

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday 29 June 2022

Commencing at 6:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room

367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Wayne O'Toole Chief Executive Officer Buloke Shire Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 29 June 2022 commencing at 6:00pm in the Wycheproof Supper Room, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON:

Cr Daryl Warren Mount Jeffcott Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Alan Getley	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

OFFICERS:

Wayne O'Toole	Chief Executive Officer
Hannah Yu	Acting Director Works and Technical Services
Travis Fitzgibbon	Director Community Development
Aileen Douglas	Senior Manager Finance

AGENDA

1. COUNCIL WELCOME

WELCOME

The Mayor Cr Daryl Warren welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

2. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Cr David Vis

Mallee Ward (leave of absence)

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION:

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 June 2022.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R056/22)

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

NIL

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

NIL

9.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

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NIL		
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NIL		
9.3	URGENT BUSINESS	23
NIL		
9.4	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	23
NIL		

8.6 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential matters.

8.6.1 C111 - 2021/22 CHARLTON STREETSCAPE WORKS

10. MEETING CLOSE

NEXT MEETING

The Next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in Wycheproof Supper Room, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof on Wednesday, 13 July 2022 at 7:00pm.

Wayne O'Toole CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

7. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Nil

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

8.1.1 DEBTOR MANAGEMENT POLICY

- Author's Title: Manager Finance
- Department: Office of the CEO

File No: FM02/09

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt the Debtor Management Policy.

SUMMARY

On recommendation from internal audit process, Officers have prepared a Debtor Management Policy to identify Council's approach to outstanding debtors to reduce risk of non-collection of income.

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Adopts the Debtor Management Policy; and

2. Places the policy on Council's website and informs the community about the policy.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY

SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R057/22)

Attachments: 1 Draft Debtor Management Policy

DISCUSSION

In March – April 2021, RSD conducted an internal audit relating to Debtor Management (including Rates Collection).

The RSD internal audit found:

- Currently, Buloke do not have an overarching debtor management policy/procedure document in place. Processes in place for follow up of debtors are understood by individual staff members, however, as there are no documented procedures these decisions have either not been made at all or inconsistently applied.
- This lack of decision making has resulted in Council experiencing increased longstanding debtor balances and general delays in receiving payments.

As part of the internal audit process, RSD provided a recommended debtor management policy template based on policies of several Council's and overall government policy and guidelines. Officers noted the internal audit recommendation as an action item to the Audit and Risk Committee with a due date of 30 June 2022.

The policy template provided through the internal audit process has now been customised to Buloke Shire Council resources to form the attached policy. The draft policy was presented and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held 2 February 2022.

The Debtor Management Policy is now presented for adoption by Council.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Nil.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council has not actively engaged the Community as this is an operational policy.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This policy addresses an outstanding operational issue and will assist staff in discharging their duties in a transparent and consistent approach.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration between the policy author and RSD was undertaken.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council currently has more long-term outstanding rates debtors than similar small rural Local Government Authorities. No collection of rates debtors reduces Council's rate funding for provision of services. Increase regular and consistent debtor management and collection will reduce the number of outstanding rates and Council's risk on non-collection. Furthermore, it is intended the debtor management approach documented in this policy will prevent section 181 activity which is an additional cost to Council.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council Plan 2021-25

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 DRAFT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY

Author's Title: Director Community Development

Department: Community Development

File No: CM/14/22

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and adopt the Draft Customer Experience Strategy that reflects the community's and Local Government's contemporary environment, for further consultation with the community.

SUMMARY

Council has in place a Customer Service Strategy that outlines the organisation's commitment to Customer service excellence.

This draft Customer Experience Strategy sets out clear guidelines on how the organisation will commit to both internal and external continuous improvement for the range of services Council provides.

MOTION:		
That Council adopts the Draft Customer Experience Strategy 2022-2025 for further consultation with Council's Customers.		
GRAEME MILNE		
ALAN GETLEY		
CARRIED.		
(R058/22)		
2		

Attachments:	1	Draft Customer Experience Strategy
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DISCUSSION

Council first adopted a Customer Service Strategy in 2018, to set out the organisation's commitment to Customer service excellence, both internal and external. It was designed to provide a clear way forward in meeting the service needs of our customers now, and in the future.

Since that time, the adoption of the *Local Government Act* 2020, has influenced the steps Council will take to achieve a strong organisational approach when engaging with customers and stakeholders and encouraging public participation in the democratic process. This includes the development of the Community Engagement Policy in 2021, and subsequent Council Plans which articulate the values of engagement and participatory practice.

The impacts of COVID-19 have also changed the way some services are provided. We understand our community is diverse and facing many geographical and demographical challenges. By strengthening

relationships and listening to our community, we ensure that we can create great customer experiences.

This strategy sets out clear guidelines how the organisation will commit to both internal and external continuous improvement for the range of services Council provides.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted its first ever Customer Service Strategy in 2018. This document, when adopted, will replace that strategy.

OPTIONS

Council can choose not to adopt the strategy for consultation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Elements of the Customer Experience Strategy allow for service delivery online, reducing the need to travel to undertake Council business.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This draft strategy will undergo a Community Engagement piece in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy before review and potential adoption at Council's August 2022 Meeting.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The switch from a Customer Service Strategy to a Customer Experience Strategy demonstrates a shift in Council's approach to better demonstrate our commitment to timely, responsive and collaborative customer service.

COLLABORATION

This document was presented to Council's Executive Management Team and Management Team to help shape an all of organisation approach to customer experience.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

All actionable outcomes will be either part of Council's operational budget or will be required to be included in the Annual Budget for year of delivery throughout the strategy.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Act 2020

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Buloke Shire Council Long-Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 Customer Service Charter Staff Code of Conduct Councillor Code of Conduct Social Media Policy Communication Strategy Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan Inclusiveness Plan Community Engagement Strategy Community Support Policy Complaints Handling Policy Gender Equality Action Plan

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

This report allows Council's Customers to help shape the Customer Experience Strategy.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

8.2.2 ADOPTION OF THE ASSET PLAN

Author's Title:	Manager Assets
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Department: Works and Technical Services

File No: CM/14/04

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Built and Natural Environment

PURPOSE

This report outlines the steps taken in the development of the Buloke Shire Council Asset Plan, including the community engagement process, and recommends the Council adopt the Asset Plan in accordance with the requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

SUMMARY

The Act requires the Council to develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan (Plan) which outlines key information to guide asset planning and management for the Council over a period of at least 10 years. Council released the draft Plan for community feedback in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy. This feedback has been incorporated into the final Plan, which is presented to the Council for adoption.

MOTION:		
That the Council	adopt the Asset Plan.	
MOVED:	CR ALAN GETLEY	
SECONDED:	CR CAROLYN STEWART	
		CARRIED.
		(R059/22)

Attachments: 1 Asset Plan - 2022-2032

DISCUSSION

The requirement to develop a long-term asset management framework was introduced through the integrated strategic planning framework introduced under the Act. The inclusion of this component of the framework underlines the importance of asset planning as a key element of strategic planning and decision making at a Council and community level for both service delivery and financial sustainability.

The Council recognises that the long-lived nature of its assets and costs associated with their ongoing maintenance and renewal means that its asset management practices need to strike an appropriate balance between community expectations and capacity to pay. Accordingly, this Plan provides a framework and key information to assist the Council, and inform the community, on the management of Council owned and controlled assets.

The Council, at its June 2022 Meeting, noted the proposed Plan had been released to the community in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy. The community engagement process commenced with the presentation to the Council's annual community summit and involved an opportunity for all

residents, ratepayers and interested parties to provide feedback on the Plan. Feedback obtained has been incorporated into the Plan attached to this Report.

RELEVANT LAW

The Plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements of s92 of the Act.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Plan was noted and endorsed by the Council at the Council Meeting held on 8 June 2022 for the purpose of undertaking community engagement activities.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Plan outlines the Council's commitment to ensure its assets deliver appropriate service levels which balance financial sustainability with community expectations and demand.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement activities have been undertaken in the development of the Plan as outlined earlier this report. Feedback from the community has been incorporated into the Plan for future reference.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Council is committed to reviewing and updating the Plan at least once per year or as required following the development of its individual Asset Management Implementation Plans. In addition, these review periods will enable the Council to consider and, where possible, implement the feedback provided by its Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) on the current iteration, including through:

- Providing distinction between property and buildings, and parks, open space and streetscapes, noting the different needs and service expectations between these asset classes
- Incorporating asset disposal as a key strategic principle and priority in future planning
- Incorporating additional information outlining ongoing operational costs associated with asset maintenance
- Outlining the Council's risk attitude (or appetite) in relation to the renewal gap
- Providing further information outlining the Council's trend in expenditure
- Providing further information outlining the Council's high reliance on grants to provide expected services to meet current and future community needs
- Providing separate detail about capital works associated with flooding events to identify the 'true' level and trend of capital works expenditure

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Plan emphasis the need to ensure asset planning is integrated with the Council's strategic planning processes, including financial planning. This includes but is not limited to developing an understanding of full life cycle costs to ensure effective planning across acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal activities.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Plan forms part of the Council's overall strategic planning and policy framework

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Plan recognises that communities need to be informed about, and involved in, setting service levels across Council activities. This includes creating an understanding within the community of the link between service delivery and asset planning.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

I, Daniel McLoughlan, have no conflicts of interest to declare in this report.

8.2.3 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET 2022-23 FINANCIAL YEAR

Author's Title:	Manager Finance
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Department: Office of the CEO

File No: FM/05/02

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

To present the Annual Budget 2022-23 for adoption by the Council.

SUMMARY

Council has complied with all the relevant requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* relating to the preparation, presentation, and adoption of the Annual Budget 2022-23.

MOTION:

That Council, having complied with its obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020*:

- 1. Adopts the proposed Annual Budget 2022-23 document including to the following amendments from draft:
 - i Minor update to cents in the dollar calculation following reconciliation to final valuation adopted by Valuer General;
 - ii Adjustment between 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years regarding EBA renegotiation timing;
 - iii Recognition of additional landfill rehabilitation provision regarding Sea Lake land fill site in forecast the 2021-22;
 - iv Additional carry forwards and updates to capital works projects regarding project delays to date due to adverse weather;
 - v Inclusion of a \$200,000 reserve for Grant Funding opportunity co-contribution; and
 - vi Inclusion of a \$200,000 reserve for Capital Project development in readiness of grant opportunities.
- 2. Provides the following details in relation to the Annual Budget 2022-23:
 - i. There are no new borrowings proposed for the 2022-23 financial year;
 - ii. The rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 is as follows:

Type of Rate	Cents in \$ on CIV
Rateable residential properties	0.61787
Rateable commercial properties	0.61787
Rateable industrial properties	0.61787
Rateable farming properties	0.37072

- iii. Rate a Municipal Charge \$170 for each rateable assessment in respect of which a Municipal Charge may be levied;
- iv. Levy an Annual Service Charge of \$422 for kerbside garbage and recycling collection for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023;
- 3. Levies the general rates and service charges referred to in this resolution by the service

notice on each person liable to pay such rate or charge in accordance with section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

- 4. In accordance with section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the rates and charges declared by the Council for the 2022/23 financial year must be paid as follows:
 - i. By four instalments made on or before the following dates:
 - Instalment 1 30 September 2022;
 - Instalment 2 30 November 2022;
 - Instalment 3 28 February 2023; and
 - Instalment 4 31 May 2023;

Or;

- ii. By a lump sum payment made on or before 15 February 2023.
- 5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover the general rates and annual service charges in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*; and
- 6. Determines that the proposed fees and charges for the 2022-23 financial year be adopted.

MOVED:	CR DAVID POLLARD

SECONDED: CR ALAN GETLEY

CARRIED.

(R060/22)

Attachments: 1 Buloke Shire Council Annual Budget 2022-2023

DISCUSSION

Council is required to prepare and adopt a Budget for each financial year, and the subsequent 3 financial years by 30 June. At the Council Meeting held on 11 May 2022, the draft Annual Budget 2022-23 was endorsed for the purposes of commencing community engagement. This community engagement process has now been completed, and submissions were presented to the Council at its Meeting held on 8 June 2021.

Each year between the time the draft Annual Budget is advertised and when the document is adopted by the Council, events occur which can cause some variation in the Annual Budget. The draft budget has been updated to account for any material changes to the date of this report and details of these changes have been included in the Officer recommendation to Council.

When Council considers its September financial report in October 2022, the end of the 2021-22 financial year will have been completed. At this time Council will incorporate any further variations to the 2022-23 budget that result from:

- Carryover of any uncompleted projects from the 2021-22 financial year; and
- Variations caused because of timing changes in the delivery of grant funds.

Once these amendments have been adopted by Council in October each year, the updated budget becomes the Council's Current Budget and is the document used for financial report comparison for the remainder of the year.

RELEVANT LAW

Council has a statutory responsibility to prepare and adopt a Budget in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* continue to apply with respect to rates and charges on rateable land.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council released its draft Annual Budget 2022-23 in May 2022 for feedback in accordance with its Community Engagement policy. Submissions were received at the Council Meeting held on 8 June 2022. Community engagement was also undertaken in relation to the Financial Plan, Council Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan during this period.

OPTIONS

The Council's Annual Budget has been developed in consultation with the Councillors. Briefings and workshops included discussion on the need to continue investing own source revenue into Council assets, particularly its road infrastructure. Council's Annual Budget continues to reflect the commitment to maintain currents service levels.

Submissions to the budget were considered and, where appropriate, amendments made to the budget to address matters raised.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Annual Budget 2022-23 identifies how Council proposes to resource strategic objectives related to its:

- built and natural environment, including ongoing review of waste and recycling management; continued streetscape improvements, riverfront projects and the Playspaces;
- community, including implementation of Council's Community Vision and Council Plan; establishment of a Reconciliation Action Plan; and delivery of an Agriculture Resilience Project and Emergency Preparedness Project; and
- economy, including working with stakeholders to review and promote housing opportunities within the Shire; implementing the new Economic Development and Tourism Strategy; and continuation of key projects from the Silo Art Activation fund.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft Annual Budget 2022-23 was presented at the Council Meeting held on 11 May 2022 and Council subsequently commenced community engagement in accordance with its Community Engagement policy.

Submissions on the budget closed 12 noon 8 June 2022 and Council received 4 budget submissions.

No.	Correspondent	Purpose of Submission to Draft Budget 2022-23
1.	Buloke Neighbourhood House Cluster	Make an annual funding allocation to each House
2.	Donald 2000	\$300K available for preliminary works at Donald Tradie Park and other opportunities which may arise
3.	Donald 2000	The development of Serviced building blocks and the increase in housing stocks
4.	Charlton Forum	Increase in annual stipend for Forums
5.	Donald 2000	Support housing development

A brief description of the subject matter of each submission is listed below:

Council considered these submissions at the Council Meeting held on 8 June 2022.

Following consideration of the submissions, the Annual Budget 2022-23 will be amended to include an allocation of \$200,000 Equity Reserve to support co-funding for unexpected grant opportunities which may present during the financial year and increase annual stipend to Community forums to \$2000.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Annual Budget 2022-23 identifies how Council proposes to resource strategic objectives related to continued service improvement for efficient and flexible services

COLLABORATION

Council's commitment to work collaboratively with its partners is set out in its values statement. The Annual Budget includes provision for a Youth Officer to deliver VicHealth Local Government Partnership priorities as well as collaborations with the Birchip Cropping Group, Gannawarra Shire Council and the North Central LLEN.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The annual budget adoption process is a formal process required under the *Local Government Act 2020* and includes the current and future financial implications of Council's operations and capital expenditure requirements.

The adopted Annual Budget 2022-23 will provide an overarching financial framework for the Council to implement for the forthcoming year and over the subsequent 3 financial years.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council's commitment to undertaking a strategic review of its community contributions and grants will include advocacy to increase funding by other levels of government for eligible community groups.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Council's budget development process has been undertaken in accordance with its Community Engagement policy

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council's budget development process has included receipt of submissions at a Council Meeting, with the opportunity for persons to speak to their submission. Council Officers will respond to each person or group in relation to the matters raised in their submission.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 provide that for the purposes of section 129(g) of the Local Government Act 2020 a matter related to preparing or adopting a budget or a revised budget under Part 4 of the Local Government Act 2020 is prescribed to be exempt.

8.2.4 ADOPTION OF THE FINANCIAL PLAN 2022 - 2023 THROUGH TO 2031 - 2032

Author's Title:	Manager Finance
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Department: Office of the CEO

File No: FM/05/02

Relevance to Council Plan 2021 - 2025

Strategic Objective: Our Council and Community Leadership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Financial Plan for 2022-23 to 2031-32 to the Council for adoption.

SUMMARY

The requirement of a Financial Plan (Plan) is established under the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act). The Plan is a key document which enables improved monitoring of Council's financial viability and enables better reporting and analysis of decisions and assumptions over a 10-year period. A period of community engagement has been undertaken in as part of the development of the Plan.

MOTION:

That the Council, having complied with its obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020* adopts the Financial Plan 2022-23 to 2031-32 including to the following amendments from draft:

- 1. Adjustment between 2021-22 to 2022-23 regarding EBA renegotiation timing;
- 2. Recognition of additional landfill rehabilitation provision regarding Sea Lake land fill site in forecast 2021-22;
- 3. Additional carry forwards and updates to capital works projects regarding project delays to date due to adverse weather;
- 4. Inclusion of a \$200,000 reserve for Grant Funding opportunity co-contribution; and
- 5. Inclusion of a \$200,000 reserve for Capital Project development in readiness of grant opportunities.

MOVED: CR ALAN GETLEY SECONDED: CR BRONWYN SIMPSON

CARRIED.

(R061/22)

Attachments: 1 Buloke Shire Council Financial Plan

DISCUSSION

The Act requires that councils must develop, adopt and keep in force a Plan for a period of at least 10 years.

Council considers the development of its Plan to be more than a matter of compliance under the Act. The Plan is an integral part of the Council's overall planning process and provides a longer-term perspective of the ongoing financial sustainability of the Council and the impact of financial decisions into the longer term. The Plan, having established the framework for the achievement of the Community Vision, will assist the Council to achieve the following objectives:

- Maintaining the existing range and level of service provision and improve the quality and understanding of the range and levels of service provided
- Maintaining a viable cash position, ensuring Council remains financially sustainable in the long-term
- Rationalisation of unused assets to allow capacity to continue investing in asset renewal for road infrastructure
- Continue to pursue recurrent grant funding for strategic capital funds from the state and federal government.

The above objectives will present ongoing challenges for Council, including continuing to meet changing service demands and the forecast asset management challenges over the next 10 years.

Council undertook community engagement in the development of the Plan. The community engagement process and outcomes are outlined in this report.

RELEVANT LAW

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with section 91 of the Act. The adoption of the Plan must occur after a period of community engagement.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted its first 10-year Plan in 2019 as part of best practice methodology.

At the Council Meeting held on 11 May 2022, the Council endorsed the draft Plan and commenced community engagement in accordance with the Community Engagement policy.

OPTIONS

Council's underlying assumptions and estimates are outlined in the Plan.

The Plan will provide quantitative data to support the Council's assessment and determination of the most appropriate and sustainable service levels, asset strategies and revenue targets.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Plan incorporates key actions and initiatives under the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and other key strategic documents which give effect to Council's obligation to ensure the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the municipality is planned for and promoted.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The draft Plan was presented at the Council Meeting held on 11 May 2022 and Council subsequently commenced community engagement in accordance with its Community Engagement policy.

Submissions on the draft Plan closed 12 noon 8 June 2022. Although no submissions were received in relation to the Plan, submissions were received in relation to other plans within the Council's Integrated Strategic Planning framework which have application to the Plan, which has been amended accordingly.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The annual review of the Plan will enable Council to respond to external factors which may impact, transform or require re-invention of existing services and activities. The Plan provides a basis from which Council can blend data from different sources, make decisions about effective use of resources, and evaluate its strategic planning framework.

COLLABORATION

The Act provides collaboration with other councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought. The Plan will enable effective measurement and evaluation of collaboration, particularly in shared services initiatives, in a consistent manner over the life of the Plan.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

In addition to planning for the delivery of the Community Vision, resource planning is important for ensuring that a Council remains sustainable in the long term and takes account of long-lived assets such as road and drainage infrastructure. Buloke Shire Council has prepared a 10-year long term financial plan to enable a longer-term perspective of the ongoing financial sustainability of the Council and the impact of financial decisions into the longer term.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Plan can be adjusted each year to respond to relevant regional, state and national plans and policies. It is a key tool in protecting against future cost shift by state and federal government.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Plan considers, where possible, all other plans and strategies regarding services and initiatives which commit financial and non-financial resources over the 10-year period.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Plan sets out the quantitative information derived from Council's strategic planning framework. It provides information to the community to assist its understanding of the Council's financial performance and viability.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* provide that for the purposes of section 129(g) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a matter related to preparing or adopting a Financial Plan Part 4 of the Act is prescribed to be exempt.

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

Nil

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil

MOTION:

Council to hold the Standing Orders to close the Meeting to address Item 8.6.1 Matter Which Excludes the Public, until all Items 9.1 to 9.4 in the open part of the meeting, are addressed.

MOVED: CR GRAEME MILNE

SECONDED: CR ALAN GETLEY

CARRIED.

(R062/22)

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

8.6 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:

8.6.1		/22 CHARLTON	(g(ii)) private commercial information, being
	STREETSCAPE	Works	information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage
MOVED	:	CR BRONWYN SIMPSON	4
SECOND	ED:	CR ALAN GETLEY	
			CARRIED.
			(R063/22)

MOTION:			
That Council reopens the meeting to the public pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.			
MOVED:	CR GRAEME MILNE		
SECONDED:	CR ALAN GETLEY		
	CARRIED.		
	(R065/22)		

10. MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 6.45pm.