



COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 8 November 2023

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, 8 November 2023 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 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

Cr Carolyn Stewart

Lower Avoca Ward (leave of absence)

Cr David Pollard

Lower Avoca Ward (leave of absence)

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

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting held Tuesday, 1 August 2023, the Council Meeting held Wednesday, 11 October 2023 and the Council Meeting held on Monday, 23 October 2023.

Moved: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

Seconded: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.

(R159/23)

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Warren requested leave of absence from 9 November 2023 to 3 December 2023

MOTION:

Cr Warren be granted leave of absence as requested from 9 November 2023 to 3 December 2023.

Moved: CR GRAEME MILNE

Seconded: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R160/23)

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

NIL

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

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NIL

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NIL

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	If the meeting has been closed it will be brought back into open session by resolution	
10.	MEETING CLOSE	

NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN WYCHEPROOF SUPPER ROOM, 367 BROADWAY, WYCHEPROOF ON WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7:00PM.

Wayne O'Toole
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

MOTION:

That the Council note the report of Councillor Assembly Meetings held 4 and 18 October 2023.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.

(R161/23)

- Attachments:**
- 1 Councillor Briefing Record - 4 October 2023
 - 2 Councillor Briefing Record - 18 October 2023

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 4 and 18 October 2023 is attached for public information.

7.2 CORRESPONDENCE INITIATED BY COUNCIL

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/06

PURPOSE

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR DARYL WARREN

CARRIED.

(R162/23)

Attachments: Nil

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council Initiative	Sent to	Sent	Response	Purpose of Letter/Response
Notice of Motion from September 2023 CM to forward letter.	Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP Victorian Minister for Planning	3 Oct 2023		To outline Council's concerns with the impacts on small communities with the introduction of the Windfall Gains Tax (WGT).
Notice of Motion from October 2023 CM to forward letter.	<i>The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP</i> Minister of Victorian Police	19 Oct 2023		Calling on the State Government to guarantee that one-person police stations will not close

7.3 LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT/AWARDS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: CR/13/01

PURPOSE

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

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

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

SECONDED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

**CARRIED.
(R163/23)**

Attachments: Nil

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS

Provider	Recipient	Date	Purpose for Recognition
Buloke Shire Council	Members of the Inaugural Charlton Arts Committee	13 October 2023	<p>To congratulate the inaugural committee that has taken over the leadership of the Charlton Arts and for the enormous amount of work undertaken to be able to make a welcome return and successfully run the Charlton Arts "Art & Photography" Exhibition.</p> <p>Also to acknowledge the outstanding commitment of the former Charlton Rotary Club who successfully ran this event for 28 years.</p>

7.4 STATUS OF ACTION OF PAST COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/05/04

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action (SOA) of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action, and the SOA for the 11 and 23 October 2023 Council Meeting Resolutions.

MOTION:

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

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

**CARRIED.
(R164/23)**

Attachments: 1 Status of Actions - Council Resolutions

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

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

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

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

Attached to this report for public information is a list of the SOA of Council Resolutions outstanding for completion of action and introducing the SOA for the 11 and 23 October 2023 Council Meeting Resolutions.

7.5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Planning Officer

Department: Community Development

File No: LP/09/01

PURPOSE

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

MOTION:

That 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 BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.
(R165/23)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PA23019	Borong Highway, Gil Gil	22/03/2023	Place of Assembly (Events Centre)	Withdrawn
PA23020	Church Street, Culgoa	10/05/2023	Use and development of land for a transfer station (install an RV dump point and septic holding tank)	Objection
PA23023	Back St Arnaud Road, Charlton	16/07/2023	Place of assembly (campdraft events)	Permit Issued
PA23024	Calder Highway, Wycheproof	21/08/2023	Construction of a Farm Shed within a LSIO	Permit Issued
PA23025	Byrne Street, Donald	16/08/2023	Development of land for a Smoke House restaurant and cocktail bar including the construction of a new deck / entertainment area and amenities and the demolition of two buildings	Referral
PA23026	Horace Street, Sea Lake	06/09/2023	Construct and display internally illuminated business identification sign (LED priceboard)	Review

Application No	Address	Date Rec	Summary of Proposal	Status
PA23027	Opie Road, Karyrie	04/09/2023	Use and development of land for a single dwelling	Permit Issued
PA23028	Calder Highway, Berriwillock	08/09/2023	Development of a telecommunications facility	Review
PA23029	McLoughlans Road, Warmur	31/08/2023	Create or alter access to a road in a Transport Zone 2 for the construction of a single dwelling	Request for further information
PA23030	Borung Highway, Donald	15/09/2023	Creation of access to Borung Highway to an existing Powercor Regulator Site	Review
PA23031	Calder Highway, Wycheproof	15/09/2023	Creation of access to Borung Highway to an existing Powercor Regulator Site	Review
PA23032	Boort-Wycheproof Road, Wycheproof	15/09/2023	Creation of access to Borung Highway to an existing Powercor Regulator Site	Review
PA23033	Borung Highway, Gil Gil	15/09/2023	Creation of access to Borung Highway to an existing Powercor Regulator Site	Review
PA23034	Enterprise Drive, Donald	25/09/2023	Three-lot subdivision of land	Notice of application/ Referral
PA23035	Woods Street, Donald	06/10/2023	Alteration of access in a Transport Zone (Creation of new driveway access)	Request for further information
PA23036	Birchip – Sea Lake Road, Marlbed	11/10/2023	Two-lot subdivision of land	Notice of application/ Referral
PA23037	Connellan Road, Watchem	24/10/2023	Two lot subdivision of land (boundary re-alignment)	Notice of application/ Referral

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

7.6 BUILDING PERMITS - MONTHLY UPDATE

Author's Title: Statutory Administration Support

Department: Community Development

File No: DB/14/01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023.

MOTION:

That the Council note information contained in the report on Building Permits approved by staff from 1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023.

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R166/23)

Attachments: Nil

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY COUNCIL SURVEYOR

Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
20230024	Broadway Wycheproof VIC 3527	Construction of 9m x 9m x 3.6m shed	26/10/2023
20230026	Nullawil North Road Kalpienung VIC 3529	Installation of residential swimming pool	19/10/2023

LIST OF BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY PRIVATE BUILDING SURVEYOR

Permit No.	Address	Project Description	Date Approved
PBLD23116	Watson Street Charlton VIC 3525	Restumping of Existing Dwelling	10/10/2023
PBLD23117	Hammill Street Donald VIC 3480	Re-Stumping Existing Dwelling	6/10/2023
PBLD23122	Calder HIGHWAY Nandaly VIC 3533	Storage shed	18/10/2023
PBLD23124	Broadway Wycheproof VIC 3527	Construction of a BBQ Shelter	24/10/2023

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Nil

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.3.1 FINANCE REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Author's Title: Manager Financial Strategy

Department: Corporate and Organisational Performance **File No:** FM/19/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

To present to the Council the financial reports for the period ending 30 September 2023.

SUMMARY

The year-end surplus in the 2023/24 adopted budget was \$6.2M. The current forecasted year-end surplus remains similar at this early stage of the financial year and is \$5.6M, anticipating no significant capital project delays impacting capital grant income recognition.

The Actuals vs. Approved (Budget) reporting year-to-date includes timing variances which relate to the months in which the income or expenditure is incurred. Timing differences are anticipated to be resolved throughout the financial year and are not expected to impact the Full Year Forecast result. As at 30 September 2023, Council has achieved an actual surplus of \$8.0M which is equal to the year-to-date budget for this period, which reflects the steady start to the financial year.

Further discussion around non-timing variances in financial reports is outlined below.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Financial Performance Report for the period ending 30 September 2023; and
2. Receives and notes the Capital Works Statement for the period ending 30 September 2023, consisting of the carry forward projects and current financial year capital projects.

Moved: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

Seconded: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.
(R167/23)

Attachments:

- 1 BSC Quarterly Financial Reports - YTD September 2023
- 2 Capital Works Statement YTD September 2023 - 2023-24 Capital Projects
- 3 Capital Works Statement YTD September 2023 - Carry Forward Projects

DISCUSSION

Report:	Report explanation:	Year to date (YTD) performance to budget and forecast commentary
Income Statement	<p><i>The Income Statement provides a summary of the total income and total expenditure relating to Council's annual operations for the reporting period. Capital grant income is included in this statement, but any related expenditure is not reflected as this is reported as increased assets on the Balance Sheet. To exclude potential distortion of underlying operations in the Income Statement, capital income is reported separately to identify the Operating Net Surplus/(Deficit).</i></p>	<p>Rates & charges Favourable variance of \$12K YTD, mainly due to supplementary rates notices. Full year forecast has been varied upward slightly to \$15.03M.</p> <p>Statutory fees and fines Unfavourable variance of \$37K YTD, mainly due to lower than anticipated permit applications. Full year forecast has been varied downward slightly to \$224K.</p> <p>Grants – operating Unfavourable variance of \$1.1M YTD, mainly due to the timing of Financial Assistance Grant payments. 100% of the 2023/24 grant allocation was paid in the 2022/23 financial year. As we near the end of financial year we will await the decision on the early payment of 2024/25 grants. Full year forecast has been varied downward slightly to \$353K.</p> <p>Contributions Unfavourable variance of \$30K YTD, mainly due to timing of capital project completion and the associated community contribution invoicing. Full year forecast has remained unchanged at this stage.</p> <p>Other income Favourable variance of \$25K YTD, mainly due to the unbudgeted receipt of funds relating to native vegetation works which Council will conduct on behalf of the Department of Transport. Full year forecast has been varied upward to \$860K to reflect this and other reimbursements relating to WorkCover insurance.</p> <p>Employee costs Favourable variance of \$729K YTD, mainly due to several vacant positions that exist, many of which are in the process of being recruited to.</p> <p>Part of this variance also relates to the EBA negotiations which continue. Once agreed on, any increases and associated backpay will be processed which should reduce this variance.</p> <p>Full year forecast has been varied downward to \$10.93M to reflect the period of time where vacant positions existed.</p> <p>Materials and services Favourable variance of \$809K YTD, mainly due to the procurement timing of several budgeted operational projects. Full year forecast has been varied upward to \$12.4M, which is a \$973K forecast overspend. This is mainly related to flood recovery expenditure, in which the recognition of revenue occurred in 2022/23.</p>

<p>Income Statement (Continued)</p>	<p><i>Prescribed expenditure of Capital Income is not included in the Income Statement, and this can distort the analysis of the financial performance which is better reflected by the Operating Net Surplus/(Deficit).</i></p> <p><i>Capital expenditure against capital grant income is provided in the Capital Work Program report and as additional assets on the balance sheet.</i></p>	<p>Depreciation & amortisation Unfavourable variance of \$75K YTD, mainly relating to variances in budget estimates. Full year forecast has been varied upward and will continue to be reviewed particularly in relation to asset purchases which are below the \$5,000 asset capitalisation threshold for plant and equipment.</p> <p>Bad and doubtful debts/Borrowing costs Traditionally these expense accounts will see actuals in the second half of the financial year.</p> <p>Other expenses Favourable variance of \$50K YTD, mainly due to the timing of membership payments and community contributions. Full year forecast has been varied upward slightly to \$859K, mainly due to unbudgeted association membership costs.</p> <p>Capital income Capital grants are currently forecasting to the approved budget amount. As capital projects progress, this should result in the associated revenue being released to Council soon after.</p> <p>Full year forecast for Profit/(Loss) Disposal of Assets has been varied upward by \$43K due to the sale of multiple Council owned vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life.</p>
<p>Balance Sheet</p>	<p><i>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 as at the end of the month reported.</i></p>	<p>Cash and cash equivalents Cash balances (incl. investments) are at \$37M, which is a \$3.3M decrease since 30 June 2023. This is mainly due to the payment of 30 June 2023 creditor balances, resulting in a decrease in Trade and other payables liability.</p> <p>Trade and other receivables Rates debtors are the main contributor to the \$13.2M increase in Trade and other receivables, resulting from annual rates notices being generated and sent.</p> <p>Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment There has been a \$1.1M decrease in this area since 30 June 2023, mainly relating to depreciation of assets which partially offsets capital expenditure year-to-date.</p> <p>Trade and other payables There has been a \$1.2M decrease since 30 June 2023, mainly due to the volume of creditor payments which occurs prior to end of financial year.</p>

		Trust funds and deposits There has been a \$1.4M increase since 30 June 2023, mainly due to the fire services levy amounts which are held on behalf of the State Revenue Office (SRO) when rates notices are initially generated. This is then paid to the SRO on a quarterly basis.
Cashflow Statement	<i>The Cashflow Statement reflects actual results for the reporting period in line with statutory financial reporting.</i>	There has been \$1.3M used to support the capital works program as at 30 September 2023. Overall, there has been a reduction in cash of \$3.3M since 30 June 2023.
Cashflow Forecast	<i>The Cashflow Chart visually depicts the cashflow forecast and the updated format is illustrated in a dual design, based on best practice reporting.</i> <i>The P & L Forecast is a projection of cashflow for the remainder of the year based on the month-end cash balance, the monthly budgets, specified timing parameters (such when BAS/super are due and quarterly rate receipts) and capital expenditure.</i>	Timing assumptions have been made regarding capital project income and expenditure for 2023/24. While this is still being confirmed in accordance with capital project delivery, all income and expenditure is reported in June 2024 by default unless otherwise specified. The cashflow forecast across the 12 months results in an increase of approximately \$5.6M. This is however highly dependent on decisions that will be made around the timing of the Financial Assistance Grants, expected in May/June 2024.
Capital Works Program	<i>The Capital Works Statement lists the expenditure for each project incurred to date.</i>	The total capital works program for 2023/24 is \$24.3M, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022/23 carry forward project budget \$10.7M • 2022/23 night art activation project, originally listed as a carry forward \$0.4M • 2023/24 budgeted capital projects \$13.2M The total delivery as at 30 September 2023 was \$1.3M, representing 5.5% of the total capital works program including carry forwards. A number of large value capital projects are currently in early procurement stages and we expect to see progress in the October to December 2023 quarter.

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Council adopted its Annual Budget 2023/24 on 27th June 2023.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

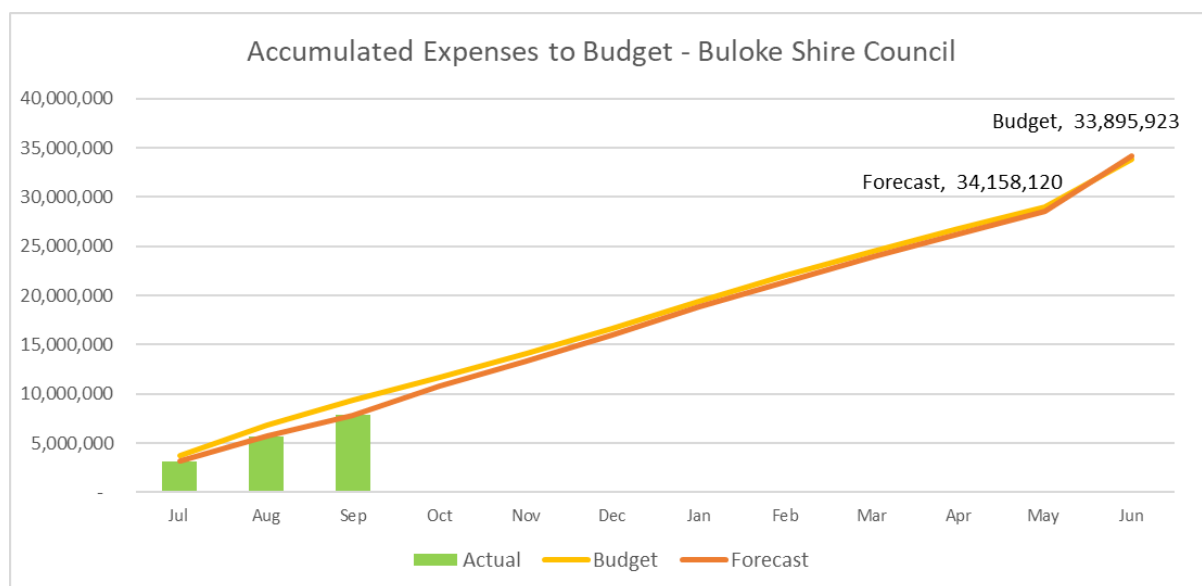
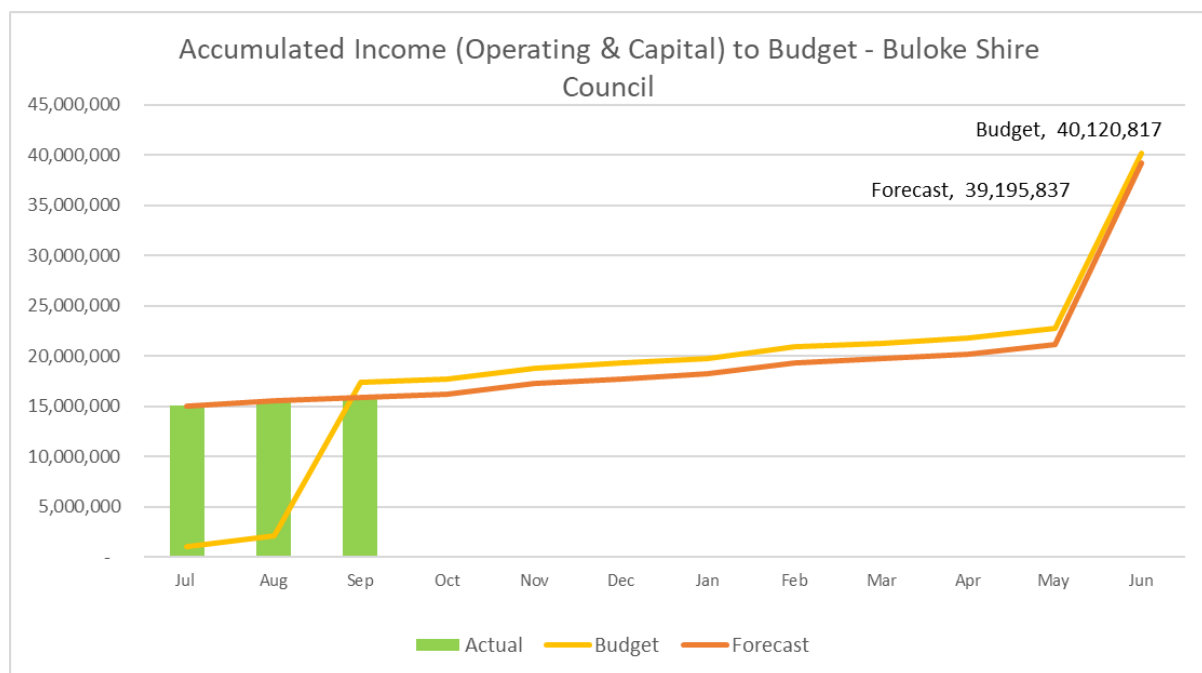
Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The tables below provide an overview of Council's financial performance against Adopted budget income and expenses at 30th September 2023.

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

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council adopted its Annual Budget 2023/24 on 27th June 2023. The Buloke Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 outlines Council's commitment to developing responsible cash flow budgets to achieve long term financial sustainability and reporting quarterly against their delivery.

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.

QUESTION FROM CR WARREN: How are we progressing with the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA)?

RESPONSE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Negotiations are continuing with outcome to EBA with outcome expected in coming months.

QUESTION FROM CR WARREN: When did the last EBA expire?

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE: Current Agreement expired in 2021 but continues to be in place until replacement Agreement negotiation. Noted positive variance in employee costs relates to projected EBA quantum items, as well as vacancies against budgeted Full Time Employees.

QUESTION FROM CR MILNE: Clarification required around the forecast surplus within current financial year, is that money restricted/already attributed?

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE: Yes.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 - YEAR 3 ANNUAL PLAN REVIEW

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Department: Community Development

File No: CM/13/06

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on the actions taken against the Council Plan 2021-2025 - Year 3 Annual Plan.

SUMMARY

Council at its 16 June 2021 Meeting adopted its Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 and subsequently developed an Annual Plan for the implementation of the strategic objectives in each subsequent financial year.

MOTION:

That Council note the progress made to deliver the strategic objectives noted in the Year 3 Annual Plan for the Buloke Council Plan 2021-2025.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.
(R168/23)

Attachments: 1 Year 3 Annual Plan - Quarter 1 Report

DISCUSSION

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

Council receives progress reports against the Year 3 Annual Plan throughout the financial year.

The report outlines delivery against the Annual Plan, and the overarching Council Plan 2021-2025. Some of the key actions are:

- Development and adoption of a Buloke Aquatic Strategy
- Completion of construction of Playspaces for Berriwillock, Donald, and Wycheproof
- Preparation of Buloke Drainage Plans
- Preparation of Community Plans
- Recreation Reserve Planning projects for Birchip, Donald, and Sea Lake
- Development and adoption of an Integrated Community Planning Framework
- Development and adoption of the Children, Youth and Families Strategy
- Delivery of Silo Art Night Activation
- Delivery of the Safer Together Program

RELEVANT LAW

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

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

This item responds directly to the adoption of the Year 3 Annual Plan on 9 August 2023.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was significant consultation undertaken in the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025, 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

Reporting on the delivery of strategic objectives ensures continuous improvement and accountability to the community.

COLLABORATION

Many actions achieved in the Annual Plan rely upon the collaboration of other Councils and key peak bodies, local stakeholder groups and the community.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

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

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report responds directly to the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the adopted Annual Plan.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The adoption of regular reporting on the Annual Plan provides strong transparency to the community regarding the key focus areas of Council over the 2023/24 year and how Council is tracking against those actions.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

I, Travis Fitzgibbon, have no conflict of interest to declare in relation to this report.

QUESTION FROM CR WARREN: How much preliminary work on Aquatic Strategy has been completed?

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Preliminary work has been undertaken, with work to commence during pool season.

QUESTION FROM CR WARREN: Have we appointed a consultant?

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: In "Request For Quote" phase for this project.

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Mayor's Monthly Report

Cr Alan Getley – Mallee Ward

Weekly meetings with CEO Wayne O'Toole
Monthly Briefings
Ordinary Council meeting
Special Council Meeting
Victorian Grants Commission Meeting
Aged Care Transition Meeting (Sea Lake)
Aged Care Transition Meeting (Wycheproof)
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development group meeting
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development group Special meeting
Transmission lines shire meeting
MAV State Conference
MAV Gala Dinner & Awards Presentation
MAV State Council
ABC interview Horsham Shire Issues
Flow FM Shire Issues
ABC National radio Wamba Wamba claim
Advance Sea Lake AGM
Advance Sea Lake General Meeting
Charlton Show Opening
Charlton Art Show Opening
ABC Horsham Charlton Early Years Daycare

Cr Daryl Warren – Mount Jeffcott Ward

12/10/23	Workspace meeting Bendigo
17/10/23	Recreation Water Alliance meeting Birchip
18/10/23	Victorian Grants Commission meeting Wycheproof
	Meals on Wheels in Donald
	Council Briefing Donald
23/10/23	Council meeting via Zoom
	Buloke Tourism meeting Culgoa
25/10/23	Donald Community Precinct meeting Donald
	Donald 2000 meeting
28/10/23	Attending Multi Cultural Day in Donald
1/11/23	Council Briefing Donald
8/11/23	Statutory Meeting Wycheproof
	Council Meeting Wycheproof

9. OTHER BUSINESS**9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION****9.1.1 REGIONAL ROADS AND OTHER ISSUES**

Author's Title: Councillor

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: RO/08/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Community Wellbeing

PURPOSE

That Council write to Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) and the State Minister for Road Safety and TAC regarding the poor conditions of regional and rural roads being addressed as a matter of urgency.

SUMMARY

Councillors continue to receive feedback from the community regarding the poor condition of rural and regional roads. This has been a long-standing issue and Council has previously written to the State Government to advocate for funding and attention to the condition of rural and regional arterial roads.

This Notice of Motion seeks to reiterate these issues to the appropriate Minister and State Government bodies as the state of Buloke's roads is an important contributor to community connection and satisfaction, as well as economic and wellbeing outcomes for the Shire.

MOTION:

That Council write to the State Minister for Road Safety and TAC, *the Hon. Melissa Horne MP*, and Regional Roads Victoria, regarding the poor condition of regional and rural roads and request that these ongoing poor conditions be addressed as a matter of urgency.

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R169/23)

Attachments: Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.2.1 SURPLUS IN BUDGET ON STAFFING – CR MILNE

QUESTION FROM CR MILNE: With the surplus in the Budget for 2023- 2024 on staffing; have we explored contractor hire to fill some shortfalls?

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND DELIVERY: Dependent on position vacancy and Directorate. Mix of recruitment and consultants likely required.

9.2.2 PLANNED BURNED - WATCHEM – CR MILNE

QUESTION FROM CR MILNE: Referring to a planned burn held on Sunday at Watchem supported by brigades, very successful burn – great learning exercise and training exercise.

Question as to what happened to the interagency working group on roadside fire breaks and other vegetation issues which looked at the number of Acts that cover this area and worked to create a clear understanding of what can and can't be done with a view for the group to generate further advocacy? Request to find previous meeting minutes of this working group which is thought to have been held in Inglewood. Likely request for CFA to present to the Councillors on benefit of this type of group, with request to have more done for benefit of the Shire.

RESPONSE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
Taken on notice.

9.2.3 GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – RECOUP FUNDS – HEALTH SYSTEM – COST SAVINGS TRANSITION TO AGED CARE REFORMS/ORGANISATIONS – CR WARREN

QUESTION FROM CR WARREN: With the recent announcement of Victorian Government that they are looking to recoup millions of dollars from the health system, asking will these potential cost savings have any impact on transition of aged care reforms and organisations who are being contracted to undertake delivery of this service? Noted this question may not be able to be answered.

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Noted, as answer may not be forthcoming.

9.2.4 POOL SEASON OPENING – CR WARREN

QUESTION FROM CR WARREN: Noting the pool season will open 18 November 2023 – if we had to open the pools tomorrow how many pools could we open?

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 5 tomorrow; middle next week 6; by 18 November at this stage 7 with the 6th and 7th pools being Donald and Charlton respectively.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.4.1 INTERSTATE TRAVEL - MAYOR

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

Department: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/06/11

PURPOSE

In accordance with Council's Expenses Policy adopted August 2020, proposed interstate travel of Councillors, requires the approval of the Council.

The Mayor is seeking approval from the Council to travel interstate to attend the 2023 Resilient Australia Awards National Ceremony being held in Perth 22 November 2023.

SUMMARY

Council has been shortlisted as a finalist for the 2023 Resilient Australia Local Government Award, for "The Paddock: The Goals" by The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) and congratulates Council on being scored highly by the national judging panel.

As a finalist for this year's award, Council has been invited to attend both in person and online.

The Mayor being the person who the interstate travel and associated costs are for, vacated the Chair, and left the Council Chamber at 7:40pm.

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Simpson, stepped in as Chairperson.

MOTION:

That Council approve the interstate travel and its associated costs for the Mayor to attend the 2023 Resilient Australia Awards National Ceremony being held in Perth on 22 November 2023.

MOVED: CR BERNADETTE HOGAN

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CR WARREN CALLED FOR A DIVISION.

IN FAVOUR – CRS HOGAN, MILNE AND SIMPSON.

AGAINST – CR WARREN.

CARRIED.

(R170/23)

Attachments: Nil

QUESTION FROM CR MILNE: How many staff will be attending?

RESPONSE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: 2 staff, Mr O'Toole, Mr Fitzgibbon

QUESTION FROM CR MILNE: Did we ask staff involved if they would like to attend?

RESPONSE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Due to conflicts not available to attend.

QUESTION FROM CR WARREN: Is this event livestreamed across Australia

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Yes

QUESTION FROM CR WARREN: Does the event go for 2.5 hours?

RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Yes

Cr Getley returned to the Council Chamber at 7.47pm and resumed the role of Chair.

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

MOTION:

That pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following reports that are considered to contain confidential information on the grounds provided in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as indicated:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9.5.1 CT000684 PROVISION OF ASBESTOS
AUDITING SERVICES FOR COUNCIL
OWNED AND MANAGED BUILDINGS (CITY
OF GREATER BENDIGO) TENDER
EVALUATION PANEL REPORT | (g(i)) private commercial information, being
information provided by a business,
commercial or financial undertaking that
relates to trade secrets

(g(ii)) private commercial information, being
information provided by a business,
commercial or financial undertaking that if
released, would unreasonably expose the
business, commercial or financial undertaking
to disadvantage

(h) confidential meeting information, being the
records of meetings closed to the public
under section 66(2)(a) |
|---|--|

MOVED: CR DARYL WARREN

SECONDED: CR GRAEME MILNE

CARRIED.

(R171/23)

NIL MOTION:

The meeting was not re-opened and was formally concluded during the 'closed to the public' section.

10. MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.52pm