July 2022 was undertaken at a cost which is comparable to the budget for the Project.

Additional responses to each of the matters raised at the June Council Meeting are set out below.

1. A full annual operational cost of transporting the waste:

If Council were to proceed with a stand-alone holding tank, the estimated price per pump out is \$1000/10,000L. At this stage it is not possible to estimate the total number of pump outs required each financial year, noting that the stand-alone 20,000L holding tank at Tynan Park, Berriwillock, has been operational since July 2022 with one pump out required to date.

2. Determine where the annual operating expenditure fits into Council's budget:

Septic pump outs are an operational expense and would form part of future budgets.

3. Are there any traffic management issues to access the dump point:

A stand-alone pump out system can be placed in a location which best suits traffic movements.

4. How many overflows happen before receipt of an EPA infringement notice and at what cost:

The holding tank will be alarmed to automatically notify when pump out of the system is required; a visual alarm is also included if the 4G system fails. If the contractor is unavailable the point can be closed until the pump out is completed. This minimises the risk of any overflows, however it is noted that the EPA guidance states if Council does not comply with its duties and obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 2017* or Regulations as a landowner or occupier, it may receive a penalty.

5. Are there any environmental issues with the proximity to the waterway (DELWP, CMA):

The holding tank would be placed in a location approved by Council's Environmental Health Officer, outside of any exclusion zones.

6. Is the location beside the hall the best location? Could it be shifted further from the waterway to minimise environmental issues:

The holding tank may be placed in any location where power is available; alternatively additional project funding may allow a solar/battery system to support the alarm system. As referenced earlier in this Report, Council may be required to revisit the proposed location due to the October 2022 flooding event.

7. Design of the proposed dump point:

The proposed design is a concrete 20,000L holding tank installed inground with dump point and appropriate ventilation linked to a 4G/visual alarm system.

8. Has a complete cost benefit analysis been prepared:

Council staff have made external enquiries but at this stage are unaware of any cost benefit analysis completed specifically for dump points. Council is unable to complete a cost benefit analysis internally in relation to this project.

RELEVANT LAW

Environment Protection Act 2017.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Culgoa Dump Point project approved in the Buloke Shire Council Budget 2022/2023. Council resolved at its June 2022 Council Meeting to defer any further action on the Project until further information could be considered.

OPTIONS

Further information should be sought from the Culgoa community in relation to this Project to discuss preferred location.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Providing a dump point can reduce the risk of illegal dumping of waste. Council's Environmental Health Officer will be consulted at key points throughout the project to ensure compliance with EPA requirements.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

If an alternative location is preferred the community would be consulted.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This style of dump point would be a first in the Shire and could prove to be a feasible option in other locations such as Council's lakeside caravan parks.

COLLABORATION

The Asset Department has consulted with the Environmental Health Officer to produce this recommendation.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Ongoing costs of pump outs to be considered. Tynan Park had a 20,000L holding tank installed earlier this year for approximately \$60k (\$10k associated with connection to existing system which would not be required in this instance).

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This Report outlines the responses to the enquiries made by the Council at the June 2022 Council Meeting.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.3 WYCHEPROOF CARAVAN PARK MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Author's Title: Acting Manager Facilities and Projects

Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: PR/07/11

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Economy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Wycheproof Caravan Park Management Agreement.

SUMMARY

- Wycheproof Caravan Park is located on the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve, which is Crown Land and Council is Committee of Management.
- Council conducted an expression of interest process for the management of the Wycheproof Caravan Park in 2019.
- Council awarded the management of the Wycheproof Caravan Park to Wyche Alive Incorporated.
- The Wycheproof Management Agreement was for a period of up to three years with no further options to extend.
- It is recommended that Council enter into a new Management Agreement with Wyche Alive Incorporated for a period of up to forty-eight (48) months commencing Thursday, 15 December 2022. All other conditions of the Management Agreement would remain similar to the previous agreement.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Enter into a Management Agreement for the Wycheproof Caravan Park with Wyche Alive Inc. for up to forty-eight (48) months; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to finalise negotiations and execute the Management Agreement on behalf of Council.

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R030/22)

Attachments: 1 Wycheproof Caravan Park Management Agreement

DISCUSSION

Wycheproof Caravan Park is located on the Wycheproof Recreation Reserve, which is Crown Land and Council is the Committee of Management. For more than a decade Council directly managed the park via the appointment of a caretaker who serviced the amenity block and collected fees from campers and residents.

In late 2018, Council was approached by Wyche Alive Inc. the township Forum, raising opportunities for improving the management of the park. They highlighted issues such as the provision of additional hours of site management, a booking system and general improvements that would encourage increased use, thus supporting improved economic outcomes for the Wycheproof Community through increased local spending.

Council undertook an expression of interest (EOI) process which was advertised in all three local newspapers and on Council's website. Subsequently, Council at its meeting held Wednesday 14 August 2019, awarded the management of the Wycheproof Caravan Park to Wyche Alive Incorporated.

Wyche Alive Incorporated were awarded a Management Agreement for the management of the Wycheproof Caravan Park which commenced from Monday, 16 September 2019. The Agreement was for a period of up to three years with no further options to extend. The Management Agreement has now expired, and it is recommended that Council enter into a new Management Agreement with Wyche Alive Incorporated for a period of two (2) years with an option for a further two (2) years. All other conditions of the Management Agreement would remain similar to the previous agreement.

DELWP has been consulted regarding the proposed management agreement and have confirmed support, noting that Council retains overarching control of the park.

RELEVANT LAW

There are a number of considerations as part of the future management of the caravan park, including compliance with the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, the *Local Government Act*, DELWP's Best Practice Management Guidelines for Committees of Management Managing Caravan and Camping Parks on Crown Land 2012 and the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council at its meeting held Wednesday 14 August 2019, awarded the management of the Wycheproof Caravan Park to Wyche Alive Incorporated.

OPTIONS

Not applicable to this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council undertook an expression of interest (EOI) process in April 2019 and subsequently awarded the management of the Wycheproof Caravan Park to Wyche Alive Incorporated.

No further community consultation has been undertaken due to the operational nature of the service.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable to this report.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council no longer budgets for both income and expenditure from the Wycheproof Caravan Park.

Council will continue to insure the main buildings and depreciate the assets.

Council may need to consider additional capital Improvements as part of future budgets and the capital works program.

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

Not applicable to this report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Officer involved in the preparation of the Report has any conflicts of interest to disclose.

8.2.4 DRAFT AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 20 SEP 2022

Author's Title: Governance Officer

Department: Corporate Services

File No: FM/02/09

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

To provide Council with the draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2022.

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 20 September 2022.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.
(R031/22)

Attachments: 1 Draft Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 20 Sep 2022

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 quarterly update
- Internal Audit Status Report and update
- Draft Internal Audit Strategic Plan
- Draft Procurement Internal Audit
- Draft Audit and Risk Committee Charter
- Draft Risk Management Policy, Framework and Strategy
- Audit Closing report
- Draft Audit Management Letter
- Legislative Compliance Policy and Framework
- Sale of Land Policy and Lease project update

- Draft Procurement Policy
- Draft Loan Guarantee Policy
- Draft Reserves Policy
- Community Grants Review
- Legislative Compliance Register
- Debtor write offs
- Councillor and CEO reimbursements
- Draft Financial Statements
- Draft Performance Statements
- Audit and Risk Committee Annual Assessment

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.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

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 at Committee meetings. Recommendations from the Committee are communicated to relevant staff members for action.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The costs associated with the 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 Audit and Risk 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 draft 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 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL RECOVERY PLAN

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Department: Community Development

File No: DR/19/21

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to adopt the Buloke Shire Council Recovery Plan.

SUMMARY

As a result of the major rain event that occurred in October 2022, river catchments including the Avoca River and Richardson River experienced heavy falls.

The Avoca River peaked at Charlton Town on Monday 17 October 2022 at a level of 7.87 metres, which caused over the floor flooding to occur over 3 properties in the town of Charlton.

The Richardson River at Donald peaked at 3.76 metres and remained within the levees.

Other waterways including the Tyrell, Cooropajerup, and Lambert creeks, caused flooding in Culgoa and surrounding areas.

The State Emergency Management Plan states that Council is responsible for the municipal recovery coordination. The Recovery Plan will be supported by a Flood Recovery Operation Plan.

MOTION:

That Council adopts the Recovery Plan and publishes it on its website and promotes the plan via its media channels.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R032/22)

Attachments: 1 Buloke Shire Council Recovery Plan

DISCUSSION

A major rain and flood event occurred in many parts of Northern and Western Victoria on and around mid-October 2022. Substantial rain fell in the Avoca and Richardson catchments that led to flooding occurring throughout Buloke Shire.

Mitigation works included but were not limited to:

- The construction of 5 earthen levees to protect the towns of Charlton, Donald and Wycheproof.
- A large sandbag operation with CFA, VicSES, DELWP, and members of the community across Charlton, Donald, Wycheproof and Culgoa
- Blocking of storm water drains within Charlton town.

An Emergency Relief Centre was opened for a period of 11 Days at the Wycheproof P-12 School and had an average attendance of 18 people requiring accommodation and support.

A Municipal Operations Coordination Centre at the Wycheproof Supper Room.

Five community meetings were held across Buloke Shire at various times in preparation for the flood events in each locality.

The floods caused significant damage and road closures to the Buloke Shire and Vic Roads Road assets, including minor and major roads, road reserves and supporting road infrastructure.

Significant damage from flood waters has and will continue to have a major impact to the agricultural community that includes losses of crops throughout the shire that will cause financial and mental health concerns within the community.

Numerous community events were required to be cancelled throughout the shire during the floods, including but not limited to the Wycheproof Cup Horse Racing, Wycheproof Stock sale, Birchip B&S Ball, Charlton Show as well as a range of local community.

It is anticipated that there will be significant infrastructure, economic, agricultural, and social impacts to the community in Buloke.

Council will continue to support the Buloke community through their recovery and are already engaging heavily with the community in relation to road reopening and restoration.

Disasters can deeply impact people's lives and livelihoods, and helping communities recover from disasters can be challenging and complex. Every community is unique and will have its own history, values, and experiences. They will also have their own distinct challenges.

Council's role in recovery is to support and build capacity; to remove barriers, to enable, and to use local knowledge and strengths. We can help a community recover from the sense of loss and uncertainty they experience, so they can live a life they value.

Working with communities recovering from disasters is complex and challenging. To guide our efforts, our approach, our planning, and our decision-making Buloke Shire Council has adopted the National Principles for Disaster Recovery.

RELEVANT LAW

Nil.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Nil.

OPTIONS

Council can resolve to not adopt this Recovery Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Recovery Plan addresses many recovery outcomes, including elements around natural environment, business and industry, cultural considerations, utilities and transport routes, agriculture, residential property, and public infrastructure.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Once adopted this Recovery Plan will be published on Council's website and promote via Council's usual media channels.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This is not the first flood disaster faced by our community. To ensure that recovery is the best it can be, as we work alongside community and other agencies, Council will be guided by our values:

- Transparency in decision making
- Accountability by actions
- Taking responsibility
- Working collaboratively with partners
- Being responsive and timely
- Showing care and respect

The National Principles for Disaster Recovery will also be adhered to to guide our efforts, approach, planning, and decision making:

- Understand the CONTEXT
- Recognise COMPLEXITY
- Use COMMUNITY LED approaches
- COORDINATE all activities
- COMMUNICATE effectively
- Recognise and build CAPACITY

COLLABORATION

Successful execution of the Recovery Plan will be heavily reliant on collaboration with the Federal and State Governments, community, and other stakeholders.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council works closely with Federal and State Government agencies to ensure that it has access to all natural disaster funding appropriate for the delivery of the Recovery Plan.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Emergency Management Act 2013

State Emergency Management Plan

National Principles for Disaster Recovery

Emergency Management Victoria Resilient Disaster Strategy

Bushfire Recovery Victoria Recovery Framework

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Municipal Flood Emergency Plan

Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan

Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Mayor's Month – Cr Alan Getley – Mallee Ward

Community Roads Meetings

Charlton
 Wycheproof
 Sea Lake
 Donald
 Birchip

Wimmera Southern Mallee Roads Transport Group Meeting - Horsham (Councillors briefed)
 Interview with Guardian Newspaper - Swan Hill
 ABC Interview Election Day - Charlton
 ABC Interview Re Sea Lake flood situation
 Phone Dr Anne Webster Re Road Funding Cuts
 Phone Murray Emerson MAV groupings
 Resolving Conflict Workshop - Bendigo
 Advance Sea Lake Meeting
 Funeral Genevieve Foote
 Weekly Meetings with CEO Wayne O'Toole
 Tour Yeungroon / Coonooer Roads with Mr Peter Watts
 Youth Leadership Awards Evening - Boort
 St Joseph's Charlton Awards Evening & Retirement Function for Mr Frank McGrath
 Monthly Briefings

Cr Daryl Warren – Mount Jeffcott Ward

| | |
|----------|---|
| 10/11/22 | Donald Events Meeting |
| 11/11/22 | Hobsons Bay Statutory Meeting |
| 14/11/22 | Roads Meeting - Donald |
| 16/11/22 | Meals On Wheels - Donald Councillor Briefing |
| 23/11/22 | Donald Community Precinct Meeting Donald 2000 Meeting |
| 29/11/22 | Loddon Mallee Councils Training - Bendigo Minister Colin Brooks Flood Briefing |
| 30/11/22 | Housing Meeting With WDA - Murtoa Donald History Group Meeting |
| 5/12/22 | Micro Grid Meeting - Donald |
| 7/12/22 | Audit And Risk Committee Councillor Briefing |
| 8/12/22 | Workspace Meeting - Bendigo |
| 13/12/22 | Donald High School Graduation |
| 14/12/22 | Meals On Wheels - Donald Council Meeting - Wycheproof |

9. OTHER BUSINESS**9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION****9.1.1 AUSTRALIA DAY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

Author's Title: Councillor

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: RC/03/04

PURPOSE

That Council advocates to the relevant Victorian Government Minister to revert the Australia Day Ambassador Program to a similar model to recent years.

SUMMARY

Australia Day Victoria has successfully run the Australia Day Ambassador Program for a number of years, giving councils the opportunity to express their interest in having ambassadors come to communities on Australia Day to give a keynote speech and involve themselves in the celebration of our national day.

Buloke Shire has had a wonderful experience with this program, having been able to have ambassadors come to the Shire to support community celebrations as well as our Australia Day Eve event on multiple occasions.

On Wednesday 30 November 2022 Council received an email from Australia Day Victoria stating that the program had changed, without consultation, and that councils would now be responsible for identifying and nominating ambassadors.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Premier Daniel Andrews and Member for Mildura Jade Benham MLA to advocate for the Australia Day Ambassador Program to revert to a similar model to recent years to support councils and communities to conduct meaningful Australia Day Events.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

IN FAVOUR –CRS WARREN, MILNE, POLLARD, STEWART, GETLEY, AND SIMPSON.

AGAINST – CR HOGAN.

CARRIED.

(R033/22)

Attachments: Nil

DISCUSSION

Buloke Shire Council has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Australia Day Victoria in delivering the Australia Day Ambassador Program in recent years.

At a time when most councils across Victoria are responding to a flooding disaster and a global pandemic, with resources so thinly spread, this program that once supported councils so well, is now creating a large amount of work and terribly short notice.

Community events are so vital at the best of times, but now, even more so for our health and wellbeing as we recovery form this flooding disaster.

Attendance at community Australia Day events by the ambassadors complemented the other activities and speakers put together by organising committees for the betterment of the experience.

9.1.2 ROADS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FUNDING - CALDER AND SUNRAYSIA HIGHWAYS

Author's Title: Councillor

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/09/01

PURPOSE

Council to advocate to the Federal Government to express its extreme disappointment and disapproval to the recent announcement of the withdrawal of the Roads of Significant Importance (ROSI) funding, noting the significant impact this will have on the essential upgrades and repairs required for Calder and Sunraysia Highways, particularly following the recent flood event.

SUMMARY

The Federal Government in its October 2022 budget cut \$248 million from forward estimates for the Victorian ROSI program, which will severely compromise the safety of all road users on the Calder and Sunraysia Highways.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Hon Catherine King MP, Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government urging the Federal Government to reconsider its decision to reduce the funding for the Roads of Significant Importance program as planned in the October 2022 Budget.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR DAVID POLLARD

CARRIED.
(R034/22)

Attachments: Nil

BACKGROUND

The Calder Highway connects Melbourne to Bendigo through to Mildura, and Sunraysia Highway connects Ouyen to Ballarat.

Both highways are significant traffic corridors for Wimmera and Mallee primary producers, secondary and tertiary industry operators, tourists, residents, to name a few.

The Calder Highway is currently recognised as one of Victoria's most dangerous roads, and both Highways have been severely impacted from the recent heavy spring rains and flood events.

The Federal Government's decision to reduce the funding only exacerbates the existing problem of agricultural, wholesale and retail business transport drivers having to transport their stock via heavy road trains on extremely substandard, hazardous highway systems.

Council has an obligation to all users of the Calder and Sunraysia Highways to advocate to the Federal Government to urge them to have the user's safety to be considered first and foremost when the Government reconsiders its decision to cut the ROSJ Program funding.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.2.1 CR WARREN – PROVISION FOR COUNCILLOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION: Do we have a policy on Councillor Training?

ANSWER FROM DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DELIVERY: We don't have a specific Councillor Training policy. We would be preparing certain information sessions for Councillors at various stages throughout the current term of Council, primarily during our inductions. All training of Councillor's is provided for in Council's operational budget.

QUESTION: Therefore there is no formal Council written policy in terms of training or Councillor personal development etc.

ANSWER FROM DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DELIVERY: No. Nothing outside of the requirements of the Councillor induction process.

QUESTION: Do we have guidelines in terms of personal development, training etc which outline associated costs for reimbursements etc.

ANSWER FROM DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DELIVERY: Council has a Councillor Expense Policy adopted by Council, after the introduction of the Local Government Act 2020 that outlines items and costs reimbursements for Councillors.

QUESTION: Can I suggest Council has a discussion going forward at a Councillor Briefing, as I think there may be a gap somewhere in our organisation for this matter.

9.2.2 CR MILNE – RURAL COUNCIL'S VICTORIA – PARLIAMENTARY ROADS INQUIRY

QUESTION: Noticing in the RCV Newsletter published today, that there is a Parliamentary Roads Inquiry occurring on Australia's road network. All member Councils are urged to make a submission on the severe weather impact on Australia's Rural Regional Road network.

Enquiring if Council is proposing to put in a formal submission.

ANSWER FROM THE CEO: Given the impact on our roads network from the recent flood events, I think it would be recommended to make a submission into this Inquiry.

RESPONSE TO ADVICE FROM CEO FROM CR MILNE: It is a great opportunity to be able to highlight the struggles and needs in this area on this matter and advising Council has until 28 February 2023 to make a submission.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil

10. MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed 8:00pm.